

# HILLTOP HIGHLIGHTS

*Inside: The 2024 BôD Elections:*

**MEET THE  
CANDIDATES**

*... We Have 9*

*Also Inside:*

- ☞ **A Super Bowl Potluck Party**
- ☞ **Wine & Chocolate Pairing is Back!**
- ☞ **Leap Year Afternoon Treat**



**A note to website viewers:**

This page does not appear in the printed version. Please scroll down to see the rest of this month's Hilltop Highlights. And, since the printed version is done only in black & white, you can see, here, the full color of the original design.

**Contact Information:**

**Office Phone:**

760-757-3937

**24 Hour Emergency**

(Water & Plumbing)

760-757-3937

Fax: 760-757-8177

**Website:**

[www.oceanaseniors.org](http://www.oceanaseniors.org)

**Statement Questions:**

[dan.farrar@fsresidential.com](mailto:dan.farrar@fsresidential.com)

**Maintenance:**

[maintenance@ocaoffice.org](mailto:maintenance@ocaoffice.org)

**Homeowner Concerns:**

[office@ocaoffice.org](mailto:office@ocaoffice.org)

**Non Emergency Police**

(to report suspicious activity):

760-435-4900

**Emergency Police:**

**911**



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Nina.ybarra@fsresidential.com

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**Maintenance Admin. Asst.** Simone Mitchell  
simone.mitchell@fsresidential.com

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**Contact for all:** 760-757-3937  
Office@ocaoffice.org

**Office Hours:**

Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-Noon; 1pm-4 pm  
Fri., 9 am-3 pm  
Appointments available by calling the office

**Office Information**

- The deadline to submit information for The Hilltop Highlights is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding the publication month. Use the HUB submission form on the website. If you have attachments, then you may send your information along with the attachments to: oceanahub@gmail.com. Late submissions will be included as space permits.
- Have a payment to make or a work order to submit after office hours? Please use the drop box located on the front/west side of the OCA Business Office (checked Mon-Fri).
- How do I submit a work request? (Two kinds: maintenance work request and landscape work request) The most efficient manner is to submit an online request to Connect. The physical work request forms are available on our website (oceanaseniors.org) or at the office. Submit completed forms to the office or via office@ocaoffice.org, by fax to 760-757-8177. All work requests are prioritized with other scheduled work. We do respond to an emergency situation (e.g. sewer back-ups and exterior water leaks) within 24 hours. After normal business hours and on weekends emergencies should be reported to our customer care center at 800-428-5588 .
- Are you moving? Do you have a neighbor who has moved or passed away? Please provide such information to the office at: office@ocaoffice.org.

**Board of Directors**

**President** Sandy Riser  
sriser@ocaoffice.org  
520-360-2081

**Vice President** Peter Cornog  
pcornog@ocaoffice.org

**Secretary** Karen Bishop  
kbishop@ocaoffice.org  
760-440-8250

**Treasurer** Lynn Leszczynski  
lynnl@ocaoffice.org

**Director** Kelly Byrne  
kbyrne@ocaoffice.org

**Director** Roxanne Rimmel  
rremmel@ocaoffice.org

**Director** Evelyn Thomas  
ethomas@ocaoffice.org

**All Members** ocaboard@ocaoffice.org

**Keep Informed**

**Oceana** oceanaseniors.org

**City of Oceanside** ci.oceanside.ca.us

**San Diego County** sandiegocounty.gov

**Report City Code Infractions**

When you encounter a parking problem that is a violation of city code (e.g., blocking access to your garage, parking on red lines, or blocking traffic),

Call: 760-435-4500  
ci.oceanside.ca.us/gov/dev/code/oversee.asp

The monthly General Session Board of Directors' meeting normally takes place at 9:30 am on the last Wednesday of the month. It will be held in the Auditorium and by Zoom. The link will be communicated to residents via email and posted on the website. Agendas are posted on bulletin boards and the website. Homeowners who cannot attend may email comments by noon the day before the meeting to: dan.farrar@fsresidential.com  
Zoom chat is not available.





## A Message From the Board Of Directors

**F**ebruary is when we celebrate Valentine's Day and the people who mean so much in our lives. I thought it might be good to spend a moment thinking about those who work to bring our community together. We spend a lot of time talking about the things that divide us, but so much more unites us. That got me thinking...

Our neighbors care about each other. I have seen that every single day that I have been on the board. Thank you to those who reach out with kindness to your fellow community members.

Homeowners do care about OCA. They may disagree on the details, but almost everyone wants us to thrive. Thanks to all of those who serve the community as volunteers to make it better, each and every day.

We wish things would go faster. I can think of many areas where we have this desire - legal, deferred maintenance, the landscape contractor, etc. But I think we all know that some things just take longer. While patience is not one of my better virtues, being on the board has taught me that some things just move slowly...but they move! And that is what counts.

We have a thriving community if you open your eyes. We have dedicated volunteers who make the wheels of the community work, we have a Board of Directors that thinks, discusses, and really cares about how our decisions affect both the association and the members, and we have a community management team that works really hard to bring those decisions, and the work of the volunteers, together in results.

Are we perfect? For sure we are not, but I have learned that these folks go above and beyond for all of us every single day. I am grateful for them.

Happy Valentine's Day, OCA!

**Sandy Riser**  
President,  
OCA Board of Directors

## News You Can Use

### Governing Documents

The Board created an Ad Hoc committee to review the Bylaws and CC&Rs and has proposed several changes that will be up for member vote in March.

### Safety

Safety is still a main concern for the Board. This year we have created a Facilities Committee, to walk the Units and turn in safety concerns to management to address. We have asked the Ceramics, Art classes, Lapidary and Woodworking to update their safety procedures for working in these areas to keep the residents safe as they enjoy these activities.

We'd like to remind you that all non-residents visiting our neighborhood must be accompanied by a resident; whether at Share & Wear, in the pool, or at one of our many activities.

### Landscape Contractor

We are pleased to announce that after a careful review of 6 Landscape Contractors our Ad Hoc Committee chose 4 of them to interview. It was a unanimous recommendation by the committee that consisted of 2 LSC, 2 Management, 2 Members-at-large, and 2 Board members. In a Motion at the December 20th general session, the Board voted to hire **Total Landscape Creations** starting March 1, 2024 for 1 year.

For those of you concerned with the use of Glyphosate on our property, this contractor uses Earth's Ally, a Non-Glyphosate product. Please be patient with them as they work hard to bring our neighborhood up to higher standards. You should start to see the grass trimmed weekly, the trim rotation 4-6 weeks, and the clubhouse and pool area cleaned Fridays and Mondays.

### Board Changes

Remember to thank our out-going Board members Sandy Riser, Peter Cornog, Karen Bishop, and Kelly Byrne for their dedication to this community as they finish their last month and a half in their current term as part of the Board of Directors.

**Roxanne Rimmel**  
Director, OCA Board of Directors



## 2024 BoD Elections

This edition of the Hilltop Highlights contains the candidate information for the 9 OCA members running for the Board. Three opportunities are offered this month to meet them:

- Two formal Candidate Forums. First on Sat. Feb. 10 at 1pm, second at the Thurs. Feb. 15 Coffee Hour at 9:45am, both in the auditorium.
- An informal "Meet the Candidates" on Sat. Feb. 17, at 1pm, also in the auditorium.

Additional opportunities to learn about the candidates will be announced in the HH and on our website. Make the effort to learn about the candidates and VOTE! **It's important!**

## The Candidate Profiles

Each candidate was asked to provide a personal profile. Each statement was not to exceed 150 words. The profiles, below, are shown in alphabetical order by last name. They have been formatted for use in this document, but are unedited.

### Lisa Bagot

I am Lisa Bagot and I am in action! My background covers 22 years as a founder of an IT consultancy, growing it to \$5,000,000 in 3 years. A degree in Business Administration, and advanced degrees in IT at UCSD drove my business success. My next 23-year career as a mortgage broker and real estate broker, gives me deep negotiation, and financial management expertise. Complying with our CC and R's, Bylaws, finishing the lawsuit and fighting the building the developer wants to build next to the church are priorities. In 4 years: started the annual Dog Days of Summer, joined the Garden Club, led the Strategic Planning committee, co-chairing the Architectural committee and reviewed landscaping contractors via the bid committee. I applied for a \$1 million grant and didn't get it in the last round. My goal is to reduce our costs while increasing our income with activities and grants.



### Karen Bishop

It has been my privilege to serve 932+ homeowners. The BoD made great strides towards transparency, following the law, and holding management accountable.

Management - In 1985, I founded Futures High School. I supervised business, financial, and educational administration with 50+ staff members in three locations.



**Fiscal Accountability** - As CFO of Newschool of Architecture, I supervised business services and facilitated audits for accreditation and the US Dept of Education to retain financial aid.

**Temperament** - I successfully grew two corporations by listening, researching, conferring, and reaching consensus. At OCA, I attempted rational analysis of each project by working cooperatively within committees.

**Plea** - Pay attention to candidates who misrepresent information, have personal agendas, mistreat staff, are divisive, shout profanities, walk out and/or threaten to sue.

OCA deserves Directors who are solution based, collaborative and have 932+ homeowners' interests at heart to continue the BoD's major goal of holding the Oceanside Land Company accountable.

### Kelly Byrne

Hi, I'm Kelly Byrne. I am born and raised in Southern California and alumni of San Diego State. I would visit this community in the early 2000's and knew I would retire here.



I am a retired patrol Sergeant from LAPD and worked as a Park Ranger for both the city of LA and the State. I was involved in several professional associations as a director and elected officer. I have owned and managed two successful businesses. I currently serve on the Oceanside Police and Fire Commission and as an active member of Save Oceanside Sand. I volunteer for Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) and facilitate for Survivors of Suicide Loss San Diego. For hobbies I enjoy body surfing and golf.

I am ready to do the work for this community and hope you will trust me to serve on the board again.

### Teresa Daria Chamberlain-Spradlin

I purchased my home in 2011 and consider this is my forever home. I have a vested interest to maintain the best living environment for our community.



I am a firm believer that the rights of the individual can exist within the common good for the whole community. I desire to represent all of the residents in OCA to continue the good work of past boards. I am a firm believer in consensus over compromise. I am a leader, thoughtful, kind, caring, honest, flexible, polite and adaptable.

HOA prior experience: While living in GA, I

was active in my HOA as Vice Chair and on the Architectural Committee. I have been the Secretary of the OCA Garden Club. I am currently the Chair of the OCA CRC.

My proficiencies include: Management, Organizational Development, Conflict Problem Resolution, Human Resources, Personnel, Diplomatic Communications Skills and much more. I hold 2 MS degrees.

### Curt Conant

As a 29 year resident of Oceanside and 6 year homeowner in Oceana I'm now ready to do the hard work and help stabilize our Community. HOAs, Board of Directors and Management are the people being empowered to make the best choices for us all. Having personally owned many of my own successful businesses and run several multi million dollar corporate budgets this HOA is like any other business. Hard decisions are part of the job.



No one wants to see HOA fee increases like we've had in recent years.

I am 100% committed to help fill the role for our beloved community. We need a plan to stabilize our budget while implementing creative ways to cut costs. I've worked as a business consultant for many non-profits over my career. I understand all the moving parts and how to build teams of experts to solve complex problems.

### Kathleen Dowling

Hello Oceana,

I moved to Oceana 10 years ago to help my ailing father. After living in Oceana for a while my husband and I decided we would make this place our home. Since then, I have volunteered in making our landscape look better, from being chair of the LSC to now tending the Friendship Garden. My husband Jerry and I have met many of you from various events/meetings and our daily dog walks with Izzy.

Pertinent education and experience:

Graduate of University of Alaska, BSN, MSN and post graduate studies. Advanced Nurse Practitioner. Practice areas: schools, hospitals, free clinics, detention facilities & private practice.

Effective in program management and understand contracts. I read all board packets, follow the budget closely and ask questions. I look towards the future, have a willingness to serve, employ ethical decision making, have time to do the job and I value your input.

Cont'd ⇒



Candidate Statements Continued from Prior Page

**Peggie Moore**

With a 40-year career in Finance and Administration in both Entertainment Industry and UC System as a Sr. Financial Analyst I've managed multi million dollar budgets and federally funded research grants.



The responsibility of board members is to hear you and respond to your concerns. Pressing issues in 2024-2025 is the overall stability of Oceana's future:

- Support the litigation against Oceanside Land Company in an attempt to resolve the complexities and inequities of the land lease, crippling us financially
- Stronger negotiation of maintenance contracts rarely reviewed or negotiated by previous full 7 member board
- Improve procedures in maintenance and emergency response to homeowners
- Address documented risks and water loss from underground leaks in each unit to mitigate costly delays in repairs
- Complete 2022 board approved 2 year project detailing each property's irrigation and water lines; homeowner versus HOA responsibility
- Open, positive Board consultation

**Sandy Riser**

I have lived in Oceana for 8 years. I own my own business organizing events attended by up to 1000 people. I run all aspects of the business, so I understand the nuances that occur in finance, personnel, etc. and how to be the most efficient organization possible. Prior to that I ran a \$30M corporate software division. I managed a worldwide product management team before starting my own business for the past 23 years as a business consultant and concert producer.



I have been on the OCA board the last 2 years, serving as President this past year. I bring a real-world approach to the management of the association and take my duty as fiduciary and leader seriously. I have left my personal agenda at the door by bringing an open mind and a commitment to serve the entire community even through difficult times.



**John Vogt**

Sandy and I have owned our home in Oceana since 2009, although we have often been away helping churches. We have five children and eight grandchildren.



I served 28 years as a Lutheran pastor - 20 years of that time in a 2000-member congregation with school and day care. I then served 14 years in Sweden and Ukraine as president of theological seminaries, graduate schools to prepare pastors. These divine calls gave me opportunity to teach theological courses for national churches in 18 countries of Europe, Asia and Africa. This work experience has given me familiarity with administering budgets, working with volunteers, and building harmonious relationships.

I served 4½ years on the Oceana Board of Directors (2017-2022), the final year as President. One of my roles was co-chairman of the Land-Lease Study Committee which discovered legal precedent to make Oceanside Land Company pay for replacement of worn-out infrastructure in our community.





# February Activities

**Sun, Feb 4, 3pm & Wed, Feb 14, 7 pm**

**OCA at the Movies!**

Free! Feb 4 "Mrs. Doubtfire"  
 Curtain time: 3 pm  
 Feb 14: "When Harry Met Sally"  
 Curtain time: 7 pm  
 Popcorn & Soda available for \$1 ea



**When:** Feb 4, 3pm, Feb 14, 7pm  
**Where:** Clubhouse  
**Enjoy:** Popcorn & Soda for \$1 ea  
**Fee:** Admittance is free

**Sunday, February 11, 3:00pm**



**Free Super Bowl Party!**

Watch the game on the big screen!  
 Potluck (bring favorite tailgate dish to share) and BYOB (bring your own beverage). Super Bowl pool entry for \$5.

**When:** Feb 11, 3:00pm  
**Where:** Clubhouse  
**Enjoy:** Football and Fun  
**Fee:** Free! Free! Free!

**Wednesday, February 21, 5:30pm**

**Wine and Chocolate Pairing**

Two great tastes that go great together! Our favorite chocolatier and sommelier, Johnna will match up vino and chocolate. \$15, signup required! Must be 21 to participate—bring ID.

**When:** February 21, 5:30pm  
**Where:** Clubhouse  
**Enjoy:** Grapes and Cacao  
**Signup:** 1/29–2/19  
**Fee:** \$15

**Thursday, February 29, 2-3:30pm**

**Leap Year Afternoon Treat!**

Guitarist and Singer Kevin O'Brien!  
 Snacks by Chef Eddie Chiw!  
 \$5, signup required

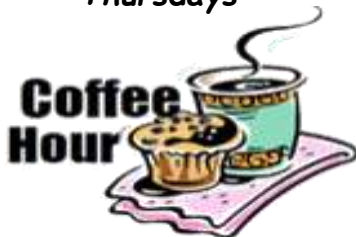


**When:** Feb 29, 2-3:30pm  
**Where:** Clubhouse  
**Enjoy:** Music and snacks  
**Signup:** 2/13-2/27  
**Fee:** \$5

**Please Note:** No late sign-ups or payments at the door, so don't miss out and sign-up on time!

## COFFEE HOUR

From 9 to 10:30 am  
 Thursdays



- Feb. 1 : Bingo
- Feb. 8 : Bell Pepperz
- Feb.15 : Meet the Candidates!
- Feb.22 : Liz Conejo & Francis Daniels—Flute and Guitar
- Feb.29 : No Coffee Hour—See Afternoon Treat Above!

Questions? Call the office at 760-757-3937

# Activities Recap

## December 2023

### TV Game Show - Price is Right "Holiday Edition"

Charlie Wendt led the fun evening event TV Game Show - The Price Is Right "Holiday Edition" in December. After devouring some excellent pizza from Spirito's, we had six teams competing against each other for the top prize. Teams first had to come up with a "fun" team name. They were then asked to guess the prices of several different "Holiday" items from cars, golf carts, eggnog, and games. There were 4 "toss up" events to guess closest to the price without going over. Other events were guessing the price within a certain range, guessing items from least to highest price, and guessing if the shown price was higher or lower. Cell phones could not be used. The competition was intense. The top prize came down to the last round ("toss up") where two teams "Jingle Belles & the Guyz" and the "Candy Canes" were tied with 17 points to guess the price of 2024 Land Rover. As it turned out all the teams overpriced the last item, and no points were awarded. So that was the final top score, with a tie at 17 points between those teams. 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to the "Cane Gang" with 14 points. The other teams, "Eight Miz Behavin'", "Bob-in Around" and "Lucky Ones", also had a good time competing. Much thanks for helpers with the event to check people in, serve and "runners" to forward scores of each

event were Pat Hawkins, Mary Ann Dilloway, Carolyn and Chuck Kruse, Donna Wendt and Lisa Olivero. Security (cell phone checking) was Gail Olenick. Posting of scores by Ellen Marciel.



### Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour in December had a shortened schedule because of Christmas. We took the last two weeks



off so our "Coffee Crew" could take a break. We still had a couple of good groups to entertain folks in the first few weeks of the month.



The Winning Teams



"Candy Canes"



"Jingle Belles & the Guyz"

Activities Recap Continued on page 16

# OCA Committee Membership

## Activities Committee

Meets: 1<sup>st</sup> Tues. ea. Month,  
10 am, Card Room  
Chair  
Ellen Marciel  
Charlie Wendt  
Linda Garcia  
Mary Anne Dilloway  
Pat Hawkins  
Carolyn Kruse  
Chuck Kruse  
Karin Messaros  
Gail Olenick  
Lisa Olivero  
Deborah Schwab  
Ginger Thayer  
Donna Wendt  
**Roxanne Rimmel** Board Liaison

## Architectural Committee

Meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. ea. Month,  
9:30am, Card Room  
(Agenda deadline: 1st day of month)  
Interim Co-Chair  
Lisa Bagot/Paula McDonald U 10,11  
Lisa Bagot U 10,11  
Fritz Beechler U 3,7, A  
Mike Castoro U 1,1A,4  
Bruce Cowgill U 12  
Jay Crawford U 5  
Chuck Daily U 8  
Paula McDonald U 2,6  
Gail Olenick U 9  
Maura Parsons  
**Peter Cornog** Board Exec. Cte.  
**Lynn Leszczynski** Board Exec. Cte.

## Community Resource Center Committee

Meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. ea. Month  
10:30am, Community Room  
Chair  
Teresa Chamberlain-Spradlin  
MaryAnn Alger  
Mike Archer  
Mary Hall  
Connie Iniquez  
Kris McLaughlin  
Evelyn Thomas  
Sydnie Wauson  
**Roxanne Rimmel** Board Liaison

## Finance Committee

Meets: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon. ea. Month  
9:30am, Card Room  
Chair  
Charlie Wendt  
Nancy Follin  
John McDonald  
Nancy Norton  
**OCA General Manager**  
**Lynn Leszczynski** Board Liaison

## Landscape Committee

Meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Fri. ea. Month,  
10am, Community Room  
Interim Chair  
Mike McLaughlin  
Phyllis Allinson  
Debra Demary  
Sue Mansis  
Bill Matthews  
Steve Omlor  
**Karen Bishop** Board Exec. Cte.  
**Roxanne Rimmel** Board Exec. Cte.

## "The Hub" Committee

Meets: 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. ea. Month  
2pm, Community Room  
Chair  
Gail Olenick  
Virginia Mann Secretary/Digital Coordinator  
Pam Spangler Print Coordinator  
Caryn Leventhal Website Coordinator  
Lisa Olivero Website Photographer  
Ellen Marciel  
**Sandy Riser** Board Liaison  
**Evelyn Thomas** Board Liaison

## OCA Media Sub-Committee

Geoff Allison  
Lee Mansis  
Anita Romaine  
**HUB Contacts:** [Oceanahub@gmail.com](mailto:Oceanahub@gmail.com)  
760-290-4252

## Facilities Committee

Meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. ea. Month,  
11 am, Community Room  
Co-Chair  
Curt Conant  
Meg Marple Chair  
Lynn Schneidenbach Secretary

**Committee Membership**  
*Continued on Things To Do Page following the Calendar*


**Attention all Committee Chairs:**  
Please remember to update ALL changes (times, days, contacts), by submitting the information directly to the HUB; not the OCA office. The form for submission is on our website. Just click on Helpful Links at the top of the home page and you will find the HUB where there is a simple, easy to follow form. Thank you.



She said  
**what?!**

**NOTE:** Unless otherwise indicated, the deadline for Cte. Agendas is 10 days prior to the meeting.




Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday
Pickleball-Outdoor - Adv'd: 9:30-11:30am Pickleball-Indoor - Private: 2:30-4pm 4-6pm 	Water Aerobics 8am Keep Fit Class: 8:30-9am Pickleball-Outdoor - Adv'd: 9:30-11:30am Yoga (Chair) 10am Ceramics 12:30-3:30pm Chair Volleyball: 1-2pm Lapidary: 1-3pm Woodshop: 1-3pm Pinochle: 1-4pm Pickleball-Indoor - Open: 2-4pm - Private: 4:15-6pm Trivia: 6:30-7:30pm	Pickleball-Outdoor - Adv'd: 9:30-11:30am Share & Wear: 10-2pm Ceramics: 12:30-3:30pm Lapidary: 12:30-4pm Lapidary: 1-3pm Woodshop: 1-3pm Pickleball-Indoor - Open: 1:30-4pm Billiards Warm-Up 6-8pm Poker: 6-8pm	Water Aerobics 8am Keep Fit: 8:30-9am Pickleball-Outdoor - Adv'd: 9:30-11:30am Art Room: 10am-3pm The Groove Movement/ Dance: 10-11am Share & Wear: 10-2pm French Club: 11am-Noon Lapidary: 1-3pm Woodshop: 1-3pm Friends of Bill W: 5:00pm

Other Scheduled Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			
4 3pm OCA at the Movies "Mrs. Doubtfire" - Clubhouse	5 1-4pm Mahjong - Community Rm.	6 10am Activities Cte. Card Room	7 2pm The Hub Cte. Community Room
11 3pm Super Bowl Party - Clubhouse 	12 11am Facilities Cte. Community Room Darwin Day 	13 9:30am Architecture Cte. - Card Room 10am Book Club - Library	14 10:30am CRC - Community Room 7pm OCA at the Movies "When Harry Met Sally" - Clubhouse Happy Valentine's Day 
18	19 9:30am Finance Cte. - Card Room 1-4pm Mahjong - Community Rm. Presidents Day 	20	21 3:30-4:30pm Fireside Chat - Library 5:30pm Wine & Chocolate Pairing - Clubhouse
25	26 10am BOD Exec. Session	27	28 9:30am Open Board Mtg. - Auditorium

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Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> 9am Pickleball-Outdoor -Adv'd 9:30-11:30am Billiards: 10am-Noon Share & Wear: 10-2pm Discussion Group: 10:30am Ceramics: 12:30-3:30pm Chair Volleyball: 1-2pm Lapidary: 1-3pm Woodshop: 1-3pm Pickleball-Indoor -Private: 3-5:30pm Billiards (Private): 6-8pm Sing-Along: 6pm	Water Aerobics 8am Keep Fit: 8:30-9am Pickleball-Outdoor -Adv'd: 9:30-11:30am Tai Chi: 10am-Noon Share & Wear: 10-2pm Hand & Foot: 12pm Ceramics: 12:30-3:30pm Woodshop: 1-3pm Pickleball-Indoor -Open: 12:30-4pm Pickleball-New Player Lessons 3:45-4:45pm	 love is in the air!

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>9am Coffee Hour - Bingo</b> Clubhouse <span style="float: right;">1</span>	<span style="float: right;">2</span> 	10am-2pm SSS <span style="float: right;">3</span> 
<b>9am Coffee Hour - Bell Pepperz</b> Clubhouse <span style="float: right;">8</span>	10am Landscape Cte. Community Room <span style="float: right;">9</span>	<span style="float: right;">10</span> Art Room Open <b>1pm Candidate Forum</b> - Auditorium
<b>9am Coffee Hour - Candidate Forum</b> Clubhouse <span style="float: right;">15</span>	<span style="float: right;">16</span>	<span style="float: right;">17</span> <b>1pm Meet the Candidates</b> - Auditorium
<b>9am Coffee Hour - Liz Conejo &amp; Francis Daniels</b> Clubhouse <span style="float: right;">22</span>	<span style="float: right;">23</span>	<span style="float: right;">24</span> Art Room Open
<span style="float: right;">29</span> <b>9am NO Coffee Hour</b> <b>2pm Leap Year Afternoon Treat</b> - Clubhouse		

**Disclaimer:**  
 Information in this edition is subject to change. Please see our website at [oceanaseniors.org](http://oceanaseniors.org) for possible updates.

# Things To Do at OCA

Note: All Activities/Clubs are subject to change. Please check with the listed contact person first.

**Art Studio** - Wed., 10am-3pm and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, each month.  
Info: Mary Hall, 714-595-4138.

**Billiards** -Thurs. 10am-Noon. Warm-Up Tues. 6-8pm. Friendly group for socializing and skills development. **Private Group Play:** Thurs. 6-8pm. Billiards Room.  
Info: Lonnie Burrows, 760-433-9481.

**Book Club** - Second Tues. each Month 10am. In the Library. Info: Jeri Gustafsson 760-754-2911.

**Ceramics Studio** - open every Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 12:30-3:30pm.  
Info: Lynn Schneidenbach 619-889-4612  
a53lynns@yahoo.com

**Chair Volleyball** - Mon. and Thurs. 1pm. Clubhouse.  
Info: Dave Freeman, 818-262-0788

**Discussion Group** - Thurs. at 10:30am (following Coffee Hour) in the Library.  
Info: Danae Dancyzk, 760-529-9226.

**Dominos Group** - Tues., 12:30pm in the Card Room.  
Info: Dona White, 760-533-2484.

**Drama Club** - *On hiatus until further notice.*  
Info: Tony Schwab 201-739-7521.

**French Club** - Wed., 11am-Noon in the Library.  
Info: Diedre Burke, (213) 924-6653 .

**Friends of Bill W.** - On ZOOM Wed. 5pm. Info: Lin Riley, 760-730-3371, or Linriley@cox.net

**Garden Club** - Meetings on occasion. Reserve space in our garden.  
Info: Diane Huntley, (323) 691-7121

**Hand & Foot** - Fridays at 12pm Card Room.  
Info: Joan Jeffery, 206-307-7220

**Keep Fit Exercise Class** - MWF 8:30-9am. Auditorium. Info: Don Jones, 760-703-4583.

**Lapidary** - Mon. thru Thurs. 1-3 pm.  
Info: John Pitarresi, 760-917-6631.

**Mahjong** -2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mon. 1-4pm. Clubhouse Community Room. Info: Diana Siegel, 760-405-3306

**Pickleball** - Play levels: Open, Advanced Open and Invitation Only. Clubhouse and Outdoors. See OCA website pickleball activity page for specifics. Info: Denny Hanrahan, 760-525-0643 (please leave a message) or Steve Reigle, stevereigle@gmail.com.

**Pinochle** - Mon. 1-4 pm. Card Room. Double or triple deck; 3,4,5 and 6-seat tables. We play for fun.  
Info: Rhonda Christopher, 760-231-1808.

**Poker** - Tuesdays 6-8pm. Card Room.  
Info: Rhonda Christopher, 760-231-1808.

**Share & Wear:** Tuesdays through Fridays, 10am - 2pm, and first Saturday of the month for "Super Saturday Sale", 10am - 2pm.  
Info: Linda Garcia, (760) 470-3562 or Sandy Vogt (760) 212-6311

**Sing-Along** - Thurs. 6pm in the Auditorium. Feel free to bring a snack & a drink.  
Info: Glen Hemingway, 760-518-5716.

**Tai Chi** -Fri. 10am-Noon. Auditorium.  
Info: Janice Burrows , 760-277-5139.

**The Groove-Movement/Dance** -Wed. 10-11am. Auditorium. Info: Deborah Schwab 551-206-5862.

**Trivia** -Mon. 6:30-7:30 pm. Card room.  
Info: Colleen Eidson , 760-529-9999

**Water Aerobics** - Mon-Wed-Fri 7:30 am  
For information please call Betsy Wilson at (760)439-2879 or email at heybetsy0040@att.net

**Woodshop** -Mon-Fri 1-3pm.  
Info: Jim Romans, 949-742-2311.

**Yoga (Chair)** - Mon. 10am. Auditorium.  
Info: Peggie Moore, 949-887-4641

## Committee Membership

Continued from Committee Membership page

### Unit Advisors Committee

Meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. ea. Odd-numbered Month,  
9 am, Clubhouse Auditorium

Jeff Kern	Chair
Diane Pettibone	Secretary
Unit	
1 - Ron Landsel	760-231-7586
1A - Linda Langworthy	562-301-1346
2 - (Open)	
3 - Laura Bennett	760-224-2524
4 - Sally Lopez	760-421-4187
5 - Dr. Andrea Anderson	510-701-4044
6 - Steve Lawler	760-419-7011
7 - Renee Maricque,	920-562-3436
8 - Kathleen & Dan Pursell	760-439-9282
9 - Jeff Kern	908-420-1853
10 - Judy Hartmann	909-518-8767
11 (1-45) - MaryAnn Alger	503-348-9959
11 (46-77) - Diane Pettibone	760-803-1637
12 (1-53) - Jaci Ackles	760-845-4612
12 (54-98)- Elaine McClendon	626-940-4487
14 - Toby Roberts	760-721-6077
& Kristine Hale	858-775-4253
<b>Evelyn Thomas</b>	Board Liaison



# Updates From The Isle

## THE ISLE



**WHO WILL WIN THIS YEAR & CLAIM THE INFAMOUS PETE DAVIS BUD TROPHY**

**FEBRUARY 2024**  
EMERALD ISLE GOLF COURSE  
ESTABLISHED 1966



Join us this year for our annual Super Bowl Tournament Sunday February 11th! This tournament is the perfect way to start your morning before the big game. We've got the best beer selection & Bloody Mary's in town, grab your team, and register today using our QR codes on the bottom left for our main calendar.

As the days get warmer and longer, come join us for some fresh air on the golf course. As an Oceana Resident you receive a discounted rate at The Isle on green fees. Let our staff know when you're checking in so we can always make sure you get the best rate. Did you know we are also dog friendly? Feel free to bring your pup! And yes, they can ride in the cart with you anytime!

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO

**BOOK A PRIVATE LESSON**  
**BOOK A GROUP LESSON**

MORE INFO ABOUT OUR DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION NATALIE VIVALDI, PGA

**VIEW & SAVE OUR**

MASTER CALENDAR OF ALL EVENTS UPCOMING AT EMERALD ISLE GOLF COURSE

**THE ISLE GRILL MENU**

OPEN DAILY 6:30AM-4:30PM

JOIN US ON THE PATIO FOR SOME FOOD & DRINKS OR CALL US FOR A PICK UP ORDER

17TH ANNUAL  
**SUPER BOWL TOURNAMENT**

**XVII**

<p><b>7:30AM</b> <small>REGISTRATION</small></p> <p><b>9:00AM</b> <small>SHOTGUN START</small></p>	<p>FORMAT:</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>PERSON</b> <b>SCRAMBLE</b></p>	<p><b>\$65</b> <small>PER PERSON</small></p> <p><b>INCLUDES:</b></p> <p><small>GREEN FEE CART BREAKFAST PRIZES &amp; AWARDS</small></p>
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SUNDAY FEB. 11

# Notices & Reminders



## Meet the Candidates

There will be two formal Candidate Forums with a moderator. First on Feb 10 at 1pm, and the second one at the Feb. 15 Coffee Hour at 9:45am, both in the auditorium. Then on Saturday, Feb. 17th, 1-3 pm the candidates for the Board of Directors will assemble in the auditorium for an informal meet and greet.

***This is your chance to have one-on-one conversations with whomever you wish.***

Our future directors are within this group and this is a chance to get to know them.



**We are looking for workshop instructors.**

**Do you have a craft or hobby you are willing to teach your neighbors? If so, please contact Caryn ASAP!**

Plus...Art Room new hours: Every Wednesday 10am-3pm and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. Any questions, call:

**Caryn at 760-518-6982 or  
Mary at 745-595-4138**

## City Street Sweeping for OCA

No parking on city streets, both sides,  
9am-1pm,  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays

## Tax Time is Approaching

**Sign up if you want tax assistance!**

Free tax aide is being offered at Oceana again, sponsored by the IRS/AARP Grants. The dates are:

**February 7th  
through  
April 10th 2024.**

Tax preparation is by appointment only. To schedule your tax appointment, please call:

**(760) 757-3937.**

You must fill out a tax preparation packet before your appointment. Blank tax preparation packets are available for pick up in the OCA management office.

Tax interviews/intake will be in one area of the clubhouse and tax preparation will be done in a different area. As always, taxes will be completed and quality reviewed by IRS/Tax-Aide Certified Counselors.

Because of COVID and the flu we ask that you **bring a mask.**

We are looking forward to seeing you!

**Mike Archer  
Dave Kupka**

## Share & Wear Schedule

A reminder for all:

**Share & Wear** is open for business:

10am to 2pm Tues. thru Fri. Weekly &

10am to 2pm First Saturday each Month

(The Super Saver Sale—50% off)





## Did You Know?

### History

Darwin Day is a global celebration that honors the birthday and life of the eminent biologist, Charles Darwin, known for his ground-breaking contribution to the science of evolution. Established by various educational and scientific institutions, this annual recognition emphasizes the importance of science in our daily lives and inspires a new generation of thinkers.

Darwin Day traces back to 1909, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Darwin's birth, when scientists and scholars globally convened to celebrate his contributions. In America, the tradition began in 1995 when molecular and cell biologist Dr. Robert Stephens proposed the establishment of Darwin Day Celebration, an independent, non-profit organization.

The day is typically celebrated by organizing public outreach programs that present Darwin's contributions and achievements in evolutionary biology and emphasize the importance of science in modern society. Debates, symposiums, and dinners are common celebratory events on this day. Darwin's birthday, February 12th, offers people across the globe the opportunity to deeply reflect on the principles of intellectual bravery, perpetual curiosity, and the hunger for truth that form the foundation of scientific discovery.

### Facts

- Charles Darwin is most notable for his theory of evolution. Published in 1859, his book *On the Origins of Species* details his scientific theory that populations evolve over the course of generations through a process called natural selection. Natural selection is the process whereby organisms better adapted to their environment are more likely to survive and reproduce.
- The phrase, survival of the fittest is commonly attributed to Charles Darwin however, it actually comes from Herbert Spencer's, *Principles of Biology*. It was published in 1864, 5 years after Charles Darwin's influential book.
- "A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life." - Charles Darwin 1836, in a letter to his sister.



**Darwin Day**

## Meet Your Neighbors

### Meet Chuck and Carolyn Kruse

Chuck, one of four children, was born in 1941 in Chicago, Illinois. He attended St. Peter and Paul Catholic School, Bowen H.S. and later attended the University of Illinois graduating with a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering (Honours). Chuck also received a Masters degree from Northwestern University in Operations Research. He secured employment at AT&T for approximately 25 years, followed by a position at NCR for 9 years. He was afforded the opportunity to travel to London, Amsterdam and the French Riviera, just to name a few.



Carolyn, one of 3 children, was born in 1943 in Chicago, Illinois as well. She attended St. Lawrence Catholic School, Our Lady Gate of Heaven and St. Frances de Salle H.S. She later graduated college with a B.Ed teaching degree in special education. Carolyn worked full time for one year and then married.

I asked how the two met, and to my surprise Chuck responded, "on a blind date." "You see" he said, "my friends invited me to a motel party and I didn't have a date (nor did Carolyn), so we met that night." They were engaged in August 1965 and married in July 1966. Chuck and Carolyn are the proud parents of 3 children. Due to job transfers, they moved to Little Rock, Arkansas and then to Dayton, Ohio. After significant health issues that Chuck experienced, in November, 2015, they moved to Oceana for weather and family reasons.

Both the Kruses became involved at Oceana, Chuck, having once been chairperson of the Activities Committee, and Carolyn, as a volunteer at Share & Wear. They are both involved at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside where Chuck serves on the parish council. And then there's Fred, their basset hound who joined the family a year ago. Everyone knows Fred as evidenced by people stopping their cars and calling out, "Hi, Fred!"

Finally, I asked them what they could share about their time thus far at Oceana. They both responded "We really enjoy meeting people from all over the country, as well as taking part in all the activities here!"

How serendipitous that I write this column for our February edition of the Hilltop Highlights, celebrating Valentine's Day this month.

Happy Valentine's Day, Chuck and Carolyn, and of course Fred! - Gail Olenick



**Activities Recap** *Continued from page 8*

In case you are not aware of our Thursday morning Coffee Hour events, you are missing out on some good entertainment, good coffee/soda and donuts and good fellowship with your Oceana neighbors. We gather between 8:30 and 9:30 am when you pick up a beverage and food of choice (only \$1 each). At 9:30 announcements of upcoming events at Oceana are provided (plus some fun stories and a few jokes). At 9:45 the fantastic entertainment and fun begins. Please join us on Thursdays if you can. The following lists some of the great events we had in December.



phone and flute in addition to the keyboards. Jay also sings and plays the guitar. They played several familiar Christmas tunes that we could sing along with.



They are both excellent musicians! In addition, when Don Jones our MC for the morning had us sing "God Bless America", Ellen Marciel played the accompaniment on the piano!

### Caroling

#### Week 1: The Music Men Barbershop Chorus:

The North County Barbershop Chorus "The Music Men" provided their Christmas show for us. What a fun treat with many of the traditional Christmas songs and carols. In addition to the full chorus, they also had a quartet singing a couple of fun songs that had lo-



If you have ever wondered when Christmas carols first came about, the answer lies in the 14th century, although their evolution dates back even further. Even before Christianity, it is thought that midwinter songs existed to keep up people's spirits, along with dances, plays and feasts. The first carols were produced by Franciscan friars, followers of St. Francis of Assisi. They took the form of a dance in a circle with linked hands and everybody singing a song.



Friday, December 22, 2023 brought over 40 residents together bringing along a spirit of cheer, excitement and laughter. Beginning in front of the clubhouse, Oceana was graced with Christmas carols. Golf carts and cars paraded up Vista Campana making stops at E street, L street, N street, S street and W street. Each stop was filled with residents coming out to listen to the voices of Christmas. The last stop was at the Billiards room where hot chocolate and holiday cookies were served.



cal Oceana resident, Charlie Wendt, singing tenor. There was also a visit from a very fun "Frosty the Snowman". It was a great morning of entertainment for us!



#### Week 2: Bell Pepperz-Ron & Jay:

Ron Bell and Jay played and sang Christmas songs for us. Ron sings and plays the saxo-

Many thanks to Anita Romaine and Jay Crawford for organizing this special event and providing the lyrics! Shout out to "Lisa & Gail" for the snow machine, music and cookies and Pat Hawkins for donating the hot chocolate.

They say that the best thing about singing is that you don't have to know how to sing, yet you can still reap the benefits!

## Marvelous Mimosa Monday

On the morning of New Years Day, the doors of the Oceana clubhouse auditorium opened to welcome 60 + residents to celebrate the New Year.

A hearty brunch of bagels and croissants was served, along with various jams, cream cheese and a fresh fruit dish of tangerines and strawberries.

And of course, our bartender Lisa, served mimosas.

As we watched the Rose Parade on the big screen, residents enjoyed a few moments of New Years Day trivia by answering questions relating to the holiday. Balloons and decorations adorned the auditorium and if you found a penny taped to the back of your chair, you won the balloon!



As one resident commented upon leaving, "This was such a wonderful event. We need to do this every year."

What a special way to begin the New Year.

Each New Year brings along the hope of good health and happiness, peace and prosperity. Cheers to your well-being, joy and new beginnings in 2024!



## 2023 Activities Review

### A Brief Look at 2023's Special Events

2023 was a busy year for Activities. Here is a general summary of our events. We hope that you were able to attend and remember them. But if not... perhaps you will see a few events that you wish you would have attended and look forward to possibly attending this year. (Also... see Coffee Hour Events summarized in the newsletter.) Enjoy!

#### January

**Wine, Beer & Chocolate Pairing** - Our "love affair" with Johnna Nilson and her sweets began. Chocolates with beverages, Scrumptious!

#### February

**TV Game Show Night - "The Price is Right"** - After Killer Pizza from Mars, 80 people formed 10 teams to guess prices of local items. The team with the best answers won prizes at the end.

**Super Bowl Tailgate Potluck Party** - FREE! Watched Super Bowl LVII (57) between KC Chiefs (winner by a last second field goal) and Philadelphia Eagles on the "big screen".

#### March

**Spring Equinox Drumming** - FREE - Good turnout of drummers for the Spring Equinox.

**5<sup>th</sup> Thursday - Afternoon Treat** - John Lowery played guitar and sang.

#### April

**Steel Drum Concert** - Poolside concert from the Mission Vista High School Steel Drum Band. Enthusiastic students played & danced!



**Paint and Sip** - 1st time at Oceana. Pinot's Palette brought painting, wine, cheese and crackers. Packed house had a wonderful time.

#### May

**Cinco de Mayo** - Tacos and Margaritas with music from Bell Pepperz.

**Lapidary Open House** - FREE! Lapidary folks demonstrated their skills.

**Memorial Day BBQ** - the Sweethearts of Swing with Chicken & Tri-Tip from Hunters Steak House.

#### June

**Wine Tasting Event** - 4 whites and 4 reds compared. Happiness was guaranteed!

**Pride by the Pool** - First ever LGBTQ Pride event at Oceana.

**Dog Days of Summer** - Fun event for Oceana dog owners, organized by Lisa Bagot.

Cont'd ⇒



**Summer Solstice Drumming - FREE!**

Good group to drum on the longest day of the year.



**Afternoon Treat** - Bell Pepperz music and Eddie Chiw finger food – great 5th Thursday!

**July**

**4th of July BBQ** - with Jimmie and Enrique - Burgers and hot dogs from Eddie Chiw.

**August**

**New Resident Orientation** - Fun, informational event for newbies (and new-at-heart).

**Ice Cream Social** - FREE at the Pool. Anton the juggler from Orange County entertained.

**Party Under the Stars** - Event at the Community Garden, organized by the Garden Club. Strolling musicians, garden tours, refreshments, and auctions. Great attendance!

**Afternoon Treat** - Pizza, then new players John Scott & Brian Otto sang and strummed.

**September**

**Labor Day BBQ** - Cool Rush Band was outstanding and had residents dancing. Eddie made pulled pork and chicken sandwiches.

**Fall Equinox Drumming** by the pool - FREE - many residents joined us for the Fall Equinox.

**October**

**Oktoberfest Beer Tasting and Dance**

- Johnna Nilson provided different beer selections. Jim Romans cooked Brats! Adrienne Nims provided Oktoberfest Music to dance to.



**Oceana Art Show and Sale** - FREE! Anita Romaine chaired this event showcasing many residents displaying their artistic talents.

**Evening Halloween Dance and Costume Contest** - Food ("worms & eyeballs"), costume parade, and dance instructors from McCann Studios! Great costumes and fun for all!

**November**

**"Deck the Halls"** - FREE - Decorating the Clubhouse and enjoying fresh Eggnog!

**Share & Wear Christmas Sale** - FREE! 2-day sale - Plus many "Super Saturday" sales.

**Drama Club Play** - Original play, "The Tavern at Oceana", written and staged by the Drama Club. Excellent play! Sold out!

**Angel Tree** - a "Giving Tree" to purchase Christmas gifts for local Head Start school.

**Thanksgiving Meal** - Nice event with plenty of food and friendship.



**Afternoon Treat** - Excellent Entertainment by the "Toe Tappers" group.

**December**

**Hanukkah Party** - residents explained their holiday traditions and gave homemade treats.

**TV Game Show Night** - "The Price is Right - Holiday Edition" - After pizza, teams guessed prices of Holiday items.

**Holiday Garden Club Fair and Market** - FREE Garden Club event. Treats, local artisans and gardeners, and a surprise visit from Santa!

**2023 Coffee Hour Review**

For years, Thursday Morning Coffee Hour has been the bedrock of regular Oceana Activities events. We've had them every Thursday morning for as long as anyone can remember. It is a time when folks can get together regularly for a nice breakfast, catch up on what is going on with their friends and find out what other activities are going on at the association. Plus... there are outstanding MC's and entertainment each week! And you do not have to travel very far to enjoy it! And it is only a dollar each for coffee and a donut/roll! We have continued with this same concept and think we have provided some outstanding talent for the community this past year. Here is a summary of some of the new entertainers we had in 2023 and some of our traditional favorites that we have enjoyed year after year.

**New Artists in 2023**

- **John Lowery** - Guitarist (& harmonica) and singer. Entertained at Coffee Hour and one of our Afternoon Treats.
- **Kevin James O'Brien** - Guitarist and singer of familiar songs.
- **John Scott & Brian** - Vocal/Guitar duo.
- **Suzie Lotzof** - Lotz of heart, vocalist, songwriter, and performer.
- **Bruce & Beverly Dorcy**: From Beethoven to Broadway. Music for French Horn and Piano.
- **Rob Reynolds** - Classical guitar player.
- **"Can I Be Frank"** - Duo presentation of Frank Sinatra music.
- **Parkinson's Neurology Presentation** - Information on Parkinson's therapy.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Thursday** - We've added Thursday afternoons on months where there was a 5th Thursday. We usually provide a sandwich/wrap, chips and dessert and feature a local entertainer.



Suzie Lotzof



Bruce & Beverly Dorcy



## Returning Artists

- **Celeste** - Blues and Jazz singer - Contra alto with an amazing voice.
- **Jimmy & Enrique** - Outstanding Guitarist & Drummer/Singer who have been favorites at Oceana (and San Diego) for years.
- **Robert Parker** - Elegant and Classy Pianist extraordinaire - Plays the piano like no other and has charisma to spare.
- **Clay Colton and Gary Piro** - For 10+ years they have played folk and country classics at Oceana. We are very lucky to have them.
- **Adrienne Nims** - Probably the finest flautist in southern California. - Energetic and inspiring music from a number of wind instruments.
- **Mike Chamberlain** - Retired news and sportscaster now playing the guitar, singing and telling stories for audiences throughout southern California.
- **U-Turns (previously known as Radiance)** - Local band reviving 60's and 70's music.
- **Glenn Kramer** - Excellent pianist who has a unique program of "Name that Tune". He can play almost any request.
- **Bingo** - We play Bingo most of the 1st Thursdays of the month. We have prizes and some interesting ways to win.
- **Music Men Chorus** - Barbershop harmony and fun singing as a chorus and quartets. Love songs, Patriotic and Christmas Music
- **Toe Tappers** - A "Senior" toe tapping/dance ensemble. With music, costumes, and a lot of energy from women between 65-85 years old.
- **Bell Pepperz** - Ron Bell and buddy Jay Anderson - Singing, keyboard, saxophone, harmonica and drums. A wide variety of music for Coffee Hour and an Afternoon Treat.
- **Other - Special Recognition** - Activities volunteer Isabelle Strubhar before she left Oceana to live with her daughter.
- **Other - March Madness Skit (College Basketball)** - Short skit at beginning of Coffee Hour to note the start of this annual event.
- **Other - Candidate Forum** - Used Coffee Hour to meet and hear from Oceana Board of Directors Candidates.

We will have many of these same entertainers coming back to us for Coffee Hour in 2024. Plus, we are always looking for new entertainment that is available (and in our price range). Let us know of people/groups we should consider. See you on Thursdays!

## Committee & Club Reports

### Ceramics Club

Happy 2024 to all from the Ceramics group! I hope that you have recovered from your holiday activities by the time you read this in February's Hilltop Highlights. A group of our members enjoyed a post-Christmas gathering on 12/29/23. We enjoyed great food, much laughter and lively conversation.

We are currently talking about future Ceramics activities for this year. Please contact me if you have any ceramics ideas that you'd like to tackle. Any special classes will be announced in either the Friday E-blasts or the Hilltop Highlights. Our open studio days/hours remain the same as 2023. Please stop by and give us a try. We'd be happy to get you started in your journey with clay. Happy New Year!

Lynn Schneidenbach

### Arts and Crafts Club

Exciting NEWS!!! The Art and Crafts Workshops are expanding!!

From Nov 4th - Dec 9th, the Art and Crafts Department hosted 6 holiday craft workshops... it was a time and place to connect with old friends/neighbors and meet some new ones! A place to come together and get in the holiday spirit! The workshops tapped into, or in my case... found, our creative side!

Since the workshops were such a success... we are happy to announce that we will be having workshops 2x a month with one on a Wed. and one on a Sat. (Dates and info to follow.)

Here is our ask....We are currently setting up the calendar for the next 6 months and would welcome those of you who have a craft/passion/hobby and would be interested in leading a workshop to contact me, Caryn Leventhal 760-518-6982 carynnicole30@yahoo.com.

In addition the hours of the Art Room have been extended... we will be open Wednesdays 10-3 starting 1/10/24 and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, starting in February. The Art room, (when a workshop isn't in session) is a space where you can work on your current craft project. Also, please feel free to reach out and let us know what types of projects/crafts you are interested in learning!

Cheers to expanding our creative brain and mind in 2024!

Caryn Leventhal and Mary Hall

Cont'd ⇒

## Community Resource Center

### "C" for Yourself!

Our Community Resource Center (CRC) is your one-stop shop to learn about the wide range of free services available to North County seniors. Check us out weekdays in the Clubhouse, by appointment in your home, and 24/7 at [OceanaSeniors.org](http://OceanaSeniors.org) (under "Helpful Links").

**Community events:** November's well-received Veteran's Resource Fair has inspired the CRC Committee to plan a series of community outreach events. We're looking at topics such as recognizing and avoiding fraud, with advice from the FBI on schemes that target seniors. Watch this space for more information and let us know if there's a topic you'd like us to explore.

**Computers:** CRC has computers and a printer available for your use (nominal charge for printing) plus volunteers who may be able to help you with your own computer issues, online research, and related questions. Email us if you have a specific need, so we can connect you to the best resource - [OCACRC@gmail.com](mailto:OCACRC@gmail.com).

**ClickPay and Resident Portal:** Still need help registering for either of OCA's new websites? FirstService should be your first call, but email the CRC if you'd like help from one of our registration specialist volunteers.

**"C" for yourself!** Drop by and chat with a volunteer to see how CRC can help you. And we're always looking for more volunteers! In addition to staffing the Clubhouse center, we need people to work behind the scenes researching local services; pitch in at our upcoming community events; and other opportunities. Drop by or send an email if you have time and energy to contribute to this valuable Oceana resource.

### Veterans' Corner

The San Marcos Veterans Center (SMVC) offers confidential help for veterans', service members, and their families at no cost. SMVC is a small, non-medical, counseling center located in North County. SMVC is staffed with highly trained counselors and team members dedicated to seeing you through the challenges that come with managing your life during and after the military. Whether a veteran comes in for one-on-one counseling or to participate in a group session, at the SMVC a veteran can form social connections, try new things, and build a support system with people who understand the veteran and want to help the

veteran succeed.

**Counseling Services:** Couples and Family Counseling, Grief and Bereavement Counseling, Mental Health Care, Military Sexual Trauma Care, PTSD Care, Returning Service Member Care.

**Referral Services:** Addiction and Substance Abuse Care, Suicide Prevention, and Veterans Connections.

**Other Services:** Community Engagement.

It is located at **1 Civic Center Drive, Suite 150, San Marcos, CA 92069.**

Telephone: **(855)898-6050**

Mon: 8am-8:30pm.

Tues, Wed, Thurs: 8am-8:00pm.

Fri: 8am-4:30pm.

Sat & Sun: Closed.

Written by Corporal Thomas  
USMC Veteran & CRC Member

The CRC is always looking for volunteers to be of service for many different projects. Please join us at the next CRC committee meeting

**Sydney Wauson**

## Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee is an advisory team to the Board of Directors, Management and Residents. Members of the FC include a variety of relevant education and areas of expertise who will provide sound and well thought out recommendations on scope of work and oversight for projects.

Areas of focus include safety, access, architecture, landscape, overall aesthetics and facilities throughout the Oceana Community. Our purpose is to document, catalog, and report on identified issues and facilitate correction and repair. We will also create a process for reviewing, assigning, and overseeing projects to completion and final sign off.

Sounds interesting doesn't it? It really is interesting and it's important to preserve the safety, natural charm and consistent appearance of Oceana. Come by and sit in, guests are always welcome. Our meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month at 11:00am in the Community Room.

Committee Leaders:

Curt Conant, Chair [ccconant@gmail.com](mailto:ccconant@gmail.com)  
760.331.9311

Meg Marple, Co-chair

Lynn Schneidenbach, Secretary

**Curt Conant**