

# DOMINICAN OAKS

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Residents,

February has arrived, bringing with it a season of love, connection, and community here at Dominican Oaks. While this month is often associated with Valentine's Day, we like to think of it as a time to celebrate all the relationships that make our community such a special place to call home.

This month, we look forward to several fun and festive events, including Valentine's celebrations, a Superbowl party, and opportunities to enjoy music and treats with friends and neighbors. I encourage everyone to check the activities calendar and join us —these moments of connection are what truly make our community thrive. If you ever have questions, suggestions, or ideas on how we can continue to improve your experience, my door is always open.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful community.



### DOMINICAN OAKS RECYCLES

A message to fellow residents from the Resident Recycling Committee:



Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle

A friendly reminder that we DO have a recycling program here, to make the world a better place for our grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Please do NOT place magazines & newspapers out on the floor in the hallway near your apartment.

**Tuesday evening is the only recycle night!** Please place all of your recyclable items in a clear plastic bag or container for easy pick up.

Items to recycle include:

Soda cans, wine bottles, pet food cans, jars, plastic bottles, junk mail, shredded paper, cereal boxes, envelopes, cardboard, newspapers, plastic containers (recycle number 1–5 only).

## DOMINICAN OAKS MANAGERS

Administrator:  
Amy Saulnier

Activities & Transportation:  
Annette Rau

Administrative Services:  
Brenda Barber

Assisted Living:  
Stacy Smith-Paynter

Dining Services:  
Gerardo Piduca

Facilities (Maintenance) &  
Housekeeping:  
Eric Botkin

Food Service:  
Matt Mettalia

Marketing & Community Relations:  
Cheir Harty

Newsletter Editor Annette Rau  
welcomes your input!  
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RIGHT, RESIDENT  
LYNN HERMAN  
ENJOYING FAMILY  
GUESTS IN THE  
DINING ROOM.

## MUSIC IN FEBRUARY

- Ellen & Glenn Sing Along, Friday 2/6 & Friday 2/20, 1:30pm Oaks Room
- Charlie Lindner Piano, Saturday, 2/7, 2pm Oaks Room
- Justin's Soothing Music, Sunday, 2/8, 1pm Garden Level Activity Room
- Joe Ferrara - Wednesday 2/11, 2pm Oaks Room
- Karin Phoenix Valentine's Show, Friday, 2/13, 2pm Oaks Room
- Valentine's Harp Show, Sunday, 2/15, 11am Oaks Room
- LEMO Reggae Show, Wednesday, 2/18, 2:30pm Oaks Room
- Nick Royal Performs, Thursday, 2/19, 2:30pm Garden Level Activity Room



## EVENTS OF NOTE IN JANUARY:

- COVID BOOSTER CLINIC, Tuesday, 2/10, 10AM - 3:30PM Oaks Room
- COUPLES MIXER, Saturday, 2/14, 1 - 3PM Oaks Room
- PLEASURE POINT DANCERS, Saturday, 2PM Oaks Room
- HEARING & HEARING AID PRESENTATION, Friday, 2PM Oaks Room



**RESIDENT CAROL VAN TIEM  
PROTESTING UNETHICAL  
CONSTRUCTION AT THE  
PLANNING COMMISSION**



**CANINE RESIDENTS PERCY AND BEAR  
DISCUSSING THE MERITS OF THE ANNUAL  
PUPPY PARADE'S JOKES**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

02 Sherry Eisendorf  
02 Joan Fisher  
03 Marjory  
O'Connor  
03 Jack Weiser  
10 Ruth Antolini  
16 Sharon Yang  
17 Cibiana Heiman  
24 Loretta Lansford  
26 Norma Del  
Gaudio

## RESIDENT MIXER!

Get ready to connect and catch up at our upcoming Resident Mixer! We'd love for you to join us on Wednesday, February 25th from 3 to 4:30 PM in the Oaks Room. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome our newest residents, with a special introductions from our friendly resident buddies. Come unwind, enjoy some refreshments, and mingle with your neighbors. See you there!



## MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

**Ramona Gifford**, (who prefers to be called Mona) is moving North from Rancho Palos Verdes where she has lived for sixty one years. Her daughter, Valerie and her daughter-in-law Holly are long-time residents of Santa Cruz. They are educators and their home is in Live Oak. They will be frequent visitors and Mona is sure you will get to know them also. Mona's son and daughter-in-law, Rob and Tracy live on the coast in Oregon. Mona grew up in Oregon. The Pacific Northwest is still in her blood, so being close to the natural environment is important to her. Mona's career was focused on elementary music education. She taught in Los Angeles Unified as a traveling music teacher and is passionate about the importance of having music in the schools. She enjoys all genres of music. She is looking forward to meeting other residents to share dining meetups, wellness activities, political advocacy, book clubs and musical experiences.

### Sandy Stephenson & John Stephenson,

Sandy was born in San Francisco and moved to Los Gatos when she was 12. Sandy met John at a party and they were married in 1960. They had 2 children and raised them in San Jose where she worked as an aide in the schools, and then moved over to the county in the Child Support department. Sandy has been retired 22 years and has done volunteer work.

John was born in Detroit and moved out to the west coast during WWII. He was raised in Alameda and then Los Gatos. He says he met Sandy in a pillow fight. John served as a Marine and then spent his working years working for Western Electric/AT&T/Lucent. John is an artist at heart, and has worked in stained glass, jewelry making, and wood working for many years. He also coached baseball and softball. He likes to keep his hands busy with wire wrapping and making earrings and bracelets.

Both John and Sandy loved to travel with their favorite trips being Alaska, New Zealand, Norway and Hawaii.

**LEFT, RESIDENTS MARILN AVERSA, JUDY BARRY, AND GENE HANDLOFF ENJOYING A MEAL IN THE DINING ROOM WITH GENE'S SON DAVE, AND OUR DOMINICAN OAKS PIANIST CHARLIE LINDNER.**

## CALLING ALL CHESS PLAYERS!

We have new residents excited to join you in chess playing! All interested Chess Players are invited to meet in the Library at 1pm on Fridays to enjoy chess matches!

