

OAKMONT NEWS

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In the Beginning There Was the Berger

■Jim Brewer

When Oakmont was still in its infancy, the Berger Center was its gathering place, but built as much to attract new home buyers to the fledgling community. And more than six decades later, it remains one of the community’s most recognizable and heavily used buildings.



Aerial view of Oakmont’s Berger Center (front left) and golf course in 1966. (Photo by Don Meacham)

OVA records date the Berger Center’s first permitting documents to 1963, while another document identifies 1964 as its completion year. As Oakmont’s original multipurpose community center, it alone served residents for more than a decade before the West Recreation Center opened in 1976 and the East Recreation Center in 1987.

But the Berger was designed for a much smaller Oakmont. Planning records say Norwood Berger envisioned a community of roughly 1,000 homes—far fewer than the 3,200 that exist today. That growth has placed increasing demands on a facility built for an earlier, smaller community.

Its physical dimensions help explain the pressure. The building contains approximately 9,680 square feet of gross floor area, but its principal flexible-use

space totals only 3,449 square feet. Fire regulations limit the auditorium to approximately 280 occupants, although the room can physically accommodate as many as 337 seats.

Age and continued use have also brought structural concerns. A 2018 engineering assessment identified needed repairs to concrete pilasters and the roof diaphragm, along with areas of dry rot. The proposed renovation also called for replacing flat ceilings to accommodate a new HVAC system and installing a metal roof.

OVA subsequently completed seismic assessment and remediation in 2019. Those repairs helped preserve the building, allowing Berger to continue fulfilling its original purpose: bringing Oakmont together for concerts, dances, lectures, movies, meetings, celebrations and performances.

Today, another renovation assessment is underway as Oakmont considers how to adapt the aging, heavily used facility to current needs. Replacing that HBAC system is now considered essential. Whatever else happens, the Berger Center remains as Oakmont’s primary hub and a survivor of the community’s first generation.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 62—The Age of the Berger Center
- 1,000—Houses anticipated in Oakmont when the Berger was built
- 9680—Square Feet of Berger Center
- 280—Occupants allowed in the Berger per City fire regulations
- 700—Approximate number of annual events in the Berger

President’s Message: OVA Initiatives in Progress

■Steve Spanier, OVA Board President

The OVA Board and its supporting committees are working on approximately 40 initiatives. Major projects, such as the Berger Center renovation, a possible OVA office building purchase, and golf lease negotiations, receive much of the attention. But there is plenty of other work underway, and I’m excited to share some of it with you.



COMMUNICATIONS

Like a storage closet, a website can become crowded over time, making information harder to find. Periodic reorganization helps keep it useful and accessible. That’s what we’re exploring for the OVA website.

Our main goal is to make information easier to find. We plan to simplify the site’s organization, use artificial intelligence to improve searches, enhance its visual appeal, and make more information about living in Oakmont accessible to the public without requiring a member login. Making the site easier for staff to update and manage is another key goal, along with expanding our use of images and videos.

See **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE** on page 6

Consider Hosting a Neighborhood Gathering

■Oakmont Village Association

Over the past few months, several neighborhoods have hosted neighborhood gatherings—an informal event that serves as a way to strengthen communication and connection within our community between neighbors and board members. These gatherings are intended to be friendly opportunities for neighbors and board members to connect, share ideas, and listen to one another in a comfortable setting.

To maintain the informal nature of these gatherings and ensure compliance with Open Meeting Act requirements:

- No more than three board members will attend any one gathering.
- Board members will rotate among gatherings.
- Meetings are intended to be informal community conversations, not formal board discussions.

Would you like to host your own neighborhood gathering?

Invitations can be handled in a few different ways depending on the host’s preference. Hosts may distribute invitations themselves, or office staff can assist if that is preferred.

And yes, there may even be cookies or other treats! More importantly, we hope these gatherings create a welcoming opportunity for meaningful conversation and shared understanding.

The goals of these neighborhood gatherings are simple:

- To help neighbors get to know one another better.
- To provide an informal, non-intimidating setting where neighbors can ask questions of board members.

See **GATHERING** on page 4

Berger Project on October Agenda

■Marlena Tremont

Renovation of the Berger Center is a top priority for the OVA Board of Directors in 2027. Discussion and possible action on hiring a project manager will be on the October 20 Board meeting agenda. While replacement of heating and cooling systems leads the list of needs, accessibility and safety improvements are also being addressed at the same time. Although the final scope of the project is yet to be determined, many items are considered essential.

“Nearly all of these essential items are identified in the Reserve Study, with funding budgeted for their completion,” said Christel Antone, general manager. “Although some were scheduled for a year or two from now, coordinating the work would be more cost-effective and allow us to complete the projects during a single closure of the Berger Center.”

Most pressing is the replacement of the 60+ year-old HVAC system which includes the boiler, chiller,

five existing HVAC units, fresh-air intake, insulation, controls and commissioning.

Many items in the proposed project scope address state and local building code requirements, including installation of a fire sprinkler system, replacement of the electrical panel, and installation of tempered glass windows.

Other renovations address ADA accessibility requirements, including replacement of the existing exterior doors and frames to meet opening-force requirements and include appropriate fire ratings and panic hardware to support safe access and emergency egress.

Some improvements are included to make the building more functional and accessible for Oakmont residents, even where they are not required by ADA regulations. These include better, more consistent

See **BERGER** on page 4

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Vaccine Clinic on October 22

■Oakmont Village Association

Appointments are available for a vaccine clinic on Oct. 22 at the Berger, 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.

Make an appointment at: www.safeway.com/vaccinations/group-clinic/OakmontVillageofSantaRosa2026
Consent form at: oakmontvillage.com/article/informed-consent-for-immunization

New Resident Reception on October 15

■OVA Staff

New Oakmont residents, and those who would like a refresher on our community, are invited to attend an upcoming New Resident Reception at the Berger Center on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 6–7 p.m. This event is designed to introduce you to our vibrant community and provide helpful information about Oakmont’s unique lifestyle offerings.

Agenda highlights include:

- An introduction to OVA staff and leadership
- Key architectural information to help you settle in seamlessly

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

- An overview of clubs, facilities, and essential community resources
 - Information about emergency preparedness groups
 - Details about the Valley of the Moon Golf Course and restaurant
 - Time to connect with fellow residents and neighbors
 - A Q&A session to address any of your questions
- Refreshments will be served.
- This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors, build connections, and feel more at home in the Oakmont community.

28-Day Review—Architectural Policies

■Oakmont Village Association

The Board approved two proposed architectural policy revisions at the Sept. 15 board meeting for a 28-day member review. One would remove Firewise-related provisions from the landscape policy because those matters are addressed in a separate Firewise policy. The revision would also remove redundant information and provide additional clarity to help members, the Architectural Committee, and staff understand and apply the policy.

The other policy revision recognizes that some residences do not have a practical location where refuse containers can be completely hidden from

view. It would provide limited flexibility to place containers along a side wall or fence, including locations that may be partially visible from the street, while maintaining reasonable standards for their placement and appearance.

The proposed revisions are posted on the OVA website and on the bulletin board at the Berger Center. Members may review and comment on them during the 28-day review period before the Board considers final adoption. Members can send their comments about the policy revisions to askova@oakmontvillage.com.

Fall Emergency Drill on October 24

■Tom Pugliese, Oakmont Emergency Communications Task Force (OECTF)

WHEN: Saturday, October 24, 9–11 a.m.

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD EXPECT

High winds, structural damage, blocked roads, extreme heat, and partial power shutoffs—this drill simulates the kind of multi-day, high-impact weather event that strains normal emergency services. County and City agencies will issue shelter-in-place orders, and normal communications (including 911) will be down or overloaded.

During the drill, Oakmont’s Emergency Communications Team and our radio network will be fully activated. Volunteers wearing yellow vests and carrying walkie-talkies will move through neighborhoods to check on residents’ well-being.

If someone needs assistance, these volunteers will use their radios to request help from: Oakmont resources; County and City agencies (via our direct network access) through the County Emergency Operations Center and RedCom. They will also relay official status updates back into the community.

If you don’t see a yellow-vested volunteer or a radio placard (shown below) in your neighborhood, it likely means your neighborhood lacks radio coverage.

Placards were funded by a generous grant from the Oakmont Community Foundation to clearly identify homes equipped to serve as radio resources during emergencies.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Prior radio experience isn’t required. We provide equipment, training, and the annual time commitment is about nine hours.

If you’d like to help strengthen your neighborhood’s emergency readiness, email OakmontW6OVA@gmail.com.



Medicare Annual Enrollment Period

October 15th - December 7th, 2026

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Oakmont Boomers

■Carolita Carr

GHOSTLY NIGHT

WHAT: Annual Ghostly Night—we hope you have your reservations in!
WHEN: Saturday, October 24. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., music begins at 6:30
WHERE: Berger Center
WHAT: Dance with the Jacob Benning Band
COST: \$30 per person (each member may bring one guest)
BRING: Snacks for your table and the beverage of your choice

New this year! Once you check in, have yourself photographed (you supply the camera and photographer) with Frankenstein, or the Munsters, or Elvyra. You could do this alone or with a group of friends. Either way, it will be a great way to remember a fun evening!

Midway through the evening we will have the costume parade, culminating in prizes for Best Couple, Most Original, and Spookiest. You don't have a costume? Not to worry. They are not required but once you see all those Boomers dressed up, you will be planning for next year.

A word about the band: The Jacob Benning Band is an American "Soul and Roll" group based in Northern California, led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Jacob Philip Benning. The five-piece band mixes classic rock, blues, soul, and Americana. Known for its guitar-driven grooves and vocal harmonies, the group transitions seamlessly between soulful, rootsy arrangements and high-energy rock and roll.

BERGER

Continued from page 1

lighting; an improved PA and speaker system for meetings, presentations, and events; and window shades and a movable auditorium wall that are easier to operate. The scope also includes replacing the existing ceiling tiles with an acoustical ceiling system to improve sound quality and reduce echoes.

Planned maintenance and replacement work includes a new roof, gutters, and downspouts to help prevent leaks and direct water away from walking surfaces. New windows, flashing, and seals will also improve weather protection and energy efficiency.

The renovation will also include interior and exterior painting and exterior hardscape improvements that meet Firewise guidelines and local fire code requirements.

Additional projects on the Berger list include a digital bulletin board for OVA news and announcements, relocation of the water fountain and changes to the layout of the backstage area to improve functionality.

Together, the proposed improvements would address building code and accessibility requirements while making the Berger Center safer, more comfortable, and easier for members to use. Members would benefit from clearer sound, better lighting, and improved access. The work would also improve energy efficiency, address maintenance needs, and help preserve the building for years to come.

Updates on the Berger project, including plans for relocating activities and events once the project begins, will be on the OVA website at oakmontvillage.com/bergerproject.

GATHERING

Continued from page 1

- To give neighbors an opportunity to share concerns and issues they see in the community.
- To help the board better understand what matters most to our residents.

We believe open communication and personal connection are essential to maintaining the strong sense of community that makes Oakmont special.

For questions, or if you are interested in hosting a neighborhood gathering, please contact askova@oakmontvillage.com or Amber Mariani at (707) 539-1611 ext. 108.

OAK at the VOM Golf Club

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

Let's fall into fall with some fun events at Valley of the Moon. From our member appreciation and renewal party to restaurant specials, here's a look at what's happening at the golf course this month.

SAVE THE DATE MEMBER APPRECIATION AND RENEWAL PARTY—OCTOBER 30, 3–5 PM

Join us for a special gathering to celebrate our 2026 annual members! As a token of our appreciation, we're hosting a complimentary Member Appreciation Party at OAK. Enjoy an afternoon of delicious appetizers, drinks and good company as we thank you for being part of our club.

We'll also have 2027 membership information and forms available for those who wish to sign up early. Members who sign up by November 15 will receive a special gift.

Membership signup: www.playvom.com/membership/annual-membership

HOLIDAY RATES

Holiday rates will be observed on the following days:

- Monday, October 12—Columbus Day
- Wednesday, November 11—Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 26—Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 27—Day after Thanksgiving

SOCIAL GOLF MIXER OCTOBER 14, 3 PM SHOTGUN

Play nine holes of golf in a friendly, noncompetitive format, then enjoy drinks and light appetizers after play. The event will be a four-person scramble, with prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin.

Annual Member Price: \$39

Non-member Price: \$55

Price includes green fee, shared cart, light appetizers, one beer or wine drink ticket, and prizes.

INSTRUCTION

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

New lesson rates: 30-minute lesson—\$75; 45-minute lesson—\$100; 60-minute lesson—\$125.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OAK

Thursday Wine Specials: Try any of our new labels—an amazing pairing with our Thursday night chef specials—for only \$8 per glass, regularly \$12.

For Our Beer Lovers: Our Barrel Brothers label is back! Our newest flavor in rotation is their Hazy IPA, available on draft and in 16-ounce cans for the course. More to come from our favorite local brewery as additional flavors hit the production line. Come in, sip and enjoy!

November Prime Rib Night—Make Your RSVP Now: Join us Wednesday, November 18, for a prime rib special. The cost is \$55 per person and includes cheesy scalloped potatoes, seasonal vegetables, and

a glass of house wine or a soft drink. Please make reservations with Marisa and include your first and last name, phone number, and preferred reservation time. Seatings are available from 3–6 p.m.

Thanksgiving Buffet and To-Go Orders at OAK—Save the Date: Thursday, November 26. Buffet seating at noon; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Price: \$65 per adult; \$35 per child.

Thanksgiving menu: Spinach, pear and pomegranate salad with poppyseed dressing; Fresh green beans; Cranberry-orange compote; Traditional sage stuffing; Garlic mashed potatoes; Carved turkey breast; Carved prime rib with horseradish and house-made au jus; Rolls and butter; Pumpkin and apple pie; Water, coffee, decaf and hot tea beverage station.

Thanksgiving to-go orders must be placed by Saturday, November 21, at 5 p.m. Reservations are required for both dine-in and to-go orders. Call (707) 539-0415, ext. 6, to book, or email Marisa at mmangano@playvom.com.

OAK October Specials:

October 15—Shrimp or grilled chicken fettuccine Alfredo

October 22—French dip

October 29—Grilled Black Forest ham and cheese

Music Mondays:

October 19: Fargo Brothers Band

October 26: Coffey Park Band

November 2: Relish Band

November 9: Canceled due to a private event

November 16: Fargo Brothers

Doors open at 4 p.m. Live music runs from 5–7 p.m. There is a \$10 cash cover charge at the door.

Paint Nights: Our next paint nights are October 28 and November 13. No painting experience? No problem! A friendly instructor will guide you every step of the way while you enjoy the evening at Valley of the Moon Club.

Dinner and appetizers are available for purchase throughout the evening. Wine is also available by the glass or bottle. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for check-in, giving you time to get comfortable and enjoy beverages and bites before painting begins.

Please note: All art supplies are included, and no painting experience is needed. Complimentary food and wine are not included with your ticket.

Register for either or both events at www.paintedcellarssoco.com/events.

CLOSING REMINDERS

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

We'd also like to remind everyone to follow the golf course walking hours posted on our website. Walking is not permitted while golfers are present, as it poses a major safety hazard.

For walking hours and policies, visit www.playvom.com/the-club/walking-policies.

Tuesday Women's Valley of the Moon Golf Club

■Shay Kosta

LADIES, COME JOIN US ON THE GREEN!

Are you looking for a fun way to meet new friends, enjoy the outdoors, and discover or rediscover the game of golf? Our Tuesday Women's Valley of the Moon Golf Club welcomes you!

Golf is about so much more than the game. It's an opportunity to spend time outdoors, enjoy a little friendly competition, laugh with friends, and build lasting friendships. Our women's group offers a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere where women of all ages and skill levels can feel comfortable.

Never played golf before? No problem, after just 3 rounds we will issue you a handicap where you are able to track your score and handicap. We encourage women who are new to the game to come out, learn at their own pace, and enjoy the camaraderie along the way.

Sign up to play any or every Tuesday. New sign-up forms are in our pro shop with instructions on how to join. You may also contact Karen Sites via email: karensites@gmail.com.

Cheers and happy golfing!

Pickleball Corner

■Terry Leuthner

PICKLEBALL GETAWAYS

Want a fall or winter getaway where pickleball is only part of the fun? These five stood out:

- Sedona Fest of Fall Pickleball Rally—Sedona, AZ, Oct. 16-18: Play among Sedona’s red rocks, then hit the larger Fest of Fall with food trucks, music, vendors and games. This may be the best



Graphic by Peter Copen.

- Pickle in the Land—Cleveland, OH, Nov. 5-8: Four days inside Cleveland’s convention center, transformed into a giant indoor pickleball hub. Perfect excuse for a cold-weather city weekend with lots of court time.

- Pickle and Pour—Kailua-Kona, HI, Nov. 8: Random mixed doubles meets the Kona Coffee Cultural Festival, with local food, drinks and vendors. Pickleball in Hawaii plus coffee festival? That’s an easy sell.

- Pickle and Pour Pickleball Tournament, Pickle-icious Jingle Jam—Oro Valley, AZ, Dec. 4-6: A festive fundraiser with men’s, women’s, mixed and family doubles plus the quirky Home Court Paddle Battle. Warm Arizona weather makes this one especially tempting in December.

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: <https://oakmontpickleballclub.com>.

Find a way to get-away!

Oakmont Movers and Groovers



■Denise Lindsey and Larry Souza

NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATION AT THE BERGER CENTER

WHEN: Dec. 31. Reception 5 p.m., Buffet from 5:30-7 p.m., Music starts at 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Berger Center, 6633 Oakmont Drive

TICKETS: \$80 each. Must purchase tickets by December 23. Take payment to the OVA office and put it in the OMG folder.

Music presented by Midnight Sun Massive.

Menu (champagne toast included at 9 p.m.):

Hors d’oeuvres: Three Cheese Display (Swiss, cheddar and blue); Cherry and Brie Puffs (soft brie cheese topped with Bing cherries wrapped in dough); Smoked Salmon Mousse (rosette on cucumber coin).



Dinner Buffet:

- Caesar Salad
- Holiday Salad (caramelized walnuts, red wine poached pears, pomegranates and feta cheese in a cinnamon sherry dressing)
- Maple Glazed Carrots
- Roasted Red Potatoes (with a hint of Italian herbs)
- Chicken Provençal (garnished with tomatoes, capers, roasted garlic and basil in a white wine butter sauce)
- Slow Roasted New York Strip carved to order (in a red wine sauce)
- Rolls and Butter

Desserts (served family style during music break): Chocolate Truffles (infused in Grand Marnier); Chocolate Dipped Strawberries (injected with Cognac); Carrot Cake Bars (swirled with spice cake and cream cheese frosting).

Bring your own beverage for dinner.

For questions, please contact Denise Lindsey at omgclub2025@gmail.com.

Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

OCTOBER MIXER—OCTOBERFEST!

WHEN: Friday, October 16 at 6 p.m.

WHERE: East Rec. Center

Oktoberfest is the world’s largest Volksfest (Bavarian). It combines a beer festival with a fun fair and is held annually in Munich on the Theresienwiese from mid-September to the first Sunday in October.

Well, Munich is a long way away to have our monthly mixer so we’re bringing the festivities here. Wear your red or green plaid shirts and lederhosen for the guys and a simple Dirndl dress for the gals. Be ready to chair or floor dance to the musical stylings of our very own Oakmont Mellowtones, accordion player and all!

Bring an Oktoberfest inspired appetizer or dessert to share and your favorite fall libation to drink.

Please RSVP via our website, www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org by October 11 at 5 p.m. If no computer or ability to register using your smart phone, feel free to email me at bailey.oscl@gmail.com.



NOVEMBER BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, reservation at 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Olives and Agave, Maza and Tapas, 909 Village Ct., Santa Rosa

Their story starts in their family kitchen—the kind where the door is always open, the table is always full, and the food never stops coming. Maza wasn’t a concept to them. It was just how they ate: small plates, big flavors, everyone sharing. Every dish on their menu carries a memory. The hummus is made from a recipe passed down through many generations. The lamb kafta is grilled the way it was at every family gathering they can remember. Olives and Agave cook with love, and they hope you taste it.

Our reservation is for maximum of 24 members. Registration is open until October 30 at 5 p.m. or when the 24 slots are filled, whichever comes first. If there are 24 members confirmed before this date, you will be placed on a wait-list.

Bring cash because the restaurant will not provide separate checks! Meet at Berger Center parking lot by 5:30 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?

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

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 <http://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. We would love to have more hike leaders, especially for the Short and Intermediate hike categories. If you’d like more information about what is involved, please contact me at colleenlkeegan@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 15: LONG HIKE ANNADEL THROUGH HIKE

A through hike with views from Henry’s Knob and passing by Lake Ilnango. We will leave cars by the community garden and drive to the top of Oak Mesa to start. 8 miles, 1100 feet elevation gain. Leave the Berger parking lot at 8.30 a.m. Leader is Scott Finn, (619) 884-0977.

OCTOBER 22: LONG HIKE MT. KONOCTI

This is only the second time we’ve done this hike. It has well-established trails and spectacular views of the entirety of Lake County. There’s a fair amount of fire road but the views make it worthwhile to do at least once. Depending on the chosen route the distance will be 7-8.7 miles with 1,900-2200 feet



Mt. Konocti.

elevation gain with steady gradient. Leave Berger at 8 a.m. Leader is Janet McCann, 707-328-6637.

OCTOBER 22: INTERMEDIATE HIKE ANGEL ISLAND PERIMETER LOOP

We will take the ferry from Tiburon to Angel Island State Park, then hike the perimeter of the island on a mostly paved road, passing historical sites and stopping for lunch at Quarry Beach. Spectacular views



Angel Island.

from all directions. Parking next to Chase Bank, a 10-minute walk from the terminal, costs \$5 for the day. Admission to the Immigration Station for a self-guided tour is \$5 for any who wish to do that. About 6 miles, 500 feet elevation gain. Leave Berger at 8:15 sharp. Leader is Florentia Scott, 707-591-1929.



Pet Grooming

6574 Oakmont Drive, Suite C

For Appointments Call:

707-535-6097 or 707-843-4007

Billiard Club

■Steven Dieterle

8 BALL DOUBLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Oakmont Billiards Club just recently held an 8 Ball Double Elimination Tournament on Sept. 24. This was our sixth tournament of the year. We had a talented group of players come together for the tournament.

This was also a celebration for the changing of the seasons from summer to fall. Usually, this change starts to bring out more players as the weather gets colder and wetter outside.

The game of 8 Ball requires that the balls are first placed in a triangular rack with the 8 ball in the center and the other balls around the eight ball for the break. Pool balls are either striped or solid in different colors and numbered from 1-15. The first ball pocketed after the break determines which group of balls, striped or solid, each competitor “owns”. The object of the game is to pocket all your balls and then pocket the eight ball to win.

At the beginning of the tournament, every competitor can lose one match and still be in the tournament. The second loss eliminates the player. Thus, that is what the term “double elimination” stands for.

There were many close and very competitive matches throughout the tournament, but ultimately two players end up in the finals. One player has no losses, and the other player has only one loss. The player with no losses has to be beaten twice in the finals to lose the tournament. Rich Winston (no losses) and Steve Martin were the two players in the finals. If Rich wins the first game he wins the tournament. If Steve wins the first game the finals continue to a second and final match.

As it turns out Steve was able to beat Rich in a very highly first competitive match. The second and final match was also very competitive and was extended out because of the very strategic play at the end of the match by both players. The skill level displayed in the final matches was exceptional. All competitors stayed to watch the final matches. Both players were very good shot makers. The next level up players can position the queue ball after their shot to leave them a very makeable follow-up shot. This is what differentiated Steve and Rich from the rest of the players today.



Steve Martin (winner) on right and Rich Winston.



Competitors (L to R): Steve Fuller, Frank Coryell, Barb Marquardt, Steve Martin, Steve Dieterle, Rich Winston and Jim Christofferson.

Ultimately, Steve Martin outdueled Rich Winston to win the final match and the Tournament. Congratulations to Steve for the win and Rich for his very exceptional play throughout the tournament!

Thanks to all the participants for a very competitive and enjoyable tournament.

Oakmont Steering Committee: Tom Kelber, Barb Marquardt, Steve Martin and Steve Dieterle.

VOM Rotary

■Valerie Hulsey

HAPPY HOUR ROTARY CLUB

Our Valley of the Moon Rotary Happy Hour club has had its first few meetings and we are having a wonderful time meeting new people and looking forward to welcoming new members.

We only have one meeting in October due to a lack of space but we will meet on October 12. Social time is at 3:30 p.m. and meeting from 4–5. Our speaker will be our Rotary District Governor Jeff Kolin who is a longtime public servant, community leader, and dedicated Rotarian whose career has been defined by building partnerships, strengthening communities, and creating lasting public impact.

Jeff’s 38-year career in local government included service with eight California cities, one county, and a recreation and park district. He served as City Manager of Beverly Hills, Santa Rosa, and Pittsburg, where he led major infrastructure, economic development, and community enhancement projects.

As District Governor for 2026–2027, he is focused on strengthening club vitality, expanding Rotary’s reach, fostering collaboration among clubs, and creating meaningful opportunities for service.

We encourage you to join us for a very interesting and informative program. Mark your calendars for October 12 at West Rec (upstairs).

Jazz Club Live Music and Workshop

■Michael James

WELCOME HOOD MOUNTAIN MAMAS!

Join us for a performance by a very special vocal trio, comprised of Oakmont residents, at the East Recreation Center on Wednesday, November 4 for the first hour of our meeting from 2–3 p.m. The Hood Mountain Mamas were born when Donna Forst, Florentia Scott and Karen Mackey heard each other improvise harmonies at the weekly jams of Oakmont’s ukulele club, the Oakmont Ukesters. They have since performed at several Oakmont events, as well as other community functions. They have played at several senior residences and have a standing gig at Spring Lake Village.

Donna played piano as a child, minored in music in college and found her love for the ukulele while living in Hawaii with her husband, Don. Since joining the Ukesters in 2014, she has been a regular arranger and rehearsal leader. Donna is also a soloist in her church choir.

Florentia played clarinet in high school, minored in music at UCLA, studied classical guitar, and has played and sung throughout her lifetime in bands, singing groups, and choirs, including the Santa Rosa Symphonic Chorus. She continues to lead a Zoom ukulele strum-along she launched during the pandemic.

The daughter of a professional musician, Karen played violin in a symphony orchestra from grade school through college. She then switched to guitar and ultimately ukulele. As part of a high school singing trio, she performed on Steel Pier in Atlantic City and got as far as the Ted Mack Amateur Hour. Although tempting, they all chose college versus a singing career.

Please join us for the second hour open jam workshop from 3–4 p.m. with any instrument, including guitar, ukulele, violin, wind instruments, piano, percussion or vocals. Music will be provided, but please bring your own instrument and music stand. A \$5 donation will be gratefully accepted.

At the West Recreation Center, we are also starting a new beginner music class for the holidays. Learn to read, sing and play all of your favorite Christmas songs on any instrument. Join us on the second and fourth Fridays of November and December. A \$5 donation will be gratefully accepted. Contact me at mjamesblue71147@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

Funding for this project is included in the budget. We’re considering several web development organizations and look forward to interviewing prospective consultants soon. We’ll establish a development schedule that includes feedback and thorough testing.

Alongside the website project, we’re exploring opportunities to improve the Oakmont News. We’ll proceed thoughtfully because our readership data indicates that the newspaper is widely read and valued. Focus groups and member feedback will help us understand which content residents find most useful and where improvements would be welcome.

GOVERNANCE

The Board recently voted to adopt resolutions clarifying how certain provisions of OVA’s bylaws will be interpreted and applied in light of current law. These resolutions do not amend the bylaws; they address provisions that have become outdated or unclear.

The Board is also considering seeking relief from the Sonoma County Superior Court concerning the two proposed amendments voted on in May. Both received strong support from voting members but did not meet the approval threshold required by our bylaws.

If granted, court relief could allow OVA to implement those amendments, helping modernize our governing documents and make future bylaw amendments more achievable while preserving members’ right to vote.

The timing and costs of this effort are difficult to predict and would depend on several factors, including the court’s schedule and any contesting against the petition, which could increase costs and extend the timeline.

SAFETY

Several initiatives focus on resident safety and emergency preparedness. These include continuing Firewise assessments, recognizing homes that meet specified Firewise criteria, conducting emergency communication exercises, expanding our Meet Your Neighbors network and their partner zone communicators.

COMMUNITY

TheOakmontCommunityDevelopmentCommittee also continues to monitor the Los Guilicos, Sonoma Developmental Center, and Elnoka projects to help us understand their potential effects on Oakmont.

We’re also continuing our search for a suitable community gathering spot, assessing fitness needs, and updating our comparisons with other age-restricted communities to identify practices that could benefit Oakmont.

Our Social Call program, which connects residents who would welcome companionship with volunteers who enjoy offering friendly conversation and connection, is seeking a new volunteer coordinator. A third-party partner handles much of the organization. We would be happy to explain the role to anyone interested.

Communication and community connection remain priorities. Neighborhood gatherings, President’s Messages, and additional media initiatives offer ways to keep residents engaged.

Our community’s strong volunteer spirit makes it possible to pursue so many initiatives at once. If you’re interested in helping, please email askova@oakmontvillage.com and let us know your interests.





■Greg Fauss



Photo by G. Fauss.

FAITH AND BLUE

As the days become shorter, we savor every bit of blue that we can. Speaking blue, this Sunday we look forward to another visit by an officer from the Santa Rosa Police Department as part of the annual event, Faith and Blue. Christian organizations have long played significant roles in our society by not just supporting law and order, but also by taking care of the poor and the homeless, establishing hospitals, working with youth and children, providing recovery services, working to support justice initiatives, the government, etc.

Most of this occurs with little government aid, receives minimal public recognition, and is administered by moderately paid people, but a large number of volunteers. It is the result of Christian teaching, experiencing God’s love and the mandate to love our neighbors.

If you’re looking for a local faith community or simply seeking, please visit us. We are interdenominational, and endeavor to be welcoming and safe for all.

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

Café Mortel



■Linda Suhr

FILM EXTREMIS—HEART-WRENCHING GLIMPSE OF FAMILIES’ DECISIONS IN THE ICU

Stroke. Auto Accident. Coma. Perhaps you have heard stories of people who have been in a dire health situation in the ICU where family members needed to make difficult decisions, such as whether to continue or stop life support. It’s hard enough to make decisions like this when you know what your loved one would want. Imagine having to make this literal life or death decision if you had no clue about your loved one’s wishes. Imagine, also, the emotional upheaval of family members disagreeing about what should be done.

The 2016 film *Extremis* was filmed at Highland Hospital in Oakland and gives a raw glimpse into this reality that families face every day. It follows ICU and palliative care specialist Dr. Jessica Zitter as she and her palliative care team compassionately and skillfully help families make difficult end-of-life decisions for their loved ones, who are often terminally ill and/or on life support. This gripping 24-minute film was a 2016 Tribeca Film Festival winner for Best Documentary Short and a 2017 Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary Short Subject.

Cafe Mortel will have a viewing of this film followed by discussion on Wednesday, October 14, from 3–4:15 p.m. in the East Rec. All are welcome!

Wii Bowling Oakmont Lanes



■Terry Leuthner

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

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

Labor Day Challenge: On Sept. 8 a bowler received a \$5 gift card to Safeway if they bowled a strike in the seventh and ninth frames of a game (Sept. 7, 9/7). Winners are: Joanne Abrame, Carolita Carr, Bob Chapman, Charlie Ensley, Peggy Ensley, Gordon Freedman, Vicki Jackanich, Shirley Jamison, Sandy Osheroﬀ, Karen Palmiotti, Robin Schudel, Don Shelhart, and Pat Stokes.

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

Bowling dates for November: Nov. 10 (week #10), 17 (week #11: Thanksgiving Challenge). No bowling Nov. 3 (Election) and Nov. 24 (fourth Tuesday).

RESULTS AS OF SEPT. 29 (WEEK #6 FALL LEAGUE)

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

Men’s High Games: Gordon Freedman, 269; Scott Harris, 223; Richard Adamczyk, 205; Rob Warren, 201.

Women’s High Games: Sandy Osheroﬀ, 290; Joanne Abrams, 280; Valerie Hulsey, 279; Shirley Jamison, 229; Karen Palmiotti, 228; Joanne Bender, 227; Carolita Carr, 221; Carol Garneau, 219; Marilyn Levene, 216; Thea Holladay, 206; Donnarose Ilecki, 204.

If you’re thinking of joining us, we started our Fall 2026 League on Aug 11 and will end on Dec. 8, with Christmas Party Dec. 10 at East Rec. 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 Democratic Club



■Ida Egli

WHO’S SECURING SONOMA COUNTY’S NOVEMBER ELECTION?

Sonoma County’s Registrar of Voting, Evelyn Mendez, and her staff are doing their best to secure our local election on November 3rd. We can learn what the voting challenges are at the Oakmont Democratic Alliance October speaker meeting at the East Rec on Monday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Mendez will update us and, hopefully, quell any fears about polling obstructionism, by mail, and in person at local polling stations. As well, she will review with us the November ballot, addressing any last-minute questions.

The September 25 Alliance fundraiser for Randy Villegas, running for a House seat in District 22, was alive with speeches and fun—and was beneficial to Villegas’s campaign. Mike McGuire auctioned off Oakmont-made pies and cakes, the highest bid for a cake spiking at \$600. Candidates Damon Connolly, Jackie Elward, Jane Kim, and Mike McGuire spoke, and Holly Near opened the party, she and Randy Villegas

speaking and interacted with the crowd by Zoom.

Also successful, David Schmidt’s September 13 presentation about the propositions on this election cycle’s ballot drew a packed house at East Rec. A lively, extended discussion followed.

Mark Your Calendars: October 22 at 6:30 p.m., at East Rec, the monthly Social Meeting is hinted at offering an October Surprise. Be sure to attend so as not to miss out!

And please remember: Our job in November—all of us—is to educate ourselves and to get out and vote. The outcome of this midterm election is critical to our democracy, so if you need voter information or a ride to the Oakmont polling place on November 3, call (707) 292-8405 (ahead of time if possible) to arrange for a ride.

For more information check out [Oakmont DemocraticAlliance.org](http://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.



Photo by Sue Carrell.

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Oakmont Art Association

■Linda O’Connor

OAKMONT ART HAPPENINGS

Creativity is getting ready to open its doors in Oakmont!

The Oakmont Art Association is delighted to once again sponsor Open Studios, with more than 20 Oakmont artists participating in a colorful variety of artistic media. On Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., artists will welcome friends, neighbors and art lovers into their studios to see where—and how—the magic happens. And not every studio has four walls! Several participating artists will be showcasing their work at The OAK Restaurant, providing another convenient stop along your Open Studios journey.

A complete list of participating artists and a map to help plan your visits will be available soon and posted on the Oakmont Art Association website.

Can’t wait until November? You won’t have to. In the weeks leading up to Open Studios, participating artists will offer a sneak peek of their work at OAA’s monthly programs and at The OAK Restaurant.

Open Studios is more than an opportunity to admire—and perhaps take home—an original work of art. It’s a chance to meet the artists, discover what inspires them, peek behind the creative curtain and celebrate the remarkable talent right here in our own community.

So mark your calendar, grab the map and plan to spend a November weekend discovering just how creative Oakmont can be.

Additionally, we are happy to announce and support classes with our favorite Gail Mardfin. Gail will be offering art classes this fall, and there are still openings in two of them. Oakmont students find her to be an encouraging and helpful teacher.

Beginning October 19, “Collage” will meet for five consecutive Mondays from 10:30–12:30. It’s a fun class exploring color and composition, with no drawing skills required. All materials are supplied—Gail provides the guidance and inspiration. Fee: \$225 plus \$25 materials fee.

There are still a couple of openings in the new three-week drawing class, “Perspective,” starting October 11 on Sundays, 1–3 p.m. The class covers 1-point and 2-point perspective, interiors and outdoor spaces, and how overlapping shapes and changes in scale will make your drawings more believable. Fee: \$90 plus a brief supply list. Email GMardfin@gmail.com with your name and cell number to reserve your space in either class.

Open the door to creativity!



Photo by Gail Mardfin.

Oakmont Squares



■Barbara Wooley

Oakmont Squares volunteered at this year’s Santa Rosa Marathon. Arriving at Courthouse Square before the sun came up, 11 club members helped set up for the day, then spread out across the route to keep runners safe and on track. A big thank-you to Steve, Margi, Neal, Karen, Deb, Keith, Pam, Anna, Del, Cheryl and Reenie!

Oakmont Squares also happily welcomed 18 new

dancers for the fall Beginning Square Dancing class. The new dancers have joined the club with various levels of experience ranging from complete beginner to lapsed expert. The fall class is now closed, but new classes begin periodically and will be announced in the future.

Experienced dancers who wish to become a member, or to drop in periodically, are welcome to come dance at Mainstream Level at any time. No partner is necessary since it is customary to switch partners often to get more dancers on the floor.

The Oakmont Squares meet Tuesday evenings from 7–9 p.m. at the East Rec. Center. Donation is \$8 per person/night or \$25 for the month. Come dance in a square and make a circle of friends.

For more information, call Jenny at (707) 367-2102.

Photo by Barbara Wooley.



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Passages



Kenneth Stueben passed away September 29 at the age of 95. He moved to Oakmont in 1987 and became the driving force in establishing the Oakmont Hikers Club and in bringing the Oakmont Gym from the “Dark Ages” in 1996 to what it is today. He was also instrumental in starting the Ping Pong Club. He will be missed.

Steve Garner, a 20-year resident of Oakmont, passed away on September 13. He is survived by his wife, Nanette Garner. Steve enjoyed the Asian Culture and Heritage Club, the Fitness Center, the Boomers, and the semiannual Belhaven Bashes. An avid cook, baker, gardener and raconteur, Steve was loved by many. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Tony D’Agosta (May 16, 1937–September 9, 2026), an Oakmont resident for 14 years, passed away at the age of 89. He wore many hats, including serving on the Bocce Board and Golf Board, captain of the Monday Men’s Niners, captain of the Wednesday Men’s Club, and a member of the WTF. A Celebration of Life will be held in the OAK Banquet Room, date to be determined.

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*.

Oakmont Sunday Symposium

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. in Berger Center • \$3 donation requested
Oakmont residents and their guests • 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.

OCTOBER 11: MARGO ROBBIN,
CULTURAL FIRE MGMT. COUNCIL
AND YUOK TRIBAL MEMBER
WHEN IS FIRE BENEFICIAL?

For thousands of years, California’s Indigenous peoples carefully managed forests with controlled burns that reduced catastrophic wildfires and kept ecosystems healthy—knowledge that modern society is only now beginning to rediscover. In this thought-provoking talk, Margo Robbins explains how “good fire” can help prevent devastating megafires, protect communities, and restore balance to the land.



OCTOBER 18: FLORANNE FANTI,
CANINE COMPANIONS
CHANGING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME:
RAISING HEROES ON FOUR PAWS
What does it take to turn an eight-week-old puppy



into a highly skilled service dog? Discover the inspiring story of Canine Companions, from its volunteer puppy raisers and professional training program to the life-changing moment when a highly skilled dog is paired with a child, adult, or veteran with a disability—all at no cost to the recipient. Learn how compassion, dedication, and four paws make independence possible.

OCTOBER 25: DAVID MCCUAN
ELECTION ANALYSIS AND FORECAST

The 2026 elections may reshape the balance of power in America at one of the most turbulent political moments in decades. David McCuan will discuss the forces driving voter behavior, the races most likely to determine the nation’s direction, and the surprises that could upend conventional wisdom. Packed with real-world political insight, this talk offers a front-row seat to the drama, strategy, and stakes of the 2026 election season.



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Living Room Conversations: A Potential New Club in Oakmont!

■Jane Kennedy

Looking to deepen your sense of community and share ideas in a safe space? Living Room Conversations offers a structured, time-tested approach to social engagement that prioritizes trust, empathy, and non-judgmental communication.

In a world often divided by political polarization and online negativity, while still feeling the isolation of COVID, our goal is to restore common decency, respect and connection. We provide a platform for safe, trusting dialogue—even when points of view differ widely. Yes, we can disagree and still go to lunch or play a game of pickleball or golf afterward!

WHY JOIN US?

Build Trust: Strengthen friendships and community bonds through collaborative conversation.

Be Heard: Share your unique life experiences in a small, supportive group setting.

Grow Together: Practice active listening, explore new perspectives, and engage with key issues grounded in our shared humanity.

Help Us Become Official: We need 20 Oakmont residents to join so we can become an official Oakmont Village Association (OVA) club.

Introductory Sessions (walk-ins welcome; content repeats): November 9 and 16, 2–3:30 p.m., OVA Suite B,

FUTURE PLANS

Regular Meetings: Starting January 2027, we aim to meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 2–4 p.m. (location TBA).

Stay Tuned: watch for our next article in the *Oakmont News* to preview upcoming, non-partisan topics. We look forward to building a stronger and brighter community together!

Co-Founders: Jane Kennedy and Louise Bettner.
Contact: oakmontlrc@gmail.com.



Letter to the Editor

TWIN LAKES HOA HONORS PAST PRESIDENT BOB SPAULDING

The Twin Lakes community honored longtime HOA president Robert “Bob” Spaulding at its annual “Hot Diggidy Dog” picnic on Friday, September 25, dedicating a permanent monument and plaque in his honor.



Bob, who passed away earlier this year after a long and dignified battle with cancer, was one of the finest people I’ve had the pleasure of knowing. He served as president of the Twin Lakes HOA for more than seven years and was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara.

Twin Lakes, with 92 homes, is the largest sub-association within Oakmont and is self-governed. Bob was serving as president when I moved to Oakmont in 2019. He brought a wealth of experience in property management and also helped write the draft for the Davis-Stirling civil code that applies to California HOAs. We were incredibly fortunate to have him serve as president, and he was a terrific mentor.

During Bob’s tenure, our community came together for our “Junk the Junipers” fire-wise program. With the guidance of board member and landscape chairperson Mike Sheppard, our Fernandez landscape crew first removed the junipers. We then coordinated with homeowners to fund the purchase of new plants, and a volunteer crew of homeowners planted them and spread

truckloads of rock. It truly was a community effort.

Also, during Bob’s tenure, we updated our outdated CC&Rs and bylaws. After a series of committee meetings and consultations with our attorney, we prepared new governing documents and held a homeowner vote for approval. At the time, approval by 75% of homeowners was required.

As the sealed ballots came in, our board kept track of which homeowners had voted and made personal phone calls to those who had not yet mailed in a ballot. In the end, 96% of our 92 homeowners submitted ballots, and the measure passed with 84% approval—a remarkable level of participation.

Most of all, Bob inspired me to be a better person. He not only mentored me in the responsibilities of serving on the HOA board, but through his own example taught me the importance of always making decisions in the best interest of the community. Bob was a remarkably selfless and modest man, and I feel fortunate to have known him.

Gary Andersen



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■D. Hall

COME HEAR THE SHADOW AGAIN

Oakmont Playreaders turn again to radio shows for October presentations. On October 5, it was *The Heartbeat of Death*. It's about a run-down estate filled with evil and hate, a man who was almost buried alive, and the steady thumping of a beating heart. The program featured: Steven and Joan Levin, Jeri Leasher, Sarah Shankman, Jonathan Hayden, Star Power,



Bruce Andich, and D. Hall, and Jim Preston directing.

On October 12, it's *The Case of the Vanishing Killer*, a tale of murder motivated by greed and fear. Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows.

Join us for Playreaders presentations the first two Mondays of every month at 2 p.m. in Room B (Birch) of the Central Activities Center.

■John De Groot

VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11
This past year has been a difficult for the Vets Club. A number of factors have contributed. Although hard to accept, none of us are getting any younger. Along with that comes the stumbling blocks of the aging process. Sorrowfully, the loss of some very involved members, as well as the illness of others, have contributed. Regardless, we carry-on just not to the same degree.

The current impact on our Village of Oakmont is we will not be hosting a celebratory parade or program on Veterans Day. However, as part of this year's remembrance to our vets, we will once again

assemble a Wall of Remembrance in the foyer of the C.A.C. It will feature photographs of past and present Oakmont Veterans, in uniform, along with short bios.

Please stop by and take a look. It will be ready for viewing on October 16 through Veterans Day on November 11. You may even be able to recognize some of our featured vets, even though they may look a little younger.

In the future, events, activities, and social gatherings for our club will happen, just not as frequent or extensive. If others are willing and able to step forward however, we just may reconstitute ourselves into the vibrant and useful club that we have been.



Members of a past Veterans Day Parade committee, which includes Veterans Club members, OVA Staff, and community volunteers.



Marie McBride
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132 Mountain Vista Circle
Beautiful three bedroom home with an additional office area. There is plenty of counter and storage space in the redesigned kitchen that has been opened to the main living area not typical for a Redwood model. You'll find richly appointed cabinets with pull-outs, a pantry, bar seating with pendant lighting, granite counters and stainless steel appliances. There is a delightful view of the backyard from the kitchen which allows a pass through of appetizers if so desired. Some of the many updates include bamboo floors throughout, with tile in both bathrooms, dual pane windows and shutters, crown molding, recessed lighting and ceiling fans. The homeowner expanded and fenced the spacious patio making a truly private and cozy space for enjoying the outdoors and entertaining. Brand new roof and gutters in 2026, blown attic insulation including above the garage in 2024, and new electric panel in 2010. This home is a must-see. **\$819,000**

Rovers RV Club



■Mary Montague

FORT BRAGG OUTING AND FALL POTLUCK



Photos by Mary Montague.

The Rovers had a great trip to Pomo RV in Fort Bragg, September 20–24. Our weather was great for our outdoor adventures: Point Arena Lighthouse, Crow's Nest Interpretive Center and the Botanical Gardens.

We enjoyed some of our meals out and great campfires in the evening with beautiful sunsets. Six rigs enjoyed newcomers and lots of exploring. We look forward to spring outings.

Please join us for our Fall Potluck: Saturday, November 14 at the East Rec., 5 p.m.

Reach out to Jeff Hickman for more information at (707) 282-9350 or email Jeff at jeff@hickman.cc.

Hope you can join us and hear about our 2027 adventures.



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■Mary Blake

INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO BOWL?
Email us at oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com.
After a busy August and September, we’ve hung up our whites for the year—well, almost. We’ll have our Thanksgiving Tournament on Wednesday, November 25.
The Green is being overseeded October 5 to November 8. You might ask, since it’s in good shape, why they’re reseeding. JB asked Todd ODonnell (OVA) about the need for reseeding. Here’s what Todd said:
“Spoke with Red Vino and the reason for overseeding is to strengthen the existing surface and to choke out/minimize new invasive weeds. Little preventive maintenance to have a strong green playing surface.”
See you on the strengthened green in November. We’ll hold a “welcome back” celebration, details to be worked out.

ELECTION

Thanks to our Nominating Committee (Diane Ethier, Tony Lachowicz, and Gerry Macintosh), we have someone running for each position on our board: Bruce Rolland (incumbent) is running for the one-year Director position; David Aiken and Gary Wickel are running for the two open two-year Director positions; Mary Blake (incumbent) is running for Secretary.
Approval of this slate of candidates will be at our Annual Member Meeting on November 9. The meeting will be at noon at East Rec. And don’t forget: lunch will be provided!

COMING EVENTS

Shift to afternoons: As the weather cools, we shift to afternoons. That means show up at 12:15 p.m. to bowl at 12:30 after the Green re-opens.
Because the Green will be closed into November, we’ve canceled our Halloween tournament. The photos are from past Halloweens.

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.



OCTOBER 11:
DISCLOSURE DAY

Steven Spielberg: If you found out we weren’t alone, if someone showed you, proved it to you, would that frighten you? 2026, PG-13, 2:25.



OCTOBER 18: TUNER

Dustin Hoffman: A talented piano tuner who suffers from hyperacusis discovers an unexpected aptitude for cracking safes, turning his life upside down. 2025, R, 1:47.



OCTOBER 25:
THE ODYSSEY

Matt Damon: After the Trojan War, Odysseus faces a dangerous voyage back to Ithaca, meeting creatures like the Cyclops Polyphemus, Sirens, and Calypso along the way. 2026, R, 2:52.

Lawn Bowling



Halloween 2025: Linda and Steve Pickell.

begin lining up foster children. We’ll keep you posted.

If you forget a date, you can find a calendar on

Member Meeting:
Monday, November 9,
12 noon, East Rec. Lunch
will be provided.
Thanksgiving
Tournament: Wednesday,
November 25
Awards Gala and
Holiday Party: Friday,
December 4. Our social
committee has already



Halloween 2024: Barbara Serafin, Topher Gayle and John Jaye.

our website, in your Green Book, and on our bulletin boards.
EMAIL: oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com.
Website: www.oakmontlawnbowling.com.

Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



■Charles Ensley

SWEET POTATOES BOXED;
SHREDATHON COMING

Members of our club, spouses and staff from Oakmont Gardens volunteered at Redwood Empire Food Bank on September 18. Our task was to sort sweet potatoes. We took them out of one box, checked each for damage, placed them back in a box and added it to the pallet. We ended up with four pallets five feet high! The hardest part was taking the unsorted box, 40 pounds, and then putting it back on another pallet when finished. Sorting was a cinch!
Are you getting your shreddables ready? Our Thursday, October 29 Shredathon, co-sponsored



by OVA, is less than three weeks away. Our drive-through event is at Berger Center, 9 a.m. to noon, or sooner if the truck is full. Five banker size boxes is the limit. Any donations go to our foundation for children’s programs and scholarships.
On a sad note, our president, Bob Isaacs, tragically passed away after a massive heart attack while at Lake Tahoe in September. Bob filled in since January as our president and was set to begin a full-year term on October 1. He and his wife Ann lived in Oakmont, before moving to be closer to grandchildren in west Santa Rosa. He had a long legacy in other Kiwanis clubs and served as a trustee to the California-Nevada-Hawaii Kiwanis district. He will be missed by many locally, and in the wider Kiwanis organization.
As we begin another Kiwanis year, it’s a great time to try us out. Another couple did after reading these articles and discovering what we do with and for children, from elementary age to granting college scholarships to local high school graduates. We meet Thursdays in the Fireside area of Berger Center. Breakfast at 8 a.m. and meeting starts at 8:30. Be our guest for a free breakfast!

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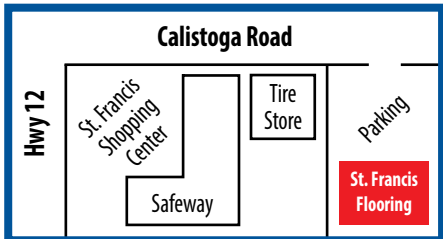
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■Don McPherson

Oakmont Pétanque Club

CELEBRATING ANOTHER GREAT SEASON

With the 2026 Oktoberfest tournament and potluck picnic lunch event in the record books, the Oakmont Pétanque Club is celebrating another successful season. The club's 30th anniversary highlighted the Bastille Day Fête and a full slate of players participated in the Springtime, Bastille Day, and Oktoberfest tournaments with picnic lunches following each tournament. Members enjoyed continuing the tradition of two Evening Pétanque social/play nights in June and August. The gatherings for casual club play on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings often drew near-capacity numbers of players. The bi-weekly club column continues in the *Oakmont News* in addition to regular e-newsletters to members. The club so far has welcomed 12 new members in 2026, expanding its roster to a new record-high 86 members, and looks forward enthusiastically to planning for 2027.



Players in the 2026 Bastille Day Tournament.

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

French in origin, Pétanque (pay-tonk), also known in the United Kingdom as Boules, has been a feature of organized play in Oakmont since the 1980s. The Club, founded as an OVA organization 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. 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. The club has boules to lend while you're learning, and you'll be playing right away. The Pétanque Club has been a no-dues club since its 1996 founding—just sign up to be on the Club roster and play as often as you are able.

Parkinson's Support Group

■Christine Nota

BALANCE AND AGILITY CLASS FOR ALL

The Parkinson's Support Group kindly invites all residents of our community to join our weekly exercise class, which is focused on balance and agility. Who doesn't need it at our age? We all do to stay healthy and accident-free. Although the class was originally designed for Parkinson's needs, we have numerous non-Parkinson's participants who appreciate an active and thoughtful class focused on balance, agility,

and maintaining the kind of movement needed for everyday activities and quality of life. Our instructor is a highly qualified Physical Therapist with PD-Connect, a non-profit based in Marin and Sonoma County. She is very knowledgeable about movement and accommodating all needs and any limitations. The class is donation-based, which supports the non-profit. The class meets every Tuesday at East Recreation, 9:30–10:30 a.m. Just show up ready to move and improve.

Lifelong Learning

■Marlena Tremont

ART IN AMERICA: THE 20TH CENTURY

Instructor: Craig Griffeath
Mondays, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 3–5 p.m., Berger
3-week session. Cost: \$50

A dazzling ride through modern America's visual culture showcasing the Roaring 20's, Abstract Expressionism, Pop and Postmodern Art.

SONOMUSETTE



Friday, November 6, 7 p.m., Berger. Tickets \$25.
Table Seating.

Beneath the light of autumn's glow, you may hear a new tune in the wind. Perhaps the melody of a 1900s Parisian sidewalk cafe? SonoMusette offers Oakmont a concert of timeless tunes in the style of French chanson. Music that reflects the depths of our very souls. You'll hear echoes of French icons Edith Piaf, Yves Montand, Jacques Brel, Charles Trenet, Georges Brassens, and Serge Gainsbourg. Formed in 2016 by Robert Lunceford, accordionist and Mimi Pirard, vocalist. The band is accompanied by Jan Martinelli, piano; Tami Pallington, upright bass; and Kendrick Freeman, drum set. Discover the magic of Paris.

MORE JOY—AMERICAN TUNE



Friday, November 13, 7 p.m., Berger. Tickets \$25.
Theater seating.

Oakmont's home-town band presents the first 250 years of America through musical selections that touch hearts and unite communities. Selections include stirring solos by pianist, Deborah Knapp. Folk songs from the civil rights protest era by guitarist Ann Benson. Musically humorous American tunes from the 1920s and 30s by bass player Chris Finn. And sweet country tunes from a born-in-the-South belle, Iris Harrell. Together, the band carries us into a celebration of light rock and soul from the Temptations. "Our goal as always is to make our audience cry, laugh and feel lifted before they leave the building! Bringing more joy is our mission." 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.



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■Judy Walker

2026–27 CONCERT SERIES STARTS WITH PIANIST KOTARO FUKUMA

It’s hard to believe that our Summer is over—it went so fast but it was great to enjoy some relatively cool weather for the most part, and now that Fall is officially here, we can look forward to another season of Music at Oakmont.

First some sad news. You may or may not have heard about the recent untimely passing of our dear friend Harriet Palk. You all knew Harriet as the smiling face at our front table, greeting everyone as they entered the hall. Harriet always handled the admission process so smoothly and she managed our finances very professionally. She was such a dedicated supporter of Music at Oakmont and we shall miss her greatly.

Subsequently, we need to make some staffing changes. Sally Shoemaker, who has been very capably managing our hosting program for the last few years, has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer and we will be reaching out to find the right candidate to carry on the hosting activities.

I also want to make you aware of some challenges we may be facing during our 2026–2027 concert series. Some of you may be knowledgeable about the ongoing discussions regarding needed upgrades to the Berger Center. Right now, everything is in a state of flux, but one thing seems certain—the current HVAC system is past due for repair and needs to be addressed as a priority. The scope and timing of the entire proposed remodel is yet to be determined. I have been in regular contact with our general manager who is aware of the potential impact on our program. I will be sharing more information with you as it becomes available. I can assure you, one way or another, “the show will go on.”

It seems we can rely on our first concert of the 2026–2027 season taking place at the Berger Center on October 29. It will feature the return of the amazing Japanese pianist Kotaro Fukuma who I’m sure many of you will remember performing a fantastic recital here a few years ago to a completely full hall. I will share more about his program in a future article, but I think it’s safe to say it will include music by Chopin and Liszt and will be a great opening to our new season.

For full details regarding the complete concert schedule and other information, please visit our website, www.musicatoakmont.org.

WHEN: Thursday, October 29 at 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

ADMISSION: \$35 or with Season Pass



Kotaro Fukuma.

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.

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

Tennis Club



■Nani Tosoc

TENNIS PET PEEVES

A beautiful day on the courts, an OTC tennis match with friends and suddenly someone does the thing that irks you the most. You dismiss it—don’t want to spoil the fun; but that little voice inside asks “Why do they constantly do that that?”

We all have tennis pet peeves. A casual survey discovered what those little voices are saying:

Service foot faults—stepping on or over the baseline before the racket hits the ball while serving.

Calling balls out before they land—call “out” only after the ball lands.

Failure to announce the score before serving—it is the server’s responsibility to track the game score and to announce the score before every serve.

Not waiting for readiness on the serve—the server must wait until the receiver is ready and should wait until all (doubles) players are ready. Many start their 2nd serve before the 1st ball has been properly retrieved and players set.

Calling a service ball “in”—unnecessary and leads to confusion. Every ball is by default “in” until called “out”. Oftentimes (because of the propensity of hearing loss amongst OTC players), someone will hear a call made and think it’s an out call, which prematurely ends play, much to everyone’s annoyance.

Court Courtesy—extend courtesy to the players on adjacent courts. Don’t interrupt the adjacent court with a “ball on” when the errant ball is not disrupting play. Don’t crossover (change sides) when play is still in progress on the adjacent court. Don’t enter the adjacent court in the middle of their play.

Scoring: many players prefer traditional scoring (love-15-30-40). Others prefer modern scoring (0-3), especially if playing with “no ads”. Always best to discuss beforehand the scoring format.

Thanks to all the anonymous OTC little voices. (I won’t say who.)

Dancing Is 4 Everyone

■Mariellen Munson

MONDAY NIGHT BERGER LINE DANCING

Oakmont, are you ready for this? Of course you are: a brand new line dance class! It started Monday, September 21. If you missed the first few classes, it is not too late. Come by this Monday to sign up and join the join the fun!

Classes are Monday nights from 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. Come early to sign up and be ready to start the class at 6:15.

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.

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.

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, contact me at (707) 975-8370.

Let’s Dance—Together!

■Terry Whitten

GET READY TO RUMBA IN NOVEMBER!

WHAT: Beginning Rumba Partner Dance Classes

WHEN: Wednesdays, Nov. 4, 11 and 18; 4–5:15 p.m.

WHERE: Lower West Rec.

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

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



In November, come join the fun on Wednesday afternoons and learn the basic steps of the rhythmic Rumba. Rumba is a Latin dance that is danced to slower music. The dance evolved from the Latin music made popular in the United States in the 1930’s by orchestra leaders such as Xavier Cugat. Besides slower Latin music, there are also a lot of contemporary non-Latin songs that Rumba can be danced to including some by Celine Dion, James Taylor, Sting, The Eagles and Taylor Swift. A Rumba can even be danced to some slower Country songs!

No partners or experience are required. Classes will meet for three sessions in November to learn the most basic steps. Each class after the first will build on the material taught in the 1st week. We will rotate partners during the classes, although rotating is optional. Also, any ladies that want to lead and any men that want to follow are very welcome.

Join us for a fun way to get exercise and meet great people. A number of studies have indicated that partner dancing on a regular basis may reduce the possibility of cognitive decline and may actually increase mental acuity. Some even say that “dancing makes you smarter!” It is definitely good for our muscles, balance, brains and spirit!

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

Conservatives Club



■Dennis Gacutan

GOING FORWARD

The new Oakmont Conservative Club wishes to thank Jane Gyorgy, Patti Zapparelli, and all volunteers whose leadership has kept the club active and thriving over the years and built a strong foundation.

Moving forward, members will carry that legacy with new perspectives, while continuing to welcome Oakmont residents and their guests.

Our club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, 4–6 p.m. at the Berger Center. Food and beverages, including alcohol, are welcome.

We are a community with shared interests, particularly at this election time, where we can connect and learn from each other. It’s important that we understand the facts on propositions before us and their potential effects on freedom. Our club has been privileged to host a wide variety of speakers covering everything from health and safety to the latest political issues. Our monthly meetings may feature a guest speaker or a video presentation, followed by questions and discussion, including opportunities to exchange ideas in small groups.

For those interested in more informal conversation, we also gather Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m. at CAC providing an open forum where members can exchange ideas and introduce topics of interest without a formal agenda. As it turns out Oakmont is blessed with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and life experiences, which often leads to interesting and informative discussions.

Whether you’ve attended our events before or are new to Oakmont, I hope you’ll plan to be with us. Questions may be directed to thenewoakmontcc@gmail.com.

Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

TALK YOURSELF INTO THE GOOD LIFE

Inner monologue loops with no feedback. Inner dialogue is a conversation begin between negative and positive. Both can become unhealthy or tools to living a good life.



Diane steps up as substitute.

Neuroscientist Rachael Busman (PsyD) and writer Katherine Martinelli wrote in a Child Mind Institute publication that “brains with a negativity bias are wired to protect us, not from lions, but from failure or social rejection.” However, constant self-judgement can be exhausting. It’s harsh, words hardly ever said to a friend.

Hence the suggestion: become your own mentor with words of encouragement, understanding

and guidance. Self-talk mentoring is being aware, having discipline and practice. It recalls past successes and what it took to achieve them.

Positive self-talk is complimentary. OHI newcomer, Bev says she knows she will stick with the “boot camp” experience because she told a fellow exerciser, “I don’t give up.” Bev just celebrated her 90th.

Negative self-talk often comes from accepting criticism of others, worrying about the future or replaying the past. Unjustifiable criticism or worries that never happen take up too much space in the brain. Let them go. Think: “Relax your jaw, shoulders,” “take a breath,” and “good for me.” If you’ve made a mistake, apologize and then moved on. You can do it again. If the criticism is only the (unsolicited) opinion of another person, consider the source and move on.

Using self-talk in a loving way is freedom itself. Positive self-talk helps to focus on your present task. It leads to self-confidences and control of challenging situations. “You can do this.” Just ask Diane, Deborah and Gill.

Self-talk goes a long way in physical fitness. Start somewhere, but start. Self-talk your way to Berger on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m. for the exercise class your mother never had. Zoom: 850-1489-7161 / 998608.

Strategies for Independence

■Carol Smith

PREVENTING IDENTITY THEFT

By special request, on Monday, October12 we have the State of California Department of Justice presenting ways to Prevent Identity Theft. This will include ID theft / phone scams, theft from lost or stolen ID, internet scammers, and ways we have not yet heard about. The Department of Justice is particularly aware of the prevalence of ID theft among seniors, and our presentation will be focused on that.

Our class will be from 3-4 p.m. in the East Rec. Center, all are welcome.

Call me with questions at (707) 480-1068.



Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey

EXERCISING IN THE POOL IS FUN

Jack and Jill? Fred and Freida? Frog Legs? What are these terms and how will they help you get in shape? You can find the answers with water aerobics at our Water Fitness classes.

Mary is teaching Water Fitness on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the West Rec pool.

Julie’s water exercise class starts at 10 a.m. every Tuesday. Class will be closed on Oct. 20 and 27, and will resume on Nov. 3.

Pauline teaches Water Fitness every Thursday from 9–10 a.m. However, she is currently on vacation and will return to teach on Nov. 5.

There is a drop-in fee of \$10 for any Water Fitness class, all held at the West Rec pool. All fitness levels are welcome!

The benefits of Water Aerobics are:

- Reduces Joint pain
- Increases flexibility and balance
- Improves cardio fitness
- Builds strength
- Decreases bone and muscle loss

Even though the weather is getting cooler the water is toasty warm. There is equipment at the pool to use for the classes. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Strength and Balance Class

■Valerie Hulsey

Mary’s Strength and Balance Classes are in full swing and everyone is welcome to join the class. We meet at 9:30 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.

Meditation

■Joanne Davey

MEDITATING TOGETHER WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

“We are not alive for very long, so we should not put off listening to the inner voice of our heart.”—Lieh Tzu

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

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

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

We approach meditation as a non-denominational practice.

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

Oakmont Craft Guild

■Jan Decock

OAKMONT FALL ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

The Oakmont Fall Arts and Crafts Fair will be held rain or shine on Oct. 17 from 10–3 p.m. at the Berger Center. This indoor/outdoor event will have over 45 talented local Makers, many of whom are Oakmont residents.

There will be Dora’s Mexican Food Truck, delicious baked goods and music. If you’re looking for that perfect gift for yourself or someone else, you’ll most likely find it here. See you then!

For questions, please email me at jdecock99@yahoo.com.

Oakmont Garden Club



■Patty McHugh

SONOMA COUNTY CALIFORNIA NATIVE WILDFLOWERS

WHEN: Wednesday, October 14, 9:30–10 a.m. Social, 10–11 a.m. Presentation, Q&A follows

WHERE: East Rec, 7902 Oakmont Drive

SPEAKER: April Lynch, Member, UCCE Master Gardeners of Sonoma County

Come and enjoy over 125 high-definition, colorful photographs of California native wildflowers growing in Sonoma County. Master Gardener April Lynch will take us on a virtual tour from the Jenner Headlands Preserve, the Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Preserve of Guerneville, the Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Kenwood and the back roads of Sonoma County. Learn how and when to introduce native wildflowers into your own garden and how to collect and preserve seeds to share with your friends.

April Lynch is a native Californian. She is a photographer and paints with watercolor and acrylics; and has co-authored the book *Wildflowers! A Guide to Identifying the Wildflowers in the Wine Country of Northern California*. She has been a UC Davis Master Gardener since 2009 specializing in native wildflowers and oaks.

A life-long hiking enthusiast, April has spent over 15 years researching wildflowers and photographing colorful pictures of scenery and wildflowers found in Colusa, Lake, Marin, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, gathering detailed information on each flower. She knows you will appreciate the diversity and beauty of these wildflowers as she takes you on a virtual tour of Sonoma County backroads. April will illustrate how you can use wildflowers and native plants in your own garden and how to propagate some of them by seed or cuttings.

We are proud to bring our membership another fine program. If you are not a member, please come as our guest and consider joining for 2027. Dues are just \$15 a year per household.

Music at Oakmont



2026–2027 SEASON: CELEBRATING 36
YEARS OF GREAT CHAMBER MUSIC!

THURSDAY, OCT. 29, 2026:
KOTARO FUKUMA, PIANO

SATURDAY, DEC. 5, 2026:
MUSICA PACIFICA

Recorder, Baroque violin, cello/viola da gamba,
harpsichord, percussion

Note: This is a FREE concert kindly sponsored
by The Oakmont Community Foundation.

THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 2027: TRIO CÉLESTE
Piano, violin, cello

SATURDAY, FEB. 20, 2027: SOLODUO
Guitar duo

THURSDAY, MAR. 18, 2027: WINDSYNC
Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn

THURSDAY, APR. 22, 2027:
TELEGRAPH QUARTET
Violins 1 & 2, viola, cello

All concerts start at 1:30 p.m. and take place at
the Berger Center in Oakmont. They are open to
all Oakmont residents and their guests.

Admission is \$35 at the door (cash or check
only). Season passes for 6 concerts are \$140 and
mini-passes for any 3 concerts are \$70.

www.musicatoakmont.org

InvestOAK



■Joe Pundyk and Dave White
■Joseph Pundyk

NO MEETING IN OCTOBER

The Oakmont Investment Club, “InvestOAK” will not have a meeting this October. Our next regular meeting will be November 20, and will feature more ideas for portfolios.

Key prognosticators on CNBC of the U.S. Stock Markets, such as Tom Lee and Ed Yardeni have predicted the S&P end of year averages will increase to 8200 and 7900, respectively by the end of the year, which is about 4.5% and 2.6% higher than the closing price on September 24. The prediction of the continuing Bull Market is just a “prediction,” therefore its prudent to be aware there are issues with the economy and vagaries with the upcoming election.

Given the tumultuous times in the U.S. and World, the price of crude oil and high gasoline prices, the Iran War, prudence makes good sense, especially for the next two months.

We’re looking forward to see our club members on the third Friday of each month with new ideas for your portfolios. Thank you for your continued interest.



Branch #92

■Liz O’Connell

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
TURNS HOUSES INTO HOMES
LUNCHEON AND SPEAKER

All men and women are welcome.
WHEN: Tuesday, October 13 at 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: At the Berger
CATERED LUNCHEON: \$35
SPEAKER: Rachel Jeffries

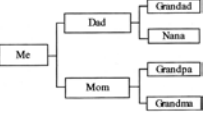
Rachel Jeffries will explain her passion: to help people succeed while ensuring all the pieces come together for Habitat for Humanity in Sonoma County. Hear Rachel describe the process of families getting homes and how it affects our community.

Rachel grew up in the Midwest, attended Sonoma State University, and spent eight years in the wine industry. Her career pivot to Development and Grants Manager at Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County fulfills her desire to coordinate people projects for the Sonoma community.

Also, at SIR 92’s next luncheon event on November 10, Floranne Fanti will talk about K9 companions. We might even have a special guest(s).

Contact Sherry Maggers at smagers9@gmail.com for luncheon menu and reservations.

Genealogy Club



■George McKinney

CENSUS RECORDS—
A FUN WINDOW ON YOUR FAMILY

Our next club meeting is October 26 at 1 p.m. in the Aspen Room at the OVA offices and on Zoom.

We’ll start with a look at the fun you can have reviewing Census Records in the US and Canada. Then we’ll have an open meeting where those attending can discuss their family research.

Our meeting September 28 covered a lot of ground. Patty Girman covered her experience with ChatGPT in finding a lot of information on her Czech family



Jewish Interest Group



■Howard Sidorsky

FUTURE PROGRAMS

We have just finished this year’s High Holy days and now are looking forward to the New Year. What we do have on the calendar in December is Hanukkah with our nightly menorah lighting. Somewhat later we will have the Klezmer band and latke party like last year. Yet to be scheduled is a presentation by the professor from Sonoma State who runs the Jewish Studies Program.

We are still looking for other interesting subjects to present here to the Jewish Interest Group. Your input is welcome. We would still like to create a management council who would work on this independently. Please let me know if you are available to help in this effort.

This afternoon I attended a lecture on Revolutions, and I thought it would be interesting to see how Judaism has had an impact on any revolutions in world history. If anyone has any insight into this, I would be interested in hearing about it. Who knows? Maybe we could get a presentation out of that!

The Jewish Interest Group meets on the third Sunday of the month in the East Rec. Center at 7902 Oakmont Dr. Attendees are encouraged to bring food and drinks to share.

Oakmont Writing
League (OWL)



■Neill Ray

WHEN WE WERE TEN
ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH PARTY

The Oakmont Writers’ League (OWL) invites you to a reading of selected stories from our newly published anthology, “When We Were Ten.” These short stories capture the authors’ lives at age ten—spoiler alert: none of us was raised by June and Ward Cleaver.

Join us for refreshments and a chance to meet many of the authors. Block off 2–4 p.m. on Monday, November 23, at the East Rec Center.

When We Were Ten is available on Amazon, but arrive early to the Berger and you can pick up a signed copy—while supplies last. Proceeds from book sales benefit OWL and children’s charities.

Come for the stories, stay to meet the authors!

Can’t make it in person? Join us on Zoom: Meeting ID 854 7403 9980, Passcode 409566.

Thinking about becoming an OWL yourself? For the past two years, OWL has helped writers develop the creative skills they need to tell their own stories.

2026–2027
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October 1–15

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October 16–21

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

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30 days starting in late-December, 2026 or early January, 2027. 1 or 2 bedrooms. Married couple 65+ with no pets. Email: Jimoasis@Qwestoffice.net.

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OAKMONT FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Will be held on Oct. 17 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Berger Center. This popular indoor/outdoor event hosts 45+ local Makers, many of whom are Oakmont residents. Dora’s Mexican Food Truck and delicious baked goods will also be available. For questions, contact Jan at jdeckock99@yahoo.com.

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PEDICURES

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CELLO LESSONS

Vi Taylor, cellist, new to Oakmont, is looking for cello students or string players interested in making some beautiful music together. Email her at taylor. vms45@gmail.com or call 774-263 2935..

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 18 from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. 30 vendors. 1300 St. Francis Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95409.

■Steve Huntley

2 we officially crossed over the Fall Equinox and now the leaves are falling.

In just four days the Canine Club will host its annual Members' Appreciation Party at the Wild Oak Saddle Club. It is limited to 75 club members, and is likely sold out, but there are sometimes cancellations. So, if you are not a Canine Club member and you would like to join us, it's never too late to check in with Peri at periolinger@yahoo.com to see if there are any tickets left.

The next Canine Club event after the Members'



Becca.

Appreciation Party is the Yappy Hour Dog Walk scheduled for Saturday October 17, 10 a.m., at the West Rec picnic area. All Oakmont residents and their pooches are invited. Your hosts will be Steve, Peri, and Belle. Go at your own pace, walk three miles, two miles or one mile, yap as you like.

As everyone knows, the Happy Tails Dog Park is reserved for small dogs (less than 25 lbs.) from 9-10 a.m. every day of the week through the end of October. Beginning November 1, the reserved play time changes to 3-4 p.m. every day of the week. The next special play date at the dog park is the Doxie/Maltese Play Date on Saturday, October 31, 10 a.m.-

noon.

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



Belle.

Canine Club



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Bunco Ladies Night

■Barbara Wooley

IS BUNCO FOR YOU?

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Photo by Roberta Nelson.

Usual nights are the second and fourth Monday of each month. However, there are exceptions, so always check your Oakmont calendar.

WHERE: Card Room—Central Activity Center

WHEN: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. October dates are Oct. 12 and 26

TIME: 6:45 p.m. (play is about 1-1/2 to 2 hrs.)

FEE: A \$5 fee/night is required for each participant

Contact Jill Butler at (760) 468-1743.

Quilting Bees

■Linda O'Connor

TIME—AND STITCHES—FLY WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN

Both time and stitches fly when you're having fun, and September certainly flew by for the Oakmont Quilting Bees. Was it really only two meetings? With so much shared, celebrated and admired, we could probably meet weekly and still fill the time.

Around town, Bees were making their mark. At the Pointless Sisters show in Occidental, visitors honored our own Cherie and her "Sad Liberty" with Best of Show. Meanwhile, Julia's layered landscape was displayed at a local café.

Back at the hive, creativity took every imaginable form. Sherry's whimsical hand-stitched "Fish Stringer" symbolized abundance and joy, while Linda shared a colorful owl collage begun in a recent class. Kar unveiled a long-in-the-making fabric landscape constructed without glue or fusible—just pins, netting and patience.



Photos by Linda O'Connor.

Carol welcomed fall with two collaged door decorations, while Tomi's bowl cozy had us contemplating hot soup—or, as practical Bees pointed out, keeping ice cream cold! Larry combined quilting and mathematics with his Fibonacci-square star. When he casually mentioned completing one in four hours, a Technique Sharing Workshop was immediately requested.

Traditional quilting was equally well represented. Julia shared yet another completed quilt, this one from a kit discovered at last year's Moonlight Quilters sale. Helen wowed us with a 30-inch turned-appliqué garden bursting with colorful flowers, while Susan's bright baby quilt awaits a very special new grandchild.

Award-winning Janet brought several fair entries: second-place honors for her Japanese-inspired good-luck hanging and blue-green flying-geese piece, plus a first-place ribbon for a softly colored "Crackers" baby quilt. Paula rounded out the season with three Halloween wall hangings cleverly created from one panel.

Finally, Leigh shared a quilt with a story stitched across continents. Her son-in-law's Georgian mother, unable to obtain batting at home, purchased it while visiting the U.S. and later gifted the completed quilt to Leigh in thanks for her help.

Different techniques, different stories, different styles—and one very busy hive! "Creativity is contagious—fortunately, the Bees have no interest in finding a cure."

The Oakmont Quilting Bees meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. For information, contact Liz at (707) 538-2523. Find more quilting wonders at "Pinot and Piecing."





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