

Oakmont Multi-Sport Court Project: History and Community Outreach

The dry facts of the project file do an excellent job of describing the scope and details of the proposed development. But one thing missing is the sense of history. We have heard comments that this has “sprung up out of nowhere” and that it is “a pet project supported only by a few players with an inappropriate sense of entitlement” (ouch!)

The attached history is provided to counter some of these claims , in particular:

- How the project came to be and the work of the Board-appointed Ad Hoc Pickleball Committee
- The Board meetings and forums at which the committee kept the community informed
- The numerous Oakmont News articles intended to apprise those members who do not attend meetings, and
- The changes made along the way to accommodate resident concerns

A Brief History of Pickleball in Oakmont

- 1965** Pickleball invented in Bainbridge Island, WA
- Nov 2012** Saddle Club members invite Oakmonters to play pickleball as their guests.
- Jan 2013** Several Oakmonters are playing regularly, stretching “guest” privileges
- Mar 2013** Oakmont Board recognizes “Oakmont Pickleball Club”
- Apr 2013** Pickleball Club makes presentation to Oakmont’s Long Range Planning Committee requesting pickleball courts.
- Jun 2013** Oakmont Board adds “pickleball facility” to its list of goals
- Jul 2013** Oakmont News story about proposal for pickleball courts
- Sep 2013** Long-Range Planning Committee recommends temporary use of one tennis court (East #4) and construction of dedicated courts by May 2015
- Oct 2013** OVA Board of Directors approves painting lines for two courts at East, using portable nets and forms Ad Hoc Committee to recommend a site and explore costs.
- Nov 2013** Ad Hoc Pickleball Committee appointed with representatives from Pickleball Club, Tennis Club, Petanque Club, Finance Committee, and Maintenance Dept.
The Open Space & Recreational Element of Oakmont’s Long Range Plan is released, recommending separate Pickleball courts because:

- Pickleball is one of the newest activities played by active seniors,
- Oakmont needs to remain competitive with other senior communities,
- Oakmont's players need pickleball courts and the temporary arrangement with Saddle Club will end soon, and
- OVA's main purpose is to "provide athletic and recreational and club facilities for the use of the members of the corporation and their guests."

Nov 2013 First meeting of Ad Hoc Pickleball Committee. Work **over the next year** includes:

- Inventory and assessment of vacant or underutilized OVA parcels – Central Activity Area emerges as best choice with minimal impacts.
- Recommendation of six courts, based on review of other retirement communities
- Meetings with Hogan Land Services and Lori Cagwin Landscape Architecture leading to development of the concept of a multi-facet Central Park.
- Preliminary cost estimates from Hardy Construction and Siri Paving.

Aug 2014 Proposed Central Park Sports Complex presented to the OVA Board, reported on front page of Oakmont News (attached). Plan includes:

- Five courts over putting green, with acoustic fencing to protect nearby homes
- Picnic tables and benches between courts and central pool
- Extensive landscaping, including berms facing Laurel Leaf neighbors
- One multi-use courts over the old shuffleboard area, and
- Renovation of the existing petanque area.

Sep 2014 Meetings with neighbors on Laurel Leaf lead to adjustment of court orientation to increase distance from closest residences.

Jan 2015 Project downsized by removing one court in order to preserve abandoned water hazard.

Feb 2015 Planning Dept announces Public Meeting Feb 19 to approve or disapprove Design Review and Conditional Use Permit.

Planning Dept advises that, due to community requests, the proposal must be reviewed at a Public Hearing.

Mar 2015 Pickleball Expo at Berger Center promotes pickleball as a fun, healthful activity, with coverage in the April 15th Oakmont News (attached)

Apr 2015 Planning Dept advises that Sound Assessment and Visual Impact studies will be needed and recommends having a Town Hall meeting to address people's concerns.

May 2015 Sound Assessment by Illingworth Rodkin
Visual Impact study by Digital Realm
Ad Hoc committee recommends removing the court at the shuffle board area

Jun 2015 Analysis of Parking requested and completed.

Oakmont fills the Berger Center auditorium for a Town Hall meeting to explain the project to residents and to address questions and concerns. Follow-up coverage in Oakmont News (attached).

Jul 2015 Project layout revised slightly to increase buffer between courts and “pond”

Aug 2015 Project elevated to a Public Hearing before the full Planning Commission, probably in October.

Sep 2015 Planning Dept advises that hearing will be November 12.
Reviews and comments received from other City departments.

Oct 2015 Planning Dept advises that November 12 is cancelled, and new date is December 10

Nov 2015 Oakmont receives and accepts Conditions of Approval from City planner.

Dec 2015 City Planning Commission unanimously approves CUP & Parking Reduction.

PICKLEBALL EXPO!!!

WHAT IS PICKLEBALL?

*A fun, informative event put on by the
OAKMONT PICKLEBALL CLUB*



Who plays pickleball?

Pickleball at Oakmont?



Friday, March 27 4:00 PM Berger Center

Refreshments served!

Pickleball

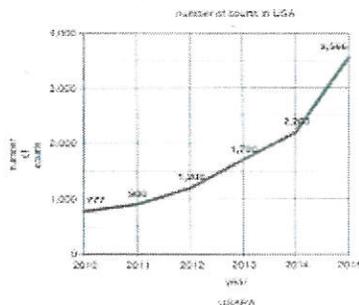
The fastest growing sport in America!

- Custom made for seniors!
- Physical demands are less than tennis – easier on your body
- Smaller court – less area to cover

Oakmont Pickleball Club
c/o OVA Office
6575 Oakmont Dr., Suite 7
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

PICKLEBALL IN 55 ANOTHER COMMUNITIES!

- Most have existing courts
- More courts are being built every day
- Good for the mind, body, and soul – picklers are a fun, social group



400% growth in USA 2010-2015
12,117 courts as of Oct 2015!

Seniors want pickleball!
A sport for our "Golden Years!"

PICKLEBALL IN OAKMONT

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? The project has not yet gone out to bid. The current verbal estimate from Siri Construction, (who built the tennis courts), is \$250,000. Roughly \$60,000 has already spent on architectural & landscape drawings, and sound & visual studies, which brings it to approximately \$310,000.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT! It is not a small amount, but bear in mind Oakmont standards for its facilities are high. The West Rec remodel was over a million. The Berger project could easily cost as much.

CAN WE AFFORD IT? WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF OVA? Yes. All operating budget items are adequately funded, plus there is a reserve fund and year-to-date budget surplus as of August 2015. At the October 13 finance meeting OVA board members were in agreement - Oakmont finances are healthy.

WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM? Because the courts would be a capital improvement, all monies would come from the Capital Improvement Fund, most of which was funded by impact fees from developers in Oakmont.

WILL MY MONTHLY DUES INCREASE? No. Further, there will be no loan or assessment. Any dues increase will be due to operating costs, not the pickleball project.

WHAT ABOUT MAINTENANCE COSTS? Unlike pools, Jacuzzis, saunas, lawn bowling, etc., there will be virtually no maintenance costs.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT OTHER OVA PROJECTS - LIKE THE BERGER? The pickleball project will have no impact on the finances or timing of the Berger project. OVA has multiple projects underway at any given time. The Berger project is long-term and is currently in the planning phase. Simply deciding on a plan and determining the cost for it could take up to two years.

HOW WILL THE SOUND OF PICKLEBALL AFFECT NEARBY RESIDENTS? AND WHAT ABOUT POOL USERS? An earthen berm, soft landscaping, and sound-proofing "Acoustiblock", will mitigate sounds from residences. If it is deemed necessary, a plexiglass barrier of appropriate height will be installed between the pool and the courts. Also, pickleball play is usually from nine to one. Most pool use occurs after noon.

HOW WILL VIEWS FROM NEARBY RESIDENCES AND THE POOL AREA CHANGE? Attractive plantings will soften the views. Mt. Hood and Annadel views will be preserved.

WHY DON'T WE JUST CONVERT A COUPLE OF TENNIS COURTS? We do not want to take away facilities. We want to add a new facility. Both tennis facilities are located in valleys creating amphitheaters - the sound study has indicated that game sounds traveling upwards toward residences cannot be mitigated. The CAC site is level and sounds can be effectively mitigated to within city requirements.

I LIKE OAKMONT THE WAY IT IS. WHY CAN'T WE JUST LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE? We live in a small, dynamic, ever-changing city. 1970 - no tennis. 2000 - one-room small fitness center, and dilapidated bocce ball courts. Today, we have many beautiful facilities. A lot of change has taken place in Oakmont.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY PROPERTY VALUES? All of our facilities enhance property values, as will our pickleball courts. An Oakmont realtor recently stated "Prospective buyers often ask if Oakmont has pickleball."

WHAT ABOUT COMPETITIONS AND OUTSIDERS? Small competitions with local clubs are planned, scheduled to end by 1 pm. As with our other facilities, the policy shall be one guest allowed per resident.

Feel free to contact Oakmont Pickleball Club for any questions or for more information.

Tom Kendrick, President
Bill Lucker, Vice-President
Noel Lyons, Ad-Hoc committee member
Anita Easland, Ad-Hoc committee member
Jane Gyorgy, Ad-Hoc committee member
PJ Savage, new player contact

tomkendrick57@gmail.com
bill.lucker@att.net
noel@zofus.org
dianita@mcn.org
jane@deepvac.com
pjsavage24@att.net

Publicity and Outreach through the Oakmont News

- Jul 1, 2013 OVA Board adds Pickleball Courts to their list of goals
- Aug 15, 2014 Sports Facility Gets Positive Reaction from OV Board
Plan shows six courts, spanning former pond to Shuffle board area
- Jan 1 2015 Report on proposed new facilities includes pickleball courts.
"Pickleball Corner" chronicles growth, including supplies at Dick's
- Feb 15, 2015 "Manager's Corner" notes that pickleball project is at City review
Revised plan published, with five courts and leaving pond intact
- Mar 15, 2015 Report on Candidates' Forum includes many pickleball references
- Apr 15, 2015 Pickleball Expo Huge Success
- May 1, 2015 Board advances Pickleball Plan, approving expenses for sound and
visual studies
- May 15, 2015 Front page photo shows Michael Thill making sound measurements
- Jun 1, 2015 Sound Study results reported
Pickleball Town Hall announced.
- Jul 1, 2015 Pickleball Town Hall Draws Large, Mostly Polite Crowd
- Aug 1, 2015 Pickleball gets Pond Buffer
- Jan 1, 2016 Appeal Filed after Planning Commission Approval

Pickleball Group



■ Anita Eastland

OVA BOARD ADDS PICKLEBALL COURTS TO THEIR LIST OF GOALS

Nine members of the Oakmont Pickleball Group attended the June 6 OVA Board goal-setting meeting and we were encouraged when board member, Fran Diaz, recommended adding 1-2 pickleball courts to the list of goals. Pres. John Taylor added the goal of updating facilities to meet boomers' needs. He then voiced a concern that there might be some other activity like pickleball that is not yet known to the board.

That seems like a legitimate concern so to educate our pickleball group with the intent of sharing that information with the board I contacted the Merrill Barney, Director of Sports for the Huntsman World Senior Games. The Huntsman World Senior Games is the largest annual multi-sport event in the world for athletes 50 and over. It has been recognized as the premier event of its kind in the world for the past 27 years.

Pickleball was added to their list of 26 sports in 2004. Mr. Barney told me that 530 pickleball players have already registered for the games in October. The demand is so great that they have had to close registration and have to turn away several hundred pickleball players. He told me that in the 27 years of running the games they have never had any sport that has had such rapid growth as pickleball. He said, "they are not aware of any sport or events that would even come close to the growth of the game of pickleball." He suggested we invite the board members to come and watch us play so they can have a better understanding of the benefits of the sport.

Pickleball/multisport courts can also be used for two other senior games: badminton and volleyball, thus maximizing the space.

Come and join our ever-growing membership.
WHEN: Wednesdays at 10 AM, Fridays at 10:30 AM, and Saturdays at 1 PM

WHERE: At the Wild Oak Saddle Club tennis courts

Even though we continue to outgrow this facility we are eager to teach you this fastest growing sport in North America!

OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/members

August 15, 2014 • Volume 52, Number 16

Sports Facility Gets Positive Reaction from OVA Board

■ Al Haggerty

A sports facility including five pickleball courts, covered bleachers, basketball and petanque courts and two picnic areas, got a favorable reception from the Oakmont Village Association board at an Aug. 5 workshop.

John Felton, board vice president, called the proposal "worthwhile" and said it was "heading in the right direction." Director Bob Giddings said he saw enough in the proposal to move forward and Director Herman Hesse said, "as a first cut, it's OK."

See SPORTS on page 9

Upgrading Busy West Rec. Will Affect Many Users

■ Marty Thompson

The 30-year-old West Recreation Center, Oakmont's busiest venue, will undergo remodeling and updating that will require closure for at least three months this fall.

The building will get a new exterior and the men's and women's locker rooms will be entirely rebuilt. When the old stucco finish comes off, engineers will evaluate the building's seismic safety and learn how much, if any, work is needed to strengthen ties to the foundation and other structural features.



Oakmont: More than Just Fawns



Photographer Keth Sauer captured this hen turkey and her poults near Aspen Meadows Circle on a late-July morning.

OGC Moving Ahead on Business, Water Issues

■ Jim Brewer

Golf in Oakmont is getting better and people are starting to notice.

After a disappointing winter, play was up significantly in June, following some restoration and improvements to greens under Kemper Sports, the Oakmont Golf Club's new management company.

"The championship West and executive-level East golf courses are back to the premier condition they were in a decade ago," said OGC Vice President Michael Casar. "The greens are now up to a high standard—not as fast as they will be, but much better."

Casar points to an increase of 300



A player on the 16th hole of the West course. Photo by John Haggerty.

at the end of October. The city has been under contract to supply OGC with 25% of its potable water needs, originally from the Oakmont Waste Water Treatment Plant, which the city closed in 2012. Depending on weather conditions, the OGC could face a strain on its emergency water supplies by the end of next winter.

The OGC already has taken steps to prepare for the cutoff, including installation of a new more efficient sprinkler system, dredging the storage lake on the East course to double its capacity to a million gallons, and installing a pump to move water from there to the west

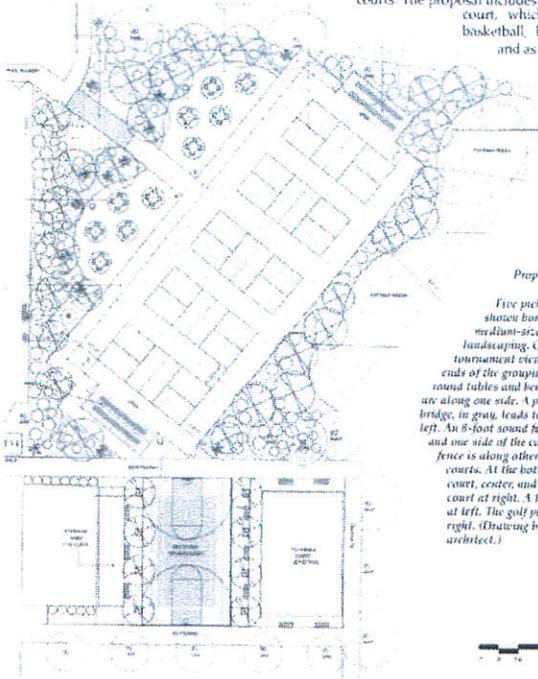
SPORTS (continued from page 1)

Felton chaired the workshop for President John Taylor, who was absent.

Noel Lyons, a member of the ad hoc committee which developed the proposal, said at this point in the planning "we wanted to touch base with the board and make sure we are on the right track before

getting cost estimates from the contractors that would be involved."

The facility, with the working title of Central Park, would be located in the area east of the Central Pool, the current site of what Lyons called "underutilized" horseshoe pits, a putting green and shuffleboard courts. The proposal includes a multi-purpose sports court, which could be used for basketball, badminton, volleyball, and as a sixth pickleball court.



Proposed Sports Facility

Five pickleball courts are shown bordered by circles denoting medium-size flowering trees and other landscaping. Covered bleachers for tournament viewing are shown at both ends of the grouping. Two picnic areas with round tables and benches, with umbrellas, are along one side. A pathway with an existing bridge, in gray, leads to the Central Pool at top left. An 8-foot sound fence runs along the top and one side of the courts. A 6-foot vinyl-clad fence is along other sides of the pickleball courts. At the bottom are a multi-use sport court, center, and the existing petanque court at right. A 10 x 30-foot storage shed is at left. The golf putting green is at the upper right. (Drawing by Lori's again, landscape architect.)

Lyons said pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. and Canada and is "considered almost a required amenity in new 55-plus communities." He said developer Del Webb plans on one court for every 500 homes, which would mean up to six courts for Oakmont.

Stressing "our intention to be a good neighbor," Lyons said the side closest to the homes on Laurel Leaf Place would have an 8-foot sound wall, a raised berm and landscaping. There's an option for a 4,000-square-foot putting green depending on whether the Oakmont Golf Club is willing to maintain it.

WEST REC. DISPLACEMENTS

Marsha Zolkower, OVA's events and community relations coordinator, reported on what she called the overwhelming chore of relocating more than 600 events regularly held at the West Recreation Center, which will be closed for remodeling and updating for at least three months beginning Sept. 15. She said she knows the disruption will be emotional for some people and asked for understanding.

She said the OVA is looking into renting the vacant 2,000-square foot beauty salon on Stone Bridge Road as a temporary venue for some activities. She said the owner is asking rent of \$4,000 a month, but OVA is hoping to negotiate a lower price. The OVA only recently abandoned plans to purchase the building for its offices.

Zolkower said she will recommend moving tap dance classes to a studio in downtown Santa Rosa, available for \$1,000 a month. Another possible site for other activities is the East Golf Course's 1,400-square-foot banquet room.

GARDENING POPULAR

A review of the operating procedures of Oakmont's Community Garden prompted a lengthy, emotional and sometimes raucous discussion over the issue of whether the garden plots should be open to a lottery every two years.

Cassie Turner, association manager, said research makes it clear that a bi-annual lottery was not included in the original bylaws or subsequent revisions of the Community Garden plan.

Felton said the issue was raised as the result of a complaint to the board. Yvonne Horn, founder of the

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Regular Oakmont Association Committee Meetings

NOVA Administration

The listed Oakmont Village Association meetings are open sessions.

Any interested Oakmont residents are invited and encouraged to participate in these important meetings.

MEETINGS	DATE	TIME	PLACE*
Architectural (No participation) / mary@oakmontvillage.com	2nd Tues. Monthly	2 PM	Ste. 6
Oakmont Village Association (OVA) Board	3rd Tues. Monthly	1-3 PM	Berger Center
OVA Board Workshop	1st Tues. Monthly	3-5 PM	East Rec.
COMMITTEES	DATE	TIME	PLACE*
Communications (CC) / ova-communications@ovasic.net	2nd Mon. Monthly	9-11 AM	Rm. B
Community Development (CDCD) / ova-cdcd@ovasic.net	2nd Thurs. Monthly	11:30 AM-1:30 PM	Rm. B
Finance (FC) / ova-finance@ovasic.net	4th Thurs. Monthly	2-3:30 PM	Rm. B
Landscape Improvement Committee (LIC)	1st Tues. Monthly	10 AM-12 Noon	Rm. G
League of Maintained Area Associations (LOMAA)			
Regular Meetings	1st Mon. Monthly	12 Noon	Rm. B
Quarterly Meetings	1st Wed. (March, Sept., Dec.)	7 PM	West Rec.
LOMAA Workshop	2nd Thurs. (June)	9 AM	West Rec.
Long-Range Planning (LRP) / ova-lrp@ovasic.net	4th Tues. Monthly	10 AM-12 Noon	East Conf. Rm.
Emergency Preparedness Committee (OEPIC)			
OEPIC Board	1st Thurs. Monthly	2 PM	Rm. B
OEPIC Community Meeting	3rd Thurs. (Jan., May, Sept.)	2 PM	Berger Center

A quorum of OVA Board of Directors may be present at these meetings.

*It is sometimes necessary to change meeting locations and/or dates and times. Please check the Rec. Center bulletin boards for written notice of change or call the OVA office prior to scheduled meetings for confirmation.

LOCATIONS

Room B is in the Central Activity Center, 310 White Oak Drive.
Room D is in the Central (Berger) Auditorium, 6633 Oakmont Drive, right side of stage.
Room G is in the Central (Berger) Auditorium, 6633 Oakmont Drive, lobby across from rest rooms.



Architectural Committee

Mary C. Patricia, Administrator

A HOLIDAY DECORATION REMINDER

All visible holiday decorations must be removed by January 25.

The Architectural Committee wishes you a wonderful new year. We appreciate your continued support in maintaining Oakmont's neat, clean and well-kept ambience.

You're Important: Speak Up! E-mail Addresses Needed

The community-wide Oakmont survey starts Feb. 1, 2015, and the Long-Range Planning Committee needs your E-mail addresses.

Additional benefits of providing your E-mail address include: getting up-to-date information from the OVA Office and getting immediate notification in cases of emergencies like fires and earthquakes.

Send name, home address and E-mail address for each person in your household to the OVA Office. Forms are available in the office or send information to oakmontsurvey@gmail.com.

Help guide Oakmont's future!

NEW FACILITIES (Continued from page 1)

Oakmont Gardens said in September they planned to add two buildings with assisted living and memory care, in the space between the Oakmont Gardens and the Meadows homes. A representative said it was hoped the units could be open by April of 2016.

CENTRAL PARK?

A proposed sports facility near the Berger Center with the working name Central Park is under study. It could include courts for pickleball, basketball and tennis, plus two picnic areas.

California's water crisis prompted OVA recommendations on drought-tolerant plantings, along with city requests to cut water use 20%. Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin presided over a midyear community meeting on the danger of fire spreading from the dry timber in Annapolis State Park.

Two new OVA Board members, Alan Scott and Andie Altman, were elected in April, and former member Bob Giddings was elected to a two-year term.

In August, President John Taylor resigned as he moved from Oakmont, and the board chose Vice President John Felton to succeed him.

A new level of cooperation between OVA and the Oakmont Golf Club coincided with improved results reported at mid-year by the club. OGC had to replace water formerly supplied by the city, putting in a new sprinkler system, doubling water storage and cutting back irrigation in some areas.

Scaled-down plans for the proposed Elnoka development on Oakmont's west border won OVA backing, and at year's end were moving toward city approval. The gated community would have 479 living units.

The Oakmont Drive medians were cleaned up and replanted at the beginning of the year, and in the fall new landscaping was installed on two corners at Oakmont Drive and Stone Bridge Road—property owned by the Berger Foundation and by Quail Run homeowners.

OAKMONT TECH

Communications advanced during the year, with publication in February of a new and expanded Oakmont Community Directory and Resource Guide—more than just a phone book. The Oakmont News website was upgraded to include convenient page view access, and a password requirement was removed for the online newspaper and most other OVA website features.

OVA Manager Cassie Turner began a weekly E-mail newsletter that proved popular, with more than 1,400 people signing up.

The Long-Range Planning Committee worked toward a new plan for Oakmont's future, with additional community input to be sought in 2015. Data from a study completed last year show a majority of residents are female, the average age is 76 and more than half of Oakmonters live alone.

The spirit of volunteerism central to Oakmont's success was highlighted in April with naming of Dutch Lichtler as volunteer of the year. He founded Oakmont Video Productions, which provides online video coverage of board meetings and community events, and heads a committee working on a new OVA website.

The Architecture Committee stepped up efforts to spot CC&R violations, and won approval for an enforcement system that can lead to board-imposed fines in certain cases.

A new homeowners association, The Orchard, debuted late in the year. Its 55 homes are part of the development at Pythian Road and Highway 12. The Orchard is the 36th HOA in Oakmont.

HAPPY & HEALTHY AGING Ask Your Professional



Dear Home Instead Professional—

My mom lives alone and I worry about her caring for her home during the winter months alone at her age. What should I be on the lookout for?

Dear Winter-Worried Daughter—

As potentially dangerous winter storms begin, I am encouraging families to help their senior loved ones and neighbors prepare for the possibility of heavy rain, flooding and frigid temperatures. Quick tips: Fill the cupboard, check and clean the fireplace and furnace, replace furnace filters, weather-strip around windows and doors. Keep doors closed to unused rooms, close curtains at night, add an extra blanket to the bed, wear an extra sweater or sweatshirt, make sure that they're keeping the thermostat above 65 degrees, check rain gutters for leaks and unclog if need be. Stay in touch. Check on your neighbor or loved one frequently during periods of cold and rainy weather. You can't always be around to help your elderly loved one. Call on your local Home Instead Senior Care office. Stay warm and safe this winter season!

For a FREE in-home care consultation on how Home Instead can offer aging solutions for you or your loved one, call us at 586-1516.

- Transportation/errands • Home cooked meals
- Personal care • Alzheimer's care • Hospice care
- Returning home from hospital
- Medication reminders



Julie Ann Anderson
Home Instead Senior Care
586-1516

Paid Advertising

The Pickleball Corner

■Diane Naylor

NEWSFLASH

PICKLEBALL GOES MAINSTREAM!
How does one know when he/she has arrived? For an author, it may be having his/her book optioned for a movie. For a college athlete, it could mean being drafted by the pros. But for participants of Pickleball, it means something else, and that something is here. The whacky sport, which involves old people running around on a pint-sized tennis court and pretending to be young, is growing by leaps and bounds across the land. And although its popularity is exploding, and pickleball courts are being built faster than our Sonoma County water reservoirs are filling (and that's pretty fast), you can still hear the old familiar phrases. "Pickleball--what's that?" Or, "Oh, yeah, I've heard of it--just another passing

fad." Or "I was thinking about trying it, but I need to change my shoelaces." Well, guess what? I have some news for you--and here it is. As of this week, pickleball supplies--paddles, balls, pickle fashion accessories, pickle sunblock, and pickle socks and shoes can now be purchased at our local Sport Authority and Dick's Sporting Goods! Okay, maybe just paddles and balls, the other items are tennis crossovers, but nevertheless, this is a significant sign. The fact that national chain stores are now stocking pickleball supplies is an indicator of a "coming out" of sorts. Yes, that's it! We've come out of the closet! We've arrived! We're mainstream! Our world is changing, and I can see a day in the not too distant future where there could be wide acceptance. A day where players will no longer be



Pickleball paddle display at Sports Authority

OAKMONT PICKLEBALL CLUB 2015 ANNUAL DUES
Complete the form and place it with your check in the Pickleball folder in the OVA Office. (Suggestion, while you're there, pick up a tennis court key if you don't already have one.)

of regular members at \$10 each _____ # of supporting members at \$10 each _____

Check enclosed, made payable to OPC: \$ _____

Names(s) _____

Phone(s) _____

E-mail(s) _____

Address _____

Please do/ do not list contact info on the club roster _____ Signature _____

discriminated against because of the strange paddle they wield, or the type of balls they play with. Pickleball! It's coming to a town near you. It's at resorts and retirement communities! It's scheduled to be an event in the 2016 Olympics in Rio! Dennis Rodman is headed to North Korea, using "Pickle-Diplomacy!" President Obama is coming to Oakmont to tour the proposed "Central Park" location! (Okay, I should not have had that third cup of coffee before I started this article.) But the point is, we have arrived! Pickleball club members at Oakmont now number over 100--we're mainstream! Happy holidays to all Oakmonters, and happy pickling in 2015!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Thank you Oakmont for another successful Winter Coat Drive!
Your generosity enabled us to donate just over 500 coats to three local charities.
Congratulations to Monte Tate for winning the \$100 gift basket of holiday goodies and wine.
Wishing all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015!

McBRIDE
AND ASSOCIATES
Realty

707-538-2270

www.OakmontGolfHomes.com • 6520 Oakmont Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

CRBR 400792765

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Room G is in the Central (Berger) Auditorium, 6633 Oakmont Drive, lobby across from rest rooms.

Publication Policy of the Oakmont News—Draft

The OVA Board of Directors approved at its Jan. 20 Business Meeting the following amended Communications Committee Publication Policy. The document will be published in Feb. 15 and Mar. 1 Oakmont News editions for resident comments to the board in writing by E-mail ova@sonic.net or in person delivery to OVA Office Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (note new office hours).

Overview:
The Oakmont News is published under the supervision of the Board of Directors by the Oakmont Village Association for the informational benefit of Oakmont residents. Its purpose is to report on current and planned activities in and around Oakmont or of general interest to the Oakmont community, disseminate information on upcoming planned social, recreational and arts and craft events by our approved clubs and organizations, provide our residents a platform to express their views, and

include board and association communiqués.

General News:
The front page of the newspaper plus one or more inside pages are devoted to news and photos of interest to the Oakmont community. Content to be provided by the Communications Committee Editorial Team and other volunteers working with the team.

Election of Directors:
All candidates shall be provided equal access to the Oakmont News editions published during the annual nominations and election cycle. This access is limited to publication of a personal photo and statements that do not exceed 300 words. Candidate submissions shall not be edited by the Communications Committee or staff.

Letters:
Provide an avenue for residents and owners to express opinion, criticism or praise; but may not

See PUBLICATION POLICY page 11

Manager's Corner

■Cassie Turner, OVA Manager

2015 is going to be another action-packed, fun-filled year at Oakmont. Here are some, but not all, projects that are in progress at the moment.



The West Rec. remodeling project will be done sometime in March. Advance notice: the color beige was not used in this remodel!

The West Rec. pool area will have a new deck and re-plastered pool and spa, with all the city-required upgrades that come with getting the building permit. The pool steps will be wider and shallower, making it easier to get into the pool. An ADA chair lift will be installed as well. The pool and spa will be the first salt water pool/spa in Oakmont. We can't remodel or replace the pool cabana because it is too close to the creek (the city would make OVA tear it down) but we can replace the roof and paint it, so that is our plan.

Hopefully, by the time you read this the Central switchgear project will be successfully completed.

The OVA pickleball court/sports court area is still in Project Development review at the city. We hope to hear from them in late February.

Upgrades are being made to the lawn bowling facility which hasn't had any attention paid to it in many years.

The Research Survey is ending on February 21. After the data is analyzed, the Long-Range Planning Committee and the OVA Board will be better equipped to strategize Oakmont's future. This was a monumental project and we thank you for your participation.

Another huge project that isn't finished is the 55 and older age verification. Phase three of this project is contacting the residents that still haven't provided us with their verification form.

Also, coming online soon from the Communications Committee is a new Oakmont website. It will be updated and much more user friendly.

My Friday E-blast called "What's Happening" is now reaching 1,600 residents every week. Please send us your E-mail and street address if you want to be updated on what's happening in Oakmont and the surrounding area. Send to: kelly@oakmontvillage.com.

We are also planning to relocate and renovate the OVA office space and conference rooms by July 1.

As I enter my 16th month as the OVA Manager (time flies!), I continue to be amazed at the residents who live here and the astonishing range of volunteerism that helps make Oakmont so special. It is inspiring to see this level of commitment by residents who care so much about their community.

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LOMAA
League of Oakmont
Maintained Areas Association

■John Renwick

WHAT: ECHO Wine Country Educational Seminar
WHEN: Saturday, March 21, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
WHERE: Double Tree, Sonoma Wine Country, One Double Tree Drive, Rohnert Park

Visit www.echo-ca.org/events for latest information and online registration. Price is \$50 for non-members (please refer to website for fee schedule).

Next Board Meeting: Monday, March 2, Room B, 12 noon

Valley of the Moon Rotary



■ Randy Ruark

Valley of the Moon Rotary meets on Friday mornings for a full breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Please visit our website at www.valleyofthemoonrotary.org for details on our speakers, programs, involvement in the community and international projects. All are welcome. Be our guest and see if you fit.

- The four-way test of the things we think, say or do:
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?

At a recent meeting Terry Metzger who serves as our Youth Services Director introduced us to the principal of Austin Creek School, Mr. Michael Killison, who introduced our Student of the Month, Aiden Strunk, a sixth grader. Among various awards Aiden was given a sum of money to donate to a cause of his choice. He was asked to report back his choice. These students are selected based upon their outstanding contributions to their fellow students and exemplary good citizenship.

One of our members Rich Irwin reported on a fascinating part of his life. He spent 10 years building scale model airplanes that were used in films, such as *Top Gun*, the three Iron Eagle films, and others. He and five associates built 50 models to order for the film.

Our upcoming crab feed fund-raiser on February 28 supports our various projects. Gather your bidding partners together for your chance to win that stocked wine cooler or that vacation package to Italy, Hawaii or Mexico.



From L. to R. Austin School Principal Michael Killison, Rotary Youth Services Director Terry Metzger, Student of the Month Aiden Strunk, Parents Jennifer and Christopher Strunk

Current Events Discussion Group

■ Tina Lewis

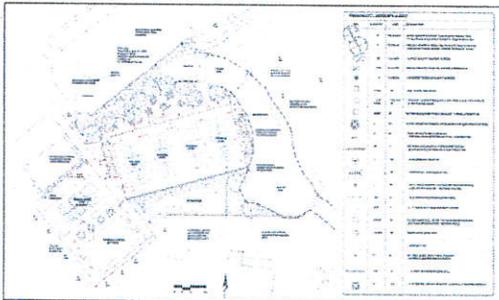
The Current Events group consists of lively discussions of current events, from local to international. Informed comments are voiced from across the political spectrum, from liberals to conservatives. Some prefer to just listen and learn, others offer to moderate. Whatever your comfort level, you will be welcomed when you join us. The discussions are moderated by volunteers within the group, and microphones are passed around to enable everyone to hear. A \$1 donation is requested.

MODERATORS

Feb. 20: Karen Knudsen
Feb. 27: Bernis Falk
Join us on Fridays, 1-2:30 p.m. at the East Rec. and bring ideas of what you'd like us to discuss.
For more information call 539-5346 or send an E-mail to [oakmontcurrentevents@gmail.com](mailto: oakmontcurrentevents@gmail.com).

Pickleball News

■ Noel Lyons



NEW PLANS DEVELOPED FOR CENTRAL PARK

OVA has submitted revised plans to the City of Santa Rosa, in hopes of speeding up the approval process.

The original plans called for filling in the abandoned water hazard that was created when the golf course was first built. A careful analysis concluded that there were no endangered plant or animal species present. However, that doesn't mean that there couldn't be any. We could be asked to wait through a complete breeding season to make sure!

Therefore the plans were changed to eliminate one court and leave the water hazard undisturbed. We're hoping this means a prompt positive response from the city so that OVA can move forward.

As shown above, the planned "Central Park" includes a new pool-side picnic area, four pickleball courts, one multi-sport court, and an upgraded petanque area. Visual and sound screenings are still provided from nearby homes.

Meanwhile, pickleball continues to thrive in Oakmont, with new players showing up every Monday for orientation. Starting at 10 a.m. on Mondays, volunteer club members will spend an hour or so introducing you to this fun game. Loaner paddles and balls are available; just show up with suitable court shoes with non-marking soles.

WHO: Pickleball members and guests

WHERE: Two courts with portable nets on East Rec. Court #4

WHEN: 10 a.m. to noon, Monday through Saturday in drop-in play for all players, all skill levels—no reservations required. Reservations (at the club

website) are recommended outside of the 10 a.m. to noon drop-in period.

WHY: Come join the fun, exercise and meet nice people

WEBSITE: oakmontpickleball.shutterfly.com

CONTACT: PJ Savage, 843-7266, or psavage24@aol.net

Introduction and orientation to the game is offered every Monday from 10-11 a.m. Please wear court shoes with non-marking soles. We have loaner paddles available.

2015 Yearbook Adoptable Pets!



Don Pepe
MOST LIKELY TO KISS YOU ON THE FIRST DATE
Don Pepe is a wiggly little charmer. He was certified as SIBS in December and has been searching for his ideal home ever since. His bubbly personality will do great in a home with other dogs and cats with the right introduction. Don Pepe's new family will be best suited for him if they've had a dog or two before and have kids who are at least 10. Are you ready for this 1yo little kiss machine?



Loretta
BEST DRESSED
Loretta doesn't need a closet full of expensive threads to win this award. Her style and beauty are built-in. While she does love attention, she's far from arrogant. She'll play and get dirty and talk your ear off about everyday things. Just a down-to-earth feline in search of her forever-companion. Loretta has FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), which means she has to live indoors and has to be the only cat in your home. FIV-cats can live long, healthy lives. Ready for longterm love?

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OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/oakmont-news

March 15, 2015 • Volume 53, Number 6



Batchelor

Berman

Strunka

Felton

Hermann

George

Photos by John Williford

OVA Election—Candidates Focus on Long-Range Planning, Golf Course Viability

■ **All Haggerty**

The results of the just completed survey of what Oakmont residents want in their community will strongly influence deliberations when the new OVA Board is seated next month.

This became clear as the six candidates for four open seats on the board discussed their views during a Feb. 26 forum before a packed house at Berger Center. The candidates also focused on the proposal for pickleball courts on property adjacent to Berger Center and the viability of the Oakmont Golf Club.

OVA ELECTION AT-A-GLANCE
April 6: Annual Meeting, 3 p.m., Berger Center Voting closes.
April 7: Ballot Counting, 8:30 a.m., East Rec. Center, open to public. Results announced, 2 p.m., East Rec., new board meets.

The candidates, who made five-minute opening statements and answered questions from the audience, include current board members Frank Batchelor and John Felton, the board president, and Lisa Berman.

Jane Gyorgy, Herm Hermann and Elke Strunka. Ballots, which must be returned to OVA by April 6, will be counted starting at 8:30 a.m. April 7 at the East Recreation Center. Results will be announced there at 2 p.m., when the new board has its organizational meeting.

Hermann, who was unable to attend the forum because of previously scheduled knee replacement surgery, appeared by video and stressed the need to examine the adequacy of current facilities, including whether to remodel or tear down Berger Center. A veteran of two terms on the board, Hermann said the directors also have to decide financing of future projects, including the possibility of loans.

Berman, who led his year's Long-Range Planning Committee survey of Oakmont's needs, said the survey

See **OVA ELECTION** on page 3

Zoe the Happy Dog

■ **Jim Boewer**

Oakmont photographer Bob Starkey still tears up when he talks about Zoe, the little McNab Border Collie mix that he lost a little more than a year ago.



Bob Starkey takes Zoe for a ride in a Radio Flyer.

Over that time, Zoe has become something of an international sensation, with words of support and sympathy pouring in from more than 40 countries on a Facebook page Starkey set up in her memory.

"She allowed me to expand my heart beyond anything I've ever experienced before," Starkey recalled during

See **ZOE** on page 11

Lifelong Learning Classes Hang in the Balance

■ **All Haggerty**

The future of Oaker Lifelong Learning classes in Oakmont hangs in the balance pending negotiations over a lease in which Sonoma State University is setting down conditions described as "onerous" and "draconian" at an Oakmont Village Association Board of Directors workshop March 3 at the East Recreation Center.

Sonoma State is asking to lease space in Oakmont for the classes. Director Bob Giddings told the Oakmont News that he believes the board has no choice but to write a strong letter to SSU President Dr. Ruben

See **LIFELONG LEARNING** on page 11

All About Pickleball A Community Expo Sponsored by the Oakmont Pickleball Club

■ **Noel Lyons**

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 4 PM
AT THE BERGER CENTER

Come learn about pickleball—its history, how it is played, and why it is referred to as the "fastest growing sport in America." This Power Point presentation will use photos and videos to acquaint Oakmonters with this popular sport, including a brief demonstration using a portable net and indoor balls. Complementary wine and snacks afterwards.

OVA Names Aubert Maintenance Manager

■ **Mary Thompson**

Rick L. Aubert has been named facilities maintenance manager for the Oakmont Village Association. Manager Cassie Turner announced.

Aubert, of Windsor, will start work March 2. He comes to the OVA from Varena at Fountain Grove, where he was maintenance director and housekeeping manager. His experience includes construction, maintenance and operation of properties and staff management.

Aubert has held the Varena position since 2013. He was director of engineering and housekeeping manager at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek from 2004 until 2013 and area facilities director and chief engineer at the Vineyard Creek Hotel, Spa and Conference Center from 2012 until 2004. He was senior building HVAC technician at Agilent Technologies in Santa Rosa and for its predecessor, Hewlett Packard. Aubert worked for a year for Siemens Building Technologies, to which Agilent outsourced his department, before moving to the Vineyard Creek position.

He succeeds Mark Rogers, who left Feb. 18.

Oakmont Village Association
 6579 Oakmont Blvd., Suite 7
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Valley of the Moon Rotary



John Bessey

HARD AT PLAY

Fund-raising is hard work as evidenced by this year's Crab Feed, which was our most successful ever, so thank you again for your support. However, all of us at the Valley of the Moon Rotary can occasionally forget how important it is to play hard as well.

It's one thing to volunteer our time and financially support many great causes, but in the process of doing so we should not overlook another rewarding aspect of Rotary—fellowship. And nothing oils the wheels of fellowship like spending a few hours as a group sipping terrific wines, munching on some delectable bites and watching the sun turn the hills a golden brown.

We recently had the chance to do that very thing at Landmark Vineyards right here in Kenwood. We had a great gathering in the gardens on a perfect Friday afternoon and were among the first to taste Landmark's new Pinot Gris while grazing on some wonderful offerings from Earth's Bounty at Skyhawk. It was a true range experience that reminds us of how lucky we are to live in paradise. You won't find us missing out on any opportunities to smell the roses and taste the grapes.



Jerry and John



Garden Club

Peggy Dowdick

GARDEN QUOTE

*How many million Aprils came before I ever knew
That white a cherry bough could be, a bed of squilla, blue
rose.*

*And riding a dancing April when life is done with me,
Will lift the blue flame of the flower and the white flame
of the tree.*

*Oh burn me with your hands, then, to hurt me free and
flame.*

*Last to the end death tree to take
Even this glistering hair.*

Sara Teasdale, *Blue Squilla*, 1926

APRIL 22 FIELD TRIP

WHAT: This year we will be visiting four Sonoma County nurseries and having lunch at the French Garden Restaurant in Sebastopol.

WHEN AND WHERE: Depart the Berger Center parking lot on April 22 promptly at 9 a.m. return to Berger Center by 4:30 p.m.

This trip is filled.

MAY MEETING

Sandy Metzger, master gardener, will talk about "Habitat Gardening for Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Bugs." She'll discuss garden conditions favored by wildlife and how thoughtful planning for these creatures creates a healthier garden. In her colorful slide show she'll present many varieties of flowers and shrubs, all of which grow well in Sonoma County and most of which are drought tolerant.

WHEN AND WHERE: Tuesday, May 19 at the Berger Center.

TIME: Coffee, tea and socializing at 9:30 a.m., followed by the meeting from 10-11:15 a.m.

APRIL 15 GARDEN ADVICE

- It's not too late to plant drought-tolerant plants such as crocodylus, cotinaster, Fremontia, dendree, manzanita and rosemary. Dig, planting holes the same depth as the rootball and at least twice as wide. It's usually better to plant these in un-amended soil. After planting, add a 2-3" layer of mulch around the plants, keeping it about an inch away from trunks and stems.

- As you groom the garden, add trimmings to the compost pile along with fruit and vegetable waste. To help the plant material break down faster, chop or shred it into smaller pieces, then toss it onto the pile, alternating 6" layers of brown material (dry leaves, straw and tree trimmings) with 6" layers of green



Pickleball Expo Huge Success!



Tom Kesdros

Curiosity seekers, future pickleballers, skeptics and folks looking for free food came to the Berger Center to see for themselves what all the hullabaloo is about. They weren't disappointed as they left with newfound knowledge of the game, a few chuckles and full tummies (courtesy of Sequoia Senior Solutions). A Powerpoint presentation, which included national news stories from CBS and NBC, was shown, as well as a cross-section of pickleballers, of which 70% are over age 65.

A brief update was given on the proposed Central Park project. The audience was informed that plans have been submitted to the city, which has ordered sound testing and a public forum. After those hurdles have (hopefully) been crossed, the project will then go back to OWA for further study and construction bids.

Following the 30-minute presentation, there was a Q&A portion, with one resident asking about the proposed "quiet" balls. The audience was informed that although the balls are indeed quieter, they alter the game and were soundly rebuffed by players. The Pickleball Club continues to explore sound mitigating tools, such as quarter paddles and noise-reduction bumpers.

Next came the fun part. The new Dick's Sporting Goods near Cuddington donated 11 gift coupons. Rather than simply handing them out, folks who had never held a paddle before were told that if they could rally the ball (on the temporary court setup) five times, they would win a coupon. An enthusiastic group of arthritic rookies lined up for the challenge and the coupons were gone in no time. (A young woman in her early 20s showed up, but after an ID check she was arrested.)



Pickleball rookies show off their newly-earned coupons! A big thank-you to Dick's Sporting Goods and the Sequoia Senior Solutions!

OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/oakmont-news

May 1, 2015 • Volume 53, Number 9

Music on the Green Returns May 31

Oakmont's first Music on the Green since the 50th Anniversary celebration will be held May 31. The free concert, a joint venture between the OVA and OGC, will be held on the driveway range to the music of the Back Pages, a 60s rock band. The fun and food start at 3 p.m., with the concert at 4 p.m. For more information or to make reservations contact the OVA at 539-1071 or 539-9215 x 228. Bring your own lawn chair and blankets and dine from the bounty of food booths. Food and beverage tickets are \$5 each.

New Residents' Reception May 5

■Marty Thompson

If you are new to Oakmont and haven't been to a new residents' reception, here is your opportunity. Everyone new to the community is invited to gather at the Berger Center on Tuesday, May 5 from 6-8 p.m. You will have an opportunity to learn from representatives of Oakmont groups and clubs how you can take part in their activities.

There will be a presentation by OVA Manager Cassie Turner. OVA Board members will be introduced and you will have an opportunity to ask questions about the community.

There will be door prizes and light refreshments. Advance registration is not required.

Board Advances Pickleball Plan

■Al Haggerty

The Oakmont Village Association Board of Directors unanimously approved spending up to \$12,000 on studies needed to secure a permit for new pickleball courts at its regular meeting April 21.

The issue drew an overflow crowd to Berger Center to hear nearly an hour of public comments on both sides of the issue. While opponents cited the limited support for pickleball in a recent survey of Oakmont residents, supporters cited the OVA Articles of Incorporation, which state that OVA's primary purpose is to provide athletic recreational and club facilities for its members.

Several opponents cited the 65% support for pickleball in the recent Long-Range Planning Committee survey of Oakmont residents as the prime

See BOARD on page 11

Oakmont Village Association
6755 Oakmont Drive, Suite 7
Santa Rosa, CA 95409-9906

Ridgeline Vote Stalls Elnoka Development

■Jim Brewer

Santa Rosa council members have made themselves abundantly clear: they would love to see developer Oakmont Senior Living submit its plans for 478 units for seniors on the 88-acre property just west of Oakmont known as Elnoka. But no, they are not willing to remove the Elnoka property from a disputed ridgeline map, even though the admittedly "ambiguous" designation is tangential, if not irrelevant, to whether the project ever gets built.

So in what boils down to a high-stakes game of chicken, the 5-2 vote by the council on April 14 ended with the developers saying it would be a waste of time and resources to formally submit their proposal, and the council all but begging them to proceed.

"I am guardedly optimistic that things will move forward once (the developer) lets everyone stew over it for a while," Wally Schulpp, the Oakmont Community Development Committee member who has been instrumental in convincing the developer to come up with a project Oakmont can support.



Oakmont residents leave a city Council meeting to board the bus home after showing support for the Elnoka project.

Schulpp and OCDC Chair Susan Millar led a delegation of some 40 Oakmont residents to the meeting in support of the project, most of them arriving in a bus caravan at 4 p.m. for a hearing scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. But the bus departed at 7 p.m. with the matter still far down on the agenda.

"After sitting for three hours, I decided that the scheduled issue would go on far too long to ask them to stay any longer," Millar said. "But Mayor John Sawyer and the council members know we were there in force. We accomplished our goal."

See Elnoka on page 3

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Truck Crashes Into Pole



A tree service's truck wiped out a light pole along Meadowsridge Road near Boulder Creek. Bystanders said the driver reported losing his brakes on the steep hill stretch. The truck crossed the street and hit the pole. There were no injuries in the Monday, April 12 mishap. (Photo by Keith Sauer)

The Meadows Kennel No Longer Subject to Annual Oversight

■Jackie Reinhardt

Despite vocal objections from neighbors, the Meadows Kennel used by many Oakmont dog owners will no longer be subject to annual review by the Sonoma County Permit Resource Management Department.

All four commissioners on April 9 voted unanimously to accept the Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) staff recommendation. The decision, which can be appealed, means the kennel will revert to standard conditions of compliance with the use permit issued a year ago for dog daycare, grooming and training.

Opposition focused on traffic issues, especially left hand turns from Richards Road onto Highway 12, lighting and signage. No one complained about noise from dogs which are limited to 20, including the owner's.

"Transparency is important to me," said Heidi Niemann, the kennel owner, who told the commissioners she has tried to reach out to her neighbors to address their complaints, but they did not respond to her E-mails.

Ten residents of Oakmont spoke on behalf of the kennel. Typical were Roberta Vogel, a client since the Meadows Kennel opened almost five years ago, who called the facility "an extraordinary service" and John Wilkinson, who uses the day care every week and has boarded his dog there. "There are seven businesses with the same type of entrance on Highway 12," he noted in addressing traffic concerns.

Mama Hill, a neighbor on Sonoma Highway, called for another year of oversight, stating many of the conditions are unenforceable. While acknowledging noise is not a problem for her, she said, "I don't think the burden should be on our road to take care of

See MEADOWS on page 11

MEADOWS *Continued from page 1*

Oakmont's dogs." Douglas Payne, another neighbor, cited 10 violations of left turns at peak hours and lighting that made it look like a used car lot.

Others said since they don't see dogs outside it is premature to assess whether the kennel has complied with the best management practices specified in the permit. Lana Pacheco, the kennel operations manager, countered they have gone above and beyond. She distributed pictures of dogs in the runs.

The commissioners and several others who spoke called on neighbors and Niemann to find a way to resolve their differences amiably. "It breaks my heart," Diane Holt said of the friction, adding that all of the clients want the kennel to succeed.

BOARD *Continued from page 1*

reason to reject the project. Others cited noise factors. Lann McAleer said she sold her house on Laurel Leaf Pl., which she bought in 2013, because of the noise she anticipates coming from the sports facility featuring pickleball courts proposed for the area behind Berger Center now containing a putting green and shuffleboard.

Wally Schilpp, a former OVA director, in a statement read to the board, said that abandoning the pickleball project based on a 6% support from residents "borders on ludicrous." He said if the 6% was applied to OVA's entire membership, it would translate to 265 residents. "Our largest athletic club is tennis, with 175 members," he said, "followed by lawn bowling with 100 and bocce with 50. If the 6% figure meant anything, we would have no athletic facilities of any kind."

Anita Eastland, co-chair of the ad hoc Pickleball Committee, said the committee looked at all possible sites for pickleball courts in Oakmont and concluded that the current proposed site is the only one available. She said the canyon effect, which funnels the sound to nearby homes from both the east and west tennis courts, makes those sites impractical for pickleball. She said the proposed site is level and already has high ambient noise from the nearby pool.

She asked the board to approve spending just under \$10,000 to conduct acoustical and visual studies of the proposed site, which the City of Santa Rosa requires before considering a permit, and for signs advertising a public hearing on the permit request. The board added \$2,000 to the request for unanticipated expenses.

Responding to a request from Sonoma State University to lease space in Oakmont for the Osber Lifelong Learning classes, board president Frank Batchelor said in a letter to university officials that "the OVA cannot enter into a lease agreement as it is prohibited by the OVA's governing documents." It also cites insurance issues which would be raised by a lease. The letter proposes that the classes be "grandfathered in" and continue at the Oakmont campus.

The letter proposes that "SSU and the OVA renew the spirit of the memorandum of understanding of July 9, 2008, signed by Dr. Rubin Arminana, president of SSU and Dr. Robert E. Agrella, then president of Santa Rosa Junior College, recognizing SSU's Osber Lifelong Learning's successful extension to Oakmont Village two years earlier in 2006."

Batchelor said that OVA won't let the lecture series go away. He said that there are many lecturers willing to continue the series absent SSU involvement.

Cassie Turner, association manager, said she wanted to alert OVA residents to a scam, which has already claimed several Oakmont residents, in which two women are knocking on doors and asking for donations up to \$500 in order to go to school in Barcelona, Spain. They say they are operating under the Worldwide Care Package Organization. But the organization's website says it no longer exists, adding "Please do not send donations."

Oakmont Music Lovers

■Joan Lounsbury

**FOLK MUSIC 2.0:
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED
PRESENTER: ERNIE ROSE**

Although Ernie Rose is better known in Oakmont for his documentary film screenings, he served for several years as the Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of New Mexico before retiring. In that role he was responsible for programs in art history, painting, sculpture, lithography, photography, film, theater, dance, and music, as well as for the renowned University Art Museum.



Ernie Rose

Classical music has always been of great interest to Ernie, especially some of the early works from the thousand-year period before the time of Mozart. Here in Oakmont he has given presentations on both Baroque and Renaissance music performance, on some of the lesser known, but influential, composers of the British Isles between the two World Wars, and on international music, much of it rooted in traditional folk melodies from around the world.

When our generation thinks of American folk music, names like Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, Woody Guthrie, and Simon and Garfunkel spring to mind. But folk melodies also inspired a great many classical works by important composers in other parts of the world. And traditional music from other cultures, particularly dance music, has often attained popularity that rivals that which is heard in the U.S.

In his current presentation, Ernie shares with us some of his favorite discoveries that very few people have heard before. Some of them date well before the 8th century Gregorian Chants. Others are very contemporary in tone and lyrics. He concludes with a brief look at music of the Moslem faith which remains a central element in Middle Eastern prayer rituals.

WHERE: Tuesday, May 5 at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: East Recreation Center

COST: Free Admission

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Walkers



■Barbara Powell

**GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND
AND BAY MODEL**

WHERE: Guide Dogs for the Blind, The Spinnaker, and Bay Model

WHEN: Thursday, May 21

TIME: Leaving Berger at 8:45 a.m.; returning at 5:30 p.m.

PRICE: \$62 includes bus, driver tip, donation to Guide Dogs, and lunch

DEADLINE: May 7

LIMIT: 40 people

Our first destination will be the Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Raphael. The San Raphael campus trains highly qualified guide dogs to serve and empower individuals who are blind or have low vision. All of their services are provided free of charge and with no government funding. The tour will last 1 to 1.25 hours during which time there will be no chairs or benches available for resting.

We will then proceed to The Spinnaker in Sausalito for lunch. The Spinnaker has fabulous views of the Bay, San Francisco and Mt. Tam. Starter choices are clam chowder or salad. Entrée choices are fresh salmon salad sandwich on marbled rye; turkey, avocado, Havarti, and tomato with cranberry-pineapple chutney on Ciabatta roll; or Portobello mushroom sandwich with roast peppers, sautéed onions, Havarti on Ciabatta roll.

After lunch we will have a guided tour of the Bay Model Visitor's Center, an education center administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers. They have a working 1.5-acre hydraulic model of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta System capable of simulating the tides and currents. This tour will last approximately 1.5 hours.

This trip will be limited to the first 40 people to sign up. Checks must be received no later than May 7. Please make your check out to Oakmont Walkers, note starter and entrée choices on your check, and mail your check to Barbara Powell, 7466 Oak Leaf Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95409. You may also drop your check into the Walkers' folder in the OVA Office, or in my garage mail slot. My E-mail address is oakmontwalkers@gmail.com, text or phone (714) 309-1987 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

Note: seating on the bus is determined by when your check is received. If you wish to sit with someone on the bus, please submit the necessary checks in the same envelope.

The Walkers Club puts on one event each month; nine bus trips each year to various places in the Bay area, an annual meeting in January, a picnic in August, and a Harvest Dinner in November. Each month's event will be announced in the *Oakmont News* on the 15th of the prior month. Walker dues are \$5 per calendar year. There is a one-time fee for a Walker name badge: \$6 for a pin type or \$8 for a magnet type. Our club's website is oakmontwalkers.com.

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OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/oakmont-news

May 15, 2015 • Volume 53, Number 10

Architectural Guidelines Available for Review

■ Staff Report

Proposed changes to Oakmont's architectural guidelines are available for viewing in the Berger Center and on the OVA website (www.oakmontvillage.com).

Changes include the addition of artificial plants to be prohibited from front yard landscaping and defining vehicle storage as any inoperable vehicle parked in a driveway for four consecutive days.

Proposed changes are highlighted in red. The guidelines are up for review and comment until May 20. They are expected to go before the OVA Board for approval at its June meeting.

Comments can be E-mailed to the Architectural Administrator, Mary Patricia, at Mary@oakmontvillage.com. Comments also may be dropped off in the office at 6575 Oakmont Drive, Room 9.

Gorin Asks Oakmont To Support Measure A

■ Jackie Reinhardt

A one-quarter cent sales tax increase measure, headed for a special election on June 2, drew only a dozen people to the Berger Center April 26 to meet with Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin and Jason Nutt, Santa Rosa Transportation and Public Works Director.

The meeting was called by Gorin to discuss efforts to upgrade roadways in Sonoma County and to rally

See **GORIN** on page 3

Coffee Cart Set to Debut at CAC in Late May

■ Jackie Reinhardt

Oakmont will soon have a place where people can gather and enjoy gourmet coffee and homemade pastries as part of a 90-day pilot project approved by the OVA Board of Directors.



Melissa Lepley-Schurtz
(photo by Michael Reinhardt)

Melissa Lepley-Schurtz, an Oakmont resident with 30 years' experience as a pastry chef, plans to open The Good News Cafe in the patio of the Central Activities Center (CAC) when the permit process is completed in late May. Hours will be from 7:15 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

If the coffee cart business is successful, she hopes to expand her hours and add sandwiches and salads as well as teas, such as orange hibiscus and lavender lime.

"My coffee will cost a little more than McDonald's, but it will be 1,000 percent better," Lepley-Schurtz said. "Pastries I do are flavorful and not overly sweet," she added in an interview. Among the choices will be apricot pecan scones, apple oat bran muffins, and high protein bars as well as gluten free and vegan options. She will be using organic butter, flour and eggs.

Describing herself as a "micro-entrepreneur," Lepley-Schurtz owned a catering and wedding cake business in Mendocino County and was the pastry chef at the Country Gardens Grill in Fort Bragg. She also worked for Mendocino Jams and Jellies for 10 years.

"There is no place in Oakmont for people to get together and just have coffee," she said. "There is so much underutilized space at the CAC. It will be a nice place to gather."

Measuring the Sound of Pickleball



Michael Thill, Acoustics principal with Illingworth and Rodkin Inc., began testing for a study on pickleball noise levels at the proposed sport court site behind the Central Pool. Here he sets up during an April 29 pickleball game at the East Rec courts to gather data. The study was expected to be completed within two weeks. Visual effects tests also were planned. Both were required by the city. (Photo by Jackie Ryan)

New OVA Office Costs Detailed

■ Jan Brewer

Oakmont's Board of Directors appears ready to authorize spending as much as \$250,000 in remodeling and moving costs for the new OVA office in the Benson Building on Laurel Leaf Place.

At its workshop executive session May 8 the board gave conceptual approval to a contract with Santa Rosa Contractor Dudson and Stanton

OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/oakmont-news

June 1, 2015 • Volume 33, Number 11

Music at Oakmont Volunteers Ready for Anniversary Season

■ Jackie Ryan



Performers Shiran Wei, Lucia Soho and Michelle Djakic, a string trio, are seen here with Rosemary Wuller and Judy Wuller. (Photo by Jackie Ryan)

As Music at Oakmont ended its 2015 season, concert goers were already abuzz with the coming 25th anniversary year that kicks off in October with the New York Brass Arts Trio and also brings back local favorite Jeffrey Kahane in April.

See MUSIC on page 5

Lawn Bowling Added to Senior Games, Oakmont to Host Event

■ Marty Thompson



Oakmont's Lawn Bowling Club is hosting a tournament in this month's Wine Country Games, as that event is added for the first time to the five-year-old senior sports program already popular with active people here.

Eighteen teams will take part in play June 12 and 13 at the bowling green near the Central Activities Center on White Oak Drive. Nine teams will be from Oakmont, the others from elsewhere around the county and beyond. Three teams from Fresno are among those registered.

"It's the perfect partnership between Oakmont and the Council on Aging," Leigh Galten, coordinator for the council, which sponsors the games, told a planning meeting here May 4.

Chairs will be set up for spectators, who will be welcome. "This will be a big event for Oakmont, not only for sport, but also for showing off Oakmont," said Kathleen Connolly, commissioner of the games for the host club.

See SENIOR GAMES on page 5

Oakmont Village Association
5575 Belmont Drive, Suite 2
Santa Rosa, CA 95409-9906

Lifelong Learning Classes Likely to Continue in Fall

■ Al Haggerty

Other Lifelong Learning classes are likely to continue in Oakmont after Sonoma State University dropped its request to leave space in Oakmont for the classes.

Oakmont Village Association board member Bob Ciddings told the board May 19 that SSU replaced its request for a lease with a two-page memorandum of understanding that would allow the classes to continue as they have for the last nine years. OVA had told SSU that OVA's articles of incorporation and CCRs do not allow it to sign the requested lease.

Ciddings said OVA's attorney asked for two small changes in the memorandum and was hopeful that the university will not object. "Our fingers are crossed that we can put this together shortly," he told the Oakmont News.

PICKLEBALL

In explaining their vote at the April 21 board meeting to approve spending up to \$12,000 on studies needed

See BOARD on page 5



Dutch Lichliter

■ Jackie Ryan

Dutch Lichliter, founder of Oakmont Video Productions, and credited with bringing 21st century technology to this community, died May 20 of an apparent heart attack.

When residents couldn't be there, Dutch was. The list was long: Sunday Symposiums, board meetings, concerts and even live streaming of forums. As chairman of the Communications Committee, he was instrumental in convincing the OVA to revamp its website to make better use of digital technology. He also created the Oakmont's chat website, the Buzz and recently started a launch of Cyber Seniors, a project connecting residents with teens who teach them computer and smart phone skills.

Dutch retired from his civil engineering firm 22 years ago and lived in Oakmont for the past eight years. A memorial service will be held Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m. in the Berger Center.



Fawn Season is Here



These four fawns were part of a family seen in an Aspen Meadows yard along Badger Creek last week of May 18. (Photo by Keith Seaver)

Study Says Pickleball Sound Barriers Needed

■ Jim Brewer

Without sound barriers, the pickleball courts planned for the Central Activity Area behind the Berger Center would create slightly more noise than city codes allow, according to an engineering study required by the city.

In a May 11 report addressed to the OVA board by Filingworth and Rodkin of Petaluma, the four courts "would generate noise levels exceeding the Santa Rosa City Code noise limits and ambient noise conditions." But the report also concludes that sound barriers along both sides of the courts ranging from five to eight feet high would reduce sound levels below the standards established by the Santa Rosa City Code.

The sound study is likely to fuel arguments for both proponents and opponents of the project. A visual impact report was expected soon.

See SOUND BARRIERS on page 5

Pickleball Town Hall

The proposed Central Park sports facility and its options, along with sound and visual engineering studies, will be aired at a town hall meeting sponsored by the Ad Hoc Pickleball Committee Wednesday, June 17 at 2 p.m. in the Berger Center. Details on page 5.

Berger Committee Sets Priorities at Workshop

■ Jackie Reinhardt

The Berger Improvement Ad-Hoc Committee grappled with options for modernizing Oakmont's much-used entertainment and special events venue at a May 18 workshop with ArchLogic, the same design firm used for the Central Activities Center.

The seven-member committee and Cassie Turner, OVA manager, had previously identified 18 elements that needed attention, using input from a survey of 41 stakeholders, such as Oakmont clubs, caterers and Sonoma State University, sponsor of Lifelong Learning.

See BERGER PRIORITIES on page 5

Central Park Town Hall Meeting Set for June 17

■Noel Lyons and Anita Easland, Co-Chairs, OVA Ad Hoc Pickleball Committee

The "Central Park" proposal will be the topic of a Town Hall meeting to be conducted by the Ad Hoc Pickleball Committee on Wednesday, June 17 at 2 p.m. in the Berger Center.

The purpose of this meeting is to bring the community up to date on the plan to develop pickleball courts and other amenities, and give Oakmont residents an opportunity to express themselves.

The information to be presented will include the latest project drawings, the results of the Environmental Sound Assessment performed by Illingworth and Rodkin, and visualization studies developed by Digital Realm. Where there are options in the development plan, these will be presented with ample opportunity for attendees to ask questions and give their opinions.

BERGER PRIORITIES Continued from page 1

Marla Oveson, Archilogix project manager, led the committee through the initial phase of a decision-making process first used by the U.S. Forest Service. Called "Choosing by Advantage," the process further defines priorities and then numerically ranks them by importance.

Among the priorities identified during the workshop as "better" were hard surface flooring, a more functional kitchen, adaptable meeting rooms, a stage that is more performance-oriented, more modern entry doors and a fully-functioning lobby, better acoustics and more specialized audiovisual equipment.

Enlarging capacity was a high priority for several committee members, including Heidi Klyn who noted a recent Boomers' Motown event sold out in four days, and OVA Board Member Herm Hermann who favored adding additional square footage. Also wanting to see the Berger Center enlarged was Lynn Cramer. However he observed, "If you remodel that building from start to finish most residents would say bingo."

Currently, the Berger Center is limited to 273 for dining and 586 for other events. Mitchell Conner, Archilogix's principal architect, said parking would need to be addressed with the city of Santa Rosa if the facility's size is increased or a new building is constructed.

September 2015 is the target for presenting hard data, options and estimated costs to the full board, according to Bob Giddings, committee chair. Also on the committee are Jim Sannar, Andie Altman and Terry Whitten.

SOUND BARRIERS Continued from page 1

Last month the OVA Board approved \$12,000 for studies needed to secure a city permit to build the courts. The meeting drew a large crowd of opponents, many of them citing noise and view restrictions as key reasons for objecting to the proposed location.

The Ad Hoc Pickleball Committee has concluded that the Central Activities Center is the best location for the courts. The sound study backs up that contention. After measuring sound levels at both the East and West Rec. Centers during its study from April 29-May 1, engineers concluded that "it is apparent that the proposed site at the Oakmont Central Activity Center is the best available site from a noise control perspective."

City codes limit noise levels in single-family residential areas to 55 dBA, a calculation of decibel level that eliminates very high and very low frequencies. The study concluded that, without sound barriers, sound levels at the Central swimming pool would exceed that limit by "two to three dBA." Levels at the nearest residents would be exceeded by one dBA.

The report noted that the proposed plan includes an eight-foot sound barrier along the south boundary of the courts. But the report said an additional barrier would be necessary along the north side to shield swimmers. An alternative to that wall would be a five-foot plexiglass barrier attached to the existing pool fence. The report also said sound barriers could be eliminated if the number of courts were reduced down to two.

To view the entire report, go to the Oakmont Village website www.oakmontvillage.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

■Elke Strunka

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee has an opening for a volunteer. The role of the Finance Committee is as follows: review project expenditures for cash availability before going to the board; review monthly financial reports for accuracy; assist with preparation and review of annual operating budgets; assist with preparation of annual reserve study; carry out other financial assignments as directed by the board.

Experience in Accounting or Finance is preferred. Please submit a short bio with your experience and educational background to the OVA Office at the attention of Elke Strunka, Treasurer, or E-mail directly to ova.bod.strunka@sonic.net.

■Jason Wilkenfeld

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE (LRPC)

The Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is soliciting applications from Oakmonters interested in joining the committee to fill two current vacancies. The duties include monthly meeting attendance, participating in the creation of a long range plan for Oakmont and any special studies that the OVA Board charts the LRPC to execute.

Interested parties should send a resume and an expression of how you can contribute to the work of the LRPC to Jason Wilkenfeld (twilkenfeld@comcast.net).

Interviews with interested candidates will be scheduled at a time of mutual convenience. Candidates will be selected on the basis of the material sent, interview, discussion and vote by the current LRPC members, and approval by the OVA Board.

Oh Deer, Oh Dear!

■Cathy Dougherty

We know we are fortunate to live in such a beautiful area that is home to many wildlife creatures. It may be tempting to try to engage wildlife into visiting your property by putting out food/water. This is illegal, extremely dangerous, invites other wildlife (including rats, mice, skunk), many of which carry parasites, which may transfer infections to you, your pets and neighbors.

To maintain their health, wild animals must forage and hunt their own food sources. Be content admiring their beauty from safe distances.

If animals are found orphaned or in distress, contact Wildlife Rescue, 931-4850 or The Sonoma County Humane Society, 942-0882.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters on community topics from residents or owners.

Letters must include writer's name, Oakmont address and telephone number.

Maximum length 250 words and writers are limited to one letter every 90 days. Letters may be edited for length or clarity or to remove comments deemed libelous, inflammatory or personal attacks.

Send letters to the Oakmont Village Association, 6575 Oakmont Drive, Suite 7, or by E-mail to ca@oakmontvillage.com.



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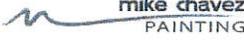


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July 1, 2015 • Volume 53, Number 13

McBride Picnic A Huge Draw



Close to 500 people turned out for a picnic sponsored for the annual McBride Realty Agency kick-off picnic and barbecue June 18 on the residential agency's corner parking lot at Oakmont and Stone Bridge drives. It's the fifth year McBride has hosted the event, serving hamburgers, potato salad and dessert to all comers.

Pickleball Town Hall Draws Large, Mostly Polite Crowd

■Jim Switzer

A town hall meeting on Oakmont's proposed pickleball courts drew more than 250 residents to the Berger Center June 17 for a well-organized three-hour discussion that covered little new ground, but may have helped clarify some of the controversial aspects of the plan.



The Berger Center was full for the June 17 town meeting. (Photos by Paul Rasmussen photos online at www.oakmontvillage.com/oakmont-news)

Organizers presented photos from a just-completed visual impact study that was requested by the city before any building permit can be issued to build four courts behind the Berger Center where a putting green is now located.

See TOWN HALL on page 5

Lifelong Learning Classes Will Resume in Fall

■Al Haggerty

Other Lifelong Learning Classes, threatened by Sonoma State University's request for a lease, will resume in the fall thanks to the patience, persistence and steadfastness of the OVA Board.

Paul Heidenreich, co-chair of Lifelong Learning, told the board June 16 that the classes "are here to stay" because the board "fought the good fight."

Starting with what Heidenreich called "an onerous eight-page lease," he said the board successfully negotiated a two-page, easily understood memorandum of understanding. Much of the back-and-forth between OVA and the university was handled by Director Bob Giddings, Heidenreich said. "It took time, money, lawyers, insurance companies, patience...did I say patience, to get it done, but it actually happened."

Heidenreich said "hard feelings" aimed at Sonoma State over the issue are unwarranted. He said SSU defied the rules set by the California State University system, "worked with us and did what it thought was right. It's important that we don't shoot the messenger."

The program offers classes with no homework and no credit, but a variety of subjects taught by college professors.

The board, in an emergency meeting conducted by E-mail, unanimously approved spending an additional \$50,000 on the renovation of the West Recreation Center pool, which was previously budgeted at \$185,000. Rick Asbert, facilities and maintenance manager, said the bulk of the money is needed to re-pipe water lines and electric conduit which were improperly installed years ago and as a result were destroyed when the deck was removed. Problems with the drains in the ladies locker room showers and with dry rot on the calcium foot alcohol had to be corrected.

After approving renewal of the \$57,000 contract with the city to operate the Oakmont bus, the board said it would revise the contract well before it comes up next year. The city contributes an additional \$57,000 to run the bus. The board will explore other options, including the purchase of a bus by Oakmont.

Other expenditures approved by the board were \$44,000 for new pool cleaning equipment and \$13,100 for new audio-visual equipment at the West Recreation Center.

Asbert said the pool equipment will replace equipment which was not commercial grade. Pat Barclay, who services A/V systems, said the A/V update at West Rec will make all the systems at the three rec centers identical so people operating the equipment can move more easily from one to another.

See LIFELONG on page 5

Lawn Bowlers Medal

■Staff Report

An Oakmont lawn bowling team won silver medals, finishing in second place in the Wine Country Senior Games tournament played on the Oakmont greens June 12-13. A team from Berkeley took first place and a Ukiah team won the bronze.

Members of the silver medal team were Tom Tomwillis, Jim Maradissler and Linda Rubick. Another Oakmont team, Mike Flamm, Greg Gonsky and James Chang placed fourth.

It was the first time lawn bowling has been included in the five-year-old sports program, sponsored by the Council on Aging.



Competitors at the Oakmont bowling green. More photos online at www.oakmontvillage.com/oakmont-news. (Photos by Kathy Switzer)

New Oakmont Website Closer to Launch Date

■Staff Report

OVA board members got a preview of Oakmont's new website that is expected to go live by the end of July. The board last May approved a re-design and update of www.oakmontvillage.com to improve navigation and ease of use for residents and visitors to the site.

Jackie Ryan, chair of the Communications Committee, demonstrated some of the new features, including a dynamic events calendar, emergency information for residents and a spot for daily posting of news and alerts. The biggest change in the updated version is a dropdown menu for easier navigation.

She said the site will continue to have a reader version of the Oakmont News and postings of news stories.

See WEBSITE on page 5

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SRFD Briefing on Annadel Fire Danger

■Misty Douglas

How to deal with the possibility of a forest fire breaking out in Annadel State Park is the topic of a meeting here Thursday, July 2, sponsored by the Santa Rosa Fire Department. Residents of Oakmont and neighboring Wild Oak are invited to the meeting at 2 p.m. in the Berger Center.

Fire Department representatives will talk about safety measures, including making sure that wild grass near homes is mowed during the fire season, made worse this year by the drought.

Wild Oak residents have retained concern, as they must use Oakmont streets to exit these neighborhoods in case of fire.

Residents are receiving letters about the meeting from the Fire Department.

TOWN HALL Continued from page 1

The study by Digital Realm, a Santa Rosa web production firm, did not draw any conclusions. But pho-tos of the site superimposed with court and sound barrier mock-ups suggested that wide-eye-level views would change, overall panoramic views would not be obstructed. The study photographs can be viewed on the OWA website, www.oakmontvilleage.com.

The meeting, moderated by OWA Board President Frank Bachele, was organized by the Ad Hoc Pickleball Committee appointed by the board in the fall of 2013. Other board members, who will make a decision on the proposed project once costs are determined, attended but did not participate because of state laws regulating public meetings. Despite the length of the proceeding and the public comments that followed, there were few rowdy moments.

While long on rhetoric, meeting was probably short on significance. There already is wide agreement among board members that the Central Activities site is the best possible location for the courts and that barring prohibitive costs, the project should be given a green light. In fact the board has approved about \$50,000 for preliminary design and other work necessary to secure a building permit for the courts.

"When all is said and done, the ad hoc committee believes that the Central Activities site is the best and most appropriate," said Neal Evans, co-chair of the committee. Community concerns, primarily about noise, parking and view obstructions, can be mitigated there, he said, while it cannot at other possible sites like the tennis courts at the East and West Recreations Centers. LA Power Point presentation by Lyons and other members of the ad hoc committee can be viewed at the Oakmont News website, www.oakmontvilleage.com/oakmontnews.

Several speakers urged board members to go slow.

"We have hidden expenses we cannot possibly anticipate with some of our older buildings," said Evelyn George, who was a member of the OWA Board when the ad hoc pickleball committee was appointed. She said once the board comes up with an estimated cost for the project, it should put it on the bottom of the (priority) list and wait a little longer.

Several speakers promised to carry the fight to the city's planning commission.

Resident Mike Baker said he believes much of the community angst over the project is "not so much about pickleball, it's the fact that it seems this was pre-announced from the day it was brought up in 2013. Every vote (by the board) has been unanimous." Baker said that while board members say they listen to the public, "you haven't shown that you have. Your mind's made up. You're going to go ahead with it. I would hope that today that the board would go out of here with an open mind."

Letters to the Editor

The editors promise to accept as many reader letters as space permits. Contributions to editor@oakmontnews.com.

Dear Editor:

I am just writing this note to concern the passing of three species that we have observed in our yard and enjoyed in great numbers for the past 15 years. Now, they are almost non-existent. Quail overran our neighborhood each spring, and neighbors placed boards over the sewer drains during nesting season, so the baby quails would not fall into the sewer as they distantly followed their clueless parents up the curb to safe water level.

Our lavender bushes were repopulated with honey bees, their gentle hum so reassuring. Now, we see only two honey bees covering all our bushes.

We used to have a number of bats, probably from the abandoned barn across Hwy. 12. We over our yard around 7:30 p.m. on summer evenings. They would keep the neighborhood insect free and we were grateful for their presence. They would disappear at the end of summer. We don't know if they will appear this year, but hope to see them.

These animals signs are truly alarming right in our yard and neighborhood, the passing of our dear animal and insect friends.

Annex King

To the Editor:

Did you know that single person households in Oakmont are outnumbered two-person households? But where are all those singles? At most events here, couples far outnumber the singles. Maybe more singles would attend these events, such as Mardi Gras, Karaoke Night, Cabaret, Oscar Night, and dinner dances, if tables for singles were provided and reserved.

These tables should be clearly designated for singles. I think singles would be less hesitant to venture out alone to these events. A single person could reserve knowing he/she would easily find a seat with other singles.

Let's get more singles out of the house, having fun and enjoying more of Oakmont's Events! What do you think of this idea? Please call me with your thoughts.

Patricia Stamford, 282-9226

Dear Editor:

By my observation, the vast majority of users of gym equipment don't wipe down the equipment after each use, as the gym rules call for.

Wipe downs after use are standard rules at gyms, as a second line of defense (after personal hygiene) to prevent spreading infections such as colds, influenza and the like. It is also a "feel good" practice, knowing you're using freshly cleaned equipment.

I've been wiping down equipment both before my use, and then after (out of courtesy to the next user). If the rule is changed to wipe down

equipment before use, it will serve both believers and nonbelievers of this rule as being based on sound hygiene principles. And I believe most people would wipe down the equipment after their use if they've had an oil patch on the equipment.

I hope this rule change, along with discretionary post-use wipe downs is a good way to fix the problem.

Sincerely,
Sabzib F. Durrani

To all ajg@ajg.com Adminstrators!

It has come to my attention, after several months of checking, that many of you are removing the prizes that have been donated by other devotees and failed to return them to be recycled. If you retain or destroy them, you are stealing! Really, at our age, we should be above that.

Allison Church

Dear Editor:

The Oakmont Community Foundation was formed in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Through the Foundation, residents can make tax-deductible donations to educational and beneficial programs supported by Oakmonters. We have helped many organizations in Oakmont to achieve their goals, for example: Music at Oakmont, Oakmont Health Initiative, audio-visual improvements at the East Rec., Lifelong Learning, the Art Association, Documentary Films, just to name a few.

The OCF is presenting an event on July 18, as a first-time effort to raise funds for our treasury. We see a lot of need for augmenting and continuing the wonderful array of activities that Oakmont offers. We also see a need for more donations from our residents, and so we are offering an event where you to have a good time for a good cause.

An evening of Latin music, with Carlos Herrera on the piano, Doug Matton's Latin Jazz Band in concert, a wine tasting with wines from the Annadel Estate Winery with lots of yummy food & desserts—all of that for \$39, \$20 or which is a tax deduction for you. Tickets are for sale at the OWA Office. Be sure to write your name on the back of your tickets to be eligible for a fantastic door prize. Susan Miller, Chair, Oakmont Community Foundation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters on community topics from residents in writing. Letters must include writer's name, address and phone number. Maximum length 250 words and under. An attempt to use letter every 10 days. Letters may be edited for length or clarity or to remove comments deemed abusive, inflammatory or personal attacks. Send letters to the Oakmont News by e-mail, editor@oakmontnews.com, or by mail to editor@oakmontnews.com.

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AUG. 1, 2015

Pickleball Plan to Get Pond Buffer

■ Jim Brewer and Marty Thompson

The OVA board of directors easily approved another \$6,500 for the proposed pickleball court project behind the Berger Center, but directors were less enthusiastic about a new horseshoe pitching club that sought funding to refurbish the existing pits at the same location.

After a lengthy, sometimes heated discussion, the board decided to give recognition to the new club, but only if it plays at the West Rec. Center on horseshoe pits that would need to be built there.

The added pickleball funding will pay for grading plans creating a 10-foot buffer between the proposed courts and an adjacent pond.

A city planner said the buffer would be a strong addition to help win approval for Oakmont's proposal. Noel Lyons, co-chair of the board's ad hoc pickleball committee, told the board's July 21 meeting. "We believed the design was a good plan," Lyons said.

The buffer was suggested by the planner who visited the site after receiving numerous letters about pickleball from Oakmont residents. Vigorous letter-writing efforts were mounted by proponents and opponents.

The board earlier this year had approved spending up to \$12,000 for preliminary plans, with the revision to add the pond buffer expected to bring the cost to \$18,447, Lyons said. He agreed to check with the city planning office, which has just undergone a management shakeup, to make sure the buffer plan is still needed.

President Frank Batchelor called it "one of the prices of democracy," adding, "I'm still in favor of the project." Not granting the additional money for the buffer plan "would be a travesty," Director John Felton said.

So far the board has approved more than \$50,000 on the pickleball proposal. Board members have said they would reserve judgment on whether to build the courts until learning how the as-yet-unknown cost fits with other Oakmont needs, including upgrading the Berger Center, renovations at the Central Pool and member interest in possibly expanding the Fitness Center and library.

HORSHOES

A request by Ray Haverson to sanction the Dead Ringer Horseshoe Club as an Oakmont club became embroiled in the pickleball discussion. Waving requests from what he said were more than 140 residents who want to start playing on old horseshoe pits, which would be displaced by the pickleball courts, Haverson said he and the others hadn't known until recently the weed-choked pits existed.

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Several board members were not impressed. "You make it very difficult for me to remain objective because if you had 140 people who wanted to be playing horseshoes, they would be playing horseshoes," said Bob Giddings. "And you know that for close to a year we've been looking into this pickleball issue and you know where the horseshoe courts are that are not being used. It sounds disingenuous."

Haverson objected, saying, "All I want is a horseshoe club. That's all I want. There's no reason that this club should be turned down. There's no ground."

Pickleball Approval Appealed By Opponent

■ Jim Brewer

A vote by the Santa Rosa Planning Commission approving the proposed site location for pickleball courts in Oakmont has been appealed to the City Council. The appeal, which could be heard as early as February, is not expected to immediately affect efforts to complete drawings and move to obtain bids for the multi-use court project.

Santa Rosa planning commissioners easily approved a conditional use permit for the courts behind the Berger Center on Dec. 10 after urging combative Oakmont residents to try to get along with each other.

The 5-0 vote focused strictly on land use issues. It allowed the Oakmont Village Association Board to move ahead at its Dec. 15 meeting with design and

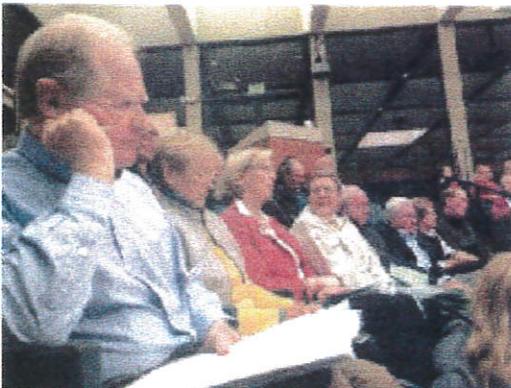


Pickleball site opponent Kerry Oswald addresses planning commissioners about noise issues that he said were not properly studied. The commission approved the plans; its action was appealed to the city council. (Photo by Jim Brewer)

construction bids before deciding whether or not give it final approval and to apply for a building permit.

"If you look at everything going on in the world, if your main concern is pickleball, you have really got it pretty good," Commissioner Hans Dippel said following an hour-long public hearing where some 30 Oakmont residents alternately praised and condemned the project.

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Observing Pickleball proceedings at the Planning Commission are left to right, OVA Ad Hoc Pickleball Committee Co chairs Noel Lyons and Anita Eastland, OVA Manager Cassie Turner; Andie Altman, Board Vice President; Director John Felton and Frank Batchelor, Board President. (Photo by Julie Kijf)