

OAKMONT NEWS

Semimonthly

The Official Newspaper of the Oakmont Village Association

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Easter at the Berger Plaza



Oakmont grandchildren enjoyed face painting, balloon animals, bounce houses, hunting for eggs and visiting with the Easter Bunny at the Grandparents Club's annual Easter Eggstravaganza at the Berger Plaza on Saturday, April 4. (Photos by Maureen McGettigan)

Spring Yard Cleanup Reminder

Let's Keep Oakmont Looking Its Best!

■OVA Architectural Office

With spring upon us. We encourage all residents to pull winter weeds, gather fallen leaves, and trim hedges to help Oakmont remain beautiful and inviting.

To preserve Oakmont's peaceful atmosphere, please be mindful of OVA guidelines for work hours.

Allowed Work Hours: Contractors, landscapers, and gardeners may work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. No work is permitted on Sundays or federal holidays, and all cleanup activities must be completed by 5 p.m.

Hedge Height Standards:

In front of your home: max. 3 ft

Side and backyard (non-golf course homes): max. 6 ft

Side and backyard (golf course homes): max. 4 ft

Please note: Any project beyond routine yard maintenance requires an Architectural application. For details or questions, contact the Architectural Office at (707) 539-1611, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thank you for helping Oakmont remain a wonderful place to live. By following these guidelines, we show consideration for our neighbors and take pride in our community.

Emergency Communications Drill

■Tom Pugliese, Oakmont Emergency Communications Task Force

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 9-11 AM

Our spring drill will simulate a magnitude 6.8 earthquake on the Hayward and Rodgers Creek faults causing power outages, major infrastructure damage, blocked roads, structural damage and the potential for serious injuries. County and City agencies have issued shelter-in-place orders, expected to last several days. Normal communications, including 911, are either down or overloaded.

See **EMERGENCY DRILL** on page 5

Election Delayed to May 5

■Oakmont Village Association

The OVA Board of Directors and bylaws election has been rescheduled to May 5. The Annual Meeting and Organizational Meeting will also take place on that date.

All members will receive an official notice with the details of the rescheduled election from the Inspector of Elections.

Why the delay? We have learned that residents at the Oakmont Gardens did not receive ballots, and according to Davis Stirling, ballots must be mailed not less than 30 days prior to an election. Delaying the timeline will allow the OVA to meet this requirement.

Our commitment to you: The integrity of this election is our top priority. By resetting the timeline, we can ensure that:

Every member has the legally mandated time to receive the materials, as required under Davis Stirling.

The Inspector of Elections can verify that only one ballot is cast from each household.

If you already voted, no further action is required. If you have not voted, you are encouraged to do so by the new deadline. All ballots must be received by the Inspector of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on May 4. Ballots must be mailed or submitted electronically and will not be accepted at the OVA office or on the day of the election.

Pro Elections is an HOA Election Company selected by the OVA because of their ability to implement and manage electronic elections, an option first used by OVA this year. If you have questions about your ballot, please contact our election inspector directly: Abigail Padou, Chief Election Inspector, info@pro-ei.com, (209) 559-1448, www.pro-ei.com.

Upcoming Key Dates in the OVA Board Election

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

May 5: Election scheduled for 10 a.m.

May 12: Candidates signs to be removed

Earth Day is Every Day

■Carolyn Greene, Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force



Oakmonter Deborah Knapp's native plant garden will be on the 2026 Eco-Garden and Firewise Home Tour, Sunday, May 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (Photo by Julie Kiil)

So... how will you honor our beautiful planet for Earth Day, 2026—Wednesday, April 22? You may be recycling and conserving water at home, but what else can Oakmonters do?

See **EARTH DAY** on page 3

Trivia Coming to the Berger A Benefit for Oakmont Community Foundation (OCF)

■Jim Brewer

An OCF fundraising Trivia Night will take place April 23—the first of four featuring Trivia Master Joanne Phillips. The event will begin at 5 p.m. in the Berger Center. All proceeds from the trivia nights support OCF grants that are awarded to Oakmont clubs, groups and individuals with eligible projects and events.

See **TRIVIA** on page 5

West Rec. Pool and Spa Closed for Resurfacing

■Oakmont Village Association

The West Rec. Center pool and spa is currently closed for resurfacing—routine maintenance scheduled as part of OVA's Reserve Study. In addition to resurfacing, the project includes ADA-compliant stair reconfiguration, new handrails, and updated coping.

This work is estimated to take approximately eight weeks. During the closure, residents are welcome to use the pools at the Central Activities Center and the East Rec. Center. Water Fitness classes normally held at the West Rec. Center have moved to the Central pool for the duration of the project.

Work is expected to wrap up in mid-June, restoring full access to the West pool and spa.

The West Rec. parking lot, which has been closed for repaving, is slated to re-open on April 14.

Contact OVA askova@oakmontvillage.com.



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Current Events Discussion Group



■Tina Lewis

This is a very important time to discuss current events! Please join us every Friday from 1–2:30 p.m. at the East Rec.

Come in person if you can or join on Zoom if you can't. If you come in person, a donation of \$2 is requested. Issues discussed range from local to national to international. All sides of issues are encouraged.

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

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

EARTH DAY Continued from page 1

If a kitchen remodel is in your future, consider a heat pump and electrifying appliances, including an induction range and electric water heater. Sonoma Clean Power's Santa Rosa customer center at 741 Fourth Street (sonomacleanpower.org) offers tours and recommendations, free energy saving devices and opportunities to demonstrate eco-appliances.

How about checking your night lighting? According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, outdoor light pollution negatively affects wildlife, especially birds and pollinating insects. Keep outdoor lights low, aimed downward and turned off for as long as possible.

Enjoy this beautiful spring weather by visiting a local park. Oakmonters are fortunate to have more than 200,000 acres of public open space within a 45-minute drive, with trails for all abilities. Research shows that time spent in nature benefits our physical and emotional states and strengthens the immune system.

Please keep your green waste cart clean of contaminants. Many items marked "compostable" cannot be accepted locally. Check Recology's "What Goes Where" web page for acceptable materials in the green cart.

Celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 25 at Santa Rosa's Old Courthouse Square, from noon-4pm, highlighted by music, eco-vendors, sustainable food choices; consider carpooling with your Oakmont eco-friends.

Save the Date: The annual Oakmont Eco Garden and Firewise Home Tour will be Sunday, May 24, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., featuring five Oakmont properties that highlight firewise and sustainable practices, are aesthetic and offer important wildlife habitat.

For information on the Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force, and to volunteer, contact me at (805) 443-7289.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month—a time that carries a heavy, personal weight for our family. Just two months after his wedding, our 28-year-old son, Kevin, was killed by a distracted driver. In an instant, his bride, Lu, became a widow. Raising awareness and making better decisions can lead to safer environments for drivers, passengers, and pedestrians alike.

Fatal crashes involving distraction have been growing each year, driven heavily by smartphone use. Even with your hands on the wheel, "hands-free" tech can cause "inattentive blindness." Your brain might be on the call, but it's not truly seeing the hazards right in front of you.

Without us even realizing it, the evolution of smartphones has fundamentally rewired our brains to crave constant digital engagement, turning what was once a tool for safety into a source of dangerous "invisible addiction" while driving. Our devices are designed to trigger powerful neurological responses that make it difficult to ignore them. Every "bell, whistle, chirp, or tweet" triggers a release of dopamine in the brain's reward center. This creates a "seeking-reward" loop where the brain reflexively craves the next notification.

To break the cycle, it often takes more than willpower. Using "Do Not Disturb" or Airplane modes or physically keeping the phone out of reach are the best ways to silence those "bells and whistles" and stay focused. Share with friends and family what method works for you.

Terri Yost

"Pop Divas Songbook" Concert Coming to Oakmont

■OVA Staff

Oakmont will host a live concert featuring Kelly Brandeburg on Thursday, April 30, at the Berger Auditorium. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with the performance beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and available at the OVA office.



Kelly Brandeburg.

Brandeburg, who is currently appearing in the Charlie & the Chocolate Factory Global Tour, will present "A Pop Divas Songbook," a cabaret-style program featuring well-known songs associated with artists such as Linda Ronstadt, Helen Reddy, Dolly Parton, Celine Dion, Adele, and Billie Eilish.

Her background includes extensive work in theater and cabaret. Brandeburg previously performed as Miss San Francisco in Beach Blanket Babylon, the long-running San Francisco musical revue created by Steve Silver. She has also appeared in stage productions across the United States, including roles in *Oliver!*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, and *The Secret Garden*. Her solo cabaret production, *My Favorite Barbra*, received a Broadway World Award for Best Solo Show in the Bay Area.

Correction

The March 28 *Oakmont News* article "Oakmont: A Firewise USA Community in Good Standin'" was incorrectly attributed. It was written by Dave Watts.

New, More User-Friendly Firewise Web Content

■Roger Biery, Firewise Task Force

There is a wealth of information available on the Web for how to better protect homes from the threat of wildfires. Indeed, the enormous breadth and depth of the available information can be overwhelming for many homeowners.

The Firewise Task Force recently completed a project to make Firewise information on the Oakmont Village website more streamlined and user-friendly. Guided by the KISS philosophy (Keep It Simple, Succinct), the new content focuses on a select set of actions and resources designed to help residents achieve meaningful results using proven practices that are easy to understand and follow.

The Firewise Actions page (<https://OakmontVillage.com/Firewise-Actions/>) focuses on how Oakmont residents can reduce the risks to loss of life and property. The County of Sonoma's Emergency Readiness, Response and Recovery website is featured as a useful resource for helping

Oakmont residents prepare for a wildfire or other emergency.

Firewise defensible space and home hardening actions feature California's Safer from Wildfires program, which is part of the state's Sustainable Insurance Strategy created to help residents obtain affordable homeowners insurance. The page also outlines how residents can request a free Firewise Educational Assessment and download the handout used by assessors as a PDF file.

The Firewise Resources page (<https://OakmontVillage.com/Firewise-Resources/>) is now better organized to help residents find additional useful information on four common topics of interest: 1) Oakmont Village landscaping and fire safety policies; 2) Firewise defensible space and home hardening techniques; 3) finding fire hazard zone designations for individual properties; and 4) help getting homeowners insurance.



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Tennis Club



■Diane Curtis

MOVING SOUTH



Kay Kim.

A fond farewell to Kay Kim, who is moving to San Francisco to be closer to her nephew. Kay, whose formal name is Young Ran Kim, and her late husband, Bill Zane, came to Oakmont 15 years ago, and Kay dove into Oakmont's many activities, including ping pong, swimming and tennis. She and Bill also liked to throw parties at their

large home on Meadowstone Drive.

Kay prospered from Tony Agocs' expert tennis lessons, and in recent years was a regular at the drop-in Tuesday and Thursday games at the East Rec. Center. Kay was indefatigable on the court and even played between cancer appointments over the last two years when energy allowed.

An accomplished scientist with a host of degrees (Ph.D. in cell biology and anatomy, Master of Science in biochemistry and a Bachelor of Science in chemistry), Kay retired from Abbott Laboratories in Silicon Valley, and she has authored or co-authored 33 technical patents related to automated blood analyzers in chemistry, hematology and immunology.

The oldest of eight children, Kay was born and raised in South Korea, although the family lived for a time in North Korea. She later moved to the U.S. for college and career. Her fascinating story—and the well-researched and lived story of Korea—is told in her book, *The Long Road to the Sixth ROK: The True History of South Korea*.

We'll miss you, Kay.

UPCOMING OTC EVENTS

April 27, 5 p.m.: TenBeer Social, West Courts

May 5, 4:30 p.m.: Cinco de Mayo Social, West Courts

May 16, 9 a.m.: Hatfields vs. McCoys Showdown, West Courts

For OTC information, including drop-in game locations and times, write to hellooakmonttennis@gmail.com. If you are looking for other players, send your name, level of play and contact info to otctennislist@gmail.com.

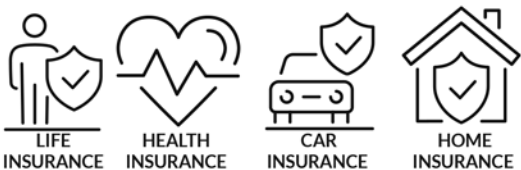


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Join the Letter Carrier Food Drive

■News Staff

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

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

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

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

23rd Annual Oakmont Car Show Rolls in Saturday, May 23!

■Oakmont Car Club

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

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

"The Oakmont Car Show has become the community's most popular annual event, and we're thrilled to bring together such an exceptional lineup," said Mike Murphy, Oakmont Car Show Coordinator.

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

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

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

Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

MIXOLOGY DEMONSTRATION TO MIX IT UP APRIL MIXER

DATE AND TIME: Friday, April 17, 6 p.m.

WHERE: East Rec. Center



Martini anyone?
(Photo by
Bailey Penzotti)

Spring has sprung and it's time to shake off the old and refresh ourselves with something new. We know what our parents drank for social gatherings and we sure know our tried-and-true libations. White castles after White Russians. Cosmos while partying in cosmopolitan cities. Cranberry juice and club soda when you've had enough martinis. The Millennials and Gen Zers (who are barely old enough to drink) have embraced new ideas in cocktails and especially mocktails. It's time for us to not be left behind. We're still rockin and rollin and are entitled to know what the kids know.

For our April mixer, we've retained the services of a mixologist (bartender) from Crafted and Company. This company was born from a shared love of good food, great drinks, and meaningful hospitality. Based in Sonoma County, they provide elevated bar services for weddings and private events throughout Northern California.

We've been able to score time with them to have a personalized, interactive cocktail plus mocktail trends presentation. David will have various springtime concoctions prepared and he invites you to bring your favorite alcohol that he may use to create something new. Samples of his creations will be available for your delight.

For this mixer, there is a small \$7 charge to offset some of Crafted and Company's fees. Registration is open through April 13 at 5 p.m. You may register and pay online through our website.

If you're not comfortable registering online, please RSVP to me at bailey.osc1@gmail.com. Once reserved, bring a check made payable to OSSC in the amount of

\$7 to the OVA office and place it in the designated envelope for the "April Mixer" in our Singles folder.

Please bring a springtime appetizer (last names starting A-M) or dessert (last names starting N-Z) to share along with your favorite alcohol or other libation. Don't forget to wear your name badge too.

Lastly, let me know if you are able to volunteer at the mixer. It's a great way to get to know other members and see the inside workings of your club.

MAY BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

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

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

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

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

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

DO YOU LIVE IN OAKMONT? ARE YOU SINGLE?

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

TRIVIA Continued from page 1

Team captains can register a table of eight players on a first-come, first-serve basis. Only one person per table should register. Registrations for individuals and groups fewer than eight are welcome and will be accommodated by creating teams formed by OCF. Seating is limited and registration deadline is April 20.

The cost to play is \$10 per person and bring your own snacks and beverages. Gift cards to a local coffee shop will be awarded to the first-place team.

To register a team for Trivia Night, go to OCFtrivia@gmail.com or drop by the OVA office where there is a sign-up sheet posted.

Future trivia events will be held in July, October and January 2027.

More than \$400,000 in grants have been awarded since the foundation was created in 2007, but last year awards were issued to a more diverse group of recipients than in previous years. A successful proposal no longer has to be submitted by a club or OVA-approved group. Individuals in Oakmont are encouraged to also create events and projects that meet OCF guidelines as charitable and educational, and collaborations within Oakmont are encouraged. For more information or to download a grant application, go to oakmontcommunityfoundation.org.

Among last year's recipients were the Asian Pacific Heritage Club, Grief Counseling, Caregiver Support Group, Games Club, the Oakmont Library Volunteers, the Community Garden and Music at Oakmont. The Foundation also hosted a Health and Wellness Fair last August with more than 400 in attendance.

The Oakmont Community Foundation (OCF) is an independent California non-profit Public Benefit Corporation specifically organized to enhance and support educational and charitable activities within Oakmont Village Association. It is governed by an all-volunteer board.

EMERGENCY DRILL Continued from page 1

The drill coincides with the Sonoma County Spring Shakeout which begins at 10 a.m. While this event does not affect our exercise, our team will now have the opportunity to practice messaging and radio skills while participating in a County-wide earthquake awareness event. Whether you are a volunteer or not, I encourage you to register at socoemergency.org/event/shakeout2025. When registering, you can also sign up for SoCo Alerts to notify you when the shakeout begins.

During the drill our Emergency Communications team and our radio network will be activated. Neighborhoods with radio volunteers, wearing yellow vests and carrying walkie-talkies, will check on residents' well-being. If assistance is required, these "Zone Communicators" will use their radios to request support from Oakmont resources or directly from County and City agencies through our network which has direct access to the County Emergency Operations Center and REDCOM. Official status updates will also be shared through this network. Our goal is to stress our systems and processes to identify areas for potential improvement.

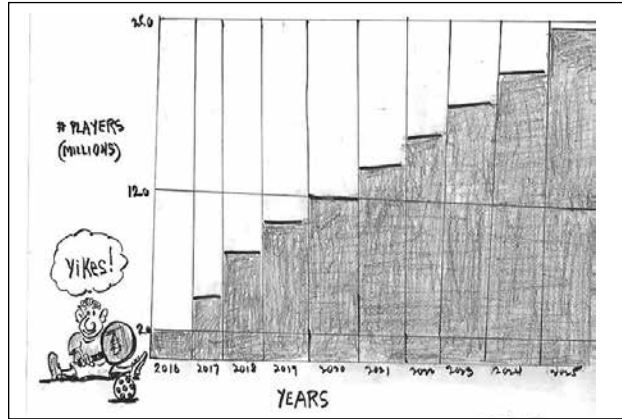
If you do not see a volunteer wearing a yellow vest in your neighborhood it may be due to lack of radio coverage. Prior radio experience is not required. We provide the equipment and training, and the annual time commitment is about nine hours. Email OakmontW6OVA@gmail.com for more information about volunteering as a neighborhood radio volunteer on our Emergency Communications team.

Pickleball Corner 

■Peter Copen

GROWTH IN PICKLEBALL SINCE 2015

Pickleball has rapidly become one of the most widely played and fastest-growing sports in America. According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), 24.3 million Americans played pickleball in 2025, making it one of the most popular sports in the country. As participation grows, so does interest from facility operators, sporting goods companies, and community leaders looking to understand the scale and trajectory of the sport.



Graphic by Peter Copen.

Key Pickleball Participation Statistics:

Total U.S. Pickleball Participants (2015) when we started at Oakmont: about 2.0 million players.

Total U.S. Pickleball Participants (2025): 24.3 million players.

10-Year Growth (2015–2025): + 12,100 % growth.

Pickleball's growth over the past several years has been unprecedented. Participation increased from approximately 2.0 million players in 2015 (when we started pickleball in Oakmont) to over 24 million players in 2025, reflecting rapid expansion in community programs, facility development, and recreational play. This surge makes pickleball the fastest-growing sport in the United States over the past three years, outpacing activities such as pilates training, cardio tennis, and climbing.

Who Plays Pickleball? 57% male, 43% female.

Why People Play Pickleball? Beyond participation numbers, research into player motivations helps explain the sport's momentum. Among avid players the top motivations for playing include physical exercise (nearly 94%), fun and enjoyment, competition, social interaction.

Pickleball's combination of fitness, competition, and community has helped the sport attract both casual and highly engaged participants.

Come on down to East Rec. and find out firsthand!

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



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Valley of the Moon Rotary Club 

■Star Power

GET EXCITED WITH US!

Valley of the Moon Rotary has some truly exciting speakers coming up this month. This is a great time to drop in for a visit if you haven't experienced Rotary before. We don't bite, we're quite friendly, plus we like to laugh a lot, all along while doing good in our neighborhood (and around the world!)

Coming up on April 23, we'll be welcoming Alexandra Ortiz to tell us all about the Children's Museum of Sonoma County, a totally fun, interactive place for children ages 10 and younger.

The museum is located next door to the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Snoopy's Ice Arena on Steele Lane. It's an amazing opportunity for children and their caregivers to learn hands-on about nature, science, and art in a fun, engaging environment. A visit to the Children's Museum is one you and your kids (or grandkids) won't soon forget.

Then, on April 30, we'll welcome Rachel Jeffries to tell us about Habitat for Humanity. Obviously, there are many parts of Habitat and our club looks forward to hearing from our speaker. This meeting should be full of surprises and information about what they're up to locally.

We hope all of our members and many of you that may be interested in what Rotary is all about, will come to one of these meetings, which are held on Thursday mornings at the East Rec Center. We serve a light breakfast, coffee, and chit-chat, plus a great meeting. We like folks to arrive around 7:30 a.m. The meeting starts at 8 a.m. and usually over by 9. Come on over and meet us!

Bocce Club 

■Deb Ponts

SPRING TOURNAMENT

Beginning April 1 Bocce Club member play is at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays. Club members or Oakmont residents can reserve one court during times not reserved for member play times by contacting Bob Swift, (707) 548-5409.

The April 11 Tax Tournament has been postponed to April 18 at 1 p.m. now dubbed "Spring Tournament." The postponement is due to the closure of the West Rec. parking lot for repaving. To participate in the Bocce tournaments, you must be a club member unless there is space for guest players.

Bocce is a great way to make new friends while enjoying a low impact sport. New member lessons are available the first Tuesday of the month.

Throughout the year we have monthly tournaments, periodic happy hour get-togethers, picnics and our annual holiday celebration.

If you're interested in joining, annual dues are \$25 and with your membership you'll receive the code to access the Bocce equipment. Applications are available at the OVA office. Cash is preferred, but checks are acceptable payable to our treasurer, Tony Sarram.

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Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

SPRINGTIME TOURNAMENT—APRIL 18

The Oakmont Pétanque Club holds its 2026 season-opening Le Printemps: Homage to Spring Tournament and Potluck Picnic Lunch on Saturday, April 18. Players are encouraged to wear spring colors. The French tricolor will decorate the court.



2025 Springtime Tournament Winners (L to R): Elean Huff and Sophia Knapp (2nd place); Bill Whetstone, Linda McPherson and Don McPherson (1st place).

The festivities will kick off at 9:30 a.m. at the Pétanque Courts with registration for the tournament. If you are playing, please be there by 9:30—the Oakmont courts can accommodate 18 players for tournaments. Play will begin as soon as the teams are drawn. Winners' photos will be taken at the conclusion. Spectators are welcome!

The tournament will be played in m \acute{e} lée format with randomly assigned teams as drawn and organized by Tournament Director Jean-Michel Poulnot with the club's "Fanny" looking on. "The Goddess of Pétanque," Fanny is the focal point of a traditional ritual should any team suffer a 13-0 shutout loss.

A potluck picnic lunch will begin at approximately 12 noon, pending completion of the tournament. All club members, whether playing or not, and their significant others are invited. Please bring your own beverage, cups, plates, tableware, and a lunch dish to share.

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

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

Anyone, regardless of experience, will enjoy the challenge and camaraderie of a simple game that is inexpensive, fun to play, learned quickly, and endlessly fascinating in its deeper levels of execution and strategy. No membership dues are required—just

Soroptimist International Oakmont Wine Country

■Denise Bickert

COFFEE, CROISSANTS AND CORK CRAFTS

The Oakmont Soroptimist Club is bringing back a cork craft class. Join us for a continental breakfast and an opportunity to make a holiday decoration for your home. We will be creating an American flag door hanging out of corks.

Class will be held in the Art Room of the CAC on Wednesday, April 29 at 9 a.m. Seats are limited. Cost is \$25 which includes breakfast and all materials. Proceeds support our Live Your Dream Scholarship program. Live Your Dream provides scholarships to local women who are head of household and pursuing their education in college or the trades.

Our cork craft classes have sold out in the past. Join us, meet some of our members and have a good time!

To reserve a spot in the class please contact me at deniseb.siowc@gmail.com.



Photo by Denise Bickert.



■Greg Fauss

SPRINGING UP AND WALKING FOR WATER

The hills, mountains and meadows around us have long begun bursting into color as the wild flowers spring up. The longer days and warmer weather combine to make this an exceptionally good time to be outdoors.

Speaking of which, we'd love for you to spring into step and join us in a global fundraiser as we Walk For Water on May 16 at 10 a.m. Information can be found on our website about this global fundraiser with World Vision to provide clean water where it's most needed.

You're also always welcome to our Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in the East Rec. Center. For information about our Wednesday Morning Bible Study, occasional meetings in Oakmont Gardens, Saturday Prayer, and other gatherings go to www.occantarosa.org, write us at occantarosa@gmail.com or call us at (707) 595-0166.



Wildflowers in Trione-Annadel State Park.



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Eloise Tweeten, Founder
Oakmont resident since 2012

Canine Club

■Steve Huntley

SPRING HAS SPRUNG—PROTECT YOUR CANINES FROM THE HEAT

We're about three weeks into Spring now, and if April is looking anything like March, then it's going to be unseasonably warm with the next few months into Summer downright hot! It's time to be overly cautious with your doggies especially in the car and walking in the hood. During this time of year, it's simply not safe to leave your pet alone in the car even if the windows are cracked. And remember, the black asphalt street surface can get extremely hot, too hot for doggies' feet. Test it with the palm of your hand before letting your pooch walk on it.



Becca Marie.

One of the great things about living in Oakmont is the volunteerism that is rampant throughout the community. At the Happy Tails Dog Park we do need more volunteers. We try to have a different volunteer each day of the week plus a couple more for backup



Brie.

when folks are out of town. We would love to have a few more volunteers! It's fun work strolling through the dog park, with the doggies romping around while you inspect for damage and unwanted deposits and more! Just shoot Peri Olinger an email at periolinger@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer. The next up and coming play date at the dog park is the Rescue Dog/Mixed Breed (35 lbs. or more) Play Date on Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.–Noon.

And finally, a reminder that every day from 3–4 p.m. (through the end of April) the dog park is reserved for small dogs (25 lbs. or less)!

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!

Playreaders

■D. Hall

SERIOUS DRAMA COMES TO OAKMONT

Drama in the first degree... it's Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, and it debuted on April 6, courtesy of Oakmont Playreaders. The classic is a memory play that premiered in 1944 and catapulted Williams from obscurity to fame. The play has strong autobiographical elements, featuring characters based on its author, his histrionic mother, and his mentally fragile sister. Jim Preston produced and directed this cast: Sarah Shankman, John Dolan, Lis Erwin, and Mike Erwin. Act 1 will be followed by Act 2 on April 13.

Oakmont Playreaders has a terrific group of men and women who read plays aloud and even do a bit of amateur acting before small audiences. Right now, we have a specific need for more men with a bit of the acting urge to fill out our casts. Is that you? No need to memorize lines! We read from a script. We are a friendly, supportive, totally unthreatening group and we just have fun. Come and see!

See Oakmont Playreaders the first two Mondays of every month in Room B (Birch) of the Central Activities Center at 2 p.m.

Movies At Oakmont



WHERE: Berger Center
SCREENING DAY AND TIME: Sundays at 2 p.m.

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

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

APRIL 12:

SONG SUNG BLUE

Lightning and Thunder, a Milwaukee husband and wife Neil Diamond tribute act, experience soaring success and devastating heartbreak in their musical journey together. 2025, PG-13, 2:12.



APRIL 19:

MARTY SUPREME

Marty Mauser, a young man with a dream no one respects, goes to hell and back in pursuit of greatness. 2025, PG-13, 2:28.



APRIL 26: SINNERS

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

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Lawn Bowling



■Mary C Blake



2025 Senior Game Champs: Steve Pickell, Richard Goodwin and Gerry Macintosh.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO BOWL?

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

MAT, JACK AND GAMES WORKSHOP

Richard Goodwin is offering a free workshop! Not only is Richard one of our best bowlers, but he's taken lessons at PIMD to be a certified lawn bowling instructor!

And here's the word from Richard:

"The buzz on the Green about the 'Matt, Jack, and Games' workshop has been growing, and the date is finally here!

"Save the date: Thursday, April 16 at 10 a.m.

"This workshop is limited to eight players, with novices receiving priority—and it is completely free of charge. Bring an eager spirit, wear comfortable clothes, and get ready to experiment with new ideas and drills to tweak your personal bowling style. Plan for a jammed pack hour. See you on the Green."

The workshop is only a couple of days away. If you're interested in this workshop (and who isn't?) check with Richard to see if he still has room.

COMING EVENTS

Friday, April 24: Open Pairs (round robin tournament)

Friday, May 1: Women's Pairs

Thursday, May 14: After 5 social with tacos!

NO LONGER BOWLING?

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

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

Email: oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com.

Website: <http://www.oakmontlawnbowling.com>.



Jazz Club Concerts



■Dolora Hurst

LARRY VUCKOVICH JAZZ ALL-STARS FEATURING CHARITY GOODIN-SANEN— VOCALIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

Five of the most beloved musicians of today will be together on our Oakmont Stage for this very special performance, including Charity Goodin-Sanen, our most requested musician we have ever had perform here at Oakmont.

Charity has not been performing for some time due to her husband's illness and his eventual passing. We are truly honored and thrilled to welcome her back to our stage. She is an extraordinarily talented and deeply beloved artist, and it is a joy to have her with us again.



Charity Goodin-Sanen.

Joining Charity is the incomparable Larry Vuckovich on piano. Rounding out this remarkable ensemble is Leon James, the celebrated drummer of the Ramsey Lewis Jazz Band; Buca Necak, the incredible bass player from Yugoslavia; and Kai Lyons, widely referred to as the hottest guitar player in the Bay Area.



Larry Vuckovich.

These are truly among the finest musicians performing anywhere today. You will not want to miss this show!

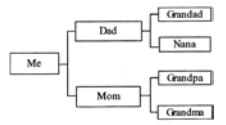
WHEN: Saturday, May 9, 7 p.m., doors open at 6:30

WHERE: Berger Auditorium

TICKETS: \$40, available in the OVA office. Make checks payable to The Oakmont Jazz Club.

Drinks and snacks permitted. Tables of 8 may be reserved.

Genealogy Club



■George McKinney

TRANSPORTATION: HOW CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION SHAPED OUR ANCESTORS' LIVES

The next meeting of the Genealogy Club will be held on Monday, April 27, at 1 p.m., both in East and on Zoom (see below for Zoom details).

Our topic will be "Transportation: How Changes in Transportation Shaped Our Ancestors' Lives." We'll explore how each major improvement in transportation influenced migration patterns, settlement locations, and daily life.



A vintage art print produced in 1910 by E.S. Yates.

The discussion will begin with the Great Indian Warpath, which predated English settlement in North America, and then trace developments through coastal sailing ships, trails, early roads, canals, steamboats, and railroads. Each new mode of travel changed how people moved across the continent and how goods reached new communities.

If you want to join by Zoom: meeting ID 862 2760 9536; Passcode 030213.

If you have questions or want to be on our email list, send a note to oakmontancestry@gmail.com. Our website is oakmontgenclub.org.

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Oakmont Art Association

■Bob Tanner



Monet, Church San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, 1908.

BUS TRIP TO DE YOUNG MUSEUM— MONET IN VENICE

The Art Association is offering a bus trip to the de Young Museum, this time to see exhibit “Monet and Venice.” The trip is open to any Oakmont resident at a reduced rate, thanks to a grant from The Oakmont Community Foundation to offset costs. The Art Association is deeply appreciative of the OCF’s contribution to help make this trip affordable.

The date of the trip is Tuesday, July 14. The bus will leave the Berger parking lot promptly at 8:45 a.m. for an 11 a.m. entry time at the museum and return by approximately 3:45 p.m.

Tickets are not refundable. Lunch is not included but the museum cafe has good meals. The deadline for signups is June 30. We expect this will be a very popular trip so sign up as early as you can. The last trip sold out a month before the trip date and had a long waiting list.

Prices are \$10 for de Young Museum members, \$35 if not a de Young Museum member. Checks (no cash please) payable to: “Oakmont Art Association.” Please include: Name, telephone number and email address, museum membership # (if appropriate), emergency contact name and phone #.

Please take your check to the OVA office and leave it in the Art Association bus trip folder. If you have questions, contact me, our trip coordinator, at bob.tanner100@gmail.com or call (707) 806-2100 for more information.

The Oakmont Art Association, Oakmont Community Foundation and the Oakmont Village Association assume no liability for this trip.

Oakmont Birders

■Barbara Kendrick

BIRDS WORTH WATCHING: THE HUMMINGBIRDS

It’s time to fill up and put out your hummingbird feeder, ideally in a spot where you can watch the action in comfort. You have a good chance of seeing all three hummer species that commonly visit Oakmont.

We all know the Anna’s hummer, which is here year-round. With a green back, pale grey front, and deep raspberry face and throat (on the males), these little birds are regulars at our feeders. Females start building little egg-cup nests in early spring and may raise several broods in a year.



Allen’s Hummer, with green on his back. (Photo by Tom Grey)

This month, watch for our other frequent hummer visitors. The one you’ll most likely spot is the Allen’s. They’re noticeably smaller than the Anna’s and are copper-brown on their head and chest. Their back is a mix of copper and green—unlike the Anna’s, which is solid green. The males have a brilliant orange throat—very different from the Anna’s rosy version. Allen’s arrive here in early spring, and some stay to breed during the summer, while others travel farther north. Around September they all head back to central Mexico for the winter.

Another hummer you may see is the Rufous. This one is nearly identical to the Allen’s (even experts sometimes struggle with ID) but has no or very little green on it. In the sun, male Rufous looks like a glowing orange gem. Rufous hummers don’t breed here but migrate through around April and again in September.



Rufous Hummer, with no green. (Photo by Tom Grey)

All hummers are territorial, but the little Allen’s is a holy terror. While they find a feeder, they take pride in driving off everyone—not just hummers but any nearby birds, even humans. By comparison, the Anna’s and Rufous can seem relatively serene.



Jazz Club Live Music and Workshop



■Michael James

THE MELLO-TONES IN MAY

Join us in May as the Mello-Tones will dazzle us with a variety of classics from jazz to folk music and everything in between. You may have heard them perform at celebrations, picnics, parties and even the Oakmont dog show! Full biographies will be available at the performance for Bob Chapman, Mary Ellen Brown, John Derby and Marisa Malvino.



Mello-Tones.


Bob Chapman started learning guitar at the age of 18. In the mid-60s he was in a trio, the North Street Ramblers, emulating the Kingston Trio. He was heavy into folk music and also loved blues and rock and roll. He moved to Oakmont in 2002, joined the Oakie Folkies and enjoyed meeting musicians and jamming. This was the foundation of the Mello-Tones, and they have loved playing together since 2013.

Mary Ellen Brown was the oldest of nine children in a musical family in Nebraska. Her father led the popular Mullen Family Orchestra from the 30s through the early 60s in which Mary Ellen played the accordion and piano. Mary Ellen and her husband Terry moved to California in 1978 and to Oakmont 19 years ago. She started playing the accordion again after a hiatus and still prefers the music she learned in her father’s band.

John Derby is a fifth generation Pacific Islander. As a young person, John played the piano, played in band and orchestra and sang Hawaiian songs. He played cymbals in the Yale marching band while also a percussionist with the Honolulu community concert band. John and his wife Lyn moved to Oakmont 15 years ago and enjoys the Oakie Folkes jam sessions, Oakmont Ukesters, golf and Rotary.

Marisa Malvino has music deep down in her bones. Her first musical muse was her maternal grandmother who played ragtime piano, and since then she has explored choral, folk, jazz and even southern gospel music. After spending 41 years in San Francisco, she returned to her roots in Sonoma County and feels blessed to be singing and spreading joy through music.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 6
TIME: 2–3 p.m. performance, 3–4 p.m. open jam/workshop
WHERE: East Recreation Center
COST: Suggested donation \$5



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Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey and Marcy Katzin

Mary's Water Fitness Classes will continue to meet at the Central pool until further notice. Every day gets a little warmer (although we do have class rain or shine) so please join us at the Central pool Monday through Thursday at 9:30 a.m. for 50 minutes of exercise and fun. There is a drop-in fee of \$10. We look forward to seeing you soon.

JULIE'S FRIDAY CLASS

Julie's friendly Friday water exercise class continues all year round, and starts at 10:10 a.m. every Friday. All fitness levels are welcome! \$10 drop-in fee. Water exercise classes will also be at the Central Pool while the West Rec. pool is closed for maintenance.

Lifelong Learning



■Marlena Tremont

CLASSES START NEXT WEEK

WINE: IN HISTORY, ART, AND SOCIETY

Instructor: David Sandri

Mondays, Apr. 13, 20, 27 and May 4
3-5 p.m., Berger

4-week session. Cost: \$65 or \$48.75 with discount



Join a journey through the ages, looking at how wine has intertwined with the development of humanity, art, and culture.

David Sandri is an instructor, writer, grower, judge and producer of wine, cider, beer, spirits and olives.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE LAND OF THE BIBLE

Instructor: Alexis Boutin

Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13 and 20
3-5 p.m., Berger

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



Explore political-economic history, material culture, and identity formation from the earliest societies through the Persian empire.

Dr. Alexis Boutin, is an SSU Anthropology professor and bio-archaeology researcher.

JIMMY CARTER, RONALD REAGAN, AND THE TWILIGHT OF AMERICAN LIBERALISM

Instructor: Mick Chantler

Thursdays, Apr. 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21 and 28
3-5 p.m., East Rec

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

Deep cynicism about Watergate and Vietnam pervaded society just as Jimmy Carter won election. Then Ronald Reagan offered a new beginning. How did this dramatic political sea change occur?

Mick Chantler is a beloved American History scholar.

GREAT WOMEN OF THE BLUES

Instructor: Pamela Rose

Mondays, May 11, 18 and 25
2-4 p.m. (early start time), Berger

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

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

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

Purchase multiple classes for the same person at the same time and save 25% off the total! Register online at www.OakmontLL.org, complete a registration form with payment in the OLL folder at the OVA Office or pay at the door.

Strength and Balance

■Valerie Hulsey

MARY'S FITNESS CLASS

The Balance and Strength Class is held every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the East Rec. Center. Not only do we work on our balance skills we have lots of fun doing so. The laughter in the room is always contagious.

Everyone is welcome to join the class. There is a \$10 drop-in fee and don't forget to bring your TheraBand for strengthening. If you don't have one you can purchase one for \$5 when you arrive.

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

Music at Oakmont



■Judy Walker

ERINYS QUARTET PERFORMANCE

For our upcoming concert we will be presenting the Erinys Quartet, a young ensemble which originated in Helsinki Finland and then made their way to study further at the Curtis Institute of Music and at the Jacobs School of Music at the University of Indiana.

Performing at Oakmont for the first time they have chosen a program showcasing music for string quartet from three distinct periods of classical music, represented by composers who are considered giants of each of those periods—Classical, Impressionism and Atonal.



Erinys Quartet.

The group's performance will open with Webern's "Five Movements" for string quartet written in 1909, at the height of his atonal period, and dedicated it to the memory of his revered mother. It is a complete

example of Webern's approach to composition. The five movements average no more than about two minutes in length and display the composer's gift for instrumental tone color, using for example, the wood of the bow, harmonics, playing near the instrument's bridge, and pizzicato. Although probably unknown to most of our audience, they will provide an intriguing start to the rest of the program.

The following item will bring us back to familiar territory—Beethoven's "String Quartet in B-flat major," the last of his set of six quartets, opus 18. Written soon after he arrived in Vienna and brimming with youthful energy, they are the first of his compositions for this instrumentation and are regarded as a pivotal entry point to the great chamber music he composed throughout his life.

The final work, Debussy's "String Quartet in G minor" was written when the composer was 31 years old. Although planning to write two quartets, this is the only one that Debussy completed. Filled with poetic themes and impressionistic tonal qualities, it was regarded as a groundbreaking departure from traditional structures.

Invite you to think of this program as an adventure through important periods in musical history. As always, the best way to appreciate unfamiliar music is hearing it live performed by fine musicians. For greater details on the program plus Rosemary Waller's descriptive Program Notes, please visit our website: <http://www.musicatoakmont.org>.

Please join us for an interesting and illuminating afternoon.

WHEN: Saturday, April 18 at 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

ADMISSION: \$35 (cash or check only), or with season pass

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Travel and Adventure Club

■September Holstad

UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES PRESENTATION

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises is coming to the Travel and Adventure Club meeting on April 22, West Rec. Center Upper level, 3-5 p.m.

Join us as representatives from Uniworld Boutique River Cruises share highlights from one of the most established names in river cruising. Founded in 1976, Uniworld has spent nearly five decades developing itineraries across Europe, Egypt, India, Southeast Asia, and the



Peruvian Amazon.

At the presentation, you'll learn about what sets Uniworld apart: their all-inclusive approach to luxury river travel, ships designed as one-of-a-kind floating boutique hotels, and a crew-to-guest ratio that makes personalized service a hallmark of every voyage.

Whether you're a seasoned river cruiser or just beginning to explore this style of travel, this is a great opportunity to ask questions and discover what Uniworld has to offer.

Hikers



■Colleen Keegan

We welcome you to join us on a hike whether you are a member yet or not. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen and poles if you use them. Go to our website at www.oakmonthikingclub.org to join, get hike details, see photos, register for a hike and more. The annual membership is only \$15. Keep checking website for updates.

APRIL 16: LONG HIKE SUGARLOAF TO HOOD MOUNTAIN

A unique "through" hike—from Goodspeed trail in Sugarloaf State Park to Hood Mountain Regional Park Pythian parking lot. Volunteers will place a couple of cars in the Pythian parking lot. Bring both passes if you have them.



Gunsight Rock.

About 9.5 miles, 2300 feet elevation. After a climb up Goodspeed trail, we'll have gorgeous views at Gunsight Rock before returning down the Lower Johnson trail. Please RSVP on the website so we have a rough idea of the numbers.

Leave Berger at 8.30 a.m. Hike leader is Scott Finn, (619) 884-0977.

APRIL 16: INTERMEDIATE HIKE HOOD AND SUGARLOAF

Three Sonoma County women were the force in transferring their property to our State and Regional parks to be preserved for all of us to enjoy. We'll visit both the former McCormick and Spaulding properties with a bit of history along the way.

About 6 miles, 1000 feet elevation. Leave Berger at 9 a.m. Hike Leader is Gary Andersen, (360) 778-9604.

APRIL 23: LONG HIKE JACK LONDON STATE PARK

We'll hike through forest and grasslands on the Eastern and Northern flanks of Sonoma Mountain, and a fire road to reach lofty heights with grand views of the Sonoma Valley, then descend through beautiful oak woodlands. 8 miles, 1200 feet elevation.

Leave Berger at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Chris Sork, (707) 495-3196.

APRIL 23: INTERMEDIATE HIKE BOTHE NAPA STATE PARK

We will take the Redwood Trail along the creek to the Coyote Peak Trail and have lunch at the Coyote Peak summit. Nice strolls along the river through redwoods. Hoping to catch the Trillium and Calypso orchids blooming. A couple of creek crossings. About 6.5 miles, 1000 feet elevation.



Bothe Napa State Park.

Leave Berger at 9 a.m. Hike leader is Florentia Scott, (707) 591-1929, hikingscott@yahoo.com.

APRIL 27-30 SPRING TRI-NIGHTER ASILOMAR AT PACIFIC GROVE

Join us for the Tri-Night event which features Short, Intermediate and Long hikes on Tuesday and Wednesday, and a bonus historical Monterey hike on Thursday. See website for more information.



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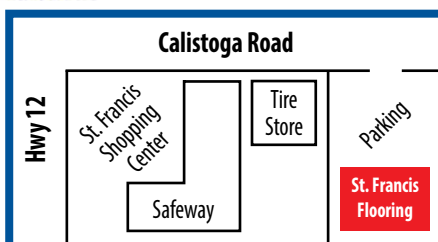
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■Christine Nota

PEOPLE WITH PARKINSON'S CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER

The Oakmont Parkinson's Support Group was formed in 2024. We welcome all whose lives have been impacted by Parkinson's Disease, whether as a patient or as a spouse, family member or friend. Our purpose is to provide informative meetings, exercise, exchange of ideas and solutions to Parkinson's-related issues. We also provide fun activities, and a social outlet. Following is a list of our meetings and events.

Parkinson's Support Group Meetings: The Parkinson's Support Group meets the first Friday of each month, from 10–11:30 a.m. at the West Recreation Center. The format includes guest speakers from fields concerned with Parkinson's, as well as other areas of senior care and planning.

PD-Connect Exercise Class: PD-Connect® is a nonprofit organization offering donation-based exercise classes and wellness programs. The program is led by physical therapists with knowledge of movement disorders such as Parkinson's. Exercise class for our Oakmont group is offered on Tuesday mornings from 9:30–10:30 a.m. at the East Recreation Center. Residents with other disorders or limitations are very welcome.

PingPongParkinson (PPP): Playing Ping-pong has been found helpful with mobility and mental focus for Parkinson's patients. The Oakmont PPP Club holds two ping-pong sessions per week: Thursdays from 5–7 p.m. and Sundays from 1–3 p.m., both days at the West Recreation Center. Spouses/friends are welcome to join the group as we can always use "spotters" and ball retrievers.

PD Care Partners Meetings: An opportunity for Care Partners (spouse/family/friend) of Parkinson's patients to share their experiences and knowledge. The group meets on the fourth Friday of the month, 10–11:30 a.m., Aspen Room.

For additional information contact me at chrisnota@gmail.com.

Cal Alumni Club of Oakmont



■Marilyn Noah

ANNOUNCING 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Thanks to the many locals who attended last year's Cal Alumni Club wine tasting, four scholarships were awarded to Santa Rosa Junior College students transferring to UC Berkeley.

All four scholarship winners were exceptional academic achievers with involvement in community activities. Some were "re-entry" students with extensive work experience. One winner who will major in Astrophysics currently volunteers at the Ferguson Observatory in the hills across from Oakmont. Two future teachers are included in the winners group. All enrolled at Cal for the Fall 2025 semester.

The annual Cal Alumni Club wine tasting event at the Berger Center is open to all and is the largest single fundraising event the club organizes each year. Multiple boutique wineries participate accompanied by food, music and silent auction shopping.

We invite everyone to be a part of "sipping for scholarships" this year on Thursday, June 18 at the Berger Center from 3–5 p.m.

Tickets to the event are \$30 prior to June 10 and \$40 at the door. Advance tickets are available now and may be purchased at www.caloakmont.org.

Star of the Valley

■Peter Hardy

BINGO, GOURMET DELI SANDWICHES AND WRAPS

On May 12, Star of the Valley will present its final bingo of the season. Bingo begins at 4 p.m. promptly. We ask that everyone attending arrive between 3:30–3:45 in order to purchase dinner and bingo cards prior to the start of bingo.

This month we will have a gourmet deli sandwich and wrap bar featuring a choice of four sandwiches, with potato salad and an ice cream sundae for dessert. Cost: \$15 for dinner and bingo cards are \$2 each.

All are welcome. If you don't play bingo join us for dinner. We also feature a beer and wine bar for a nominal cost.

Oakmont Democratic Club



■Ida Engli

SANTA ROSA MAYOR COMING TO OAKMONT

April 13 at the East Rec. at 6:30 p.m. the Oakmont Democratic Alliance will host Santa Rosa Mayor, Mark Stapp. He will be prepared to answer the questions the Oakmont community members will ask about relevant issues and concerns, especially the Burbank Housing, Elnoka, development chugging toward final approval adjacent to Oakmont. All are welcome. Check out details at www.srcity.org/2568/Elnoka-Senior-Community.

The Oakmont Democrats and Democratic Alliance clubs pulled off a hot time in the old town on April 2, hosting legendary performer Holly Near in a benefit for a regional Democratic candidate. The food and wine were excellent, the silent auction and raffle fun and exhilarating, and Near's performance was first-class, beyond amazing—as usual. An enthusiastic crowd filled the Berger Center to dance and cheer.

Ridesharing from Oakmont for the March 28 No Kings rally along Highway 12 at Oakmont and at Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa helped turn out thousands of local protesters, matching the huge protest response across America and in Europe and elsewhere.

Next Oakmont Democratic Alliance speaker and Q & A: April 13, Mark Stapp: 6:30–8:30 p.m., East Rec. (monthly: second Monday).

Next Oakmont Democratic Alliance Social: April 23, 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the East Rec. (every fourth Thursday of month).

Much more information and updating at oakmontdemocraticalliance.org (bookmark this one).

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

InvestOAK



■Joseph Pundyk

WORLD'S FINANCIAL MARKETS REACT TO GLOBAL UNREST

About a month ago the investment world appeared much more predictable than it is today. It's quite possible that by April the stock markets of the world and the price of oil will be much different than they are today.

Since it's quite hard to predict the future, I know for sure that InvestOAK will have its next meeting on Friday, April 17 in the Birch Room of the Central Activity Center from 10–11.30 a.m.

We expect to have a remote speaker from Ameriprise Financial Services to discuss the current unpredictable markets. I hope you will join us in the fun and share your thoughts with our group.

Conservatives Club



■Jane Gyorgy

SONOMA COUNTY GOP CHAIR IS APRIL'S SPEAKER

Our March 23 meeting featured Orlean Koehle, director, writer and publisher for the Eagle Forum of California. The Eagle Forum became a national organization started by Phylis Shafley in 1972. They advertise themselves as "a grass roots, family centered, conservative voice to preserve individual liberties, rights to property, respect for families, public and private virtue," and "to protect and encourage the free enterprise system."

Ms. Koehle provided a Legislation Report of bills in Sacramento that are in the "pipe-line" and their impact on the public. She spoke at length of the need to become involved at all levels of citizenship and urged each of us to make our voices heard by our elected officials.

As an author of over 10 books, she is very knowledgeable on a myriad of topics focusing on solutions in self-governance. A fact filled evening that was enjoyed by many! Thank you to Orlean for a tremendous and educational evening!

Our April 28 meeting will feature Debbie LaBoy, Chairman of the Sonoma County Republican Party. She will be presenting how all of us can become involved in the upcoming primary and State election as well as volunteer opportunities at their offices and elsewhere. Meeting starts at 4 p.m. See you there!

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

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

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

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

NEED A RIDE? GIVE A RIDE! OAKMONT VOLUNTEER HELPERS

COORDINATOR

Rides to Medical Appointments

April 1–15 Maggie Schmidt 707-890-1347

April 16–30 Jenny Watts 707-367-2102

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

- Transportation to medical/dental appointments, including pet appointments in Santa Rosa only
- Rides to events and activities within Oakmont
- Meals on Wheels 707-525-0383

If you would like to be a volunteer, please call 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.

HOW TO CONTACT LOCAL OFFICIALS

County Supervisor Rebecca Hermosillo, District 1

Phone (707) 565-2241

Email: rebecca.hermosillo@sonoma-county.org

Address: 575 Administration Drive, Rm. 100A, Santa Rosa 95403

City Councilwoman Dianna MacDonald, District 3

Email: dmacdonald@srcity.org

Address: City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Ave., Rm. 10, Santa Rosa 95404

Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



■Charles Ensley

CLUB MEMBERS ASSEMBLE TRAUMA DOLLS

What happens when a child unexpectedly arrives in the hospital emergency room, or is taken to a safe house when domestic violence or a tragedy occurs in a family? Children are often provided with a “trauma doll” by police, fire personnel or at the hospital. These dolls are made by volunteers, and that is what Oakmont Kiwanis members are doing during April.

The dolls are sewn out of plain muslin, then stuffed with filling and sewn closed. The dolls have no facial features or clothing. Once received by a child, they are provided with markers to make the features. In that way, they can personalize the doll to suit their own style and situation. Contact has been made by Kiwanis members to area hospitals and agencies for distribution once our service project is finished. A motto of Kiwanis as we serve children is “improving the world one child at a time.”

In addition to contributions donated at our March Shredathon, our major fundraiser for scholarships and donations to local agencies that provide services to women and children in need is our annual Carnitas and Margarita Dinner. Mark your calendar now for this event the afternoon and evening of Saturday, August 8 at Berger Center. Again, this year it will feature the popular silent auction.

Kiwanis Club of Oakmont meets each Thursday morning at Berger Center. Breakfast begins at 8 a.m. and the meeting runs 8:30–9:30. Most weeks we have speakers from local agencies that serve people in need. We collect canned food for the Redwood Empire Food Bank at the first meeting of each month, and have a warehouse workday scheduled there on May 22.

We invite you to come to a meeting for a free breakfast. For more information contact me at (707) 623-9564.



■Larry Souza, Host

PRESENTING CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION

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

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

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

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

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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.

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Let's Dance—Together!

■ Terry Whitten, Instructor

SWING INTO SUMMER WITH JITTERBUG SWING

WHAT: Beginning Jitterbug Swing partner dance classes

WHEN: Wednesdays May 6, 13, 20, 27 and June 3, 10, 17, 24 from 4–5:15 p.m.

WHERE: Lower West Rec. Center

COST: \$10 pp if 2 or more classes are purchased at the same time; \$12 pp for single class. Please pay at the door with cash or check.

RSVP: Please contact me to register in advance at twhitten@pacbell.net or call (415) 265-7590. Class size may be limited.

Come learn some basic, fun and easy moves for Jitterbug Swing that will get you dancing together all Summer and beyond. Jitterbug Swing (aka Single Time Swing) is an upbeat, fun and versatile dance that can be danced to many types of music ranging from Big Band music to Rock 'n Roll Oldies as well as contemporary pop music and Country tunes.

Classes will meet weekly for four sessions in May to learn the most basic steps. Then they will continue with another four sessions in June for those who want to learn pre-intermediate steps. The classes in June require knowledge of the material taught in May. If you already know some J Swing, please contact me

at twhitten@pacbell.net to discuss which month is best for your level.

No partners or experience are required. 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. Some studies also indicate that partner dancing may actually increase mental acuity and reduce the possibility of cognitive decline. It is definitely good for our muscles, balance, brains and spirit!



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Oakmont Sunday Symposium



■Judie Coleman

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

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

APRIL 12: CRAIG GRIFFEATH GARDEN OF SYMBOLS: THE PLANTS BENEATH THE CANVAS



From ancient myths to cutting-edge exhibition design, art historian Craig Griffeath presents an intriguing, eye-opening journey into how plants have shaped the language of art. Discover the secret meanings hidden in Old Master paintings, wander through legendary gardens from Eden to Versailles,

and see how flowers, trees, and vines have inspired modern icons from Monet and Van Gogh to O’Keeffe and Warhol. Once you see it, you’ll never look at art—or plants—the same way again.

APRIL 19: DIANA R. CHAMBERS BEFORE THE APRON: JULIA CHILD, SECRET AGENT

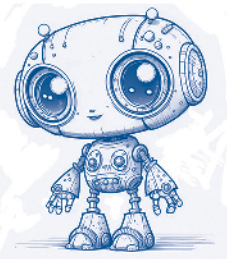
Before Julia Child became America’s most joyful French Chef, she was a WWII intelligence officer stationed in Asia. Through vivid storytelling, Ms.



Chambers traces Julia’s journey from Washington to the remote front lines of Ceylon, India, and China, where she finds adventure, purpose, and love with Paul Child. These war years shaped Julia’s confidence, curiosity, and courage and helped her to become the fearless, exuberant culinary icon with whom we all would later fall in love.

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

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



ECK Spiritual Adventures Club

■Kim Morris

WHAT HAS LIFE TAUGHT YOU?

You are cordially invited to our monthly club on Friday, April 17 from 3–4:30 p.m. in the Birch Room to explore “What Has Life Taught You?”

As grandparents and seniors in community, what has life taught you that you could share with others and your loved ones? What would your legacy of wisdom be? How important are these gifts of wisdom to you?

As Elders, it seems very challenging to connect or stay relevant within our families. Back in the day, everyone traveled to see their elder loved ones. Those days have changed. Come join us and share your guidance, wisdom and spiritual insights.

“We like our lives to go easy. We want them to go smoothly. And when they do, it’s interesting—our

creativity often goes to sleep. But when things get hard, then we become awake. And the harder they get, if we’re at all spiritual, the more creative we become.”—Harold Klemp, *The Spiritual Lessons of Life*, pg. 157

In the club, we hope to hear your stories and life’s challenges that have led to this stage in life. What has worked for you? What concerns would you like to explore? We are a sacred space to share spiritual insights and gratitude for the gift of life. We offer a spiritual contemplation to sing a Love Song to God, the HU, to help us explore. We look forward to learning from you and each other.

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

Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

MONTH O’ THE GREEN

Saint Patrick’s Day month is over for 2026 but Oakmont Health Initiative recognizes its luck in having JoRene and Nicole leading classes. It’s their guidance that encourage members to reach a little higher, balance a little longer, stand a little straighter. It’s because of these instructors that the “free” fitness classes are such a success.

And yet...

Fitness is not “free.” Exercise gurus tell us, “Stay in shape by staying dedicated. It takes time and effort.” OHI understand the time and effort needed for healthy bodies, minds, and friendships. Effort pays off: fitness means less doctor visits, medication and physical therapy. In other words, exercise helps save money.



Thigh Sits around the room. (Photo by author)

Weights for St Patrick’s Day. (Photo by author)


Classes are free to all participants, but additional funds to supplement basic expenses are always welcomed. Tax-deductible donations are accepted through Oakmont Community Foundation (oakmontcommunityfoundation.com) with OHI noted as beneficiary. Or a direct check, made out to Oakmont Health Initiative will also do.

One class participant says he actually likes to contribute. He compares costs of three exercise venues: 35 years in JC fitness classes, two decades membership in a local gym, and fitness classes at Oakmont. He says “It’s a no brainer. OHI as these classes are our preference. Classes are conveniently to home, friends are there and we feel terrific when we are consistent.”

Classes are open to all. However, classes are strenuous and not everyone can just drop in and keep up. It may take a plan to work up to keeping up. Baby steps at first. Check with a health provider if in doubt. Bring a mat, water to drink and free weights. OHI provides equipment for those who prefer to borrow for the class.


Spring forward: Mon., Wed., Fri. at Berger. Zoom: 850 1489 7161 / 998608.






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