

OAKMONT NEWS

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President’s Message: Social Media and Oakmont

■Steve Spanier, OVA Board President



Reclaiming civil, respectful discourse will allow Oakmont to discuss real issues thoughtfully and inclusively, and highlight the limitations built into dialogue by social media.

This article examines the effects of social media platforms like Nextdoor in communities like Oakmont. If you’re concerned about social media in Oakmont, send an email to SocialMediaInOakmont@gmail.com and let us know your thoughts.

INTRODUCTION

Social media has become an important mechanism for communication, information exchange, civic participation, and social connection. These benefits are substantial and should not be dismissed.

At the same time, a growing body of research from institutions including MIT, Yale, Pew Research Center, and researchers publishing in Nature, Science, Nature Communications, Scientific Reports, and PNAS Nexus identifies characteristics of social media environments that can undermine the quality of public discourse. These include the rapid diffusion of misleading information, disproportionate visibility of highly active participants, amplification of moral outrage, persistence of uncivil exchanges, and the tendency of online discussions to become increasingly toxic as they continue.

A community of several thousand residents is not simply a collection of individuals. It is a social system that depends upon trust, civility, face-to-face

See **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE** on page 6

Fall Vaccine Clinics

■Oakmont Village Association

Appointments are now available for two vaccine clinics this fall—Sept. 21 at the East Rec. Center and Oct. 22 at the Berger, each from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2026-27 COVID vaccines will be offered, and also the 2026-27 Flu, RSV, and pneumonia vaccines.

You can make an appointment for either date at www.safeway.com/vaccinations/group-clinic/OakmontVillageofSantaRosa2026.

Consent form: oakmontvillage.com/article/informed-consent-for-immunization.

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

Scams Are Getting Smarter: How to Protect Yourself

■News Staff

Oakmont residents learned how to recognize today’s most common scams during a presentation held Tuesday, Sept. 1 at the Berger. John Guaraglia of Santa Rosa Police Department Community Outreach was joined by Community Outreach volunteer Patrick Brady, Detective Cristian Zaragoza and several other SRPD officers, who shared prevention tips and answered questions from the audience.

One of the fastest-growing threats in Sonoma County is the “courier scam,” said Detective Zaragoza. According to the detective, it often begins with an alarming phone call where the caller may claim that a loved one is in trouble, a warrant has been issued for arrest, or the victim’s money is at risk and is told to withdraw cash, buy gold or prepare a package for an “agent” who will come to their home.

“That would never happen. That’s not how you get rid of a warrant,” said Zaragoza.

The story may sound convincing because scammers can find names, relatives and other personal details online, the presenters said. They may also impersonate real police officers or use technology that makes a legitimate phone number appear on caller ID.

“They try to draw some sort of connection with you, and they make it seem like you have to correct this in a hurry,” Zaragoza said. He said that scammers do not want their victim to stop, think or consult someone they trust. To do this, they keep the victim on the phone, tell them not to speak with bank employees or threaten immediate consequences if the victim doesn’t cooperate.

Legitimate police departments, government agencies and businesses do not demand payment through gift cards, cryptocurrency, gold or packages of cash, Zaragoza said, and instructed that the appropriate response to such demands should be to hang up.

The presentation covered other scams, which include:

- Romance scams, in which an online acquaintance gradually begins asking for money.
- Fake bank, Amazon, IRS or package-delivery messages containing dangerous links.
- Fraudulent pop-ups that claim a computer or phone has been compromised.
- Card-skimming devices placed over payment terminals or ATMs.
- Door-to-door workers offering unsolicited window cleaning, vehicle repairs or other services.
- Fake jobs that ask someone to deposit checks and forward part of the money elsewhere.

Residents were reminded to never give an unexpected caller their PIN, account number, Social Security number or other personal information, and to not use a phone number or website supplied in a suspicious message.

See **SCAMS** on page 3

Beatles Tribute Band at Berger



The dance floor was hopping when Boomers Club welcomed Beatles tribute band Sun Kings for a sellout crowd at the Berger. (Photos by Heidi Klyn)

Local Group Proposes Different Solution for SDC

■Staff Reports

Meeting at the Berger Center August 25, Sonoma Valley Next 100, a local advocacy group, says an alternative solution to current state and county plans would keep the Sonoma Developmental Center land in public ownership and better support the needs of families, essential workers, elders, veterans and people with developmental disabilities.

Now a 501(c)3 non-profit, Sonoma Valley Next 100 is seeking to mobilize voices, votes and dollars to share concerns about private development plans that would put some 1000 homes and numerous commercial buildings and a hotel on the property. The development is part of a proposed agreement between the California Department of General Services and the Rogal/Grupe group.

“Sonoma Valley Next 100 needs our help in sharing concerns with both state and county leaders, along with donations to help fight the legal battles ahead,” said Susan Chauncy, the chair of Oakmont Community Development Committee, which is charged with keeping an eye on neighboring land use proposals. “The proposed development would impact our community from safety, environmental and lifestyle perspectives. If it comes to fruition, we will all feel it.”

The alternative solution proposed by Sonoma Valley Next 100 includes greatly reduced development—470 homes, repurposing and re-use of existing buildings, and a cultural, business and education center, as well as performing arts and community spaces.

A recording of the meeting is on the OVA website at oakmontvillage.com/videos.

More information about Sonoma Valley Next 100 is available at www.sdcnext100.org.

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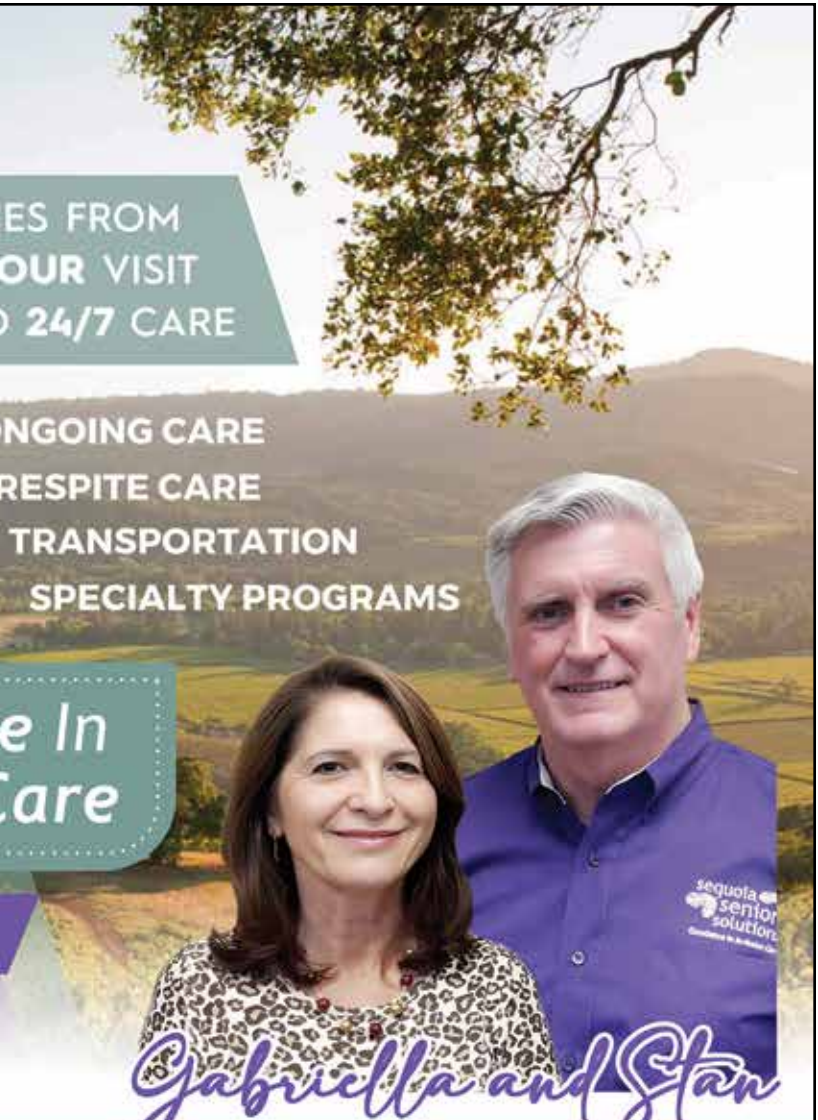
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Oakmont Emergency Communications Task Force

■Tom Pugliese

EMERGENCY RADIO OPERATORS: A NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE YOU CAN COUNT ON



Radio Placards—what are they, what do they mean and why do I care? You may have noticed placards displayed in windows, yards, or on mailbox posts throughout Oakmont. We obtained them with a generous grant from the Oakmont Community Foundation to identify residents who serve as volunteer radio operators on Oakmont’s Emergency Communications Task Force. Their role is simple but vital: providing reliable communication when phones, internet, or even 911 may be unavailable or overloaded during an emergency.

Oakmont is designated as a County Incident Command Post, and our radio operators are part of the system that keeps our community connected. They can relay requests for assistance to other Oakmont neighborhoods or, when activated, to the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

If your neighborhood doesn’t have a radio operator, we encourage you to consider joining us. The OVA supplies the equipment, and we provide the training. The radios are easy to use, and the time commitment is minimal: a 15-minute monthly radio check and two short Saturday drills each year to practice message handling and protocol.

To learn more or request a meeting, contact us at OakmontW6OVA@gmail.com.

SCAMS Continued from page 1

“What we suggest strongly is for you to compile, if you don’t already have one, a list of known valid phone numbers,” Officer Brady said, and recommended that bank information should top that list.

Presenters recommended using tap-to-pay when available. Zaragoza also recommended using a credit card rather than a debit card for online purchases.

For those who may have been targeted, officers

Trash Tip

■Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force

Q: Where do plastic bags go?

A: In the trash.

According to Recology Sonoma Marin, plastic bags of any kind should never be placed in residential compost or recycling carts. Even if a plastic bag is marketed as “recyclable” or “compostable,” they belong in your landfill cart. These film plastics can wreak havoc at Recology’s Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and cause contamination, making it more difficult to recover clean material and causing damage to equipment. Recology partners with compost facilities that do not have the special equipment needed to process/remove compostable plastic bags.

Reuse plastic bags as much as possible. Then, they may be dropped off at Safeway or Whole Foods for recycling. Ridwell and Terracycle are paid programs with verified end-use markets for many types of plastic. Otherwise, spent plastic bags go in the trash.

Even better: Use durable, reusable bags (i.e., paper or cotton bags for produce and bulk items like rice or nuts). Keep them in your handbag and/or car to easily remember to use.

More questions about what goes where? Use Recology’s easy “What Bin” search tool at www.Recology.com/RSMWhatBin.

Check out our “Best Practices for Resource Management” Guide at oakmontvillage.com/oestf.



Bring your own Bag.
(Photo by Lesli Lee)

Stella Heath to Perform the Music of Ella Fitzgerald

■OVA Staff

On October 8, Oakmont is pleased to welcome back Bay Area vocalist Stella Heath for an evening dedicated to one of the most influential voices in American music history: Ella Fitzgerald, the First Lady of Song. The show starts at 6 p.m. at the Berger Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. \$30 tickets are available at the OVA office.

In her new show, “Stella Swings Ella,” Heath takes on Fitzgerald’s iconic repertoire with the support of an all-star band featuring Neil Fontano on piano, Ian Scherer on guitar, Daniel Fabricant on bass, Robby Elfman on saxophone and clarinet, and Spike Klein on drums.

Ella Fitzgerald’s career spanned nearly 60 years, during which she transformed from the energetic force behind the swing era at Harlem’s Savoy Ballroom into a pioneering jazz vocalist celebrated for her bebop improvisation and groundbreaking songbook recordings. Her collaborations with towering songwriters like Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, and George Gershwin helped elevate their compositions into enduring American classics. In her later years, she continued to mesmerize audiences around the world, often accompanied by the virtuoso guitarist Joe Pass.

Stella Heath is no stranger to bringing jazz legends to life on stage. Known for acclaimed programs such as “The Billie Holiday Project” and “Stella Meets Nat,” Heath brings the same depth and artistry to her tribute to Fitzgerald. With her formidable band behind her, Stella Swings Ella promises to be an unforgettable evening celebrating the music, spirit, and legacy of one of jazz’s most beloved voices.



New to Oakmont?

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

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

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Lifelong Learning

■Marlena Tremont

CLASSES START NEXT WEEK!

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 Griffeth
Mondays, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 3–5 p.m., Berger Center
3-week session. Cost: \$50 or \$37.50 with discount

PAMELA ROSE: WILD WOMEN OF THE '60S



WHEN: Friday, September 18, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

TICKETS: \$25, Table Seating

Back by popular demand, Wild Women of the '60s celebrates the great female songwriters like Carole King, Laura Nyro, Valerie Simpson, Cynthia Weil and Aretha Franklin. In a performance that blurs the line between concert and theater, re-visit and sing along to songs like “You’ve Lost That Loving Feeling,” “Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow,” “Wedding Bell Blues,” “Both Sides Now and Think.”

Purchase multiple classes at the same time for the same person in the same semester and receive a 25% off the 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.



Jewish Interest Group

■Howard Sidorsky



REFLECTION

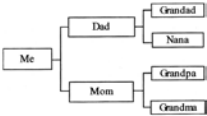
As we approach High Holy Days, 2026, please note that we will not be meeting in September. As we look forward to the coming year, we hope all of you will reflect on what this time means to you.

We will meet again in October, with a meaningful program. And it’s not too early to discuss Hanukkah! We have the band Klezmer Creek booked for our celebration.

Shana Tovah to all members of Oakmont’s Jewish Interest Group!

Genealogy Club

■George McKinney



We had our first meeting in the Aspen Room. It went well—everyone had a chance to share their thoughts as we met around a table and had a Zoom link as well.

SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING

Our next meeting will be September 28 at 1 p.m. in the Aspen Room and on Zoom. This meeting will focus on research examples. Anyone who would like me to do a live piece of research on one of your ancestors can send a message to me at oakmontancestry@gmail.com. Include the name of the ancestor, what you know about birth, marriage(s), and death (and location of each), and what information you’d like me to research. I’ve already got one example and it will be a great chance for me to share how I do research.

Zoom Meeting ID 862 2760 9536. Passcode 030213.

If you’d like to be on our mailing list, email your contact information to oakmontancestry@gmail.com. Website: oakmontgenclub.org.

Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



■Charles Ensley

RUIZ SCHOLARSHIPS DISTRIBUTED

Our club administers the Melvin and Kathleen Ruiz Scholarship through the foundation they established to fund it. Along with the \$12,280 we cleared from our August 8 Carnitas and Margarita Dinner, we were able to fund four \$5,000 scholarships to 2026 graduates from Montgomery and Maria Carrillo High Schools. We send the scholarships directly to the universities, as in a previous club to which I belonged, a father took the money and bought a large screen TV.

Two of our recipients have started classes at UC Berkeley, and another at Cal Poly Pomona. Their checks were sent in August. The fourth student is using his Doyle Scholarship to begin his classes at Santa Rosa Junior College. Our board agreed to pay expenses he submits, but will hold the remainder of his scholarship for when he attends a four-year university.

Most awardees’ transcripts show they took classes at SRJC during their junior and senior years.

Thanks to those who attended our dinner and purchased all the silent auction items! Three of the awardees were introduced at the dinner.

Many of you are waiting for our next bi-annual Shredathon, co-sponsored by OVA. It will be Thursday, October 29 at Berger Center, 9 a.m.–12 noon or earlier if the truck is full! Put it on your calendar now! Our limit is equivalent to five banker boxes. Voluntary contributions donated at the event assist in funding our many worthy activities.

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.

InvestOAK



■Joseph Pundyk

NEW IDEAS FOR INVESTING IN A VOLATILE MARKET

The September 18 meeting of the InvestOAK Club will discuss how to develop a portfolio that works toward meeting investment goals with safer investments than individual stocks. Inflation is causing affordability issues. U.S. Treasury Yields are currently above 4%, with some maturities approaching 5%, and have been moving dynamically in recent months. Gold and other commodities prices have also been increasing again.

Higher dividend yields are improving earnings for investment accounts. Bonds and Preferred Stocks used to be a go-to approach for seasoned investors seeking secure returns, but some newer wealth managers have leaned away from them, favoring continued exposure to the stock market’s recent bull run. The AI industry has drawn enormous investment—reportedly trillions of dollars—and has become a major driver of recent stock market activity.

In addition to portfolio discussions, current Stock Market conditions will be discussed through specially developed profitability tables from InvestOAK, comparing returns and yields across the AI industry, Pharma, Oil and Energy Markets, the Space Industry, Electric Power, Uranium, and other commodities. The nuclear industry is developing newer reactor technologies that could shape future energy markets. The Enhanced Geothermal industry is an emerging area that some investors are watching for future opportunities. Solar, Wind and Stored Battery Energy Power Plants have continued to be developed, with proponents citing lower installation and operating costs in many markets, plus the absence of ongoing fuel costs.

As with any market discussion, these are general trends and observations, not investment advice.

Oakmont residents are invited to the next meeting of InvestOAK on Friday, September 18, from 10–11:30 am in the Birch Room of the Central Activity Center.

Progressives Club



■Ed Biglin

On Sept. 14, Oakmont’s own David Schmidt will try to help us make sense of the 14 State Propositions that will be on our ballots. He will focus on the most controversial—Prop 3 to extend the high earners tax, Prop 4 to repeal the ban on public financing of elections, Prop 39, a strict voter ID initiative, and Props 40–43 on the Billionaire’s Tax.

The event will be at the East Rec. Center. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. for the social. The discussion will begin at 7 p.m.

SEN. MIKE MCGUIRE AND ASSEMBLYMAN DAMON CONNOLLY TO SPEAK AT FUNDRAISER FRIDAY, SEPT. 25 AT THE BERGER CENTER, 5:30–8 PM

Come hear CA 1 congressional candidate Mike McGuire and State Senate candidate Damon Connolly speak about the current political situation in California and the country in a fundraiser event for US Congress candidate Randy Villegas.

This fundraiser will have live music, wine, bountiful finger food, a video from Holly Near who helped us raise money for Villegas in April, and great conversation at our tables. Come for a good time and a good cause. Please RSVP at www.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.

Oakmont Technology Learning Center (OTLC)

■Linda Canar

DON'T MISS OUT! OTLC CLASS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration for Fall classes at the Oakmont Technology Learning Center is now open and classes are filling up fast. To see what classes we will be teaching, go to our website at www.oakmonttlc.org.

Once on our website, select “Classes” from the menu and browse through the classes. When you find a class that you like, click on the “Details” button to learn more about the class. Use the “Book Now” button to register. Enter your contact information, and credit card information to confirm your participation. Then complete the check-out process. If you have any problems registering, please contact Peggy Clark at (650) 274-4137 or pegnrod@icloud.com.

Classes being offered this fall include:

- Apple Watch Basics—learn the basics of using your watch.
- Travel Planning Apps—learn about some of the latest apps that will help you plan your trip.
- Using AI Chat to Make Life Easier—learn about AI chat tools to assist you with daily tasks.
- Exploring your iPhone or Android phone—learn the basics and more on what your smart phone can do.
- Intermediate iPhone—learn even more about what your iPhone can do.
- Windows 11—learn how to efficiently use this PC platform.
- PowerPoint—learn about this effective presentation tool.
- Quicken—learn how to use this app for accounting and budgeting.
- Microsoft Word—learn about amazing word processing tool.
- Spreadsheets—learn how to create and use spreadsheets.
- Intro to Mac—learn the basics about your Mac computer.
- Free County Library Resources—learn about all the free online information (books, magazines, websites) available with your library card.

VOM Rotary



■Valerie Hulsey

ROTARY HAPPY HOUR

The Valley of the Moon Rotary Club is now officially a Happy Hour Club. We had our first two Happy Hour meetings in August and we are very pleased to now be meeting the second and third Mondays of every month at the West Rec (upstairs). Join us at 3:30 p.m. for 30 minutes of socializing and fellowship followed by our Rotary meeting from 4–5.

At each meeting we try to feature interesting and insightful speakers covering a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to many. Our guest speaker at our meeting on Monday, September 14 will be Elizabeth Vermilyea from the Child Parent Institute which is a parent education and children’s mental health agency, serving families throughout Sonoma County since 1978. Their mission is to end child abuse and strengthen the health of children, parents, and families.

At our meeting on September 21 our speaker will be Lisa Ellison who is the founder of the Soul Yoga Foundation which exists to support the community by cultivating health and wellness through sharing the tools of yoga in classes, leadership development and fostering outreach programs that build self-awareness, equitable relationship skills and have lasting social impact.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to having you join us. You don’t have to bring anything except a little curiosity... Drinks are free!

Board Reviews Proposed Berger Center Project Scope

■News Staff

The OVA Board held a workshop on the Berger Center Project scope on Aug. 24. During the open meeting, no decisions were finalized, but the Board discussed portions of a proposed scope, including HVAC replacement, lighting, fire sprinklers, upgrades and changes to windows and exterior doors, and the possibility of expanding the Berger footprint to include a vestibule. The Board also discussed less costly alternatives that could address the issues a

vestibule would be intended to solve.

Next steps for the Berger Center Project include reaching an agreement on the scope and hiring a project manager, architect and contractor. The Board expects to spend the remainder of this year planning the project, with construction anticipated to begin early next year.

A video of the workshop is available on the OVA website at oakmontvillage.com/videos.

OAK

at the VOM Golf Club



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

From league golf to live music, paint nights, and a first-ever talent show, there’s a lot on the calendar at Valley of the Moon this summer. Here’s a roundup of what’s coming up on the course and in the clubhouse.

Visit playvom.com for up-to-date information about happenings at the Valley of the Moon Club and OAK restaurant.

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 30 GOLF MEMBER APPRECIATION AND RENEWAL PARTY

Join us for a special gathering to celebrate our 2026 Annual Golf Members! As a token of our appreciation, we’re hosting a complimentary Member Appreciation Party at OAK. Enjoy an afternoon filled with delicious appetizers, drinks, and good company as we thank you for being part of our club. More information coming soon!

INSTRUCTION

Golf Clinics with Khiana: Contact Khiana at kschmuhl@playvom.com to sign up. Open to the first 6 people who claim their spot. \$40 per person.

September 19: Drivers vs. Irons Series

September 26: Short Game Series

5-Week Introduction to Golf Series: Get golf ready with a fun, hands-on clinic series designed to build confidence and improve your game! Clinics are Wednesdays 2:30–3:30 p.m. \$250 per person limited to the first 6 participants. Everyone is welcome! Contact Khiana Schmuhl at kschmuhl@playvom.com to reserve your spot.

Clinic Schedule:

September 30: Putting and Chipping

October 7: Pitching and Bunkers

October 14: Irons and Driver

October 21: No class

October 28: Course Etiquette and Management

Golf Clinics with James:

September 9: Chipping and Pitching

September 16: Mid to Low Irons

September 23: Driver, Woods and Hybrids

Contact James at jperkins@playvom.com to sign up. Open to the first 6 people who reserve their spot. \$40 per person.

RANGE CARD SALE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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

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■Dolora Hurst

A VERY SPECIAL JAZZ CONCERT, SEPT. 26

Once again, Jazz Club Concerts will feature Jamie Davis, a singer, Grammy Award winner said to have one of the five best voices in the world and a former Count Basie Band member. Joining him is Glen Pearson, outstanding director of the famous Boys Choir of Harlem for 11 years and Leon James, drummer for the famous Ramsey Lewis Band for ten years. Leon also assembled a world-class band, selecting the players, rehearsing the band for the History Makers, selecting the material to perform, and conducting from his drums for the filming that was shown on PBS as a tribute to the beloved Smokey Robinson.

Saxophonist Richard Howell, a Southern California native, got his start in L.A. playing jazz and spent time with Maurice White and the famous Earth, Wind and Fire group. He then moved to the Bay Area and joined a group with Don Cherry, Charlie Haden, and Billy Higgins for a three-night stand at the great American Music Hall. He then toured with Etta James. He has



Jamie Davis.

Jazz Club Concert



produced or played solo on albums with too many other famous musicians to mention here, and travels and plays part of each year around the world.

Bassist Ron Belcher is regarded as one of the best bassists anywhere and spends much of his time playing in other countries. He is a passionate teacher and has spent much of his time as an advocate for children’s education. He has served on the faculty of the University of California Young Musicians’ Program and has contributed to several seasons of the San Francisco Symphony’s Adventure in Music outreach program, including jazz improvisation and acoustic bass at several Bay Area colleges, performing and recording with such international stars as Branford Marsalis, Regina Carter, Rodney Franklin, John Handy, and the “who’s who” of the San Francisco jazz scene. These musicians are of genius quality!

WHEN: Saturday, September 26, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

TICKETS: \$45, available at the OVA Office. Address checks to The Oakmont Jazz Club

Drinks and snacks are OK. Tables for eight may be reserved.

Strength and Balance Class

■Valerie Hulsey

STRENGTH AND BALANCE CLASSES ARE FUN!

Weekly Balance Classes are back in session. Everyone is welcome to join the class. We meet at 9:30 a.m. at the East Rec. Center.

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.

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

Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey

The weather is still great and we look forward to seeing you at Mary’s Water Aerobic classes every Monday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. The West pool has been beautifully refurbished so grab your towel and other swim gear and join us for fun and fitness! \$10 drop-in fee.

Julie will teach on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. All fitness levels are welcome. \$10 drop-in fee.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

relationships, accurate information, and a willingness to compromise. When social media platforms become a principal arena for community debate, they can unintentionally undermine each of those things.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHANGES THE CHARACTER OF COMMUNITY DEBATE

Social media is not designed primarily to produce thoughtful deliberation. Facebook, Nextdoor and similar platforms are designed to maximize engagement. Posts that provoke an emotional reaction tend to attract comments, responses, and shares. That can create a very different environment from a community meeting, a committee discussion, or a carefully written newsletter.

The American Psychological Association summarized research on online civility in 2025 by noting that algorithms can encourage less civil behavior because provocative content attracts attention and engagement. It also cited a Pew research finding that more than 40% of U.S. adults had experienced online harassment.

That matters in Oakmont because community interaction requires disagreement without destroying relationships.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAN MAGNIFY A MINORITY OF VERY ACTIVE VOICES

One of the greatest misconceptions about social media is that the loudest online opinions necessarily represent the community. The people most motivated to post repeatedly about an issue are not necessarily the people most representative of the membership.

This creates a dangerous feedback loop. A few people post frequently. Their posts gain attention and seem more important because they generate significant activity. Others read these posts and conclude that everyone is upset. More people respond. The apparent controversy grows.

But the silent majority may simply be going about their business. A resident who reads discussions but never comments is invisible in the online conversation. A resident who posts 20 times may appear to represent a much larger constituency than he or she actually does. Ten people posting repeatedly are still only ten people.

A 2025 study by Oswald et. al. in ScienceAdvances confirms this. This study’s abstract calls this a “visibility gap” and states that “this visibility gap can distort perceptions of public opinion and fuel polarization.” It adds that “lurking (posting nothing) was most common among users who perceived discussions as toxic, disrespectful, or unconstructive ...”

HOA boards should not confuse online intensity with community consensus.

THE AMPLIFICATION OF OUTRAGE

Outrage is rhetorically powerful. The most emotionally compelling argument can overwhelm the most analytically persuasive one.

A 2021 study by Yale researchers William Brady and colleagues, published in Science Advances, examined how moral outrage develops in online social networks. The researchers found evidence that social learning contributes to increased expression of moral outrage: users learn from the reactions their posts receive and become more likely to express outrage when doing so is socially rewarded.

And, once outrage occurs, it tends to persist and even grow. A 2025 study in Social Media + Society examined online discussions as a dynamic system and found that once patterns of persistent or sporadic incivility emerged, discussions were more likely to return to those patterns.

SOCIAL MEDIA ENCOURAGES “US VERSUS THEM” THINKING

Research on social media communities provides substantial evidence that people tend to organize themselves around like-minded groups. People who share a cause become friends, partly because they become united against those with different opinions. And once factions form, even good ideas can be rejected because they are associated with the “wrong” group.

A major Nature study examined 5.1 billion comments in 10,000 Reddit communities over 14 years. The researchers found substantial polarization at the system level, particularly around the 2016 election.

Social media does not necessarily cause polarization all by itself. But it clearly can create environments in which people interact disproportionately with people

who already agree with them. This can be particularly damaging in a HOA.

Oakmont residents don’t need to agree on community policies and board decisions. But they do need to retain the ability to say: “we disagree about this issue, but we still need to respect each other as neighbors.”

MISINFORMATION SPREADS PARTICULARLY EASILY IN TRUSTED COMMUNITY GROUPS

Plausible but incomplete or misleading information is one of the bigger dangers posed by social media to communities like Oakmont. Peers can place substantial trust in content shared by other members without sufficient verification, creating opportunities for biased or irresponsible information to spread within groups. This is especially relevant in a community like Oakmont because the person posting the information may be an otherwise trustworthy neighbor who simply doesn’t have all the facts.

A classic study by Vosoughi, Roy and Aral published in Science analyzed approximately 126,000 verified true and false news stories and millions of tweets. False information was found to spread farther, faster, deeper and more broadly than true information across the categories studied.

CORRECTIONS OFTEN DON’T TRAVEL AS FAR AS INITIAL CLAIMS

The Science study was confirmed by research published in Nature Communications in 2026, which analyzed over 237,000 misinformation cascades representing more than 431 million reposts on X (formerly Twitter). Researchers found that corrections added to posts were shared 60% less often than the original misleading posts and that the corrections appeared too late to intervene during the earliest and most viral stage of dissemination. The lesson is clear: once a dramatic claim has circulated through a community, correcting it may not completely undo its effect.

ONLINE CRITICISM CAN DAMAGE TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Residents don’t have to like every board decision.

(Continued on next page)

Playreaders

■D. Hall

PLAYREADERS PRESENT
ACT 2 OF ANGEL STREET

The tension builds after last week’s Act 1 of Oakmont Playreaders’ *Angel Street*, by Patrick Hamilton. You can catch the finale on Monday, Sept. 14.

Many people have seen the movie *Gaslight*, with Ingrid Bergman. But few know it was the offspring of a play, called *Angel Street*, six years before the cinematic version. The work is by Patrick Hamilton. It brings to light a dark tale of an unscrupulous husband who is slowly driving his wife into insanity in 19th century London.

The Playreaders’ version is produced and co-directed with Jim Preston by Marcel Coder. Marcel joins her fellow cast mates: John Dolan, Mark Parsons, Jeri Leasher, and Ann Barrett.

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.

League of Oakmont
Maintained Area Associations (LOMAA)

■Debra Kiddoo

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE

Join The ECHO Club at Oakmont, sponsored by LOMAA, on September 16 at 3 p.m. at the West Rec. Center to learn how sub-HOA board members are being empowered to make positive changes at their HOAs. A zoom link will also be provided.

Have you ever looked around your sub-HOA community and thought, “I’d love to help make this an even better place to live?” If so, this is your invitation to do exactly that. Serving on your board isn’t about attending endless meetings or getting bogged down in red tape. It’s about shaping the decisions that affect your shared spaces, your property values, and sense of community—from landscaping to budgets and long-term planning. It’s a chance to do something about it instead of hoping someone else will.

Why should you consider joining your sub-HOA Board?

- Your voice matters. Board members directly influence decisions on maintenance priorities, community events, and how your HOA dues are spent.
- It’s more manageable than you think. Board responsibilities are shared, meetings are generally

held on a regular schedule, and terms are typically one to two years.

- You’ll get to know your neighbors. Board service is one of the best ways to build real connections with the people who live around you.
- You bring something unique. Whatever your background, experience, or interests, you have a perspective and skills that can contribute to your community.
- It looks great on you—community leadership is a meaningful way to give back and build valuable skills in budgeting, negotiation, and collaborative decision-making.

No experience is required—just a willingness to help. New board members can learn from experienced board members, HOA management, and resources available through LOMAA and ECHO. You don’t have to know everything to get started.

Interested? Here’s what to do next: reserve your space today by contacting Leila Saeed, ECHO, at lsaeed@echo-ca.org, with your name and sub-HOA.

Our community is only as strong as the people willing to show up for it. We’d love for that to include you!

(Continued from previous page)

But they need confidence that the board, committees and staff are generally acting in good faith. Social media can turn individual disagreements into generalized distrust. “I disagree with the board’s proposal” can gradually become “the board can’t be trusted” and eventually “the whole system is corrupt.” Communities where social media commentary has become chronically hostile may gradually erode the very trust required for effective self-governance.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAN DISCOURAGE REASONABLE PEOPLE FROM PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Suppose an Oakmont resident has a thoughtful but moderate opinion about a controversial project. She doesn’t want to be attacked. She doesn’t want to spend hours arguing online. She doesn’t want her neighbors to interpret a disagreement as a personal attack. So she doesn’t post. And she can’t ever see herself serving on a committee or the board.

Meanwhile, people who enjoy stirring the pot continue posting. The result is self-selection. The online conversation becomes increasingly dominated by people who are willing to engage in conflict. This can make a community appear much more divided than it really is and drive thoughtful people away from community discussion precisely when their participation would be most valuable. Resulting participation can become systematically unrepresentative: the people who are comfortable with confrontation keep talking, while others quietly withdraw.

due to community push back, OVA would have saved: 1) 20+ years of rent, 2) tens of thousands of dollars in renovation fees to an office we don’t own, and 3) research and planning time, energy and costs associated with revisiting and debating these issues over the years between then and now. Our staff would have been working out of offices custom-built to suit their needs for this entire time period. And, according to the project architect, the cost of doing this or any construction project now is four times what we would have paid then—an amount greater than expected based solely on inflation.

More recently, the Oakmont 2030 project was largely shelved by recent boards in the face of withering criticism from social media denizens. Was that a good decision? The Oakmont 2030 project was arguably the best organized and most thoughtful assessment of community needs in Oakmont’s history. Will future boards revisit Oakmont 2030 recommendations like more recent boards revisited the CAC upgrade? Only time will tell.

Contrast that with the decision to purchase the golf courses in 2020. This purchase was completed despite significant community opposition and even the threat of legal action. A few no doubt still believe that purchase was a mistake but based on both participation and affirmation percentages from that vote, it seems the vast majority of Oakmont residents, whether they play golf or not, think the purchase was a wise community decision.

CONCLUSION

The most valuable thing Oakmont possesses isn’t its buildings, pools or even its financial reserves. It is social capital—the accumulated trust and relationships that allow thousands of people to live together despite disagreements.

To preserve that social capital, here are a few sensible principles Oakmont boards and members could follow.

First, distinguish information from advocacy. Official information should come from authoritative sources and be easily accessible to every resident. Residents must understand that any information not coming from official OVA sources may not have all the facts. Official communications should be relied

on, or contact a member of the Board or OVA staff for verification.

Second, don’t mistake online activity for a vote. A hundred angry comments do not necessarily represent a hundred homeowners, much less the entire membership.

Third, encourage disagreement without personal attacks. People should be able to challenge board decisions without questioning the character or motives of the people who made them.

Fourth, ensure residents have ample opportunity to weigh in on consequential decisions. The community should have numerous opportunities to engage in face-to-face discussions with decision makers. These can occur during board meetings, town hall meetings, workshops, neighborhood gatherings and other dialog opportunities.

Finally, preserve the role of elected representatives. Oakmont members elect a board precisely so that a relatively small number of people can study complicated issues, consult professionals, examine alternatives and make decisions.

Social media can change the incentives and structure of community life. It rewards immediacy over deliberation, emotional reaction over nuance, repetition over representation, and conflict over compromise. It can magnify a small number of highly motivated voices, accelerate the circulation of incomplete information, and make disagreements feel personal. At its worst, it can transform neighbors into factions, disagreements into battles, questions into accusations and community governance into permanent campaigning.

The goal of this article is not to eliminate social media in Oakmont. Social media does have some positive benefits. However, boards must also be mindful of social media’s liabilities as they attempt to govern properly.

Oakmont should aspire to something better than the loudest online argument. We should aspire to have informed residents, transparent information, respectful disagreement, and decisions made with the long-term health of the community in mind.

If you’re concerned about social media platforms like Nextdoor in Oakmont, please email your thoughts to SocialMediaInOakmont@gmail.com.

Oakmont Birders

■Barbara Kendrick

BIRDS WORTH WATCHING: CALIFORNIA TOWHEE

You can see California Towhees every day around Oakmont, once you begin to look. A little smaller than a robin, they're a drab gray-brown all over except for a rusty-orange wash under their tails. Towhees are actually large sparrows, with plump bodies, conical bills, and long tails. Males and females look alike. Originally birds of California's chapparal and scrub, they've made an easy transition to suburban neighborhoods west of the Sierras.



A Cal Towhee ready to rumble. (Photo by Tom Grey)

Cal Towhees spend much of their time on the ground, usually near shrubs where they can find cover when necessary. Their dirty-brown coloring helps them blend in with mulch and leaf litter. But several things make them easy to find. First, they hunt for seeds and insects on the ground by vigorously jumping forward with both feet and scratching backward. This is eye-catching. If you have small mulch in your yard and you find pieces of it thrown out beyond its normal boundaries, a Cal Towhee is a likely culprit.

Second, there are usually two of them, because Cal Towhees form faithful pairs and stick very close together. And third, the pair calls back and forth frequently with a distinct metallic "clink"—like two ball bearings colliding.

If you see a bird attacking its reflection in a car mirror or a window, it's probably a Cal Towhee. They're highly territorial and always ready for a fight, even with themselves. If another bird wanders onto its turf, the Towhee rushes to the defense, kicking and scuffling on the ground until the interloper departs.

Towhees are here year-round. There's almost certainly a pair in your yard right now, tossing your mulch around or perched on your fence. They don't usually eat at feeders, but they will clean up the seed that spills out, which is a plus.

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

Jazz Club Live Music and Workshop



■Michael James

WELCOME LE HOT CLUB SWING JAZZ QUARTET!

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon with the hot, intimate swing of 1930s Paris gypsy style jazz! Le Hot Club Swing Jazz Quartet will perform on Wednesday, October 7, for the first hour of our meeting, from 2–3 p.m. at the East Recreation Center.



Le Hot Club Swing Jazz Quartet.

The four-piece ensemble features Rick Fulkerson on the guitar, Mark Wardlaw on woodwinds, Jeremy Ginsberg on guitar, and Tami Pallington on the upright bass. They also incorporate mandolin, clarinet and a vocalist. Three of these musicians are new Oakmont residents!

The band's repertoire combines well known standards in addition to original songs that emphasize skilled instrumental virtuosity. A Le Hot Club Swing show routinely leaves audiences highly satisfied and clamoring for more!

They may join us for the second hour workshop from 3–4 p.m. Bring your own instrument, ukulele or guitar, wind instrument or your voice to join us for this fun hour. A \$5 donation will be greatly accepted.

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.

SEPTEMBER 13: A PRIVATE LIFE

Jodie Foster, French with English subtitles. The renowned psychiatrist Lilian Steiner mounts a private investigation into the death of one of her patients, whom she is convinced has been murdered. 2025, R, 1:47.



SEPTEMBER 20: LONELY PLANET

Laura Dern: At a retreat in Morocco, a woman meets a young man whose acquaintanceship evolves into an intoxicating, life-altering love affair. 2024, R, 1:34.



SEPTEMBER 27: I SWEAR

Robert Aramayo plays John Davidson. Diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome at a young age which alienated him from his peers, he struggled with a condition few people had witnessed. 2025, R, 2.



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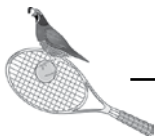
Robert John Levstik (April 21, 1935—June 23, 2026) passed away at the age of 91. A resident of Oakmont for 9 years, Bob enjoyed RV travelling, square dancing, camping, pheasant hunting with Labs, fishing and financial planning. Most memorable are his various church ministries teaching finances, growing confident kids and facilitating various growth groups.

There will be a Celebration of Life held for him at the East Recreation Center on September 19, beginning at 2 p.m. For details, please contact Pat Levstik at plevstik@gmail.com.

Winnifred Werner (March 31, 1923—July 3, 2026) and her late husband Archibald were among the first to build their home in Oakmont almost 50 years ago. She died in July at the age of 103. A classical pianist and graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, Winnifred played for Oakmont residents several times over the years. She was an avid gardener and professional artist, and published the book, *My Garden of Eden*, at the age of 88. Recently, the geranium Pelargonium “Winnifred” was named in her honor. She will be missed by her family and friends.

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*.

Tennis Club



■Nani Tosoc

BUCKAROO TENNIS TOURNAMENT AND AUGUST BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

A US Open warm-up tournament, the Oakmont Buckaroo, was held on Saturday, August 22 at the West Rec. tennis facility. Kicking off at 9, a.m. beautiful weather greeted the 20 contestants vying for the crown. The blind draw doubles tournament had contestants playing four rounds of four-game



L to R: Janice Garner (3rd), Jose Valencia (2nd), George Taylor (1st); not pictured Bob Fletcher (3rd).

sets, accumulating a point for each game won, and a ¼ point for each tiebreaker win. Tournament official Frank Passaglia oversaw court play. Absent from this year’s field were crowd favorites Ken Hirsohn and

Judy Passaglia (both recovering from injuries), but in the stands to root for their favorites. The return of the long-absent Rebecca Coker to the courts was a welcome sight. Lou Lacson and India Steele Mottaz battled bravely through injuries to complete play in the early rounds.

Yale’s finest, George Taylor, took first place, a \$75 gift certificate to the Union Hotel. Golfing legend José Valencia took second (\$50). Third place was a tie between the speedy RN, Janice Garner, and “the Orangeman with the mean backhand,” Bob Fletcher (\$25 each).

In other OTC News, the August birthday luncheon was held at Mary’s Pizza on Summerfield Road on Thursday, August 20. Twenty-one revelers enjoyed the strawberry crème and fruit tart birthday cakes. Mary’s manager Julie, aka “Boss Lady,” shepherded the many cats (and food orders) and emcee Peter Hogan led the singing for August birthday babies Armando Zimmerman and Bill Nasi, both turning 82.

These octogenarians are still tearing up the tennis courts, leaving the competition quaking nervously in their wake. Happy Birthday to both fine gentlemen.

Goodies for both events provided by the lovely Maureen Pennal.

UPCOMING OTC EVENTS

Annual Army vs. Navy Tourney: September 5, 9 a.m., West Courts (Go Navy, Beat Army!)

Men’s Doubles Tourney: October 7, 8:30 a.m., West Courts

Women’s Doubles Tourney: October 21, 9 a.m., West Courts



(Photo by Judy Passaglia)

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Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE, DAY BY DAY

At a recent memorial service, friends and family shared the void they all felt. Personal stories were shared. Laughs, tears and new appreciations were part of these stories.

Last Saturday, OHI member Jessica attended a celebration of her friend’s life. “Ron was a friend, and our doctor.” She related that years ago, she was unconsolable with medical tests results. Her doctor friend had ordered them and now was the bearer of the news. “As my doctor, he was calm; as my friend, he cared. He told me something I’ve never forgotten.” As she continued crying, feeling alone in her fear, “Ron took my hand looked at me and said, ‘Everyone has something less than their personal ideal.’”

During that life-changing appointment, the physician-friend painted with a broad brush, but also a personal one. Jessica realized at one time even Ron had had to accept his own “less than ideal.” She knew he had health challenges of his own.

The aging condition is seen as an “imperfection” rather than “part of life.” Too often it isolates, depresses, and increases maladies that would not otherwise exist.

Hence the need to reenforce this World Health Organization definition: “Health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease.”

To his dying day, Ron considered himself fortunate. Of course, he knew he was dying. He was 91, had buried two wives. Still, he refused to look at what his life lacked. He appreciated what he had. He accepted each day with gratitude. Jessica continued. “He surrounded himself with positives: people, projects, medical practice. Remembering his attitude is my motivation.”

OHI is devoted to building the best of life, one exercise session at a time. Mon., Wed., Fri. at 9 a.m. in the Berger Center. Zoom: 850-1489-7161/998608.



During Grandparents Week, youngsters and grandparents have fun with exercise. (Photos by Kathy Sowers)



Billiards Club

■Steven Dieterle

10 BALL ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENT

Attention all Oakmont Billiards Club members: as the end of the month of August approached, it was decided to hold a “Popup” Tournament. Popup stands for plan, communicate and play within one week.

A round robin formatted tournament has competitors playing against all the participants. In this case, each player plays five head-to-head matches. In a double elimination tournament, a player loses two matches and they are out. The winner is decided by their total number of wins. If two players finish with the same number of wins the winner of their head-to-head match decides the overall tournament winner.

Well, to complicate our tournament we had three players with the same number of wins. None of the three players had beaten both the other two players. So, a special playoff was required to decide who would be the ultimate winner.

The first match was closely contested between Steve Martin and Anil Garg. Anil came out on top. The final match was also closely contested between Steve Fuller and Anil Garg. Steve Fuller was able to hold on for the win against Anil. Congratulations go



Players that finished with the same number of wins each (L to R): Steve Martin, Anil Garg and the Tournament Champion, Steve Fuller.



Tournament players (L to R): Steve Martin, Steve Fuller, Anil Garg, Steve Dieterle, Sam Eddy, and Jim Christofferson.

to Steve Fuller for the tournament win!
Thanks go to all participants for making this a competitive and enjoyable tournament.



Marie McBride
322-6843
Private Line
6520 Oakmont Drive
marie@sonic.net

MCBRIDE
Realty
CalBRE #01169355



1 Oakgreen

Pride of ownership is evident in this absolutely immaculate turnkey Oakmont home that’s been lovingly cared for and features smart upgrades throughout. Some of the many changes include a handsome wood front door, dual pane windows, plantation shutters, crown molding, smooth ceilings, flooring, interior doors/hardware, lighting, and ceiling fans just to name a few. The kitchen was opened to the main living area creating a breakfast bar with seating, and features a delightful garden window, quartz countertops and backsplash, stainless steel refrigerator, range and hood. A new electrical panel and air conditioning unit were installed in 2019. The front plantings have been refreshed giving this sweet home maximum curb appeal, and the charming, covered tile patio is a pleasure with room to enjoy seasonal plantings and visits with friends and family.

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Eloise Tweeten, Founder
Oakmont resident since 2012

■Greg Fauss



REFLECTION, RENEWAL AND ALPHA

I love Autumn. The changing weather, the smell in the air, the changing color of leaves, the shorter days, they all lead me toward greater reflection.

In our beautiful surroundings we observe nature declining and expiring during this season, but it needn't be that way in our personal lives. In fact, a season marked by reflection can actually lead to inner renewal!

We've just begun a series of midweek meetings called ALPHA that can help us in this process. It started on September 10th, but it's never too late to join! ALPHA is a mature, international, interdenominational look at the Christian faith that includes eating dinner together, a short video presentation, followed by a brief time of open, encouraging and safe conversation. We meet Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Activity Room at Oakmont Gardens.

For more information and/or to register please visit our website, email or call the number below.

We are also back to meeting in the East Rec. Center on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. We greatly appreciated



East Rec. Center Entrance.

meeting in the Berger Center during the Summer—as we had for decades—and hope to share it with others someday in the future. But for now, we're heading back to the beautiful, welcoming and cozy East Rec. Center where we hope you'll consider joining us!

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

Hikers



■Colleen Keegan

We welcome you to join us on a hike whether you are a member yet or not. Members, please 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 as hikes are subject to change.

SEPTEMBER 10: LONG HIKE
BENNETT PEAK TRIONE-ANNADEL
STATE PARK



Presidio Loop.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Berger Center and drive to the East Rec Center. We will enter Annadel from Woodley and take the Rhyolite, Marsh, and Old Ridge trails to Bennett Peak. Lunch will be near the peak. About 10 miles and 1850 feet of elevation. Leader is Frank Galli, (763) 360-9756.

SEPTEMBER 17: INTERMEDIATE HIKE
SF PRESIDIO LOOP



Annadel Ridge Trail.

From the Golden Gate Bridge, we hike through parts of the Presidio. Outstanding views on paved and unpaved trails, and sidewalks. There are a few staircases and one long downhill. About 7 miles, 700 feet elevation gain. Leave Berger 8:30 a.m. Leader is Florentia Scott, (707) 591-1929.

SEPTEMBER 24: LONG HIKE
BARNABE PEAK

The trail winds through groves of oak, bay, and redwood before opening onto sunlit ridgelines. At the summit, rocky outcrops provide a natural vantage point, revealing vistas of rolling green hills, and on clear days, the distant shimmer of Tomales Bay. 9.5 miles and 1500 feet elevation gain. Leave Berger at 8 a.m. Leader is Peggy Clark, (650) 274-4137.

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 1:
FALL TRI-NIGHTER

It's not too late to join us on our semi-annual event. This time we will stay in Sonoma and hike at Calaveras Big Trees and the Pinecrest area. It's a great way to explore other parts of California. See website for details and to RSVP.



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Oakmont Sunday Symposium



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www.oakmontsundaysymposium.org

■Judie Coleman

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

SEPT. 13: FRANCESCO LECCE-CHONG, CONDUCTOR SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY CHLOE TULA, HARPIST AND WINE SOMMELIER
HEALING A FRACTURED WORLD: THE MAGIC OF WINE AND MUSIC



Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong and musician-sommelier Chloe Tula explore how two of humanity's oldest arts have the power to awaken the senses, and create moments of genuine connection. Blending storytelling, insight, and musical inspiration, this intriguing talk will be an uplifting and deeply moving experience about beauty, community, and the human spirit.

SEPT. 20: SUZANNE BONTEMPO
NO BEES, NO BREAKFAST



What would the world look like without bees, butterflies, and other pollinators? Hint: your morning coffee, fresh fruit, chocolate, and even wine could start disappearing ... fast!

In this compelling talk, Suzanne Bontempo reveals the silent struggle of the tiny pollinators that keep our gardens flourishing, our food growing, and our world in bloom and how you can help protect these remarkable little workers before their buzz disappears for good.

SEPT. 27: DANIEL ZOUGHBBIE
AMERICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST: HOW WE GOT HERE

How did decades of American decisions help turn the Middle East into one of the most volatile regions on earth? In this gripping and timely talk, nationally acclaimed historian, Daniel Zoughbie traces the high-stakes choices made by U.S. presidents from Truman to Trump—decisions that reshaped nations, fueled conflicts, and which continue to reverberate across the globe today.



Pickleball Corner



■John Brodey

LEARNING TO KID AGAIN

When we were kids, play was our natural state. We ran, climbed, chased, giggled, scraped our knees and waited for the streetlights to come on, begged for five more minutes before coming inside. Then life happened. We grew up, got degrees, jobs, mortgages, and got responsible

But then came pickleball, and suddenly we're playing again. At its core, pickleball hits all the right psychological buttons. It's movement, connection and challenge all wrapped in laughter and whiffle-ball chaos. It gives us a dopamine hit every time we win a point, a serotonin boost when we laugh with friends, and there's something even deeper—it taps into most fundamental of human needs (Maslow): belonging.

It's the adult version of recess. Pickleball has done something remarkable - it has brought every cross-section of life onto the same court. White collar meets blue, Republicans dink with Democrats, straight, young, old, retired and LGBTQ there are no exceptions. We're addicted to the culture it creates. We're part of something. Our groups of friends are growing instead of shrinking

Pickleball didn't just bring us a new sport, it gave us permission to play again. We now know that the best parts of life don't happen in workplaces or inboxes, they happen on courts surrounded by people who now feel like family. And that makes us happy and unapologetically addicted.

Pickleball in Oakmont is free. However, there is a membership cost to be a member of the Pickleball Club of \$30/yr. Benefits include friends, fun socials, parties, free 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.



Cartoon by Peter Copen.



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Oakmont Movers and Groovers

■Denise Lindsey



THE SOULSHAKE— TICKETS ON SALE NOW

The SoulShake brings a laid-back, very danceable sound to the rock/reggae genre. Their music reflects a connection to good times and the adventure of life on the Northern California coast. You can check out their website at soulshakevibe.com.
WHEN: Saturday, October 3. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., music starts at 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Berger Center, 6633 Oakmont Drive
PRICE: Member 20, Non-Member 25. Members may bring one non-member guest at the member price.
Bring your own snacks and beverages.
Tickets may be purchased on the website omgclub.org and in cash or by check, payable to OMG, dropped off at the OVA office.



Oakmont Art Association

■Linda O'Connor

OAKMONT ARTISTS: IT'S TIME TO OPEN YOUR DOORS!

Creativity is everywhere in Oakmont—behind front doors, tucked into spare bedrooms, flourishing in garages, and filling studios with paint, fabric, clay, glass, wood, photography, jewelry and more. This November, the Oakmont Art Association is inviting our community to discover where all that creativity happens when Open Studios returns November 21 and 22.



AI-generated graphic courtesy of Linda O'Connor.

Registration is still open for Oakmont artists who would like to participate in this popular event, returning after a multi-year hiatus.

Open Studios offers artists working in all media an opportunity to welcome friends, neighbors and visitors into their creative spaces. Whether that space is a dedicated studio, a converted garage, a sewing room, a workshop or simply the kitchen table where inspiration strikes, it is a chance to share not only finished artwork but also the ideas, tools and techniques behind it.

For visitors, Open Studios is more than an art sale. It is an opportunity to meet the people behind the work, hear their stories, see where they create and perhaps discover a one-of-a-kind treasure to take home.

Past Oakmont Open Studios events have featured an impressive variety of painters, photographers, sculptors, ceramicists, jewelers, glass artists, fiber artists, woodworkers and other talented makers. This year promises another wonderful showcase of the creativity thriving right here in our community.

Open Studios will be held Saturday, November 21, and Sunday, November 22, at multiple locations throughout Oakmont.

Still wondering whether your work—or your workspace—is “studio worthy?” Don’t let that stop you! Open Studios is about sharing creativity, not having the perfect studio.

For registration information and applications, contact Open Studios Coordinator Esther Munger at esmunger@gmail.com, or speak with an Oakmont Art Association board member.

Open the door. Share what you create. Meet your neighbors. Be part of Open Studios 2026!



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Wii Bowling Oakmont Lanes



■Terry Leuthner

WII BOWLING OAKMONT LANES

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 ten-week Tournament that includes the play-offs.

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

Bowling dates for September: Sept. 1 (week #3), 8 (week #4: Labor Day Challenge), 15 (week #5), 29 (week #6). No bowling Sept. 22 (fourth Tuesday).

Bowling dates for October: Oct. 6 (week #7), 13 (week #8), 20 (week #9). No bowling Oct. 27.

RESULTS AS OF SEPT. 1 (WEEK #3 FALL LEAGUE)

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

Men’s High Games: Don Sherlart, 279; Gordon Freedman, 249; Bob Chapman, 244; Bradley Kravitz, 223; Mike Earles 221; Scott Harris, 221; Rob Warren, 212.

Women’s High Games: Robin Schudel, 296; Joanne Bender, 279; Joanne Abrams, 278; Sandy Osheroﬀ, 258; Peggy Ensley, 256; Laurel Earles, 248; Shirley Jamison, 236; Donnarose Ilecki, 223; Carolita Carr, 219; Pat Scott, 208; Thea Holladay, 200.

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.

Oakmont Boomers

■Carolita Carr



TRIVIA NIGHT

WHEN: Thursday, September 17

WHERE: Berger Center

TIME: Doors open at 6 p.m., play begins at 6:30 p.m.

COST: Free, but only one non-member per member allowed

BRING: BYOB and any snacks or food you would like during play

Categories will be Music, Movies, and TV. Questions will cover the 50s through the 80s. Teams of two and three will be asked to merge with other small teams, with a maximum of eight to a team. Register now at oakmontboomers.org.

On October 24, we have the Jacob Benning Band for our Halloween bash. Registration will begin in mid-September. For those of you who request a table, get all your names together, and submit them when you make your order. Remember, only one non-member guest per member is allowed. The price for this event is \$30 per person.

Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

SEPTEMBER MIXER BEATNIKS AND POETRY

WHAT: A Night of Poetry for Our Generation

DATE AND TIME: Friday, September 18 at 6 p.m.

WHERE: East Rec. Center

Beatniks were members of a social movement in the mid-20th century, who subscribed to an anti-materialistic lifestyle. They often were stereotyped as wearing black clothing, berets, sunglasses, and goatees, and speaking in hip slang that incorporated words like “cool,” “dig,” “groovy,” and “square.”

They frequented coffeehouses, bookstores, bars, and clubs, where they listened to jazz, read poetry, discussed philosophy, and engaged in political activism. Some of the more notable figures who were influenced by or associated with beatniks include The Beatles, Bob Dylan, Ken Kesey, Timothy Leary, and Andy Warhol.

During our September mixer, I will discuss a reduced history of poetry and bring you into the joy of various genres. Wear your Beatnik black and bring a Beatnik-inspired appetizer to share.

RSVP via our website, www.oakmontsinglesocialclub.org by September 14 at 5 p.m. If no computer or ability to register using your smart phone, feel free to email Bailey at bailey.oscl@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 2026 BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

WHEN: Thursday, October 1, Reservation at 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Capriciano Osteria, 505 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

At Capriciano, Italian cuisine—handmade pasta, wood-fired pizza, and fresh seafood—is at the heart of everything they do. Their goal is to bring the soul of the Mediterranean to the heart of Santa Rosa wine country: its flavors, its rhythm, its warmth. To complement the kitchen, they offer a full Italian bar program and curated private dining experiences. Together, these create an evening worth remembering.

Our reservation is for maximum of 20 members. Registration is open until September 28 at 5 p.m., or when the 20 slots are filled, whichever comes first. If there are 20 members confirmed before this date, you will be placed on a waitlist.

Bring cash because the restaurant will not provide separate checks! Meet at Berger Center parking lot by 5:30 p.m. to carpool to the restaurant. RSVP on our website under upcoming events or email Simone Smith at ssmith8151@aol.com.

DO YOU LIVE IN OAKMONT? ARE YOU SINGLE?

Join our club to mix and mingle with other Singles. For more info visit www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org.

■Joanne Davey

MEDITATING TOGETHER WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

“Abundance is not something we acquire. It is something we tune into.”—Wayne Dyer

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.

Lawn Bowling



■Mary C Blake

INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO BOWL?

Email us at oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com.

TOURNAMENTS

We’ve had several tournaments wrap up in the last weeks.

Open Triples: In the final round, Barbara Serafin’s team (Barbara, Mary Blake, and Topher Gayle) defeated Steve Pickell’s team (Steve, Pam Dempsey and Nancy Crawford).

Men’s Singles: In a closely fought game, Tom Ternullo won his final round against Gerry Macintosh.

Women’s Triples:

In the final round, Barbara Serafin, Michelle Macintosh, and Marilyn McKeever won their round against Pam Dempsey, Janet Johnson, and Kay Lambert.

Women’s Singles:

Mary Blake and Barbara Serafin won their respective semi-final rounds and faced each other on September 3.

Evening Games: The Green is closed for maintenance on the last Tuesday of each month and we’ve taken advantage of that to have an evening game on those Tuesdays in July and August. Our evening game in August was a lot of fun. The weather was perfect. Seven of us joined in one “cutthroat” game, watching the clock closely. We managed to bowl 14 ends and finish at 8 a.m. on the nose. The sprinklers were coming on as we packed up.



Women’s Triples winners: Barbara Serafin, Michelle Macintosh and Marilyn McKeever. (Photo by Gerry Macintosh)



Bowling on a beautiful evening.

COMING EVENTS

The summer is almost over, and our tournaments are wrapping up. Our remaining events are:

Halloween bowl and pizza dinner: Date TBD

Thanksgiving Tournament: Wednesday, November 25

Member Meeting: Monday, November 9

Awards Gala and Holiday Party: Friday, December 4

If you forget a date, you can find a calendar on our website, in your Green Book, and on our bulletin boards.

OCTOBER RESEEDING

At this point the landscapers are expecting to close the Green for reseeded for five weeks, starting October 5. We’ll keep you posted on any new developments and a new date for our Halloween Tournament and pizza dinner.

Email: oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com.

Website: www.oakmontlawnbowling.com.

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.



Conservatives Club



■Jane Gyorgy

STEPPING ASIDE, LOOKING FORWARD THREE YEARS WITH THE CONSERVATIVES CLUB

After three years as the Conservatives Club’s point person, I am stepping aside. It has been my honor and privilege to help build this organization, alongside the founders who came before me and the volunteers who have stood with me since.

What began in 2023 as a gathering of roughly 60 Oakmont residents interested in learning about the U.S. Constitution has grown into a politically engaged, right-leaning community of 181 members. Through the efforts of a small but dedicated team—six volunteers who stepped forward in the second half of 2024—we have refocused from merely studying the Constitution into what we are today: a place where like-minded residents can gather openly to hear and express ideas that have, at times, not been met with welcome elsewhere in our community.

Most of our club’s original founders gathered before COVID and are no longer with us, save for one exceptional member who turned 95 last month and who brought us our speaker Laura Ingraham of Fox News. She has remained close friends with him and his wife since childhood, and her three children, adopted within the last 15 years, treat them as grandparents.

We have been privileged to host a wide range of speakers—from Ms. Ingraham to our Sheriff Eddie Engram and City of Santa Rosa Chief of Police John Cregan, along with current, former Sonoma Co. GOP chairs Matt Heath and Debbie LeBoy, and many others.

Our calendar has expanded to include Election Night Watch parties, Inaugural Galas, Summer Socials, and an informal Wednesday coffee hour at 10 a.m. at the CAC. In community bridge-building, we co-hosted with the Democratic Alliance the Braver Angels workshop: “Navigating Difficult Conversations.”

Looking ahead, our regular meetings resume in the Berger Center on the fourth Tuesday of each month, 4–6 p.m., beginning September 22. Food and beverages, including alcohol, are welcome.

Whether you’ve attended our events before or are new to the club, I hope you’ll plan to be with us. Questions may be directed to thenewoakmontcc@gmail.com, an address that will remain active into the club’s future.



Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

PÉTANQUE WORLD CUP

This year’s 65th Mondial La Marseillaise à Pétanque—the Pétanque World Cup—was again one for the record book. French teams dominated the open competition which drew nearly 15,000 players in nearly 5,000 triplete teams from more than 30 countries world-wide, amateurs to national and international champions, July 3-8 in Marseille.

Last year a non-French team won the world championship for the first time. A team from Madagascar defeated the 2024 winners, the French multi-time champion team of Philippe Quintais, Philippe Sauchaud, and Jean-Claude Jouffre, 13-10.

This year the Malagasy team made it to the semi-finals before losing to the French team of Patrick Laur, Sony Even, and Sebastien Rousseau, who then advanced to the finals where they were beaten 13-5 by the French team of Patrick Messonnier, Michel Loy, and Yohan Cousin. It was Messonnier’s third career Mondial La Marseillaise championship.

In the Women’s Tournament, the French team of Camille Picard, Nadege Baussian, and Aurelie Bories won the championship over a rival French team. The French rounded out their domination of the Mondial in the Youth category, where French teams won both divisions, Cadets (U-16) and Juniors (U-18).

The Mondial is unique as an open, single-elimination tournament with games played on literally every patch of ground where pétanque can be played in greater Marseille and the finals played before a sell-out crowd in a stadium at Parc Borely. The matches draw thousands of spectators from all over the world.

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT

French in origin, Pétanque (pay-tonk), also known as Boules, has been played in Oakmont since the 1980s. The club, founded in 1996, encourages all Oakmonters who may be interested in playing or learning to play to come to the courts between Berger and the OVA offices at 9:45 a.m. on the Club Play days of Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Club Play days are casual friendly games with teams randomly chosen. The Club has boules to lend while you’re learning, and you’ll be playing right away.

Anyone, regardless of experience, is welcome to enjoy the challenge and camaraderie of a simple game that is inexpensive, fun to play, learned quickly, and endlessly fascinating in its deeper levels of execution and strategy. No membership dues are required - just sign up to be on the club roster.

Dancing Is 4 Everyone

■Mariellen Munson

BERGER MONDAY NIGHT LINE DANCE

Oakmont are you ready for this? Of course you are—a brand new line dance class! Starting Monday, September 21 from 6:15–7:15 p.m. at the Berger Center.

Our terrific line dance instructor, Steve, has listened to his numerous requests and decided not to wait until next year to start a brand new class, but to let adventurous Oakmonters begin their line dance journey now.

The joy of dance may be experienced by you, without a partner. Come and see what his joyful students experience. Students like that the classes are fragrance-free.

Dance is exercise for your brain as much as for your body. While dancing your brain is constantly making new neural connections. Studies show that this is very beneficial for both strong mental and bodily health.

Our instructor, Steve Luther, has a unique style of teaching that makes it easier to learn the steps to a variety of dances, and the music he selects is upbeat and lively. It is the “only way” to exercise in the minds of our dancers.

Join Beginning Line Dance starting September 21, Monday nights at 6:15–7:15 p.m. at the Berger Center. The class will continue weekly throughout the year. You can take it for as long as you’d like. Series cost is \$8 a class. Individual classes are \$10. This first series will be \$48 (\$8 x 6), Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Fun times are ahead. You will feel the joy and laughter in the room from the start. There are no reservations so come early to allow time to sign up. Smooth leather bottomed shoes are best for the Berger floor. If you have concerns about your balance, this is probably not the class for you.

Questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (707) 975-8370.

Current Events Discussion Group



■Tina Lewis

This is a very important time to discuss current events! Please join us every Friday from 1–2:30 p.m. at the East Rec. Come in person if you can; join on Zoom if you can’t. If you come in person, a donation of \$2 is requested.

Issues discussed range from local to national to international. All sides of issues are encouraged.

Following the meeting join us at OAK for Happy Hour. This has become very popular, giving everyone a chance to socialize, unwind, and have something to eat and drink.

If you want to be put on the mailing list, including Zoom, email tinalewis31@comcast.net or call (707) 758-9739.

Oakmont Democratic Club



■Ida Egli

LOCAL DEMOCRATS ENCOURAGE AND INFORM VOTERS FOR NOVEMBER MIDTERM ELECTION

The Democratic Club of Oakmont continues its drive to inform and support local voters going to the polls in November, and to help them understand what they are voting for. The club offer truthful information voters can rely on.

On September 14, David Schmidt will help voters comprehend the several propositions on the November ballot that are difficult to sort out. And on September 25, the Dems Club, along with the Oakmont Progressives (together known at the Oakmont Democratic Alliance—oakmontdemocraticalliance.org) will hold a fundraiser at Berger at 5:30 p.m. to support Congressional candidate: Randy Villegas of CA 22, Bakersfield. Villegas will speak by Zoom and our local Congressional candidate, Mike McGuire, will attend in person and speak to U.S. House election

issues. Tickets are available on the above website and sell quickly. Food and drink will be by elegant buffet.

The Democratic Alliance speaker meetings fall on the second Monday of each month in the East Rec. at 5:30 p.m. On Oct. 12. Evelyn Mendez, Sonoma County Registrar of Voting, will be updating us about local, state, and federal midterm election issues as they effect Sonoma County. All are welcome. Her talk will be followed by a Q and A.

Social meetings happen on the fourth Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the East Rec.

Our September Quote: “Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote... that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.” Samuel Adams.

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.



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Oakmont Village Association

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

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Hours: Daily 7 AM–10 PM
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Tel 800-585-4297

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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**

September 1–15
Jen Rabalais 808-938-4479
September 16–30
Jenny Watts 707-367-2102

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: 11 AM–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.

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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 9–10 AM 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.

**2026–2027
OVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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(Non-voting officer)
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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.

CLASSIFIEDS

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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.

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■Steve Huntley

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE
FOR THE WORLD'S UGLIEST DOG

Nearly a month ago, the World's Ugliest Dog Contest was held right here in Santa Rosa at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. This year's winner was 6-year-old Jinny Lu from Ukiah, the lovable pug with a tongue! What a cutie!

September is National Service Dog Month. It's a time to celebrate the life-changing impacts that service dogs have on people with disabilities.

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



Junior.

newsletter, an annual Club picnic, annual Members' Appreciation Party at the Wild Oak Saddle Club, and various other social events throughout the year.

It's still summer! So, just a reminder that some of the greatest dangers to dogs during the hot summer are dehydration, heat stroke, hot cars, and hot pavement. Tips: Easy access to cool, clean water and plenty of shade.

Another reminder that every day from 9-10 a.m. (through the end of October) the Happy Tails Dog Park is reserved for small dogs (25 lbs. or less)! The next special play date at the dog park is the Bichon/

Havanese Play Date on Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m.-Noon.

We are still looking for a couple more Happy Tails Dog Park volunteers. Just shoot Peri Olinger an email at periolinger@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer.

Need a dog walker, sitter, or trainer here in Oakmont? No need to go any further than the Canine Club's website (www.oakmontcanineclub.org) where we post a list of walkers, sitters, and trainers, some of whom are Oakmont residents.



Emma.

Canine Club

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■Linda O’Connor

THE GATHERING OF THE BEES

Quilting fun was had by all at the August gathering of the Quilting Bees—a full house filled with laughter, sharing, recommendations, and announcements of upcoming classes, quilt shows and awards.

Congratulations to Bob and Vicki, whose entries in the Sonoma County Fair both earned second-place awards. Bob’s Hawaiian quilt and Vicki’s imaginative quilt created from recycled doilies had previously been shared with the Bees, so we were especially pleased to celebrate their success.

A special shout-out goes to our superstar hand-appliqué quilter, Helen, whose magnificent Alphabet Quilt was accepted into the International Quilt Festival in Houston this November. One of the world’s premier quilting events, the festival attracts tens of thousands of



Julia and Larry with their quilts.

visitors from around the globe. We couldn’t be prouder!

Show-and-tell began with Carol, who displayed two panels recently rescued from her collection of UFOs—unfinished objects. These were second editions of panels she originally created more than 30 years ago, proving that sometimes a project just needs a little time to become new again.

We’re convinced Julia must not sleep! She arrived with two more completed quilts, both reimagined from panel kits purchased at last year’s Moonlight Quilters sale. Her creative transformations showed just what can happen when ingenuity meets fabric.

Susan shared a quilt completed through the biweekly Moda Blockheads program, where Moda designers contribute individual blocks and quilters select their own fabrics. She enthusiastically

encouraged others to give the free program a try.

Larry proved once again that you can take the engineer out of the field, but you can’t take the engineer out of quilting. Determined to create a precisely angled five-pointed star without relying on a pattern, he introduced us to the Golden Ratio and the mathematics behind his design. Where will all those stars lead? Considering Larry’s passion for astronomy—and his popular quilt featuring NASA patches—we suspect something stellar!

Finally, Kathy shared a treasured friendship quilt. Following serious surgery years ago, 15 Quilting Bees created and signed a nine-patch quilt for her.

ECK Spiritual Adventures Club

■Kimberly Morris

DIVINE LOVE HAS NO CONDITIONS

You are cordially invited to our monthly club meeting on Friday, Sept 18 from 3–4:30 p.m. in the Birch Room.

In our next video, Sri Doug Kunin, spiritual leader of ECKANKAR, shares a story about Divine Love in which he said, “Divine Love Has No Conditions.” In a story about his little dog, a sweet face of love melted away his concern. He asked, “Why do we find it so hard to give unconditional love and love the way the Divine loves us?”

When I lived as a pet parent for 40 years, I was amazed at their consistent and pure love for me. It made me want to be a better person. Yet, times and conditions did not always flow so easily.

Like many of us, I had to face my thoughts, beliefs, and expectations. And then, life can throw a curveball as we face authentic anger. Choosing to be loving, no matter what the condition, has represented an ongoing spiritual and life-changing practice. How about you? What have you learned, let go of, or face within yourself along the way?

In our club, we hope to learn about your stories and life’s challenges that led you to choose Divine Love. What worked for you?

We offer a spiritual contemplation exercise using an ancient love song to Divine Spirited, called HU. Chanting or singing the word HU can enhance your private and sacred experiences, no matter what your spiritual path. If comfortable, we would love to hear your insights within this light and sound contemplation.

All spiritual perspectives are warmly welcome at the ECK Spiritual Adventures Club. Please contact me at (707) 312-6369 or ECKClubOakmont@outlook.com.



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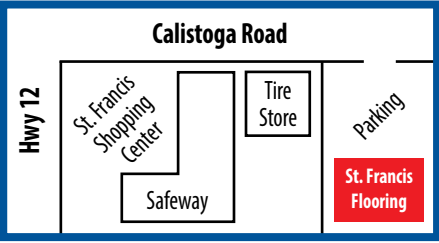
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