

OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/news

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Turkey Drive a Huge Success

■News Staff Report

Generous Oakmonters donated 60 turkeys and \$3,000 cash last month to brighten Thanksgiving for people served by Redwood Gospel Mission.



Three birds headed for Thanksgiving dinners are held by left to right, Susan Chauncy, Katy Vormelker and Carol Pence. (Photo by Kathy Sowers)

"Our community was especially gracious this year," said Susan Chauncy, who started the tradition seven years ago. "We had many people who donated two turkeys and one woman donated three. She said she was blessed in so many ways and was happy to share."

Chauncy and her daughter, 'Katie Vormelker, started collecting turkeys seven years ago after returning from being evacuated during the fires.

Volunteers on a rainy November day in the Berger parking lot this year included Carol Pence, Joy Bellomo and Janice Weeks.

2023 Holiday Facility Hours and Closures

■OVA Staff

The OVA Staff is thankful to be able to work with such wonderful people in a great community and would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season. Please refer to the list below for holiday hours for the OVA office and facilities:

Office Holiday Closures:

Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25 and 26—closed.

Monday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day—closed.

Facility Holiday Hours and Closures:

Sunday, Dec. 24—Open regular times, closing at 5 p.m. including all pools and spas.

Monday, Dec. 25—Christmas—all facilities closed.

Monday, Jan. 1—New Year's Day—all facilities closed.

Oakmont Rainbow Women to Sponsor Toy Drive

■Katy Carrel

Start your holiday shopping early! The Oakmont Rainbow Women are sponsoring an Oakmont-wide toy drive this holiday season to benefit the YWCA Sonoma County (www.ywcasc.org).

Toy drop-off and collection can be made through Dec. 15 at the OVA office during business hours.

There will also be a "drive by" drop-off at the Berger parking lot on Saturday, December 9 from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and then again at the East Rec. on Sunday, December 10 from 9–11 a.m.

Additionally, ORW members can bring unwrapped gifts to the Annual ORW Holiday Party on December 14.

If you prefer, you can schedule a date with ORW for donation pickup. Email ORW at info@oakmontrainbowwomen.com.

According to YWCA Sonoma County CEO Madeleine Keegan O'Connell, the most useful and appreciated holiday donations would be new toys, in new packaging, for ages 0 to 16. Wrapping will be done after parents select appropriate gifts for their kids, so please no wrapping.

The YWCA is a dedicated domestic violence service provider, and operates: 1. The Safe House, a residential program, which provides refuge for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children; 2. the community's only 24/7 Crisis Hotline for victims of domestic violence; and 3. Six childcare locations throughout Sonoma County, including a special therapeutic preschool for kids who have been affected by domestic violence. Locally and nationally, 1 in 4 families will experience violence in the place they should feel safer: within their own homes.

This year's Toy Drive is ORWs' way of giving to this wonderful organization, YWCA Sonoma County. "YWCA serves the needs of children and their parents all year long," Keegan O'Connell shared. "Providing toys and gifts at the holidays meets our needs now and into next year."

At YWCA's shelter a special storage area is set aside for toys which every child visits when arriving for their stay. Choosing from an array of options builds the child's self-worth by giving them the ability to choose for themselves during a time when they are experiencing trauma.

Gift suggestions include gift cards (Target, Safeway, Visa, and gas cards are always a big hit), art supplies (non-gender specific), journals, toys, warm clothes (brand new warm coats for ages 0–adult), hats, scarves and mittens, and umbrellas to name a few ideas.

Rainbow over Oakmont



Photographer Julie Kiil captured this fleeting rainbow over Oakmont last month during the Sonoma County's first big storm of the season.

Community Feedback on Central Complex Area: A Brief Overview

■General Manager Christel Antone, Board Report



In response to a request for community input on two questions related to the Central Complex Area, an analysis was undertaken to gather feedback from the community before engaging a Community Planner. Contrary to a traditional survey, this was an effort to request feedback and

input on two questions:

- How would you improve on any or all of the ideas listed?
- What other ideas do you have about the Central Recreational Complex?

Board President Marianne Neufeld and I individually reviewed all 405 responses. The assistance of our IT coordinator, Colin, utilized AI techniques such as topic modeling and sentiment analysis.

It's noteworthy that while AI had a small role in data processing, the primary reliance was on human analysis. This strategic combination served as a learning experience, showcasing how AI can complement and enhance analytical capabilities when deemed appropriate.

The community feedback revealed a diverse range of opinions, and we extend our gratitude to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts. In the weeks to come, a detailed report will be provided.

Key Dates in OVA Election

January 4—Nominations deadline

March 1—Candidates' Night, 6 p.m. Berger Center

Early March—Ballots mailed to members

March 20—Meet & Greet, 6 p.m. East Rec. Center

April 1—Results announced at annual meeting

Please note the date change of March 20 for the Meet & Greet



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OAK at the VOM Golf Club

■ Hilary Gruendle

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT OAK

Oak will be offering a 3-course menu for Christmas Dinner on December 25.

WHEN: Monday, December 25, starting at 4 p.m.

COST: \$40 per person

MENU: Starter—Choice of Roasted Beet Salad (arugula, red and gold beets, candied pistachios, goat cheese and lemon herb vinaigrette) or Roasted Butternut Squash Soup (curried pumpkin seeds and crème fraîche); Main Course—Choice of Pan Seared 6 oz Filet of Beef (garlic potato puree, butter carrots and red wine demi-glace) or Pan Seared Halibut (garlic potato puree, butter carrots, herb butter sauce) or Butternut Squash Ravioli (brown butter, sage, Parmesan, pomegranate seeds); Dessert—Choice of Flourless Chocolate Cake or Whipped Cream with Berries.

Reservations required. Call today to reserve (707) 539-0415 x 5.

NYE AT OAK WITH THE MAGIC BAND

Celebrate the New Year with dinner and dancing with The Magic Band at OAK on Dec. 31.

WHEN: Sunday, December 31, 6–9:30 p.m.

COST: \$80 per person

TIME: Doors open at 5:45 p.m. with Cash Bar.; Music from 6–9:30 p.m.; Appetizers from 6–6:30 p.m.; Dinner Buffet 6:30–7:15 p.m.; Celebrate the New Year at 9 p.m.; event ends 9:30 p.m.

DINNER MENU: Assorted appetizers; Seared Salmon, Prime Rib, Butternut Squash Ravioli, Grilled asparagus, garlic mashed potatoes, mixed green salad, bread rolls and butter; Flourless Chocolate Cake, mixed berries and whipped cream.

Link to purchase tickets: <https://bit.ly/3DQmIEj>.

DEATH OF A GANGSTER, A 1920S MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

Lucky you! You've been invited to the Dunn Speakeasy for the wedding of the year, taking place on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Valley of the Moon Club. In this "married to the mob" event, you'll never know who to trust. With the two families merging together, someone is bound to lose power, which means someone else will lose their life! Get on the trolley and solve this case with your fellow detectives.

Dress like the cat's meow for this mafia wedding! Flapper dresses, zoot suits, feather boas and headbands, pinstriped suits and fedoras are all appropriate. Traditional wedding attire is nifty too!

5:30 p.m.: Arrival complimentary sparkling wine and learn about the rules of the game

6 p.m.: Buffet dinner is served

6:30 p.m.: Act 1 begins

7 p.m.: The investigation begins

Admission is \$70/person. Ticket price includes buffet dinner, murder mystery and complimentary glass of sparkling wine. Cash bar available during event.

Menu includes: Prime Rib, Au Jus and Horseradish; Salmon with Citrus Beurre Blanc, Grilled Asparagus and Lemon, Butternut Squash Ravioli and Brown Butter Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Green Salad with a Balsamic Vinaigrette, bread rolls and butter, Flourless Chocolate Cake.

To register, call (707) 539-0415, or visit www.playvom.com.

OVA Presents Barbara Higbie & Friends

■ OVA Staff

Tickets are still available to see Barbara Higbie and Friends perform a mix of seasonal and original music on Friday, Dec. 15. Held at the Berger Center, doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the event starts at 6. Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at the OVA office.



A Grammy nominated Windham Hill pianist, vocalist and fiddler, Barbara Higbie has performed on more than 100 albums, including songs with Carlos Santana and Bonnie Raitt.

Performing with Barbara Higbie on Dec. 15 will be Mia Paxley, Vicki Randle, Michaelle Goerlitz, and Dwayne Pate. For a look at Barbara Higbie and her music, visit barbarahigbie.com.

Christmas Bird Count in Oakmont

■ News Staff Report

The annual Oakmont Christmas Bird Count week begins Wednesday, December 14 and continues through December 20. Be on the lookout for Western Screech and Great Horned Owls; Pileated Woodpeckers with their wild call and stealth, swift flight; and Say's Phoebe and Western Blue Birds, especially around the Community Garden. Varied Thrush tend to move in the canopy, but winter is when they will show up on the ground on the Oak Mesa ridge in Oakmont as well.

At the Channel Drive pond you may find Great and Snowy Egrets, Belted King Fisher, Mergansers, waders such as Great Blue Heron and Green Heron, and perhaps Burrowing Owls.

What species will be found and counted this year? Meet with other bird lovers on Sunday, December 17 at 8:30 a.m. at Berger Center Parking lot.

To report CBC week birds or join in the count, email mojobird22@gmail.com.



New to Oakmont?

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

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

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Hikers



■Scott Finn

We welcome you to join us on a hike whether you are a member yet or not and the annual membership is only \$15. Go to our website at www.oakmonthikingclub.org to join the club, get more hike details, club information, photos and lots more.

Please keep checking our website for updates.

INTERMEDIATE HIKE—DECEMBER 14 WARREN RICHARDSON TRAIL AROUND LAKE ILSANJO

We will start at the Warren Richardson Trailhead. From there we wind our way up and down and around Lake Ilsanjo. Then we'll take the Louis Trail and connect with North Burma back to Warren Richardson trail, and finish down on Steve's S Trail back to the parking lot. It's a bit of a roller coaster hike, but none of the hills (up or down) are really steep. Approx. 6.5 miles at a moderate pace.

Bring water, snack/lunch and poles. Meet at Berger and depart 9 a.m. Rain or shine but heavy rain cancels. Hike leaders are Jody Galli, (763) 213-3076 and Colleen Keegan, (925) 487-4014.

LONG HIKE—DECEMBER 14 MUIR BEACH/DIAS RIDGE LOOP



Dias Ridge Trail.

The hike is a loop from the Muir Beach parking area, taking in valleys and hills with great views. This year we plan an extension to make it about 8.5 miles and

1400 ft. elevation gain by ascending, including some steps, through the hamlet of Muir Beach perched on a bluff to the awesome Muir Beach overlook. From there a trail descends by switchbacks and picks up the previous route again in the Redwood Creek valley. The charismatic Pelican Inn may be open to reward our travels <https://www.pelicaninn.com/about/>

About a 1 hour and 15 min. drive from Oakmont. Meet at the Berger Parking lot at 8.30am, and bring water, lunch, poles and dress in layers for the coast. Hike leader is Martin Johns, (330) 815-5167.

LONG HIKE—DECEMBER 21 HOOD MOUNTAIN TO THE SUMMIT WITH VIEWS OF THE VALLEY

We will be rewarded with both Sonoma and Napa County views of the Mayacamas Mountains. On the trail leading to the summit there will be panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and distant mountain ranges.

Fellow hiker, Carleen Lawson/Clawson will be joining us to share some stories of the area surrounding Hood Mountain. Her family previously owned and passed on the property to the land trust.

We will hike Lower Johnson Ridge Trail to Pond Trail to Upper Johnson Ridge, up to the top of Hood Mountain to Gunsight Rock. We'll have a break at the top and return on the Summit Trail to Hood Mountain and Panoramic Ranch Trails. It's about 7.5 miles and 1900 feet elevation.

Bring water, snack/lunch and poles if you use them. Heavy rain cancels. Hike leaders are Peggy Clark, (650) 274-4137 and Colleen Keegan, (925) 487-4014.



Hood Mountain Vista.

Just For Fun Games Club

■Phillip Herzog

COME TO THE GAMES CLUB FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Are you looking for a New Year's Resolution that you can succeed with? Resolve to take a break from life now and then and play games! Resolve to make new friends. Resolve to learn new games. Well, for that matter, don't resolve anything and come join us anyway!

This year we will again be having our annual NYE Party. It will be at Upper West Rec. It will begin with a social potluck at 6 p.m., then games about 7 p.m., and at 9 p.m. we welcome in the new year. Please plan to bring an appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert to share. Bring your own beverage, plates and service; or paper and plastic will be available.

Up-to-date Covid vaccination is suggested and masks are optional.

For questions or to RSVP, send an email to: Just4FunGamesClub@earthlink.net.

ABOUT THE JUST FOR FUN GAMES CLUB:

The Just for Fun Games Club is a great place to make friends and play all sorts of old and new games including board games, card games, tile games and dice games! We meet every Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Card and Game Room at the CAC. There are multiple games being played at the same time, so you will always be able to choose what game you want to play. It's never too serious—because we play games Just for Fun!

Sometimes we play online. To do so, we use Zoom for communication and the website Board Game Arena for the games. We send out a weekly email notice, so if we will be on zoom, we'll let you know.

The club has a large collection of games on hand and players often bring new and different games as well. We like to teach how to play the games too. Everyone is welcome to come and have a good time at the Just for Fun Games Club. For more information contact us at Just4FunGamesClub@earthlink.net or me at (707) 843-3053.

PAN (PANGUINGUE)

PAN now has its own club. They usually meet twice a month. Check it out!

HAND AND FOOT

We play Hand and Foot in person each week. Please come and join us. The more players, the better the experience! If you would like to learn to play Hand and Foot send us an email so we can schedule lessons, Just4FunGamesClub@earthlink.net.

BOARD AND CARD GAMES

As stated above, we play lots of other games too, including board games, card games and tile games. What would you like to play? Learn how to play new games, or teach us how to play your game!

Some of our favorite games are: Wingspan, Catan, Ticket to Ride, Splendor, Cubirds, Rummykub, Saint Petersburg, Azul. There are so many games out there to play, something for everyone.

Star of the Valley

■Pete Hardy

BINGO IS BACK

Bingo begins again at Star of the Valley on Tuesday, January 9 beginning at 4 p.m. Ten games will be played followed by dinner at approximately 5:30 p.m. It is important to arrive between 3:30 and 3:45 in order to get your bingo cards and meal tickets prior to the first game being called.

Dinner this month will be Senate Bean Soup, corn bread, garlic bread and dessert. Cost of the meal is \$10. Bingo cards are \$2 each.

All are welcome for both bingo and dinner or if you don't play bingo come for dinner.

Pickleball Corner



■Peter Copen

BILL GATES LOVES PICKLEBALL

According to Forbes, Gates is worth \$117 billion and made the bulk of his fortune with Microsoft. The 68-year-old said he was "relatively better at pickleball because I've been playing so long compared to other people." His fondness for pickleball means you can often spot Gates attending tournaments as a keen spectator. For example, last spring, he went along to the BNP Paribas Tournament at Indian Wells, California.

In an article published last year he admitted he had been "a little stunned—and delighted" by the sudden popularity of one of his favorite pastimes. He called it "a game with a funny name and strange terminology, such as, 'dink,' 'kitchen,' and 'skinny singles.'"

"I look forward to playing a pickleball game with friends and family at least once a week and more often during the summer," the self-proclaimed "pickler" said at the time. Gates said he got his start playing pickleball after his father had a court built at the family's house, largely because of his dad's friendship with pickleball inventors. He also mentions how the pickleball community was very small at the time and that there were probably only about a thousand people playing it exclusively in the Seattle area when he and his family took up the hobby.

He certainly didn't think back then it would ever become a national phenomenon. He went on to say: "I don't know exactly what's driven this recent surge in interest in pickleball, but I think the fact that it's so easy to play is one big reason. People like to say a lot of sports—even hard ones like golf—are 'easy to play,' but in the case of pickleball, it's true."

The Microsoft co-founder also surmised that more people are playing the sport because it's accessible to "everyone from the super young to the super-old. It takes minutes to learn the basics, games are short, and all you need is a net, paddle, and ball to get started. It doesn't take much skill to hit the ball, either, because it doesn't move as fast as a tennis ball."

He sums it all up nicely by finishing with: "The best thing about pickleball, however, is that it's just super fun."

(Excerpts for this article are from pickleballunion.com, 11-27-03)

New Player Orientation: 9 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. Arrangements can be made by contacting Nancy Lande at (707) 978-2998 to schedule a session. Call Jim Howard at (209) 761-8517 for demo loaner.



Cartoon by Peter Copen.

Canine Club

■Jean Nattkemper

WHY JOIN THE CANINE CLUB

The Dog Park, available to all Oakmont residents, is complemented by the Canine Club, which offers members, for a small fee, significant benefits.

- A chance for you and your dog to socialize with other dogs and owners.
- A weekly newsletter featuring dog-related activities in and outside of Oakmont as well as articles on wellness, training, and behavior.
- An annual Spring Picnic with free food and prizes for active members.
- An annual Dog Show offering discounted rates to active members.
- An annual Member Appreciation Party offering food, drink, and prizes.



To access the benefits, join the 170-plus members of the club or renew your membership. Those who send membership dues between now and December 31 of this year pay \$10 for individuals and \$16 for households. Beginning in January 2024, the fee is \$12 for individuals and \$20 for households.

Please make a check payable to the Oakmont Canine Club, and place it in the Canine Club folder in the OVA Office.

YAPPY HOUR DOG WALKS

Open to all Oakmont residents and all dog breeds and sizes, these are self-paced walks of about 1 to 2 miles. Bring water for yourself and your pup, and wear comfortable walking shoes.

DATE: Monday, December 11 **TIME:** 10 a.m.

WHERE: West Rec Parking Area

DATE: Friday, December 22 **TIME:** 10 a.m.

WHERE: East Rec Parking Lot



GOINGS-ON AT THE DOG PARK

Bring your balls, frisbees, and discs to the Big Dog Play Date on Saturday, December 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all dogs of 30 pounds or more.

For dogs less than 25 pounds, the park is reserved from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Sunday and every Wednesday. Thank you for respecting the safety concerns of small dog owners by observing this 2-hour window each week.

A few reminders. Please remember not to bring dog treats, food, or drink of any kind other than water into the Dog Park. Also watch your dog and be ready to use the waste bags and receptacles located throughout the park.

AN HOUR WELL SPENT

Volunteer docents keep the Dog Park safe and healthy by spending 1 hour each week cleaning up and reporting, if necessary, maintenance and human or dog behavioral issues to Peri Olinger. Please help out. To do so, contact Peri at periolinger@yahoo.com or (707) 479-6961.

RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG

The club website (www.oakmontcanineclub.org) lists upcoming events in and outside of Oakmont and resources such as pet sitters, dog walkers, groomers, dog-friendly restaurants, etc.

Listings of all the 2024 Woofers Walks and 2024 Dog Park playdates also appear on the site.

Your dog will appear in the Gallery if you send a photo to Steve Huntley at shuntley@huntleyenvironmental.com.

Playreaders

■D. Hall

DECEMBER CELEBRATED BY HOLIDAY READINGS

Inspiring holiday readings brightened the day on December 4, thanks to Oakmont Playreaders. Jim Preston, Ginny Smith, and Sandy White recited *The Gift of the Magi*, *A Cup of Christmas Tea*, and a monologue about a Jewish Santa.

The holiday cheer continues on December 11 as Playreaders gather for Jim Preston's reading of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. The three Mondays following this reading will be dark for Playreaders, but the new year will be welcomed on January 8 with D. Hall's staging of the raucous one-act comedy, *Complaint Department and Lemonade*, by Kamron Klitgaard. It features Marcel Coder, Star Power, and Jeff Sheff.

No shows are planned thereafter until February, when comedies return.

Join us the first two Mondays of every month (except January) in Room B of the Central Activities Center at 2 p.m. Remember, you must be seated before the curtain is lifted at 2 p.m.

Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

RULES: PICKING UP THE CIRCLE PREMATURELY

What happens if a team picks up the circle when there are still boules to throw? The Rules expressly require that a player must always mark the position of the circle before placing the cochonnet and further provide: "If a player picks up the circle when there are boules still to be played, the circle is replaced but only the opponents are allowed to play their boules."



L to R: Steven Payette, Ellean Huff and Margi Nielsen in the circles of their respective games during the Oktoberfest tournament.

In umpired matches, a player who receives a warning will have one boule disqualified upon receipt of a second warning. A player who fails to mark the position of the circle is given a warning. A player who picks up the circle when there are boules left to be played also is given a warning. If the location was not marked, the umpire will replace the circle as near the original location as the umpire can determine.

In casual play where often the circle isn't marked and there is no umpire, the circle still must be replaced, with both teams agreeing upon the location, so the opposing team can throw its remaining boules.

Valley of the Moon Rotary Club

■Star Power

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

Valley of the Moon Rotary wish their friends and neighbors a very healthy, cheery holiday season. Stay warm and enjoy your travels, family and friends. Remember to share your good cheer with those less fortunate.

VOM Rotary takes a break in December so our members can enjoy the season to regroup and think about what the New Year will bring. We're all certainly hoping for a peaceful, healthy 2024 and we hope you will join us to see what exciting things we'll be doing to make the New Year a better one.

As I sign off for 2023, I just wanted to leave you with this reminder:

The four principals of Rotary are: 1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships? 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

So, come and visit VOM Rotary in the New Year. Our first meeting will be Thursday, January 4 at the East Rec Center. The meeting starts at 8 a.m., but come earlier to get to know us and have some coffee and a bite.

From all of us to all of you—Happy New Year 2024!

FRENCH UMPIRES THREATEN WALKOUT

Although the minds-eye image of Pétanque is a peaceable game played by retirees with little more conflict than occasional "trash talk," top level national and international tournaments in Europe have sometimes suffered from "bouliganisme" among players (and sometimes fans), usually fueled by excessive alcohol consumption.

Recently an umpire in his 60s from the Gironde region was strangled by an inebriated player according to a report in *The Telegraph* (UK). "He went berserk. He tried to grab me and threatened to kill me several times," said the umpire-victim. In response, a group of 26 umpires ("arbitres") from the Gironde have threatened to boycott the French National Championship qualifiers unless appropriate preventive action is taken.

French clubs frequently have bars and raise income by selling alcohol during matches. Since 2019, alcohol consumption during tournament matches has been strictly limited, but there are few enforcement mechanisms. "We don't know if we'll go all the way yet," a spokesperson for the protesting umpires stated, "but something has to be done."

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

The club encourages all Oakmonters who may be interested in playing or learning to play pétanque (pay-tonk) to come to the courts between Berger and the OVA offices at 9:45 a.m. on the Club play days of Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. The club has boules to lend while you're learning, and you'll be playing right away. No dues are required—just sign up to be on the Club roster.

Club play days are casual friendly games with teams randomly assigned. 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.



Reserve Your Spot for the Civil Rights Tour

■September Holstad

The Travel and Adventure Club is looking to form a group of Oakmont travelers for a Civil Rights Tour with Road Scholar, taking place in November 2024. If we are able to gather at least 18 people, we will be able to make this happen. To reserve your spot, please contact Susan Bisbee at susan.bisbee@icloud.com or Doris Pummill at joepummill@mac.com. Deadline to respond is Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Please read on to learn more about this trip.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: ATLANTA, MONTGOMERY, SELMA, BIRMINGHAM SUNDAY, NOV. 17 TO SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 2024

Program Overview:

Journey south into the heart of the civil rights movement to gain a deeper understanding of the historic and continued struggle for racial equality in the United States. Follow in the footsteps of the venerable Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his legendary marches, and hear the moving story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott.

Walk across the Selma Bridge with an activist who took part in the peaceful protest that devolved into unforgivable violence known as "Bloody Sunday." Pay homage at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church as you learn the story of the victims of the 1963 KKK bombing. Study how these catalysts ignited a movement that would define this pivotal moment in American history, and discuss how they echo through the racial climate in America today.

Program Highlights:

- Commemorate the central figures of civil rights on field trips to the Rosa Parks Museum, Georgia State Capitol and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site.
- Follow the path of heroic marches through Atlanta and Birmingham and from Selma to Montgomery, now a National Historic Trail.
- Learn from an activist who was a witness and participant in some of America's most significant civil rights battles.

Program Prices: (small group—minimum 18/maximum 24): Double Occupancy \$3,049; Single Occupancy: \$3,769.

Program Prices Include: 7 nights of accommodations, 17 meals (7 B, 5 L, 5 D), 5 expert-led lectures, 15 expert-led field trip, 2 performances, Group travel and transfers throughout the program, a Group Leader to accompany you throughout the program to handle all logistics; customary gratuities, taxes and destination fees; The Road Scholar Assurance Plan, including 24-hour assistance for medical and other emergencies.

Activity Level: On Your Feet—this program involves walking up to two miles daily over uneven terrain. Standing for lectures in museums up to an hour. Some historical structures have stairs/no elevator.

Accommodations: Hyatt Place Buckhead Atlanta, Atlanta, 3 nights; Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa, Montgomery, 2 nights; Hampton Inn & Suites Birmingham-Downtown-Tutwiler, Birmingham, 2 nights.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Due to the holidays, there will be no Travel and Adventure Club meeting in December.

Happy holidays to all and see you in the New Year!



■Ray Haverson

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

WHEN: Sunday, December 31

WHERE: Berger Center

TIME: Doors open at 4 p.m.; appetizers from 4:30–5:30 p.m.; buffet dinner from 6–7 p.m. (approx.); music from 7:30–11 p.m. (approx.)

COST: \$ 128 per person (sorry the costs have gotten so expensive)

MUSIC: The fabulous Poyntlyss Sisters (back by popular demand). They will perform for 3 hours, playing some of the best music in or out of the entire Bay Area. They are fantastic.

MENU: Prime Rib, Chicken Chardonnay, Green Salad, roasted vegetables, Potatoes Au Gratin, Pesto pasta, rolls and butter, Chocolate Tuxedo Cake and a Citrus Cake as well; coffee and lemon water.

We have lots of room to dance, if you desire. Do not miss it. Yes, you can bring your friends and neighbors—come one, come all, let's have a ball!

This is our best party of the year and you will not want to miss it! Make your reservations early as this party sells out very fast. Last year we had 195 attend and a wait list of 49 people, so do not get left out.

Please make your checks out to Sha-Boom Events Club, include a note with the names at your table, and place in our folder in the OVA office (if you do not have all the names you may pay for the seats and give me the names later). Please remember, no refunds. You may also mail them to Ray and Marie Haverson at 7111 Oakleaf Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409, or drop them in the mail slot (right side of garage door).

Any questions, feel free to call me at (707) 539-6666 or e-mail haversonr@comcast.net.

See you all there!

Men of Oakmont

■Gordon Freeman

SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The Men of Oakmont men's group is seeking a few new members interested in exploring aging issues with other men in a bi-weekly group meeting. Potential problems of you or your spouse/partner's health, physical as well as mental challenges, loss of mate, and other changes and other challenges in our senior years are all issues we discuss. If you are lacking a forum to discuss men's issues with other men in a safe and confidential place, we have an opening at this time.

We meet twice a month for two hours on the first and third Mondays from 1–3 p.m. in the Aspen conference room in the OVA office to help and support the members of our group that would like to share their issues and receive feedback. There are no attendance requirements, dues or fees. Our group is non-religious and non-political.

The Oakmont Men's Group began in September 2011 as a support group for men in Oakmont. The group is open to all men in Oakmont married, single, straight or gay.

Our facilitator has had ten years of experience with the Marin Suicide Hot Line as well as three years as a facilitator with the Center of Attitudinal Healing in Sausalito working with health issues for the individual or spouse/partner.

If interested please contact me at 538-7025 or e mail at gordonfreedman36@yahoo.com to discuss your joining our group.

Oakmont Ukesters



■Florentia Scott

MID-WINTER SING-ALONG AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Everyone's invited to the Oakmont Ukesters' second annual Mid-Winter Sing-along and Holiday Celebration on Tuesday, December 19, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., upstairs at the West Recreation Center.

We'll start by singing you a selection of holiday favorites. Lyrics will be projected onto a screen so you can sing along. Or just sit and be entertained if you prefer. Then please join us afterwards for refreshments and camaraderie.

The Oakmont Ukesters are a group of enthusiastic ukulele players ranging from brand-new tutorial graduates to experienced players. Our primary objective is to relax and have fun making music together. That's our only objective, actually, so come sing and celebrate the season with us.

Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Priscilla Roslyn

DECEMBER MIXER ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY/GIFT EX- CHANGE

DATE AND TIME: Friday, December 15, 6 p.m.

WHERE: East Recreation Center

At this festive time of the year, let's come together for holiday spirit, friendship and camaraderie. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and BYOB. Our very own member, Louise Bettner, will entertain us with her piano talent, and perhaps the opportunity for a sing-along.

Once again, we will have a White Elephant Gift Exchange, so either re-gift from home or wrap a gift (no more than \$15) to bring. It is always so much fun to see who will not open their gift, and retain it, or who will open it, offering the opportunity to steal.

If so desired, wear Festive Attire or Ugly Sweaters. Don't forget to wear your name badges. Come to have fun!

If attending for the first time, please provide proof of Covid vaccination. RSVP by December 11 to me, proslin49@aol.com.

No Bon Appetit in December and January. Save the date for February 1.

Are you single and live in Oakmont? Our club has monthly mixers, always here in Oakmont, and Bon Appetit's at a variety of local restaurants ten months out of the year. Membership (\$12) and badge (\$10) forms can be found in the Singles' folder at the OVA office. Just complete the forms and place them with your checks payable to OSSC in the appropriate envelopes.

If you join now, your membership will be good through December 2024. Another perk? We reserve tables for Singles at Boomer events! Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to meet, mix, and mingle with like-minded Singles here in Oakmont.

Silver Guys of Oakmont

■D. Hall

Silver Guys of Oakmont will throw themselves a holiday drop-in on Wednesday, December 20. We will occupy the East Rec. Center from 2–4 p.m. on that day. Bring an appetizer and beverage to share, this will not be a meal potluck.

This event provides an opportunity for gay men in Oakmont to enjoy non-political social, educational and community service activities. All men in Oakmont are welcome.



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2023 Winter Warmth Coat Drive

November 15—December 22

Drop-off Box at McBride Realty

6520 Oakmont Drive (at the entrance to Oakmont)

Receive one raffle ticket for each coat you donate & enter to win a bottle of wine & a \$100 gift basket full of goodies for your holiday get togethers. Drawing will be held December 22.



*Please go through your closets & donate your extra coats to those in need. Ask your family & friends to help donate too!
We will be collecting coats for men, women & children.*



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Oakmont Garden Club



■Patty McHugh

**PRESSED FLOWER WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 9:30-11:30 AM
EAST REC., 7902 OAKMONT DRIVE**

The Oakmont Garden Club does not hold a general meeting in the month of December, a month filled with holiday celebrations and a time for gatherings of family and friends. We are, however, offering another Pressed Flower Workshop for those interested in learning a new craft and perhaps creating a special gift for someone special.



The pressed flower workshop is conducted by the talented Jan Lochner of Sebastopol. Each participant will leave with at least five items including a bookmark, a note card, an ornament and a magnet. Jan arrives with trays and trays of colorful pressed flowers and all the materials you need to complete your items.

The cost of the hands-on workshop is \$35 per person and enrollment is limited. The workshop is open to all Oakmont residents, however, Garden Club members have priority. If you would like to attend, place your check, made payable to Oakmont Garden Club, in our folder at the OVA office. Your check is your reservation. Checks received after the class has filled will be returned.



**OAKMONT
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■Greg Fauss

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

It's nearly second Advent. Christmas is a few weeks away. There's much to do. Decorating, parties, cards, shopping. We can feel our blood pressure rising. It all seems normal for this time of the year. A necessary price for the holidays. But must it be this way?

The Christian Advent tradition encourages us toward something different: slowing down, waiting and reflecting. What is Christmas? Why did God visit us? What is my posture toward God? What are my needs and those of others? Who might I help? What is God trying to say to me?

Join us the next two Sundays as we consider the God who comforts and shows favor. And then join us on Christmas Eve Morning at 10:30 a.m. for a very special service that will hopefully put you in good spirits for Christmas.

Our Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. in the East Rec. Center at 7902 Oakmont Dr.

For more information about our Wednesday morning Bible study, Saturday Prayer, and special events please visit our website at www.occsantarosa.org, write us at occsantarosa@gmail.com or call at (707) 595-0166.



Celebrate the Early Years of Rock & Roll

■OVA Staff

Great Balls of Fire, get ready to dance the night away! The OVA is excited to welcome Jared Freiburg & The Vagabonds on Friday, February 2 when they perform hits by some of the 1950s and 1960s music pioneers. In this time capsule of a night, expect to hear songs from Elvis to Sinatra to Jerry Lee Lewis as the multi-genre trio brings down the house.

Having played the piano since age five, Jared Freiburg is no stranger to honky tonk and jazz. He grew up loving the golden oldies, but it wasn't until he discovered Jerry Lee Lewis in his teens that his musical career took a serious turn. Freiburg studied Lewis's music and style, drawing inspiration from the piano-pounding singer, eventually portraying his musical hero in a musical tour aboard a cruise ship.

Jared Freiburg & The Vagabonds are now bringing this tour on land, with the Berger Center as the next stop on February 2. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the event starts at 6. This is a BYOB & snacks event, and there is no reserved table seating. Tickets are \$30 per person and are available now at the OVA office.



Community Acupuncture
Every Friday, 3-6pm
\$55 or 6 sessions for \$300

Each 40-minute session includes quick consultation and a pulse and/or tongue reading to determine your health needs.

This is a great time to try acupuncture and get your health questions answered. *Reservations highly recommended.*

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Ladies Bunco Night

■Barbara Wooley

JOIN THE FUN AT BUNCO NIGHT!

Looking for a fun, low stress indoor activity for the winter? Come on over and try Bunco—the fun, easy, no-skill-required dice game. Not only is Bunco a lot of fun, but players also have the opportunity to win cash prizes. In what other game can a player literally win for losing?

Beginners are always welcome. Bring a friend!

There will be snacks!

Usual nights are the second and fourth Monday of each month; however, there are exceptions, so always check your Oakmont Events Calendar. The next Bunco night is on Monday, Dec. 11. Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. for check-in. Games run from 7–9 p.m.

WHERE: Card Room, Central Activity Center

WHEN: Second and fourth Monday of each month (check Oakmont Events Calendar)

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jill Butler, (760) 468-1743; email jillvannili@sbcglobal.net



*Bunco Ladies!
(Photo by Barbara Wooley)*

Party for the Planet: How to Green Up Your Holiday Celebration

■Carolyn Greene and Lesli Lee, Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Committee

Here in Oakmont, there are several wonderful holiday activities available to engage in—from warm coat, toy and food donation drives to special events at Oakmont facilities where gatherings around friends and food abound. This season can be a time of joy and celebration, but it can also be a time of excess and waste. From discarded food scraps to mountains of paper and plastic waste, the holiday season produces a staggering amount of trash. Thankfully, there are plenty of easy, simple solutions to reduce waste, all year-round, but especially now around the holidays.

At home, we can avoid single-use items. Real dishware and utensils, and cloth table covers (which can also be borrowed or rented) are always more beautiful and festive than throw-away. When single-use items cannot be avoided, purchase party supplies made with “post-consumer (recycled) content,” often found at local grocery and chain stores. We’re fortunate enough to have a Sonoma County company, Worldcentric, that offers earth-friendly party supplies like uncoated paper, fiber, and bamboo utensils. In our

Curbside collection of holiday trees will take place Dec. 26–Jan. 6 on your Recology service day. After these dates, trees can be cut to fit inside your green bin with the lid closed.



area these are compostable by Recology; bio-based PLA plastics are not. <https://www.worldcentric.com>

At group events in OVA facilities, each of us can be sure we can match our trash to the proper container. Recyclable items (such as cans and bottles) go in the blue bin, landfill waste in trash containers. When too many recyclables are mixed with trash, the entire load gets contaminated, may not get hand sorted and might all get landfilled. To lower food waste-created methane we would love to see food waste composted in all our facilities. OVA even offers real tableware and dishwasher loading help from maintenance staff. Recology also has “Resources for a Zero Waste Event.” <https://www.recology.com>

Together in Oakmont let’s show our care for each other and for our home planet.



Movies At Oakmont

WHERE: Berger Center

SCREENING DAY AND TIME: Sundays

HOSTS: Al and Carol Haggerty, Mike McInnis, Jeff Neuman and Deborah Davidson.

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

DECEMBER 10 AT 2 PM A HAUNTING IN VENICE

In post-World War II Venice, Poirot, now retired and living in his own exile, reluctantly attends a seance. But when one of the guests is murdered, it is up to the former detective to once again to uncover the killer. 2023, PG-13, 1:43,



DECEMBER 17 AT 2 PM THE CREATOR

Against the backdrop of a war between humans and robots with artificial intelligence, a former soldier finds the secret weapon, a robot in the form of a young child. 2023, PG-13, 2:13.



DECEMBER 24—NO MOVIE

DECEMBER 31—
SHA BOOM EVENT



Contact
Craig Lawson
craig@calcbs.com
for details or an application.

Membership applications are now being accepted for the 2024 Valley of the Moon Saturday Club. Come and join us every Saturday, when we play individual games, 2-person games and 4-person games. *Membership is only \$30.00.*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OAKMONT GARDENS!



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Community Carol Sing

Sunday, December 17

4:00 p.m. at Kenwood Plaza Gazebo (indoors if raining)

Hot Chocolate at the Church afterwards



Sunday, December 24

4:30 p.m. Christmas Music
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Carol Service

Kenwood Community Church

Regular worship service on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

United Church of Christ

9637 Channing Row at Warm Springs Road
Kenwood, CA 95452

www.kenwoodcommunitychurch.info

Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

PARTYING AND EXERCISING IN DECEMBER

December partying and December exercising have some things in common. They both support health.

December celebrations (Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Bodhi Day) are opportunities for connecting with friends and family. Tradition and rituals highlight values and priorities.

Lighting Advent, Menorah, Kinara or Vaasa candles symbolize hope, faith, love, strength, commitment, enlightenment, family. Lighting candles is a form meditation or prayer and offers personal calm for the holiday frenzied.

Though Oakmont Health Initiative does not light candles, classes are a form of meditation. According to exerciser Cindy, "I concentrate only on the exercises. Blocking out everything that seemed to bother me before class puts me in a positive mood for the rest of my day. I love it!"



Cary celebrates while exercising. (Photo by Charlene Bunas)

Cool-downs that end each session is another meditation, using deep breathing and single focus concentration. Both OHI instructors include valuable cool-downs as part of class workouts.

Whether lighting candles for December celebrations or taking OHI classes, recognizing the single focus each offers is good for health, heart and happiness.

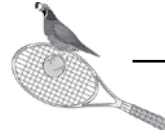
December celebrates religious and spiritual leaders, guiding principles and moral compasses. OHI classes celebrate personal health. A mug of cider, light from candles, a moment of reflection; and then, a celebration of physical movement, a quieting cool-down: December is a month for healthy balance.

Meeting ID: 849 7221 1947. Passcode: 558819.



Inspirational message. (Photo by Charlene Bunas)

Tennis Club



■Jack Breibart

JANUARY 10, 2024 THE WINTER SOCIAL

The months of texts, emails, phone calls and face-to-face meetings are over. The hard-working Tennis Club Board is announcing all the nitty gritty for its Winter Social on January 10, 2024.

PLACE: Wild Oak Saddle Club, 550 White Oak Drive
TIME: 5–8:30 p.m.

COST: \$60 per person

MENU (BUFFET STYLE): An assortment of appetizers, Caesar salad, seasonal vegetables, macaroni and cheese and salmon and New York strip steak.

This can be washed down with beverages of your choice, including the amazing price of \$5 for no-host cocktails. In another amazing gesture, you can bring your own bottle of wine and it will be opened free of

charge.

Music for those who want to dance or just sip wine (or other things) and listen will be by the local Second Street Band, who they tell us, are "four dedicated professional musicians all with over 40 years of experience entertaining audiences around the country." Both rooms of the Saddle Club will be open to accommodate the multitudes who will be dancing.

The event is open to all Oakmont Tennis Club members and their significant others. The event capacity at the Saddle Club is 80.

You can put your money down for the event and sign up at the Oakmont Village Association by asking that your check be placed in the OTC folder.

Still have questions? Email hellooakmonttennis@gmail.com. for answers.



A belated thanks to Board member Maureen Pennal for her notes on the board meeting of November 13, which were the basis for the article in the last edition of the *Oakmont News*. Also, that article in the News misstated the date of the Winter Social. It is January 10, not January 19.

The Oak Saddle Club will be the site of Winter Social. (Photo by Jack Breibart)



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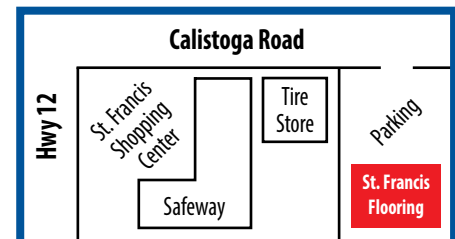
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Current Events Discussion Group



■Tina Lewis

Every Friday from 1–2:30 p.m. Current Events meets at the East Rec. There is Zoom available for those who can't attend in person.

There's a lot to talk about, from Oakmont to Santa Rosa to California to national to international. Look for special reports and in-depth issues discussed from opposing points of view. Another innovation is our social gatherings following the meetings. We meet at a place determined at the end of each meeting for Happy Hour. The Oak in Oakmont has become a favorite.

If you are not on the Zoom mailing list and wish to be, email tinalewis31@comcast.net or call (707) 758-9739.

Meditating Together

■Joanne Davey

OAKMONT WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

We invite you to join one or both of our weekly drop-in meditation sessions which have been taking place for many years. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome. We approach meditation as a non-denominational practice.

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

Tuesdays: 4 p.m. in the CAC Building, Art Room. A 30-min. meditation.

If you have questions, please contact: Trisha Mitchell, (650) 255-4026, or Liz Buckley, (707) 538-3235.

Men's Bible Study

■Lou Lacson

ANOTHER HOLIDAY SEASON IS UPON US

Holiday hype? The media focuses on big family gatherings, a feast of overindulgent foods and decorations of pumpkins and turkeys to have a Happy Thanksgiving. Christmas ornaments and lights, inflatable Santa sleighs and reindeers, gigawatts of power from multicolored LED lights adorning houses and more. But happiness can also be found in that morning cup of coffee or cocoa, or seeing deer graze in Oakmont, or a greeting from your neighbor, and/or looking up at the Sonoma mountains that surround us or the vineyards showcasing their golden fall colors, or simply watching a beautiful sunset.

Friends, there is so much to be grateful for everyday! Come listen and fellowship with us at the Men's Bible study where we will be very grateful of your presence, every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.–12 noon at the East Rec. Center.

Oakmont Cat Care Coop

■Mary Ellen King

NEED CARE FOR KITTY WHILE YOU ARE AWAY?

Join the Oakmont Cat Care Coop and share the care! For Oakmont residents only. Active participation for over 15 years.

For information and to get on the list contact me at (707) 849-1581.



Party Bridge

■Paul Wycoff

Please come join us for party bridge and make some friends. We are a group of people who enjoy playing bridge together. We play four rounds of six hands changing partners after each round. We ask that you pitch in a \$1 and at the end of the day's play there is a small dollar prize for the player that wins the table and small dollar prize for the grand winner of the day.

We meet every Wednesday at the Central Activities Center, card room from 12:30–3:30 p.m. and every Saturday from 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Please arrive 10 minutes early to get a seat.

Contact Information: Paul Wycoff, (707) 537-7019, pnlwycoff@yahoo.com; Patricia Hoffman, (707) 799-8124, pitthoff@yahoo.com.

Oakmont Sunday Symposium



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

■Harriet Palk



JANUARY 7: DR. BRIANNA STUBBS, BUCK INSTITUTE LIVE BETTER LONGER

Dr. Brianna Stubbs is a lead research scientist at the Buck Institute, specializing in understanding the effects of "exogenous ketone ester supplementation." Got that? It's a key ingredient to healthy, happy aging and she'll tell us all about it.

Easier to understand: Brianna is also an elite British rower, winning two gold medals for Britain.

Lifelong Learning



■Marlena Tremont

WINTER 2024 CLASS PREVIEW WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 BERGER CENTER

Music and refreshments at 2:30 p.m.; Program at 3

WHAT TECHNOLOGY MEANS: REINVENTING HUMANITY

INSTRUCTOR: NELSON KELLOGG
Mondays, Jan. 8–22, 3–5 p.m., Berger Center
3-week session. Cost: \$50



This class investigates the past, present and future human experience in light of the tools and processes we have invented like money, bookkeeping, agriculture, time, transportation, medicine and now, AI. How have these inventions changed what we do, who we are, our sense of community, our relationships and our sense of purpose.

Nelson "Buzz" Kellogg is a writer and lecturer in public philosophy, particularly in the history and effects of technology, and its impact on human social evolution.

ART AND HISTORY

INSTRUCTOR: CHRISTIAN QUINTIN
Wednesdays, Jan. 10–Feb. 14, 3–5 p.m., Berger Center
6-week session. Cost: \$95

Explore the art and history of different time periods in different countries including a look at rarely seen artwork and almost-unknown artists. Learn about the



Middle Ages, the Renaissance, Classical Art and Impressionism in France; Dutch and Flemish works and the art of Bosh and Brueghel the Elder.

Christian Quintin was born in France and studied of the Beaux Arts Academy in Paris. His works have been exhibited at galleries across the country.

THE FAMILY IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE: A GENDERED JOURNEY

INSTRUCTOR: DR. ELAINE LEEDER
Thursdays, Jan. 11–Feb. 15, 3–5 p.m., East Rec.
6-week session. Cost: \$95



The family is a complex topic that needs to be understood historically, culturally, economically, and sociologically. This course examines the changing nature of the family as societies and

economies change, comparing the American family with those in other parts of the globe.

Elaine Leeder (MSW, MPH, PhD) is Dean Emerita/Professor Emerita from Sonoma State University has traveled to 65 countries and written a university textbook on global family life.

JUST ADDED!

US MAP WORKSHOP— STITCHING MEMORIES

INSTRUCTOR: ROBERT MAHAR
Mondays, Feb. 5–19

3-week session. Cost: \$70 plus \$20 supplies



This class embraces a community storytelling spirit while stitching memories on a vintage US map. What are the places you've called home? Places you've traveled? Share your memories. All supplies provided.

Course includes basic stitches for beginners. Seasoned stitchers apply longstanding skills to this uniquely personal creation.

Robert Mahar, artist and past associate producer of NBC's *Making It* currently teaches historical craft traditions across the US. He spent 13 years as a contemporary art appraiser.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

INSTRUCTOR: ANGELA NARDO-MORGAN
Thursdays, Feb. 22–Mar. 14, 3–5 p.m., East Rec.
4-week session. Cost: \$65

Explore the urgency of climate change and the moral imperative it poses to humanity through discussions of our responsibility to wild species and ecosystems and to present and future generations of humans dependent on critical ecological systems. What are the biggest environmental challenges and can we make a difference?

Angela Nardo-Morgan is a Councilmember of the North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council and Director of Philanthropy and Development for Marine Conservation Institute.

Classes available in person, on Zoom or as a recorded session to watch at your leisure.

Purchase multiple classes at the same time for the same person and save 25% off the total.

To register go to OakmontLL.org, fill out a form in the OLL folder in the OVA office or register at the door.





Oakmont Volunteer Helpers

■Matt Zwerling



AGING IN PLACE SONOMA COUNTY 211 SERVICE

At a recent emergency preparedness program sponsored by Emergency Prep Help for Seniors I was introduced to the 211Sonoma.org program. While I had heard about 211 previously, like so many other things it found itself lodged in the uncharted recesses of my brain. So, what is 211 and how can it be helpful to our Oakmont community?

2-1-1 Sonoma is a free service, available 24/7, providing non-disaster information. It is managed by the United Way and funded by PG&E.

2-1-1 Sonoma "...is the comprehensive information and referral service for Sonoma County. We connect Sonoma County callers, website-users and texters each year with information about health and human services available to them."

Their website (211Sonoma.org) has a wealth of information on such things as Food Assistance, Income and Expense, Health Care, Seniors, Transportation, Legal Services, etc. There is up-to-date information on Covid, Sonoma County Health Department orders and guidelines, and current incidents such as fires or earthquakes.

I would encourage everyone to explore this valuable website and service, particularly if you are in need of support or information which might not be available within Oakmont.

Bocce Club



■Gale Schlee

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9: CHRISTMAS PARTY

The next event will be the Christmas Party on December 9 at 5 p.m. There will be good food and entertainment by "Elvis" who sang for us last year. It was a great party. Please join us.

"Waste Not, Want Not"

■Lesli Lee, Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Committee

As the holiday season approaches, when many people share meals together in celebration, let's be aware that in the United States, more than 1/3 of all food is thrown away. In Sonoma County alone, 60,000 low-income households—about 1/3 of county residents—couldn't afford enough food to eat three healthy meals a day, according to the Sonoma County Hunger Index report (County of Sonoma, 2018).

Food waste also contributes to 9-12% of total global greenhouse gas emissions (Regeneration-Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation, 2021). When organic material like food rots in the landfill it creates methane, a greenhouse gas 28 times more powerful at warming the Earth than carbon dioxide (over a 100-year timescale) (US EPA).

We in Oakmont can help! Reducing food waste is one of the easiest and most impactful actions we can do as individuals. Here are some tips to consider:

- Plan meals and making a grocery list to avoid overbuying.
- Learn what "sell-by," "use-by," "best by" or "expiration" food labels mean.
- Label with dates and store food correctly to extend its shelf life.
- Use leftovers in soups, smoothies, or baked



■Janice Weekes

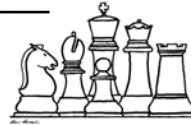
FEBRUARY 2, 2024 AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE RETURNS TO OAKMONT

The highly acclaimed AARP Driver Safety course is returning to Oakmont in February. This 8-hour course has been updated to include the latest in driver safety tips as well as California-specific information. There are also useful details about what to look for when shopping for a new car as well as tips on mastering new automotive technology. Many insurance companies offer a discount for customers who attend the class.

The class will be offered on two consecutive Fridays, February 2 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each day. The program is open to AARP members and non-members. Checks made payable to AARP will be collected on the first day of class - \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members.

This class is only open to Oakmont residents and registration is limited. Please sign up early. Call the Oakmont Village Office at (707) 539-1611 to reserve your spot.

Drop-In Chess



■Richard Duncan

The Drop-In Chess Club is an informal group made up of Oakmont residents who meet on a weekly basis to enjoy the mental gymnastics offered by this masterpiece of board games.

The Drop-In Chess players meet on Tuesday afternoons between 1-4:30 p.m. in the Card Room at the Central Activity Center, 310 White Oak Drive. Beginners are welcome and there are no fees or costs—just your time as you see fit. Bring a board and chess set if you have one. The atmosphere is casual and players of varying proficiency, both men and women, take part in these games.

If you have not played chess in a while, are new to our Oakmont community, or are just curious and would like to know more about the "Game of Kings," drop in and check us out. If you have any questions or would like to know more, feel free to contact me at richardgduncan@comcast.net or (707) 225-0661.

goods, or freeze them for later.

- Donate excess produce, unopened, unexpired food to food banks, shelters, or other community organizations (e.g., Farm to Pantry, Meals on Wheels).
- Support local farmers and food producers by buying fresh, seasonal, and locally sourced foods.

Composting is one of the most effective ways to reduce the amount of methane released from landfills into our atmosphere.

We're fortunate that our waste management company Recology collects yard trimmings and all food scraps. When we put them (e.g., soiled napkins, pizza boxes, parchment paper) into our green bins, in 12 weeks, these organic materials that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill are transformed into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. For questions about what goes where, search for the "WhatBin" tool on their website. They also have resources for planning a zero-waste event (www.recology.com).

When planning our next Oakmont event, by reducing food waste and choosing compostables over disposables, we help the hungry, conserve water and energy, improve our soils, save money, and help address the climate crisis.

Strength and Balance Class

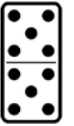
■Valerie Hulsey

Strength and Balance classes are held every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the East Rec. Center. The classes are not sponsored by the Santa Rosa Jr. College (SRJC) so there is a \$5 drop-in fee for each class.

Classes are limited to 72 people so come early to ensure you get a chair. Bring your Theraband for strengthening, if you do not have one you can purchase one for \$5 when you arrive.

Bring water and come and have some fun and improve your balance at the same time.

Domino Club



■Brian Huckins

MIX THOSE DOMINOES

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

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



A slight wager has been known to add to the interest.

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

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

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



■Valerie Hulsey

Although the weather is a little colder the pool is a toasty 86 degrees so please join us at the West Pool for a terrific Water Aerobics class. Mary teaches Monday through Thursday at 9:30 a.m. There is laughter and fun in the pool and sometimes in the hot tub, not to mention this is great way to exercise with no strain on your body.

Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) is not sponsoring these classes so there is an \$8 drop-in fee for all classes.

Valley of the Moon Fellowship

■Robert Hallett

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Valley of the Moon Fellowship (VOMF) is a twice-a-month gathering for fellowship, open discussions on topics of interest, opportunities for community service, and spiritual renewal. The group is non-sectarian and welcoming and inclusive to all. A theme or topic is shared each gathering which stimulates lively discussion. With the holiday season upon us, we will have some wonderful discussions around our fellowship.

Please join us on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. We meet at 6637 Oakmont Drive, Suite B, just around the corner from the OVA office. Bring along a snack to share, if you wish, make new friends, enjoy caring fellowship, and depart feeling renewed. Happy Holidays!

CLASSIFIEDS

BODEN PLUMBING, HEATING AND AIR

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

GARDENING

Done with an emphasis upon a natural look since 2007. Small jobs OK. Handyman as well. Richard, 833-1806. Oakmont resident.

BABE'S TRANSPORT

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

MASSAGE THERAPY

Massage studio now open in Oakmont. One-hour custom massage, \$100. Book your session now. Brittany Koop, CMT, #91724. Call (707) 849-3915. By appointment only.

SEMI-RETIRED RN

Seeking clients in Oakmont. Providing professional caregiving services in your home. Companion care, meal prep, shopping, light housekeeping, dementia care, assist with bathing, personal advocate, transportation to medical appointments, looking in on loved ones in Assisted Living or SNF facilities. Three-hour minimum, excellent local references, not an agency. Kai, (707) 833-5078.

OAKMONT COMPUTERS

PC and Apple repair in Oakmont Village. Technical services and onsite repair. Media transfers. 6536 Oakmont Dr., (707) 282-9046.

DUMP RUNS

Yard waste, construction debris, junk garbage. Reasonable rates, free estimates. Call Erick, (707) 537-5459.

ONE WAY PLUMBING, INC.

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

HANDYMAN SERVICES

Carpentry, drywall, electrical, plumbing, installation and assembly. Other imaginative jobs welcome! Fair hourly rate. www.thehandylance.com. (707) 881-7292.

FOR ALL YOUR PAINTING NEEDS

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

GARAGE DOOR SERVICES

Locally owned and operated Dependable Doors offers full servicing, repair, and replacement of garage doors and motors. Call Casey at (707) 775-8009 for all of your garage door needs. Lic. #1016951.

REPAIRS PILING UP? CALL RAY

No job too big or too small. Heating, water heaters, plumbing, electrical, drywall, patching, painting, appliance repairs, honey do's, etc. Quality and affordable. Ray, (707) 280-2699.

MARTHA L PROFESSIONAL HOUSE CLEANING

Home, office, move-outs. Window, bed linens and much more. 19+ years of experience. References upon request. 548-9482 or marthal1041@att.net.

CARPET, UPHOLSTERY AND TILE CLEANING

Gavin Anderson, local Sonoma resident. 20+ years experience. Senior pricing. Free estimates. Call 935-6334.

TREE TRIMMING

Pruning, trimming, hedges. Fruit trees, stump grinding. Fall clean-ups. Over 20 years of experience. Free estimates. Call Alex, (707) 322-1646. Lic. #06530716.

HANDYMAN RESIDENT

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

YOUR PERSONAL CAREGIVER AND ADVOCATE

Qualified to care for all your needs. Available 24/7 or hourly. 20+ yrs. experience providing honest, reliable, dedicated, competent, compassionate care, with a sense of humor. Native CA, clear background check with fingerprinting. Specialize in Dementia. Starla, (925) 698-6312. Many references and website available. Not an agency.

TONY'S GARDENING SERVICES

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

CUSTOM WORKS CONTRACTING

Licensed, Bonded, Insured Contractor, Lic. #833926 (check lic. # on CLSB website). USMC Veteran-operated and owned. Here to help out the Oakmont community in all trades for repairs and maintenance, door/windows replacements, kitchen and bathroom remodels, decks, fences, and much more. Please call Jamie Flatt for free estimates on projects. (707) 721-4002.

VALLEY OF THE MOON PLUMBING

We are a local plumbing company that can take care of all your plumbing needs from service and repair, to remodels and additions. Call today to schedule a free estimate. (707) 800-2043.

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

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

RESIDENTIAL POWER WASHING AND WINDOW CLEANING

Servico Window Cleaning Co. Free estimates. Call today, (707) 249-3343.

THE VINE LANDSCAPING

Professional fruit tree pruning, ornamentals. All aspects of general landscaping. Monthly service. Older experienced gardener. Call (707) 252-3138 or (707) 338-1807.

COMPUTER OOPS?

Oakmont Onsite Personal Computer Services. 11+ years helping Oakmonters. Call Chuck for all things computer and Tutoring. References available. Over 350 satisfied Oakmont customers. \$50/hr., one hour minimum. (707) 293-8011.

FELIX'S TREE SERVICE

Trimming, pruning, topping, removal, stump grinding. Fire protection. Licensed and fully insured. CA Lic. #955271. Free estimates. Call Felix at (707) 753-3032.

BALANCE AND BODY WORK

Learn to improve your balance and move easier. Brain based exercises and therapeutic massage. Downtown Santa Rosa studio. Contact Christopher Cormier, (707) 478-2512, ewithchris.com.

SONOMA VALLEY LEGAL SERVICES

Providing legal services for Estate Planning, including preparation or amendment of wills, trust, healthcare directives and powers of attorney, Family Law Mediation and other non-litigation family law services. Call for a free 30-minute consultation. Attorney Bailey Penzotti, (707) 615-3220.

PAINTER/HANDYMAN

Interior/Exterior. 30 yrs. experience. Single rooms or full interiors. Friendly and honest. Morse Painting, Lic. #656306. Call Dan, (707) 799-5823.

ADVANCED MASSAGE WITH MARK SENZIG

Beyond massage pain relief. Mobile or office. Therapeutic approaches. CA Cert. #21935. www.marksenzig.com. (707) 480-1225.

GUTTER GUARD INSTALLATION GUTTER CLEANING

Window cleaning, power washing and solar panel cleaning. Over 20 years in Oakmont. Call Alex, (707) 291-0429.

HANDYMAN/CARPENTER

Easy to work with, reliable. Reasonable pricing. Oakmont/Sonoma references. 32 yrs. experience. Remodels, electrical, plumbing. Hardwood floors. Free estimate. Ernesto, (707) 974-0359.

DOORS AND WINDOWS

Consultive sales and installation. Local suppliers. Father and son team, 30 years of experience. Lic. #527924. www.doorbeautiful.com. Call (707) 539-3196.

SKILLED HOME ORGANIZER

Need help with everyday chores? The holidays are coming. I can set up for parties and events. Can do shopping for gifts and groceries. Drive to appointments and help organize closets. I have referrals. Call Cindy, (510) 909-6780.

REDISCOVER YOUR HOME'S BRILLIANCE WITH PRISTINE CLEAN

Experience Pristine Clean—Your Trusted Home Cleaning Experts! We specialize in windows, gutters, and solar panels. Exclusive seasonal discounts for all Oakmont residents. For a free estimate, call (707) 479-1883 or email PristineClean.Business@gmail.com. We're your local, reliable choice for a sparkling clean home.

EXPERIENCED HOUSE SITTERS

Plant and pet care (no boa constrictors, please). Mature couple, clean, orderly, non-smokers. References upon request. Presently house sitting in Oakmont. Available Dec. 15, short or long term. Call or text Trudy at (707) 888-7262.

Oakmont News Classified Rates

- Classified ads of 150 spaces or less, (payment to accompany this form) \$25 per insert
- Pre-paid standing ads of 150 spaces or less, for a period of 3 months (6 issues) \$120
- Pre-paid standing ads of 150 spaces or less, for a period of 6 months (12 issues) \$216
- Pre-paid standing ads of 150 spaces or less, for a period of 1 year (24 issues) \$384

A space is a letter (including those in the heading), punctuation mark, and a space between the words in the ad. Additional \$4 for the next 40 or less spaces. Whenever applicable, CA state license or certification number must be included.

DEADLINE: 10 days prior to publication.

Classified Order Form

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, ZIP _____
 \$ _____ Check, Money Order or Cash
 HEADLINE _____
 BODY TEXT _____

MAIL TO: CJM Productions, 2105 Longhorn Circle, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
 Tel (707) 206-1957 • cjmprod567@gmail.com

Oakmont News

... is owned by the **Oakmont Village Association** which, through its board, sets editorial policy. The **OVA** has contracted with **CJM Productions** to handle typesetting, layout, printing and free distribution of the *Oakmont News*, the latter by U.S. mail, to each home via 3rd class mail. **CJM Productions** also handles advertising for the *Oakmont News*. **CJM Productions** and the **Oakmont Village Association** assume no responsibility for the content of any ads that appear in the *Oakmont News* nor do we endorse or recommend any product or service advertised herein. CA law requires all CA licensed contractors to list their license number in their service advertisements. CA law also requires contractors performing work totaling \$500+ (incl. materials & labor) must be licensed by the Contractor State License Board (CSLB) to work in California. For information contact the Contractor's State License Board at www.cslb.ca.gov.

Oakmont Village Association

OAKMONT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Hours: M–F 9 AM–5 PM—Open during lunch
Tel 707-539-1611

6637 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A

OVA E-mail: askova@oakmontvillage.com

Website: www.oakmontvillage.com

Book appointments with staff at: oakmontvillage.com/staff

MAINTENANCE OFFICE

Hours: Daily 6 AM–10 PM

Tel 707-539-6720

Maintenance Building (next to Central Auditorium)

CONDOMINIUM FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (CFM)

OVA Accounting

Tel 800-585-4297

OAKMONT NEWS

Tel 707-206-1957

E-mail: cjmprod567@gmail.com

PAS MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Hours: M–F 9 AM–Noon, and 1–4 PM

Tel 707-539-5810

6572 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A

(for Association Maintained Homes)

ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE

Hours: M–Th 9 AM–Noon, 1–5 PM

Tel 707-539-1611

6637 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A-1

E-mail: ale@oakmontvillage.com

Violations: dani@oakmontvillage.com

AVAILABLE IN OVA OFFICE

GAS SHUT-OFF WRENCH.....\$12

TENNIS COURT KEY.....\$2

VIALS FOR LIFE.....FREE

RESIDENT ACCESS CARD.....\$25 EA

REPLACEMENTS.....\$25 EA

GUEST ACCESS CARD.....\$25 EA

BULLETIN BOARDS

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

LOCKER RENTALS

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

GUEST PASSES

The following are OVA Guest Pass types and duration: 1) Guest from outside Sonoma County—up to 90 days; 2) House sitters—up to 90 days (OVA host must present written request to OVA Office for approval prior to visit); 3) Guests living in Sonoma County—2 days per card, and no more than 3 cards per month. Guest cards are available during regular hours in the OVA Office for a \$25 non-refundable fee. Guests accompanied by their Oakmont host are not required to have a Guest Pass.

STREET CLEANING

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

NEED A RIDE? GIVE A RIDE! OAKMONT VOLUNTEER HELPERS

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

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

COORDINATOR Rides to Medical Appointments

December 1–15
Nancy McDonald 707-591-3110

December 16–31
Maggie Schmidt 707-890-1347

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WRITER GUIDELINES

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

POOLS & JACUZZIS

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

STORAGE UNITS AND PARKING

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

LIBRARY

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

OAKMONT COMMUNITY GARDEN ON STONEBRIDGE

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

HAPPY TAILS DOG PARK

6302 Stone Bridge Rd
Open to residents of Oakmont Village Association from sunrise to sunset. Small Dog Hours are from 3–4 p.m. on Sundays and Wednesdays.

FITNESS CENTER

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

BE ON OVA E-MAIL LIST

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

2023–2024 OVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E-mail: askova@oakmontvillage.com

Marianne Neufeld, President
marianne.neufeld@oakmontvillage.com

Olga Ydrogo, Vice President
olga.ydrogo@oakmontvillage.com

Iris Harrell, Secretary
iris.harrell@oakmontvillage.com

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Steve Spillman, Director
steve.spillman@oakmontvillage.com

David Dearden, Director
david.dearden@oakmontvillage.com

Elke Strunka, Treasurer
(Non-voting officer)
elke@oakmontvillage.com

GENERAL MANAGER
Christel Antone
christel@oakmontvillage.com

OVA BOARD MEETINGS

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

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

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

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS

County Supervisor Susan Gorin District 1

Phone 707-565-2241

Address: 575 Administration Drive,

Rm. 100A, Santa Rosa 95403

Email: Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org

City Councilwoman Dianna MacDonald District 3

Email: dmacdonald@srcity.org

Address: City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Ave.,

Rm. 10, Santa Rosa 95404

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE IN OAKMONT

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

Oakmont Birders

■Barbara Kendrick

THE STUNNING VARIED THRUSH

A walk in the woods this time of year is worthwhile for many reasons—the last of the yellow maple leaves trailing down in the wind, the sudden sprouting of mushrooms in all sizes and colors, the tree trunks turning emerald green with moss once the rain starts. One of the best reasons is the possibility of seeing a Varied Thrush—perhaps the loveliest bird to visit California. It takes some patience to find but is well worth the effort.



Gorgeous! (Photo courtesy of Tom Grey)

The Varied Thrush is about the size and shape of an American Robin, a much better-known member of the Thrush family. The Varied male combines a slate-blue back, a glowing burnt-orange front with a black breast band, a golden streak over the eye, and golden-orange markings on the wings. The female has the same striking pattern but is less vivid. These birds prefer darker, damper areas of the forest understory, where they stay close to the ground or forage in low branches. In this shadowy environment, they can be hard to spot—they're generally quiet and don't flutter around after insects. But when a ray of sun finds them, they shine like gold.

Varied Thrushes visit our part of California in the winter, arriving as early as October and staying until April. They spend the summer in the damp old-growth

forests of the Pacific Northwest, moving high into Canada and Alaska to breed. Their populations run in cycles. Normally they aren't common in our area, but in some years we see an irruption, or sudden increase in their numbers. For birders, this is a banner event. It's not clear why an irruption happens, but like most things with birds it's probably related to food sources.

To look for the Varied Thrush, take any of the trails Annadel (including Channel Drive), Spring Lake, or Sugar Loaf Park that are forested and shadowy, ideally with a stream nearby. Focus on bushes or trees with berries, such as toyons or madrone, which are the birds' main diet in the winter. Several birds have already been spotted this year in these parks. Unlike gregarious Robins that form huge flocks, Varied Thrushes tend to keep to themselves, traveling in pairs or very small groups, sometimes joining Robins to share a particularly fruitful toyon. It's possible a Varied Thrush could visit your yard if you have a dense, woody habitat with berry-filled bushes nearby (and a well-stocked bird feeder). But for most of us, a park is the best bet.

As with seeing birds in general, there's an element of serendipity—with luck you and the Varied Thrush will cross paths. Take a walk in the woods, and look for that glint of gold among the shadows.

Happy holidays, and may the coming year be filled with birds and other small wonders for each of us.

Have bird questions? Want a "Birds Seen in Oakmont" checklist? Send an e-mail to bkendrick@jps.net.

Let's Dance—Together!

■Terry Whitten, Instructor

LEARN COUNTRY 2-STEP IN THE NEW YEAR

WHAT: Beginning Country 2-Step partner dance classes

WHEN: Wednesdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 4–5:15 p.m.

WHERE: Lower West Rec Center
COST: \$10 pp for single class. \$8 pp if two or more classes are purchased at the same time. Please pay at the door with cash or check.




Country 2-Step is one of the favorite partner dances in Sonoma County. It is an upbeat and fun partner dance that can be danced to lots of great Country Western music as well as to some Swing, Rock 'n Roll and Foxtrot music. The basic steps will be taught over the course of the four classes and each class will build on the material taught in the previous session.

If there is an interest, classes may even extend into February so more step variations and practice can be done. After February, a different partner dance will be taught each month. Some of those dances include Swing, Nightclub 2-Step, Foxtrot, Country Waltz and Rumba.

No partners or experience are required. We will rotate partners during the classes. However, couples that prefer to stay together may do so. Also, any ladies that want to lead and any men that want to follow are very welcome.


Aside from being fun and a great way to get exercise, a number of studies have shown that dancing on a regular basis may reduce the possibility of cognitive decline and may actually increase mental acuity. It is definitely good for our brains, muscles and spirit!

To register for classes or for any questions, please contact me at twhitten@pacbell.net or call (415) 265-7590. At this time, full Covid vaccination plus at least one booster will be required. Please bring your vaccination card or photo of it to the first class you take.





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