

OAKMONT NEWS

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Ledson Fire



On Monday, July 13, a vegetation fire ignited shortly after 1 p.m. and burned 17 acres near Ledson Winery, across Highway 12 from Oakmont near Pythian Road. Oakmont is grateful to Santa Rosa Fire Department and Cal Fire LNU for containing the fire quickly and keeping the community safe. Paul Roque captured a photo from Oakmont of a Cal Fire tanker dropping fire retardant on the flames, Geoff Canham sent in a view of firefighting efforts from across the golf course, and Raymond Darwin shared a photo of a Cal Fire helicopter dropping water on the burning area.

President’s Message: Oakmont Finances 101, Part 1

■Steve Spanier, OVA Board President

Since my return to the board, I’ve fielded lots of questions from residents about Oakmont’s finances. So, in this three-part series, I want to give you a close look at the financial environment we must navigate. Part One will cover reserves, dues and assessments.

With small exceptions, California Homeowner’s Associations (HOAs) raise money almost entirely through dues and assessments. Dues are the monthly fees paid by each Oakmont member. Here in Oakmont, they are currently \$134/month per person. Assessments are one-time charges levied by the board whenever it needs to raise a chunk of money relatively quickly.

“Reserves” are monies set aside by the HOA for anticipated expenses. We have two such funds: the Asset Replacement Fund (ARF) and the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF). When the board wants to replace a broken awning, the funds should come from the ARF. When the board wants to construct a new

See **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE** on page 3

Town Hall: “Preparing Oakmont Village for the Next Wildfire”

■Firewise Task Force Committee

OVA will host a Town Hall on Tuesday, August 4, at 1 p.m. at the Berger Center titled “Preparing Oakmont Village for the Next Wildfire.” The Town Hall will feature a presentation by the Firewise Resource Task Force and will also be available via Zoom, with the link posted on OakmontVillage.com.

Meeting ID: 828 2695 8858, Passcode: 152695.

This informational Town Hall will provide an overview of wildfire preparedness and highlight resources, policies, and publicly available information from the Oakmont Village Association, the City of Santa Rosa, CAL FIRE, and the insurance industry. The goal is to help residents better understand the various wildfire mitigation efforts and resources available to them.

The presentation will include an overview of Oakmont’s Firewise Landscape Policy, identify where the City of Santa Rosa’s Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Area requirements and the State’s Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) apply within Oakmont, and summarize publicly available information regarding CAL FIRE’s proposed Zone Zero recommendations.

A Surprise Visit



Maureen McGettigan received a surprise visit in her front yard from two majestic bucks on July 14.

OVA Welcomes Grandparents Week July 26–31

■Oakmont Village Association

Oakmont Village Association is happy to welcome all the grandkids who will be visiting this week for Grandparents Week, happening July 26–31. This annual event is thanks to the dedicated planning of the Grandparents Club.

As a reminder, residents may see more grandkids in our community than usual this week, including at the Central Pool. We encourage residents who are not taking part in Grandparents Week to visit the pools at the East and West Rec. centers.

The Central Pool area will be closed to the public on Friday, July 31, 12:30–4 p.m. due to Grandparents Week activities. Another change: the Sunday movie on July 26 will be at 7 p.m. instead of 2 p.m., when Movies at Oakmont shows the kid-friendly film, *Babe*.

We thank you for sharing our excitement about Grandparents Week, and we appreciate all the hard work the Grandparents Club has put forth to make this annual event a success.

Board Settles On New Direction For Berger Renovation

■Jackie Ryan

The OVA Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to abandon the use of a design-build firm for the Berger renovation and instead hire a project manager to guide a new renovation process. The board said it will first move forward with emergency replacement of the chiller before launching a detailed scope of work and a competitive bid process for upgrading the 60-year-old Berger.

The vote followed a lengthy discussion of two resolutions, including a tabled resolution dubbed Berger 2.5, that would have pared down a tiered \$8.2 million proposal from the design build firm ESG, stopping short of adding a vestibule expansion of some 1,000 additional square feet.

OVA President Steve Spanier said after much discussion and many meetings, the board determined ESG was not a fit for Oakmont.

See **BOARD** on page 3

OPEN DAILY FOR LUNCH

NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Are you looking for a simple and easy way to make a monthly food donation? Currently, more than 8,000 Sonoma Valley residents face food insecurity—including children, elders and working families. You can help by donating one bag of groceries per month right from your doorstep.

Simple Gesture is a grassroots effort to provide nutritional food to local food pantries. We have started an Oakmont Chapter and are looking to add you to our growing list of donors.

The process is simple. After you sign up to be a donor, you will get a monthly email or text alerting you to the next donation date (usually the first Saturday of the month). You will be asked if you can donate. If you are able, all you have to do is pick up some food or supplies when you do your grocery shopping. On pick-up day you leave your donation bag on your front porch or at the end of your driveway. Volunteer drivers will collect the food & deliver your donation to a food pantry in Sonoma Valley. The driver will also leave you a green bag to be used for your next donation. If you cannot donate that month, you simply say no and we will catch you the next month.

It really is an easy way to support our neighbors and help contribute to the food security of our communities. If you are interested in joining this grassroots effort, please sign up for the Oakmont Chapter at: www.asgeventmanager.com/camp/292.

Darlene Miller

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE Continued from page 1

building or add space to an existing one, the funds should come from the CIF.

Oakmont contracts with an outside company to conduct our reserve studies. The person doing the study inspects the things Oakmont owns (“assets”) and assigns to each a replacement cost estimate and an expected remaining life. Using the reserve study as a guide, the board and staff can anticipate what items are due to be replaced each year.

Of course, our assets don’t know about the reserve study and sometimes decide to break before their time. The opposite is also sometimes true. Once in a while, assets surprise us by lasting longer than we expect. This describes the Berger Center’s HVAC equipment, which dates back to the 1960s.

Generally speaking, dues are meant to pay for predictable expenses (salaries, office rent, insurance, supplies and the like) and assessments are used to pay for expenses that aren’t as easily anticipated (such as, for example, removal of a meteorite landing in the West Rec pool).

There is a tradeoff between dues and assessments. Some HOAs prefer to keep dues low, but this comes with several risks. First, over time, it usually results in inferior amenities and services. Second, it raises the risk of assessments to make up shortfalls. Finally, it defers expenses to a future time when assets are likely to be more expensive.

HOAs choose at what percentage to fund their reserves.

When reserves are funded at 100% (“fully funded”), that means an association has enough money in reserves to replace every asset when it needs replacement. For example, if you know that a roof lasts about 20 years and costs about \$20,000 to replace, and you’re halfway through the roof’s expected life, you should have \$10,000 in your reserve fund to handle this expense to be 100% funded at that time. If an HOA is fully funded, there is almost no risk of assessments because there is enough money socked away to handle most situations.

But HOAs can also intentionally and safely run at much lower funding percentages. The risk of assessments may be slightly higher, but the upside of this approach for members is that the HOA is not locking up so much of their money. OVA does not, as a general rule, want to keep people’s money when it is not likely to be needed anytime soon. In the history of our community, OVA assessments have been very few and far between, which is a testament to good planning.

Reserve funding levels are not static but rather move up and down based on asset replacement schedules, changing product and service costs and different funding strategies employed by different boards. As of the end of 2025, Oakmont’s reserve funding level target was 54.6%. This is on the high side for a community of our size and composition. It reflects anticipated short-term expenses, mostly for Berger Center work. That funding percentage will drop back to more appropriate levels as we begin renovating the Berger Center.

In the second part of this series, I’ll look at Oakmont’s financial specifics. We’ll examine how our dues are used and why they increase over time.

Join a Club Night

■Oakmont Village Association

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 6-7:30 PM,
BERGER CENTER**

Whether you’re new to Oakmont or a long-time resident, “Join a Club Night” is your chance to explore the many clubs and organizations that make our community vibrant and connected. Have you been curious about a club or group and would like to learn more? This is your chance to meet club representatives, ask questions, and discover activities that match your interests—from arts and fitness to games, learning, volunteering, and more.

Come to the Berger Center on Thursday, August 13, 6-7:30 p.m. to meet and talk with members from over 50 different clubs. Refreshments will be served, and there is no cost to attend.

Summer Landscape Reminder

■Mary Lantz, Architectural Committee, Staff Member

Summer is the peak growing season, making it the perfect time to give your landscape a little extra attention. Plants can grow surprisingly fast this time of year, and routine maintenance not only keeps your property looking its best, but also helps maintain a safe, attractive, and Firewise community.

To help keep your landscape in compliance with Oakmont’s Landscape and Firewise policies, please remember to:

- Keep your entire property free of weeds.
- Maintain front yard hedges at a maximum height of 3 feet to preserve visibility and the open character of Oakmont. Homeowners who prefer taller landscaping may wish to replace a continuous hedge with well-spaced specimen shrubs, which can provide height and visual interest while complying with Oakmont’s landscape standards.
- Maintain side and rear yard hedges at a maximum height of 6 feet.
- Trim shrubs and trees back from sidewalks and roadways to provide safe clearance for pedestrians, passenger vehicles, delivery trucks, service vehicles, and emergency responders.
- Prune trees and shrubs to maintain clearance from roofs and eaves.
- Keep tree canopies and shrubs separated so branches and foliage are not growing into one another.
- Remove dead branches and overgrown vegetation to improve the health and appearance of your landscape.

Oleanders, in particular, can put on an impressive amount of growth during the summer months. While they provide beautiful color and privacy, they also require regular pruning to keep them from encroaching on sidewalks, driveways, neighboring properties, and sight lines at intersections.

Regular maintenance throughout the season is the easiest way to prevent small issues from becoming larger projects. Taking care of your landscape before concerns arise helps keep Oakmont looking its best and often eliminates the need for the Architectural Committee to become involved.

Thank you for doing your part to maintain the beauty, safety, and character of our community.

BOARD Continued from page 1

“The first step is to hire a person or a company that will essentially be our advocate through the entire process,” he said. “A company that has done this kind of thing before. A company that has the right expertise, the right experience.”

In response to some residents who called the decision a setback during open forum, directors said it’s not undoing progress that has been made and that much of the detail for a scope of work has been completed.

“We’re not starting from zero,” said Director Terrie Mui. “We want to take the inputs from the community and make sure case-use statements are put in a place where we can come up with multiple designs, not just the one design that ESG provided.” She said the majority of functional elements in the building have already been defined. “We will be fine tuning.”

Spanier said the community will be encouraged to give input on all the process going forward.

In other pending areas of work for the board, Spanier said sufficient progress has been made on the golf course lease, the potential purchase of the OVA office building which is now rented, dealing with the deteriorating cabana at the central pool, and a direction for updating the governing documents. The board, however, is not ready to vote on resolutions regarding those issues and it is anticipated they will be on the August meeting agenda.

The board also approved several new committees and ad hoc committees. These include the Communications Committee, the Oakmont Gardens Committee, the Berger Project Ad Hoc Committee and the Governing Docs Committee.

A town hall on Sonoma County’s possible plans for added county services and expanded facilities at Los Guilicos will be held August 11 at 3 p.m. in the Berger, and also on Zoom.

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Oakmont Health Initiative

Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

COLLEGE COACH FOR 30+ YEARS

College coach for 30-plus years, OHI regular Diane lives the benefits of lifelong exercise. She and her brother learned early the satisfaction of music (mind) and movement (body.) Both were musicians and athletes through high school; Diane studied dance until it was time for college.

“I got my AA from Santa Rosa Junior College, my BS in Physical Education and my teaching credential from Sonoma State University. I played volleyball, basketball and softball.” Diane earned her Masters degree from Cal Poly.

Her first teaching/coaching years were in Cloverdale and Taft. Returning to Sonoma County, she coached volleyball at SSU before launching a long tenure in SRJC’s Kinesiology and Athletic Department. “I taught swimming, volleyball, Pilates, and step aerobics.”



Diane takes exercise seriously; she lives life joyfully.
(Photos by Charlene Bunas)

She and her partner moved to Oakmont almost three years ago. “My first day in OHI class I wondered if I could enjoy the class (as a student) and not be concerned about the safety of students. At the JC my teaching assistant checked posture, form and technique. Happily, in OHI I found very qualified instructors who consistently deliver total workouts with sensible and thorough routines.”

Besides OHI, Diane loves Line Dancing and her book group. She has season tickets to S.F. Ballet, hooks rugs, travels, camps and can often be found on her paddle board.

This caring coach treasures a “very special class” she began at Vintage House over 20 years ago. “When Covid hit, we didn’t stop classes, we zoomed. My focus changed from Pilates to the importance of correct breathing and relaxation. I wouldn’t miss it.”

Comfortable sharing her fitness philosophy, Diane says, “You can’t save fitness like you can your money; the ability to exercise your body is of incalculable worth.”

And reader, you can bank on that!
Zoom: 850 1489 7161/998608.

Balance and Strength Class

■Valerie Hulsey

MARY’S FITNESS CLASS

The Balance and Strength class is on Fridays 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 water and your TheraBand for strengthening. If you don’t have one you can purchase one for \$5 when you arrive.

Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey

We are back the West Pool and Mary is teaching on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. The refurbished pool looks great and both the weather and the water are toasty warm (most days).

There is a drop-in fee of \$10. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Beginning in August, Julie will teach only on Tuesdays, at 10:10 a.m., \$10 per class.

Meditation

■Joanne Davey

MEDITATING TOGETHER WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

“If you love someone, the greatest gift you can give them is your presence.”—Thich Nhat Hanh

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.

Café Mortel



■Linda Suhr

WHAT’S A DEMENTIA DIRECTIVE AND IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

Many of you have heard me speak about my beloved Dave. Years ago, we dreamed of buying a sailboat and taking a long journey. When that dream began to feel possible, we decided to put our affairs in order and met with a trust attorney. Because Dave had watched both of his parents live for many difficult years with dementia, he included a specific statement in his Advance Health Care Directive outlining his wishes if he developed dementia. He wrote that if he had Alzheimer’s Disease, could no longer converse with his family, and was receiving artificial hydration and nutrition, he wanted those measures stopped so he could die naturally.

Fast forward. Dave developed Alzheimer’s disease and found himself in the exact situation he had described eight years before. As his health care agent, and knowing his ardent wishes, I had to make the decision to stop the IVs, arrange hospice care, and bring him home. Although the decision was deeply sad, I knew I was honoring his wish not to endure the final stage of dementia.

After Dave’s death, I came to understand the vital importance of Advance Health Care Directives and Dementia Directives. I educated myself about these documents and now share what I’ve learned with others.

Some might disagree with Dave’s choice, but he considered it carefully and, for him, it was right. He had the foresight to plan for this stage of life, and his wishes were honored because he clearly documented them. Today, several helpful templates are available for expressing future wishes in the event of dementia.

Please join us at Café Mortel on Wednesday, August 12, in the East Rec, 3–4:15 p.m., to learn about this option for dementia. I will review a sample template and share my experience. Come with your questions. All welcome!

Let’s Dance—Together!

■Terry Whitten

LEARN TO DANCE NIGHTCLUB 2-STEP IN AUGUST

WHAT: Beginning Nightclub 2-Step partner dance classes

WHEN: Wednesdays, August 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 4–5:15 p.m.

WHERE: Lower West Rec.

COST: \$10 pp per class if 2 or more classes are purchased at the same time; \$12 pp for single class

RSVP: Please contact instructor, Terry Whitten to register in advance at twhitten@pacbell.net or call (415) 265-7590



Nightclub 2-Step (NC2S) is one of the most popular partner dances in Sonoma County and is danced to a large variety of slower ballad type music. Examples of songs that NC2S can be danced to are: “I Will Always Love You” by Whitney Houston, “Because You Loved Me” by Celine Dion, “All of Me” by John Legend and “Let It Be” and “Hey Jude” by The Beatles. There are even songs by Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and the Rolling Stones that can be danced with NC2S!

No experience is needed. All classes will build on the material taught each week so it is always best to start with the first class. No partners are required for the classes as we will rotate partners. However, rotation of partners will be optional. Also, any ladies that want to lead and any men that want to follow are very welcome.

Join us for a fun way to get exercise and meet great people. Partner dancing is definitely good for our muscles, balance, brains and spirit! A number of studies also indicate that regular partner dancing may actually increase mental acuity and reduce the possibility of cognitive decline. Some even say that dancing improves memory and may even make you smarter!

To register or for any questions, please contact me at twhitten@pacbell.net or call (415) 265-7590.

Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



■Charles Ensley

LAST CALL FOR CARNITAS AND MARGARITAS!

How does Kiwanis fund those \$5,000 scholarships we presented in May to four Maria Carrillo and Montgomery High seniors? Our sole major fundraiser is our upcoming Saturday, August 8 Carnitas and Margarita Dinner at Berger Center, starting at 5 p.m.

A \$35 ticket entitles you to carnitas with all the toppings, chips, salsa and one margarita. Additional margaritas are \$5. The food is generously provided by Oakmont Gardens and served by culinary-trained teens from CHOPS Teen Center. We will have plenty of silent-auction items for your perusal and a 50/50 drawing. For tickets, contact any Kiwanian, or Fran Lazzarini at (928) 202-1105.

Another source of scholarship donations come from those who contribute at our free twice-yearly Shredathons, co-sponsored by OVA. Our next one is Thursday, October 29, 9 a.m. to noon at Berger Center. Put it on your calendar now!

Recent speakers at our Thursday morning breakfast meetings were Patricia Galindo, Direct Services Coordinator from La Luz in Sonoma, and Stephanie Derammelaere, Executive Director of Robert Ferguson Observatory atop Sugarloaf Park. We financially support these programs as well as some twenty more serving children, women and persons in need.

Kiwanis meets in Berger Center Fireside area Thursdays at 8 a.m. for breakfast and at 8:30 for club business and a program at 9. Guests are always welcome for a free breakfast.

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

Playreaders

■D. Hall

THE FOURPOSTER
IS THE NEXT DRAMATIC READING

A stunning presentation of *The Trip to Bountiful*, by Horton Foote was Oakmont Playreaders’ July offering. Cast members included: Leslie Tuche, Mark Parsons, Jeri Leasher, Marcel Coder, Jim Preston and Olin Leasher.

August’s presentation never leaves the bedroom as Ginna Zoellner and John Dolan star in *The Fourposter*, by Jan deHartog, narrated by Sarah Shankman. The story spans 35 years, from 1890 to 1925, as it focuses on the trials and tribulations, laughter and sorrows, and hopes and disappointments experienced by Agnes and Michael throughout their marriage. Act 1 is on August 3, and Act 2 on August 10.

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.



Trip to Bountiful cast: Jim Preston, Marcel Coder, Mark Parsons, Jeri Leasher and, seated, Leslie Tuche.
(Photo by John Dolan)

Oakmont Movers and Groovers

■Denise Lindsey

CALENDAR EVENTS FOR 2026

Thursday, August 6: Club Night with Huge Entertainment. Tickets go on sale July 27. Member \$20, non-member \$25.

HUGE Entertainment is playing on owner and DJ Pat Hugunin’s last name, which is pronounced Hue-guh-nin. We thought we’d spare our clients the stress of figuring out how to say it by simply being “HUGE.”

“Clubbing” primarily refers to the social activity of going to nightclubs to dance, listen to loud music, drink, and socialize, often as a form of escape or entertainment. Let’s enjoy some of that nightlife and club culture, involving DJs, dancing, and vibrant atmospheres.

Saturday, September 5: Spike Sykes and His Awesome Hotcakes. Tickets go on sale August 7. Member \$20, non-member \$25.

Saturday, October 3: The SoulShake. Tickets go on sale September 7. Member \$20, non-member 25.

Saturday, November 14: Hey Jude. Tickets go on sale October 5. Member \$25, non-member \$30. Berger Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., music starts at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own snacks and beverages. Food truck TBD.

Tickets may be purchased on the website or at the OVA office in cash or by check, payable to OMG. Members may bring one non-member guest at the member price.

Learn the History of OVA’s Central Area

■Marlena Tremont, Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee has compiled a historical archive documenting more than two decades of planning efforts related to Oakmont’s Central Area. The archive is now available on the OVA website at oakmontvillage.com/central-history.

The purpose of the archive is to provide members with a single location to review the history of Central Area planning, including Board actions, committee work, studies, master planning efforts, and community engagement dating back to 2004. By bringing these materials together, members can better understand how the Central Area has evolved over time and the many ideas that have been explored.

Throughout the years, successive Boards, committees, task forces, consultants, and members have examined a variety of opportunities and challenges associated with the Central Area. While each effort reflected the priorities and circumstances of its time, several recurring topics appear throughout the historical record, including:

- Aging infrastructure, equipment, and buildings
- Administrative office space
- Space for clubs, programs, and the fitness center
- Central gathering and community space
- Storage needs
- Long-term facility planning

The archive is organized into five sections:

- **Master Plans (2024–Present):** Documents the current master planning process, including

conceptual site plans, community outreach, Board discussions, and future planning efforts.

- **Oakmont 2030 (2020–2023):** Includes information about the Oakmont 2030 Committee, community conversations, and the recommendations that resulted from that process.

- **Building Blocks (2014–2019):** Highlights the Board’s adoption of a structured project management process and the extensive research completed by the Long Range Planning Committee.

- **Eyes on the Berger (2013–2018):** Documents studies and recommendations focused on improving the Berger Center and addressing needs within the Central Complex.

- **The CAC Remodel (2004–2009):** Provides historical information on the planning process that ultimately resulted in the Community Activity Center and related improvements.

The archive is intended to serve as a historical resource, allowing members to review the planning efforts, ideas, and decisions that have shaped the Central Area over the years. It also provides valuable context as OVA continues evaluating future facility needs.

This collection was assembled by a subcommittee of the Long Range Planning Committee using historical OVA records, reports, research, and other archival materials. As additional planning work occurs, the archive will continue to be updated.

OAK at the VOM Golf Club

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

To subscribe to receive all Valley of the Moon email communication, visit www.playvom.com/contact/newsletter-signup.

JULY 29—KNIFE SHARPENING AT OAK

Last Wednesday of each month, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., OAK banquet parking lot (look for the yellow van). Pricing: \$8 per knife, \$14 per garden tool.

THURSDAY NIGHT DINNER SPECIALS:

July 30: Poke Salad—\$23

MUSIC MONDAY

Live music on select Mondays throughout the summer.

- August 3: Relish Band
- August 17: Fargo Brothers Band
- August 31: Coffey Park Band

AUGUST 4—TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia is the first Tuesday of every month. Doors open at 4 p.m., and trivia is 5–7 p.m. \$10 cash cover at the door. Find or bring your team to Oak Restaurant for a night of smart fun!

PAINT NIGHTS

Join us for a guided paint night with a friendly instructor leading every step of the way. Dinner, appetizers, and wine are available for purchase throughout the evening. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. All art supplies included. Food and Drink will be available for purchase. \$45 tickets.

Aug 7 Paint Night: www.paintedcellarssoco.com/events/golden-sunset-8-7-26

Sept. 4 Paint Night: www.paintedcellarssoco.com/events/balloons-9-4-26

AUGUST 14—SINGLES SOCIAL MIXER

Join us for a delightful Singles Social Evening on Friday, August 14 from 5-7 p.m.! Whether you’re seeking friendship, companionship, or simply an opportunity to expand your social circle, this

relaxed and welcoming event offers the perfect setting to mingle with fellow singles in a comfortable atmosphere. Come with an open heart and a positive attitude—you never know who you might meet!

Enjoy light bites and signature cocktails. \$10 cover at the door or in advance with Marisa.

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Marisa at (707) 539-0415 ext. 6 or email your RSVP at mmanagno@playvom.com.

AUGUST 14—RANGE CARD SALE

On this day you will be able to purchase our Driving Range card for \$100 (normally \$150), which gets you 12 large buckets for the price of 10. This is a huge savings for those of you who love to hit balls on the range.

AUGUST 30—TALENT SHOW

What better way to bring the summer together than with our first annual Oak Community Talent Show. Join us for a night of oohs and ahhs. The stage is yours- August 30 from 5–8 p.m. We know so many of you have talents to share whether you are a magician, comedian, or dancer, group skit or solo star- all acts are welcome! We kindly ask for a lineup of those who want to participate, and the type of act noted to Marisa by July 31.

Tickets for our talent show audience can be reserved for preferred seating. \$10 cover charge upon entry. Food and Beverage from our event menu will be offered from 5–7 p.m.

We look forward to hosting a lively night that brings our community together. You may learn a new hidden talent or two about your neighbors!

CLUB REMINDERS

No fishing is permitted on any golf course ponds due to safety concerns.

Walking hours on the golf course are posted on the club website. Please review and follow the posted schedule: playvom.com/the-club/walking-policies



Wii Bowling Oakmont Lanes

■Terry Leuthner

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

Anyone interested in joining our club, either as a team bowler or substitute, please call me at (707) 291-3023 or stop by the East Recreation Center on Tuesdays from 2–3:30 p.m. (no bowling fourth Tuesdays) to see us in action. We charge \$25 for a 10-week tournament that includes the playoffs.

2 p.m. League: 8 teams, 4 bowlers per team. Each bowler bowls 3 games and has his /her own handicap (80%) and average. See <http://www.oakmontlanes.com> for Club information, bowling dates, week results and team schedules to bring cookies and help setup at 1 p.m. and tear down equipment at 3:30 p.m.

July 4th Challenge: On June 30 a bowler received a \$5 gift card to Safeway if they bowled a strike in the fourth and seventh frames of a game (July 4, 7/4). Winners are: Joanne Abrams, Joanne Bender, Donnarose Ilecki, Shirley Jamison, Marilyn Levene, Terry Leuthner, Sandy Osheroﬀ, Karen Palmiotti, and Robin Schudel.

Grandparents Week: Tuesday, July 28. Oakmont Lanes Club will setup 12 lanes of bowling (48 grand kids) from 12:30–1:30 p.m. at the East Recreation Center for the Grandparents Club. Set-up time 11:30 a.m.

Summer League Playoffs: Tuesday, Aug. 4. Top 4 teams from the Summer League bowl 3 games and the team with the highest total pins (with team handicap)

wins the Team Championship and gets their Team Name on the Team Championship Trophy.

Fall League: Tuesday, Aug 11. Fall 2026 League starts, ends beginning of December with Christmas Party on Dec 10 at East Recreation Center.

Join-A-Club Night: Thursday, Aug 13. Oakmont Lanes Club will setup two bowling lanes from 6–7:30 p.m. at the Berger Center for Join-a-Club Night. Set-up time 5:30 p.m.

No bowling date left in July.

Bowling dates for August: Aug. 4 (Playoffs—Summer League, 2 p.m.), 11 (week #1—Fall League starts), 18 (week #2). No bowling Aug. 25 (fourth Tuesday).

RESULTS AS OF JULY 14 (WEEK #9 SUMMER LEAGUE)

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

Men’s High Games: Glenn Hewitt, 278; Scott Harris, 246; Bob Chapman, 241; Charlie Ensley, 232; Gordon Freedman, 216; Bradley Kravitz, 216.

Women’s High Games: Robin Schudel, 300; Peggy Ensley, 248; Joanne Bender, 236; Laurel Earles, 233; Karen Palmiotti, 226; Valerie Hulsey, 215; Shirley Jamison, 213; Carol Garneau, 205.

If you’re thinking of joining us, we will start our Fall 2026 League on August 11. Most of us have all bowled on a bowling league some time in our lives and here’s your chance to do it again without the weight of a heavy bowling ball. Come see us in action and join in on all the fun.



Hikers

■Colleen Keegan

We welcome you to join us on a hike whether you are a member or not. It’s important for members to RSVP in advance at www.oakmonthikingclub.org for each hike. Your reservation can be canceled if your plans change.

Bring water, lunch, hat, layers, sunscreen, and poles if you use them. Go to our website to join, get hike details, see photos, register for a hike and more. The annual membership is only \$15. Check our website for the latest updates.

JULY 30: LONG HIKE DRAKE’S ESTERO

Stunning views of the estuary waters and ocean. An out-and-back hike of about 9 miles, 1000 feet elevation. From the Estero trail, the group will decide whether to head to Drake’s Head or Sunset Beach. Each is about the same distance.

Leave Berger parking lot at 8 a.m. Hike leader is Jeff Zalles, jeffzalles@gmail.com. Please RSVP.

JULY 30: INTERMEDIATE HIKE STILLWATER COVE REGIONAL PARK



We’ll hike along the Canyon Trail, along Stockhoff Creek, crossing the mostly dry creek by rock hopping. Expect a luscious fern forest of redwoods and Douglas firs, the rare “fringed corn lily” and a trail spur to the Fort Ross Schoolhouse. Lunch at the beach and we’ll finish with a bluff trail along the coast. 5 miles, 450 feet elevation.

Leave Berger at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Marilyn Pahr, (678) 488-8910. Please RSVP.

AUGUST 6: LONG HIKE JENNER HEADLANDS PRESERVE



This spectacular hike offers lovely views of the Pacific Ocean and a beautiful picnic spot under a huge tree along the way. The trails in the park are well-maintained and easy to navigate with incredible views of the Russian River and Goat Rock. There are some exposed inland trails so bring plenty of water. 9 miles, 1,778 feet elevation.

Meet at Berger at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Cindy Toran, (707) 321-3262. Please RSVP.

AUGUST 6: SHORT HIKE RIVERFRONT REGIONAL PARK

We’ll walk along the Redwood Hill Trail until we reach the Lake Benoist Loop, roughly 3 miles round trip. The Lake Benoist trail can be flooded—if so, we will return the same way we came. The trail is fairly level and there are benches to rest along the way.

Leave Berger at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Karen Cotter, (408) 998-8151. RSVP please.

AUGUST 13: OHC ANNUAL PICNIC
Lunch will be provided at the West Recreation center for members. See the hike descriptions on the website and it is mandatory to RSVP for lunch.

**FALL TRI-NIGHTER IN SONORA
SEPTEMBER 28–OCTOBER 1**
See website for details and to RSVP.

Asian Pacific Heritage and Culture Club

■Gary Andersen



CHINATOWN DAY BUS TRIP WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

Tickets are only \$40, thanks to generous support from the Oakmont Community Foundation.

The Asian Pacific Club invites you to join us on a special day in Chinatown. We have a 36-passenger Pure Luxury Bus to take us to and from Chinatown for two museum guided tours with time for shopping and lunch on your own. Departure time from the Berger lot is 8:30 a.m.

The first stop is the Chinese Historical Society Museum where we will have a guided tour of the museum including special emphasis on the Bruce Lee exhibit. Following that, it’s lunch and shopping on your own and then meet again at the Magic Showgirl Museum for a personal guided tour by Cynthia Yee, former Miss Chinatown and founder of the Grant Avenue Follies.

The bus will pick us up there for our return to Oakmont. We should arrive back by 4:30 p.m.

A total of 18 seats are available for Oakmont residents who are not members of the club. If you would like to join us, go to the OVA office and look in the Asian Pacific Club folder where you will find the sign-up list. Just complete the information and leave a check for \$40 per ticket.

For any questions, call or text me at (360) 778-9604.

Table Tennis



■Herbert Ristock

WHY DO TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS SEEM TO AGE DIFFERENTLY?

Table Tennis is popular everywhere, including for example New Zealand. On July 6, the Auckland Table Tennis Association (<https://www.facebook.com/aucklandttoofficial>) posted an article on Facebook, which is certainly also relevant to our Oakmont Table Tennis. Here is a summary.

Take a look around the table tennis club and you’ll see players in their 60s, 70s, 80s—and even 90s—still moving, laughing, learning, and competing. That’s what makes the sport special. While many people think ageing means slowing down, table tennis shows the opposite. Every match asks your body and mind to work together: react quickly, think strategically, stay balanced, and move with purpose.

You’re not just exercising. You’re building skills that matter every day. The game also keeps you growing. Players keep learning new serves, trying new tactics, and improving one small step at a time. The score matters, but so does the journey.

Table tennis reminds us that age is about more than birthdays. It’s about staying curious, active, connected, and willing to learn. Table tennis isn’t just for the young. It’s a sport for life.

At Oakmont West Rec. you can play table tennis in our club on Tuesday and Thursday 3–5 p.m., Friday and Sunday 3–7 p.m. Please check our club’s website www.sites.google.com/view/oakttclub for further information.



Oakmont Squares



■Barbara Wooley

BEGINNER CLASSES START IN AUGUST

The Oakmont Squares is excited to announce that the Fall 2026 beginner Social Square Dancing classes will begin Tuesday, August 25. If you cannot make it on that day, no worries; the first class will be repeated on the following Tuesday, September 1. First class is free!

Oakmont Squares members will tell you that the Social Square Dancing program (based on 50 calls) is a great fit for Oakmont ‘s “active adult” community. Professional caller Lawrence Johnstone is adept at combining the 50 Mainstream 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 traverses a wide range of genres, including country, Disney, Broadway Show Tunes, movie themes, holiday songs, and other music that spans the decades.

The Beginning Social Square Dancing class is the



Come dance in a square and make a circle of friends.
(Photo by Barbara Wooley)

perfect opportunity for anyone who would like to come see what square dancing is all about or to update their rusty skills. No partner is necessary. Casual dress and a willingness to give it a whirl are all that is required.

Drop in any time to meet the Oakmont Squares supportive and welcoming group of dancers and see what fun Square Dancing can be.

■Carolita Carr

SUN KINGS-A BEATLES TRIBUTE AS NATURE INTENDED

WHEN: Saturday, August 22, doors open at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

COST: \$30 per person. Each member may bring one non-member guest

BRING: The beverage of your choice and snacks to share

Food trucks will be onsite to sell delicious menu choices.

The Sun Kings are one of the strongest musical tributes on the West Coast. Their sets are loaded with peak moments, their dazzling harmonies leading each ascent, their only flaw is that they eventually have to stop the celebration. The only band closer to the Beatles would be the Beatles themselves. You won’t want to miss this show.

Our events sell out within hours of going online at oakmontboomers.org, and registering online is the best way to guarantee a seat. However, if you get your paper slip with payment in our folder at the OVA the same day as we go live on the website, you usually can get in. Please just try the website.



Boomers



Also, make sure you are a current member. If you experience trouble purchasing on the site, it might be that you need to renew.

Not a member? Sign up at oakmontboomers.org at \$15 per person per year.

A word to our attendees: We would appreciate it if we all could keep our conversations down while a board member or performer is speaking to the audience. Our aim is to provide an enjoyable experience for everyone at our events. Please be courteous to those around you.



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E-Waste Collection

■OVA Staff



SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 AND 16, 9 AM–5 PM

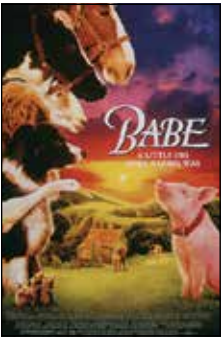
E-Waste Collection will be two-day event, sponsored by Conservation Corps North Bay. They will be parked in the Berger parking lot, 310 White Oak Drive, parallel to the street. There is no appointment needed for this event.

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

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 OVA.



JULY 26: BABE GRANDPARENTS' WEEK—7 PM EVENING SHOW TIME

Gentle farmer Arthur Hoggett wins a piglet Babe at a county fair. Narrowly escaping his fate as Christmas dinner, Babe bonds with motherly border collie Fly and discovers that he too can herd sheep. But will the other animals accept him? 1995, G, 1:31.



AUGUST 2: THE SHEEP DETECTIVES

Every night a shepherd reads aloud a murder mystery, pretending his sheep can understand. When he is found dead, the sheep realize at once that it was a murder and think they know everything about how to go about solving it. 2026, PG, 1:49.



AUGUST 9: MICHAEL

The early life of musician Michael Jackson, from the discovery of his talent as the lead of the Jackson Five to the artist whose creative ambition fueled a pursuit to become the biggest entertainer in the world. 2026, PG-13, 2:07.

■Steve Huntley

AUGUST IS NATIONAL DOG MONTH!

And next Saturday, August 1 is National Yorkie Day! But our Canine Club members do not celebrate our doggies on a monthly basis, or on just one day per year, but every day of the year. What better way to celebrate our dogs than with a dog walk.

The neighborhoods in Oakmont are great for dog walks, but don't forget the golf courses. Walking hours on the golf courses are reserved from daybreak to 7 a.m. every day of the week, which is before golf play begins. Additionally, there is an afternoon walking schedule on Wednesdays and Thursdays only starting at 45 minutes before sunset. Schedules are subject to change. During walking hours, dogs are also allowed on the courses but must be on leash at all times.

Canine health warning: Prong and choke collars are used by some dog owners to control or "train" their dogs when on leash. However, they can cause severe injury to dogs. Prong collars have sharp prongs that can penetrate the dog's skin around the throat area. According to Dr. Lorella Notari, DVM at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, "The repeated pressure of collars like choke



Maddie.

Canine Club



and prong collars can cause severe inflammation of the skin and muscle, and in extreme cases can cause cervical spine injuries. These collars can make a dog cough and even cause the windpipe to collapse. It can also injure the thyroid glands."

On a more positive note, today, Saturday, July 25 is Doodle Dog Play Date at the Happy Tails Dog Park from 10 a.m.–noon. All Doodles are welcome, from Mini Doodles to Maxi Doodles.

Not a member of the Oakmont Canine Club? You can join now! Go to www.oakmontcanineclub.org for more information on how to join this exciting club!



Maisie.

Sleep Apnea

■Bob Flandermeyer

NEW LOCATION

The next Sleep Apnea meeting is on August 4 at 1 p.m. in the Birch Room, Oakmont Central Activities Center. Bring your machine and mask. Dr. Ackroyd will be away. We will meet and share.

For questions, contact me at (707) 694 8018.

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■Greg Fauss



GRANDKIDS WEEK!

Together with the founder and the current president of the Grandparents Club (Carol Cotton and Leslie Brockman, both members of our congregation), we are excited to welcome “our” grandkids, nieces, nephews, and more!

Thousands of years ago, one might say that children had a lower status in society. But Jesus pushed back on that societal norm saying, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” and he welcomed them to himself. (Matthew 19:14)

So, we encourage one another to be involved in the lives of our young people. This includes, helping with their spiritual development as studies indicate that 70-80% of Christians choose faith before the age of 18.

You, your grandkids, other family members and friends are always welcome to visit us, especially this summer. We strive to be open to all and like a family to one another.

Our Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. in the Berger Center.



Ukrainian widows and kids arriving at a camp in Germany.

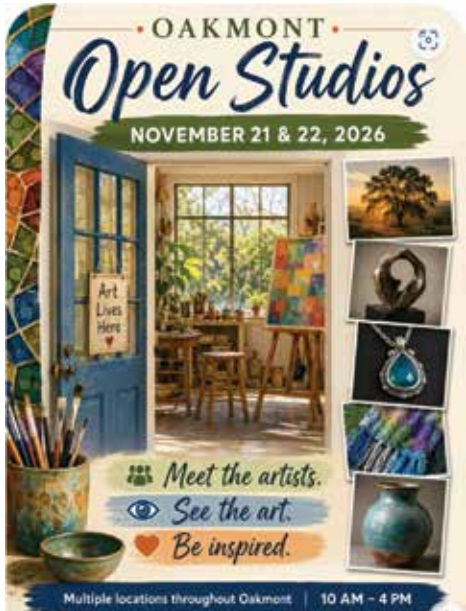
For information about our Wednesday Morning Bible Study, occasional meetings in Oakmont Gardens, Saturday Prayer meeting, and other gatherings go to www.occsantarosa.org, write us at occsantarosa@gmail.com or call us at (707) 595-0166.

Oakmont Art Association

■Linda O’Connor

OPEN STUDIOS RETURNS TO OAKMONT

The Oakmont Art Association is delighted to announce the return of its popular Open Studios event, inviting Oakmont artists to once again open their creative spaces to friends, neighbors, and art lovers throughout the community.



Open Studios flyer created by Linda O’Connor.

Artists working in all media are encouraged to participate by welcoming visitors into their homes, studios, garages, or other workspaces to experience the creative process firsthand. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the artists, learn about their techniques and inspiration, and purchase original, handcrafted works directly from the creators.

In past years, Open Studios has showcased the remarkable diversity of artistic talent within Oakmont, featuring painters, sculptors, ceramic artists, photographers, jewelers, glass artists, fiber artists, woodworkers, and many others. The event celebrates both creativity and community while offering visitors a unique glimpse into the places where art comes to life.

This year’s Open Studios will take place on Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22, at multiple locations throughout Oakmont.

Artists interested in participating can obtain additional information and applications by contacting Open Studios Coordinator Esther Munger at esmunger@gmail.com. Curious about participating but not sure where to begin? Join us for a free “How to Do It” question-and-answer session at Art Share on Monday, August 17, at 1 p.m. in the Art Room at the Community Activities Center (CAC). Whether you’re a first-time participant or a returning artist, you’ll find helpful tips, practical advice, and answers to your questions.

Open your studio, share your passion, and help celebrate the extraordinary creativity that makes Oakmont such a vibrant artistic community.

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NORTH AMERICA'S LUXURY FIREPLACE

Passages



Barbara Ann Spain (June 13, 1949–June 19, 2026) passed away at the age of 77. A resident of Oakmont for 17 years Barbara enjoyed traveling, hiking, pickleball, water aerobics, and spending time in nature.

There will be a remembrance held for her at the East Recreation Center on August 2, beginning at 2 p.m. For details, please contact Linda Spain de Bruin at LSdB@me.com.

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

■Barbara Wooley



IT’S BUNCO TIME!

Looking for a fun, low stress activity for the summer? Come on over and try Bunco—the fun, easy, no skill required dice game.
Never played before? That is OK.

Jazz Club Live Music and Workshop

■Michael James

SWING INTO SUMMER WITH THE SWING FLING BAND

On Wednesday, August 5, at 2 p.m. Swing Fling, Sonoma County’s homegrown swing band, will perform at the East Recreation Center for our August monthly meeting. They will play music made popular by Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Louis Armstrong, Django Reinhardt, and others.
The band features Rhonda Berney, mandolin and vocals; Karol Kopley, keyboard and vocals; Karen Fichman, bass and vocal; and Steven Radice (Oakmont resident) guitar and vocals. Steven performed as a soloist last year for the Jazz Club and joined us for the music workshop from 3-4 p.m., so bring your own instrument and join the fun!
A \$5 donation will be gratefully accepted. For more information on the Swing Fling Band, visit their website: www.sonomabands.com/home.



Swing Fling.



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Ladies Bunco Night

Bunco requirements:
1. Must know how to roll dice.
2. Must know how to add to 21.
3. Must be able to recognize a three-of-a-kind.
4. Must be willing to have a great time.
Not only is Bunco loads of fun, players have the opportunity to win cash prizes! In what other game can a player literally win for losing? Beginners are always welcome. Within a few rolls of the dice, you will be an expert Bunco player. Come on over and give it a shot. Bring a friend!
Usual nights are the second and fourth Monday of

each month; however, there are exceptions, so always check your OVA Calendar. Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. for check-in. Games run from 7–9 p.m. See us at “Join a Club Night” on Thursday, August 13.
WHERE: Card Room, Central Activity Center
WHEN: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month (check Oakmont Events Calendar). Next meetings July 27, August 10 and 24.
TIME: 6:45 p.m. (Play is about 1-1 / 2 to 2 hrs.)
FEE: A \$5 fee/night is required for each participant.
Questions or want to get on our email reminder list, contact Jill Butler at (760) 468-1743.

GUÍAS ESPIRITUALES
SPIRIT GUIDES
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(No concerts June 10 & July 1)

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Oakmont Democratic Club



■Ida Egli

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, USA! NOW WHAT?

Why should Oakmonters save the date, September 14? To learn what California has on the November ballot that might curb the influence of big money in California’s political elections. This is a bipartisan issue and people of all political persuasions are welcome to join us to learn more.

Let’s flash back to 1787, the tense final days of the Constitutional Convention. Benjamin Franklin—who’d given more than almost anyone to unite the colonies—still had doubts about the republic’s future. As Dr. James McHenry recorded in his diary, Elizabeth Willing Powel asked Franklin what the Convention had produced: “a republic or a monarchy?” Franklin’s famous reply: “A republic, if you can keep it.” (NPS. gov, “September 17, 1787: A Republic, If You Can Keep It”)

Two hundred fifty years later, that republic endures. This leads us forward to September 14 and the Oakmont Democrats speaker event at the East Rec. at which time David Schmidt will tell us about California’s November referendum, Proposition 4, the California Fair Elections Act, which will, if passed, open the door for public financing of state and local



David Schmidt.

candidates supported only by small donors. I’m sure Ben Franklin would be curious about what David Schmidt is going to explain. We can nearly see his ears perking. David Schmidt is the author of *Citizen Lawmakers: The Ballot Initiative Revolution and San Francisco Bay Area: An Environmental History*. He will also speak on the multiple state ballot measures that would, if passed, tax billionaires—or nullify the Billionaire Tax Initiative.

SPEAKER NIGHT: Mon., September 14, 6:30 p.m. Social, 7 p.m. Speaker Presentation. As always, bring a snack to share and a beverage of your choice.

OTHER MARK YOUR CALENDAR EVENTS

August 10, 4:30 p.m.: Annual Progressives Picnic, West Rec. Picnic Area. RSVP at website

September 25, 6 p.m.: Big Fundraiser, Berger Center Check out OakmontDemocraticAlliance.org

Editor’s Note: 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.

■Don McPherson

BASTILLE DAY FÊTE 2026

An abundance of bleu, blanc et rouge clothing and tricolor flags made for a festive annual Bastille Day celebration on Saturday, July 11.

The fête began with the annual Bastille Day Tournament. Tournament Director Jean-michel Poulnot handled registration and randomization of teams with the club’s “Fanny,” “the Goddess of Pétanque,” looking on. Fanny is the focal point of a traditional ritual when a team loses in a 13-0 shutout. Fortunately, there were no shutouts and all games were very competitive, so Fanny was not needed in the end.

A full complement of 18 club members played in the tournament and two dozen members, family, and friends joined in the festivities including lunch.

In the play-in game, the team of Judith Fleenor, Fred Martin, and Bill Whetstone defeated Richard Goodwin, Ellean Huff, and Warren Watkins 13-4; Judy Dumm, Barbara Lowell, and Steven Payette defeated Sherry Labate, Barbara Newton, and Ro Nicholson 13-7; and Susan Mitchell, Gail Ruder, and Rob Warren defeated Diane Blumenfeld-Schaap, Max Hinchman, and Rachel Meserve 13-8.

In the Concours, Fleenor-Martin-Whetstone defeated Dumm-Lowell-Payette 13-10 to win the 2026 Bastille Day championship. In the Consolante, Mitchell-Ruder-Warren defeated Blumenfeld-Schaap-Hinchman-Meserve 13-9 to take third place, and Goodwin-Huff-Watkins defeated Labate-Newton-

Nicholson 13-7 to take fifth place.

Jean-michel Poulnot, en beret, led a rousing rendition of the French national anthem, “La Marseillaise,” and all gathered for the annual Bastille Day Club photo. A delicious potluck pique-nique lunch followed featuring a cake commemorating the Pétanque Club’s 30th anniversary as an OVA organization.

It was une grande fête!

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT

The club encourages all Oakmonters who may be interested in playing or learning to play pétanque (pay-tonk) 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. The lub has boules to lend while you’re learning, and you’ll be playing right away.

Winners of the 2026 Bastille Day Tourney (L to R): Judy Dumm, Steven Payette, Barbara Lowell (2nd place) and Fred Martin, Bill Whetstone, and Judith Fleenor (1st place—champions).



2026 Bastille Day Tourney.



Lifelong Learning



■Marlena Tremont

Here are the new classes and concerts for Fall.

2026 FALL CLASS PREVIEW

Wednesday, August 26, Berger Center

2:30 p.m. Music and Refreshments, 3 p.m. Program

Come hear and talk to the instructors for this incredible line-up for fall!



REVOLUTION!

Instructor: Dr. Steve Harris

Mondays, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 3–5 p.m.,
Berger Center

5-week session. Cost: \$80 or \$60 with discount



MOTOWN RECORDS: THE GREATEST SOUL MUSIC RECORD LABEL

Instructor: Richie Unterberger

Wednesdays, Sept. 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 3–5 p.m.,
East Rec.

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

THE MAKING OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY: ENVIRONMENT, SEA LEVEL, AND ECOLOGY ACROSS 12,000 YEARS

Instructor: Lucy Bates

Thursdays, Sept. 17, 24, 3–5 p.m., East Rec.
2-week session. Cost: \$35 or \$26.25 with discount

COMEDY MASTERWORKS OF SEVENTIES CINEMA

Instructor: Terry Ebinger

Thursdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2–5 p.m., East Rec.
(Note: early start time)

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

ART IN AMERICA: THE 20TH CENTURY

Instructor: Craig Griffeath

Mondays, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 3–5 p.m.,
Berger Center

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

Purchase multiple classes at the same time for the same person in the same semester and receive a 25% off to total. To register for classes or concerts, go to Oakmontll.org, fill out a form with payment in the OVA office or pay at the door.

FALL CONCERT LINE-UP MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, September 18: Pamela Rose

Friday, November 6: Sonomusette

Friday, November 13: More Joy

Friday, December 18: The Bluebyrds

All concerts begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each.

Conservatives Club



■Jane Gyorgy

CLUB SUMMER BREAK CONTINUES
We hope you are having a wonderful and relaxing summer while the Conservatives Club is on Summer Break.
Monthly meetings, held on the fourth Tuesdays, will resume on September 22 at 4 p.m., at the Berger Center, 6633 Oakmont Dr. We look forward to seeing you then.
Members, be on the lookout for your emailed invitations with RSVP link after Labor Day. Non-members are welcome and should RSVP by email to TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com.

CONSERVATIVES COFFEE CONVERSATION CIRCLE CONTINUES IN THE CAC 10 AM, WEDNESDAYS, WEEKLY
Unstructured, unfacilitated, open conversation—founded by those who lean politically conservative, though other perspectives are welcome—is held in the Central Activities Center lobby, or in the Birch Room if the Birch Room is unoccupied. When the weather’s good, the group meets on the CAC patio behind the lobby.
No speakers, no name tags, no structure. Topics have meandered from restaurants, to politics, from wineries to current events, from where to hear or dance to live music locally to the economy. We’ve debated opposing views, all were heard, all survived, and no one got hurt.

EXPECT EXCITING ENLIGHTENMENT
In 1956, a joint resolution (P.L. 84-915) authorized the President to proclaim September 17 through September 23 as Constitution Week.
Together with Eagle Forum, we will hold an all-day event on September 12, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., celebrating the 239th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. Speakers will address constitutional freedoms, among other topics, including Nick Shirley speaking on Freedom of the Press. Ticket price includes lunch. A raffle and vendor tables are also planned. Details to follow. RSVP Required
Relax, enjoy the rest of your summer and stay active.

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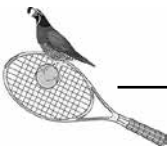
Progressives Club



■Sue Aiken

SUMMER POTLUCK PICNIC SPONSORED BY PROGRESSIVES CLUB AUG. 10, 4:30–7:30 PM, WEST REC. CENTER PICNIC AREA, 6470 MEADOWRIDGE DR.
All members of the Oakmont Democratic Alliance are invited to attend. This includes members of our Democratic and Progressive Clubs! Due to limited seating, registration is required by visiting www.oakmontdemocraticalliance.org. There is no cost to attend the potluck.
When you RSVP, you will be prompted to check the box specifying the category of food you will bring: appetizer, entrée, salad or side dish. The club will provide dessert. Please bring your favorite libation and, if possible, your own utensils and place setting to help save the planet! We will have a supply of all you need.
Join us for conversation, laughter, good food and just plain fun! We have much to look forward to this fall with the election in November and so much to be grateful for in our country.
Space is limited due to the number of tables available in the picnic area. RSVP now to reserve your place at the table. It will be a festive celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country’s remarkable history!
All welcome!

Tennis Club



■Nani Tosoc

WHITES (ATTIRE) AND WOODIES (RACQUET) MIXER AND TOURNAMENT
This third Grand Slam event was held June 11 on the West Rec. tennis courts, a mere 8,590 km outside of London. From the Royal Box, the 8th Countess of Miramonte (OTC Secretary) Judy Passaglia, and husband Frank (President) presided. Tournament director Rex Fuller (VP) organized pre-tournament activities; Maureen Pennal (Social Director) and Mike Scrobonia (Facilities) provided magnificent tournament support. Raspberry Danish kringle and strawberries and cream were enjoyed by 22 players vying for the title.
After three nervy rounds, the Wooden Racquet Challenge, a closest-to-the target competition, saw India Steel-Mottaz the winner with Bob Fletcher a close second.
With a prize pot of \$60, three rounds of doubles play yielded ties for first (Ken Hirsohn and Arnie Herskovic) and third (Frank Passaglia and Nani Tosoc). Whilst the OTC board discussed amicable ways of splitting the pot, throngs of unruly spectators clamored for more tennis to separate the ties. A riot led by Tony Agocs and other tennis hooligans was broken up by London

Bobbies. A 10-point doubles tiebreaker was agreed to, with Ken/Nani pairing off to face the crowd-favorite duo of Arnie/Frank. The gallery cheered as the latter team raced to an early 2-0 lead.
This was quickly erased by the former team, who ended up the victors, much to the crowd’s disappointment. Final Results: first—Ken (\$30), second—Arnie (\$20), third—Nani (\$10).
At the tournament’s conclusion, a couple looking for the pickleball courts was courteously redirected to the East Rec Center.
Thanks to the OTC organizers for another splendid tournament.
In other OTC news: a big thanks to the OVA and Michael Scrobonia for placing those welcome, cooling awnings on the east courts.

COMING UP
July 27–29: West Courts, Grandparents Week Tennis Coaching.
August 7, 9 a.m.: West Courts, Annual Army vs. Navy Tourney.
Cheers Mate.

Photo by Emily Aiken.



Lawn Bowling



■Mary C Blake

INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO BOWL?
Email us at oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com.
JUST A THOUGHT
As I type this, there’s a fire above St Francis Winery. According to Watch Duty, the fire is encircled by retardant and moving slowly. But I was surprised by how quickly a fire, with only a light breeze and near Hwy. 12, could spread.

TOURNAMENTS
Men’s Triples: In the final round Gerry Macintosh, David Aiken and Bob Hoffman bested Jim Krause, James Chang and Bruce Rolland.
Independence Day Tournament: We had a beautiful day for our tournament. The Green was decorated with flags and bowlers added some red and blue to their tournament whites creating a festive feel.
Women’s Triples: We needed at least 12 to hold our tournament and, with a couple of accidents and family illness, we still almost got there. We’ll try again. We’ve rescheduled the Women’s Triples for Saturday,

August 8. We don’t usually hold tournaments on Saturdays but with other tournaments and events, this seemed like the time to try.
Evening Games: We’ll send an e-blast recommending an evening game when the forecast is for a hot day.
COMING EVENTS
Friday, July 24: Open Triples, 9:30 a.m.
Friday, August 7: Men’s Singles, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, August 8: Women’s Triples, 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, August 13: After 5 Potluck, 5 p.m.
Friday, August 21: Women’s Singles, 9:30 a.m.
If you forget a date, you can find a calendar on our website, in your Green Book, and on our bulletin boards.
ARM EXTENDER (UPDATE)
The new arm extender worked so well we ordered another one!
Thanks to the Oakmont Community Foundation for making this new piece of equipment possible.
Email: oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com.
Website: www.oakmontlawnbowling.com.



Independence Day Tournament: Preparing to bowl.

Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■John Brodey

A NEW DAY

NEW MEETING TIME: Monthly on second and third Mondays at 4 p.m. (3:30 p.m. for socializing)
NEW LOCATION: Upper West Rec.
NEXT MEETINGS: August 10 and 17

Well, here we are at last on the verge of launching our meeting location, day and time. As we have reported in the past, we discussed at length, the thought of changing our breakfast meeting to an afternoon Happy Hour session. Still the great same people, interesting speakers covering a range of non-profit efforts, community services, new ideas for improving life for others, but now no one must get up early to do so.

We have also reduced our meeting schedule to two meetings a month and so will now gather on the second and third Mondays of every month (August 10 and 17 coming up).

While our meeting will begin at 4 p.m., it is custom that we come a half hour earlier for a bit of socializing and in this case, enjoy some snacks, beverages including wine. We will also be heading to the West Recreation Center Upstairs. It's a good idea to institute changes periodically to keep things fresh and find ways to accommodate those with different schedules timewise.

If you are curious about Rotary and like the thought of working with a like-minded group who want to make life better for those who struggle both here and abroad, then c'mon down! I personally don't mind exchanging my previous coffee consumption for a glass of wine in the process. We will also have occasional social events lined up for some of our off

weeks. We are looking forward to a new chapter in our 26-year history as the Valley of the Moon Rotary Club.

I wonder what things will be like when we see each other fully awake for the first time. We expect there will be some confusion over what people look like later in the day and the wine may offer new joke material potential. Who doesn't love: a horse walks into a bar and the bartender says: Why the long face? Anyway, we love guests and hope you'll find the time to join some Monday.

Domino Club



■Brian Huckins

MIX THOSE DOMINOS

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

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

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

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

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

Quilting Bees

■Linda O'Connor

THE BEES ARE A-BUZZIN'

Another lively afternoon of buzzing conversation and creativity greeted the Oakmont Quilting Bees as members gathered to share inspiration, accomplishments, and the friendships that make every meeting special.

Travel reports centered on art exhibits already enjoyed and those still waiting to be explored. Of particular interest was the spectacular We the People quilt display held on the Santa Rosa Courthouse Square lawn on the Fourth of July. More than 200 quilts offered thoughtful and often moving reflections on what it means to be an American today. Members were pleased to learn that many of these remarkable works are now on display at the Petaluma Museum. Another reminder was given that our own Cherie is currently the featured artist at Bay Quilts in Richmond, where twenty of her extraordinary art quilts fill the gallery's impressive fifty-foot display wall.

Photos by Liz McDonnell.



As always, the afternoon featured an eclectic parade of creativity. Nancy shared her beautifully crafted Scandinavian Star Christmas ornaments, whose intricate folded construction drew admiration from everyone present. They may even inspire this year's ornament for Oakmont's community Christmas tree. Celeste unveiled her latest bag made with Texture Magic, creating striking dimensional textures, while Larry earned enthusiastic applause for personalizing the Quilting Bees' standard name badge with a whimsical space theme that perfectly reflects his lifelong fascination with the cosmos.

Vicki shared a charming 12-by-12-inch wall hanging celebrating a family member's love of hedgehogs. Julia, our ever-prolific knitter, modeled another collection of hats and mittens destined for local homeless shelters. Remarkably, she continues to donate more than 100 pairs each year—a truly inspiring example of generosity. Cheers to Julia for her extraordinary community spirit.

Of course, no Quilting Bees meeting would be complete without an abundance of quilts. Brenda displayed two newly completed wall quilts, one rich in elegant purples and the other glowing with soft pastel hues. Kathy happily showed the delightful Winnie-the-Pooh quilt and matching book she won at the recent silent auction, generously donated by Bonnie. Following up on last month's product review, Janet shared a lovely watercolor quilt made from a kit, along with a stylish bag created using treasures discovered at the SRQG Treasure Table. The meeting concluded with two memorable patriotic quilts. Maureen displayed a classic red, white, and blue star quilt, while Vicki presented a deeply personal contemporary design inspired during a sleepless night. Its log cabin-style stripes, flowing in conflicting directions, express the uncertainty she sees in today's America. The Bees meet the second and fourth Wednesday, 1 p.m. in the Art room at CAC. For more information, contact Liz McDonnell at (707) 538-2523.

2026–2027 OVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OVA E-mail: askova@oakmontvillage.com
Website: www.oakmontvillage.com
Book appointments with staff at:
oakmontvillage.com/staff

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Maintenance Building (next to Central Auditorium)

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COORDINATOR

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July 16–31

Monica Heath 818-653-2984

August 1–15

Colleen Keegan 925-487-4014

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

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.

■Rebecca Gilbert

LEARN TO PLAY UKULELE

The Ukesters of Oakmont is offering a 7-week course to any Oakmont resident. This is a great opportunity for you to learn to play the ukulele and sing along as an added bonus. The ukulele is one of the most popular instruments in America and easy to learn.

It is also great for seniors for these 10 reasons: 1) Improves hand-eye coordination, 2) Reduces

stress, 3) Boosts brain function, 4) Promotes social connection, 5) Enhances creativity, 6) Boosts mood and self-esteem, 7) Offers a low-cost hobby, 8) Can be done anywhere, 9) Fosters a lifelong love of music, 10) Improves self-discipline.

The added benefit following class participation is to become involved with Ukesters weekly practice sessions and occasional performances at

Oakmont Gardens and other social events such as Grandparents’ Week.

WHEN: Fridays, September 4, 11, 18, 25, October 2, 9 and 16

TIME: 10–11 a.m. **LOCATION:** OVA Suite B

COST: \$5 for printed materials

WHAT TO BRING: Ukulele, tuner and music stand

CONTACT: Rebecca Gilbert, (949) 887-0925

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Pickleball Corner



■Peter Copen

OUT OF ENERGY IN THE SUMMER?

Most pickleball players do not get tired all at once. They fade. First, the feet get lazy. Then the ready position gets taller. Then the returns get shorter. Then the easy dinks start floating. Then you say something like, “I don’t know what happened. I was fine the first few games.”

The real reason you feel tired: Most players blame stamina. Sometimes that is fair. But often, the real issue is that your body is running low on one of two things:



Cartoon by Peter Copen.

Electrolytes help hydration, but they do not provide energy unless the drink also has carbohydrates. For long or sweaty workouts, experts generally recommend electrolytes during or after activity, but for an actual energy boost, carbs matter more.

Water is fine for short, easy sessions. But if you play longer than 60–90 minutes, sweating heavily, playing in heat, playing back-to-back sessions, or finishing with salt on your clothes, water alone may not be enough.

Other options that can work:

- Gatorade Thirst Quencher: is easy to find and provides both carbohydrates for energy and sodium to help replace electrolytes lost through sweat.
- Liquid I.V.: can be useful when you want

stronger hydration support, with glucose and sodium included.

- LMNT: is high-sodium and zero-sugar, so it can help heavy sweaters who already get carbs from food, but it is not an energy drink.

Playing pickleball in Oakmont is free. However, there is a cost to be a member of the club of \$30/yr. The benefits include friends, fun socials, parties, club pays for the balls, loaner paddles to try out and coaching and skills training.

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

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