

DOMINICAN OAKS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

As we welcome back the beautiful warm weather I want to ensure that all residents are able to enjoy these warm months safely. In recent months there have been increasing reports of fraud and scams aimed towards residents in the community. Tax season always sees an influx of IRS based scams, and for this reason we have included in this newsletter some quick references regarding current tax related scams.

In addition I want to highlight that other phone call scams are circulating where offers of reduced pricing or promotions are being solicited in exchange for gift cards. Companies should never ask you to purchase a gift card and if you are unsure if you are receiving a scam call it is recommended that you hang up and call a trusted and valid number for that service provider. If ever a call or offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

OPEN FOR GUESTS!

The Dining Room is now accepting guests at dinner. Standard seating times apply, please make a reservation with the front desk and provide minimum 24 hours notice. Guest dinners are \$20 per person and limited to 10 guests total per day

NEW RESIDENT HAPPY HOUR MIXER

Join us in a celebration of new residents in the Oaks Room on Wednesday, May 31st from 3 to 4:30PM. There will be an introduction of new residents at the beginning of the event. After introductions, all attendees are encouraged to mix and mingle while enjoying light appetizers, themed cocktails, mocktails and music.



Previously this event was noted on the calendar as "Marketing Happy Hour" to prevent confusion, it is now labeled as "**Resident Mixer**". It will still be hosted on the last Wednesday of the month.

MAY CONCERTS

Spring blossoms with an abundance of new music for our residents to enjoy, including 14 year old piano prodigy Sofia's concert on Saturday, May 13th at 2pm in the Oaks Room, a return by beloved John Orlando who will combine piano, poetry and meditation on May 23rd at 2pm in the Oaks Room, our resident Estelle Appleby's daughter performing in Jade on Friday, May 26th at 2pm in the Garden Courtyard, and a guitar performance by Joe Ferrara on May 17th. Be sure to check the Activity Board located near the Oaks Room to keep abreast of the performance schedule.

ACTIVITIES

Activities plan to shift outdoors! In an effort to take advantage of the sunny California weather, we will be moving as many activities as we can to our Garden Courtyard as we did last summer. These activities will be labeled on the calendar with a GC to designate the Garden Courtyard location.

SPARK OF ART

Sunday, May 7th

Join us on a bus ride to an art studio in Aptos to view a group of artists create encaustic art in a show called A Spark of Art. There will also be ceramics by local artist, Nancy Niles. Many pieces will be for sale. Sign up for this event at the Activities Desk.

THE UCSC ARBORETUM

Thursday, May 11th

Explore this "living museum" with 135 acres holding over 300 Mediterranean climate plant families with us and enjoy an overwhelming abundance of beauty for plant lovers and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Spring is a wonderful time to view the arboretum as the greens also provide habitat for a tremendous bird population including hummingbirds, red tail hawks, sparrows, chickadees, owls and more. Be sure to bring your binoculars!

SUNDAY BUS RIDES

This month the Sunday bus trip will be heading to Pigeon Point for a gorgeous scenic ride up the coast and downtown Santa Cruz as well as a trip to OLLI (Life Long Learners) at UCSC.

BBQ ON THE BEACH- RESCHEDULED!

Thursday, May 25th

Join us as we travel the coastal route from Seabright Lighthouse to the Westcliff Lighthouse and continue onto Natural Bridges where Chef Matt will prepare us a lunchtime barbeque overlooking the beach. Fingers crossed for sunny skies! This event was previously scheduled for April, but canceled due to weather.

PHYSICAL THERAPY FOR HEALING AND WELLNESS

Wednesday, May 24th

Physical therapist Jason Shepardson will review basics for keeping us as pain free as possible, offer customized suggestions for your aches and pains and strategies for feeling better overall!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1 Lois DeBenedetti

5/2 Robert Stoll

5/3 Harlan Barnett

5/5 Dee Nelson

5/8 Lyn Dremalas

5/8 Anna Liddell

5/8 Christine St. Leger-Barter

5/9 Wilma Belschwender

5/11 Dorothy Van Zanten

5/12 Nick Hartman

5/12 Betty McDaniel

5/13 Lillian Pinheiro

5/15 Constance Hatch

5/21 Nick Drobac

5/27 Richard Payne

5/29 Rosemary Shaffer



Share your thoughts at the monthly Activities Forum!

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2:30 PM in the Oaks Room, the Activities Manager meets with residents directly to hear opinions, questions and ideas regarding the activity calendar.

We want to hear from you!

**DEPARTMENT
MANAGERS
831.462.6257**

Administrator:
Amy Saulnier

Activities:
Annette Rau

Administrative Services:
Brenda Barber

Assisted Living:
Stacy Smith-Paynter, RN

Dining Services:
Gerardo Piduca

Facilities & Housekeeping:
Eric Botkin

Food Service:
Chef Matt Mettalia

**Marketing & Community
Relations:**
Cheir Harty

BE ON ALERT AGAINST SCAMS

With the new tax season starting this week, the IRS reminds taxpayers to be aware that criminals continue to make aggressive calls posing as IRS agents in hopes of stealing taxpayer money or personal information. Here are some telltale signs of a tax scam along with actions taxpayers can take if they receive a scam call.

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- Demand that taxes be paid without giving taxpayers the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Call unexpectedly about a tax refund.

Taxpayers who receive these phone calls should:

- Record the number and then hang up the phone immediately.
- Report the call to TIGTA using their IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting form on their website or by calling **800-366-4484**.

NEVER EVER purchase a gift card to be reimbursed. No company, persons or government agency will ever ask you to buy a gift card for reimbursement and gift cards cannot be traced to recover lost funds.

A speaker from the DA's office will be coming to give a presentation about scams with a scam specialist. Check your calendar for date and time.

READERS CORNER

This month's column is dedicated to the memory of Jan Mountjoy, a faithful member of our Library Committee, who passed away this month.

We've recently received a very large donation of books and while we thank the donor we would like to remind anyone donating books to our library that the following qualifications must be considered:

1. Are the books in good condition and preferably still have their jackets on?
2. Are they reasonably contemporary? We don't have room for every book from the past.
3. If non fiction, do they deal with subjects likely to be of interest to a number of people?
4. Older books, books in poor condition or with too narrow a subject should be discarded or find other homes.

So, if you are planning to donate books to the Dominican Oaks library - please be selective. Your library committee will do its best to find homes.

For all donations - we are a small and somewhat fragile group, so please help us by being selective in what you donate and please, no more than ten books at a time.

If you enjoy sharing your book choices with others come to Book Chats in the Oaks Room. at 2:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS

VICKI OLBUR

Vicki is a native Californian with family throughout the Bay area. She has lived in Oakland, San Francisco, Berkeley, and most recently Concord for many years. She has three daughters, and two sons, one son who lives in Soquel which is what brought her to Dominican Oaks. She enjoys reading, bird watching, movies, dining out, antique shopping and has a couple nice collections she enjoys having displayed in her apartment. She's looking forward to getting to know Santa Cruz and hopefully doing some travels in the near future. Feel free to stop by and say hi!

LES YEFFA

A proud 3rd generation San Franciscan, his family moved to Oakland and he grew up there. He attended UC Berkeley and graduated from University of San Francisco. He served in the Army at the end of the Korean Conflict. He got married while in the army and he and his wife "honeymooned" in Europe for 17 months while he was stationed in Germany. Upon discharge, he returned to his job in banking and was in that field for almost 40 years before he retired. In retirement, Les & his wife started traveling & visited over 60 countries on six continents. They were married 65 years when she passed away. He has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandson & another great grandchild on the way. He belongs to the Masonic Fraternity, SIRS & is very active in the Kiwanis Club & the Elks. He is starting to travel again having recently cruised the Amazon River & will be going to Iceland in September. He has several timeshares and tries to get to Hawaii every year. He has lived in Santa Cruz for 59 years. He loves the theater (especially the musicals). He enjoys playing cribbage, pinochle and bridge.

LEAH DOWTY

Leah was born in San Jose, CA. Her family moved to Hawaii when she was 7 years old. She lived in Kailua on the island of Oahu where she attended grammar school and one year of high school. It was in Hawaii where she developed her life-long love of the beach & the ocean. After graduating from UCSB, she enjoyed a long career in development & eventually settled in Aptos. She enjoys gardening, making wreaths & thrifting and Pugs! She and Shelly (her pug) can be seen out and about at Dominican Oaks on any given day.