Oakmore Community News (OCN)

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October 2026: Autumn in Oakmore in Full Swing!

Hello Oakmore Friends and Neighbors,

Autumn in Oakmore, why does it seem so inviting? Oakmore's buzzing, but it's sure not **Autumn in New York**. Here pumpkins appear on doorsteps, carved by humans or squirrels, and the giant 16" pumpkin pie is back in stock. October brings dramatic sunsets, the 11th full moon of the year (on the 26th) and Halloween on a Saturday. Are you costume-and-treat-ready?



Somehow in the coming days we'll find time to read up on the 14 California and two Oakland ballot measures, figure out the candidates and vote! When that's done we can relax, read a **poem about autumn** and look forward to the Oakmore Homes Association's **fun-filled 100th Celebration brunch. It's November 7. Be sure to RSVP by OCTOBER 31. Email OakmoreHomes@Yahoo.com!**

In this issue *OCN* focuses on Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. We're happy to have guest contributors, with links to information on Oakmore's public stairs and two photos! We hope *OCN* encourages connections among neighbors, helps make our voices count and shares useful resources. "Oakmore neighbors" spans more than Oakmore Highlands' official boundaries. Dimond, Glenview, Lakeshore, Crocker Highlands, Montclair, Piedmont Pines, Redwood Heights and Piedmont are big parts of our lives too. **Hearing from you means a lot**. OakmoreHomes@Yahoo.com

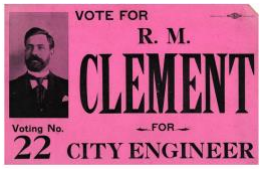
In this issue:

- **YESTERDAY:** The Oakland History Center and its Oakland Election Ephemera Collection, 1871-1939
- **TODAY:** Oakmore Homes Association updates, News & Views, You Asked..., Help Wanted, Safety First, Winners' Circle and NEW Quiz
- ***TOMORROW:*** Parting Thoughts

NOTES*: 1.** Back issues of *OCN* are ***HERE. Please ask your neighbors if they've seen *OCN* and feel free to share this copy. **2.** Be sure to click links in *OCN*!

YESTERDAY: Oakland Elections of Yore

Amidst the clamor of 2026's online, television and USPS campaign and voting noise, a look back at Oakland's elections provides perspective... and perhaps a welcome distraction. **Look at** the 1926 California gubernatorial election to get a feel for the climate when Oakmore Highlands began.



The Oakland Public Library's **Oakland History Center** has a treasure trove for history buffs. If, for example, you'd like to see election flyers from 1926, you're in luck. The Oakland

Election Ephemera Collection includes flyers, handbills and pamphlets from 1871 to 1939. Material from 1920-1929 is in Folder 4. You can see these rare documents if you visit in person.



1909:14th &Franklin

Spend some time in the Oakland History Center, on the Main Library's second floor (125 14th Street, not far from Oakmore), and you can see themes in the Bay Area's social and political life—and much more. An exhibit, October 5 -January 9, honors the 60th anniversary of the Black Panther Party. During your visit you also might find the history of your own Oakmore home.

The History Center offers in-person assistance (make appointment **online**), also answers Oakland history questions by email (**ohc@oaklandlibrary.org**) and by calls to a History Center librarian when Main Library is open (510-238-3222, every day except holidays). Check hours and holidays **here**.

TODAY:

Oakmore Homes Association…

OHA Board Changes. Thank you, retiring board member **Paul Dermenjian**, for your valued service. Welcome aboard, **Robert Cross**. The Board of Directors accepted Paul's resignation and unanimously elected Bob to fill this vacancy. Bob brings unique experience as a long-time Oakmore resident, a practicing lawyer and former OHA board president (in the 1990s).



SAVE THE DATE: November 7: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM. Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church (4101 Park) 100th Anniversary Brunch Celebration. Food from local eateries, resource information, history exhibit, fun for kids, even door prizes. OHA members and non-members all welcome. **RSVP by OCTOBER 31**: OakmoreHomes@Yahoo.com ("11-7" in subject line**). OHA Annual Meeting** business meeting, with guest speakers, follows at 12:30 PM.

Oakmore Walking Group: It's on the move! For now, we'll gather Fridays at 9 am at Rocky's, choose a route and go. You can just show up, or email your name and email address to OakmoreHomes@Yahoo.com (Walking Group in subject line), so we can update you if there's a change. Spread the news: All are welcome.

News & Views—Neighborhood & Beyond

a potpourri of resources, events and ways to speak out

- **Chabot Space and Science Center**'s new exhibit, "Shared Sky: Photos of our Universe," has its Grand Opening weekend **October 10-11**. Terrific kid-friendly Oakland resource. Star struck? Rent a telescope from the East Bay Astronomical Society! John Scheib, in charge of this program, is generally at CS&SC most Friday evenings at the EAS's Telescope Makers' Workshop. You also can contact him at **loanerscopes@eastbayastro.org**
- **Not-So-Scary Halloween Show:** Bring your ghosts and goblins, your superheroes and your fairies as tricks reign over treats in this silly, fun, laughter-filled event. Saturday, **October 31**, 3:30–4:15. Where? **Piedmont Branch** of the Oakland Library. Halloween fun appropriate for all ages!
- **Driveway Follies** Halloween Performances, **October 30 & 31,** starting at dusk. "Oakland Marionette Magic." **Information here**.
- **Oakland Museum of California:** A busy October and November, with Friday Nights plus events and exhibits focused on Dorothea Lange, Mildred Howard, Fairyland and the 1942 Japanese American incarceration.

- **Election Day November 3. Be sure to vote.** A few votes can decide the winner. Vote by mail, at a drop box or in person. Not registered? You can **register on election day** at a polling place. Learn about city candidates and measures here and California candidates and propositions **here**. List of Oakland polling sites, with days open, is **here**, and drop boxes for ballots **here**. An extensive independent (non-government) guide to candidates and propositions is **here.**
- View the **League of Women Voters of Oakland**'s presentation on the many ballot Measures **here.** The LWVO's recommendations on the Measures will be released soon. Check their **website** after October 12!
- **Pollinator Party** **November 15**, 11-2, Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church (4101 Park Blvd). Music, snacks & fun. Bring gloves & shovel or trowel!
- **Fellowship of Craft** show, **November 28-29**, 10-5. Henry J Kaiser Center for the Arts, Oakland. Free Admission to attend.
- **Oakmore's historic stairs**. Love our public stairs? You're not alone! Take a look at "The Best Hidden Staircases in the East Bay" from **Bold Italic** and Walk "No 50: Oakmore Steps" from **52 Walks** (the Leimert to Bridgeview steps).
- **Oakland Heritage Alliance** asks you to **sign a petition** telling developer City Ventures to "Bring Oakland's 16th Street Station Back to Life." This abandoned 1912 depot, has been dubbed "the Bay Area's most magnificent train station."
- **No Big Rigs on 580** has created a downloadable **online guide** to the "published results from the Truck Access Study." Rather than continue the study, they "recommend that Caltrans and the Bay Area Air District (BAAD) concentrate on how to help the Equity Focus Areas in the East Bay."
- And remember…lots more events and news in the monthly **D-4 Council newsletter**. You can sign up **here.** (Alas, we have no way to link you to the newsletter directly.)

You Asked…



OCN keeps hearing this question: *EBMUD has mailed me information promoting a water-line insurance policy. How do I decide whether it's a good idea to buy such insurance?*

We don't have the right answer for **you**, but, thanks to **Leslie Brandt,** a Glenview neighbor, *OCN* can share a way to get the "answer." Here's the gist, but do look at Leslie's **full explanation**. (Please note- this is for your information only and does not reflect any endorsement or recommendation from the OHA)

Evaluating water line insurance involves a look at **repair and placement costs**; what **your homeowners insurance policy already covers**; **likelihood of line failure**; your **willingness to *self-insure*** and the **proposed insurance policy's cost and actual coverage.** Experts (e.g., plumbers, online sites) can give you the facts you need for a cost/risk-benefit analysis leading to the answer for your situation.

Safety First: Tidbits and Tips

- How does the **Oakland Police Department** identify trends, assess risk and evaluate departmental practices? At a September public meeting OPD shared this information. View the presentation at **this link**.
- **Prevent pedestrian injury**: **Drivers**: know and follow the speed limit, slow down at intersections, be prepared to stop for people walking at marked or unmarked crosswalks, avoid distractions while at the wheel (mobile device use, conversations with passengers, eating), take extra care at night or when it's rainy or foggy. **Pedestrians**: Use marked crosswalks, walk on sidewalk when available and if no sidewalk walk facing traffic, look both ways and make eye contact with drivers before crossing street, at night wear bright colors or

reflective material and/or use a flashlight, don't wear headphones or talk on the phone when crossing street.

- **Protect your vehicle**: Consider a **GPS tracker for your car** – recently a car was stolen on Oakmore. The owner was able to track, locate and retrieve his car!!

Volunteer News and Opportunities!

Welcome, new **OHA** volunteer **Sandy Venning**! We're delighted Sandy, an Oakmore Road resident, will help with *OCN*! She brings lots of technical writing experience, plus enthusiasm about our neighborhood, nature and civic engagement.



Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts seeks "Purple Coats" volunteers. Get behind-the-scenes-experience at a historic arts venue as a volunteer usher. All volunteers receive two-hour training session before first shift. Interested**? Fill out the form here.**

OHA has many volunteer "jobs." If you'd like to meet your neighbors and support Oakmore's community, consider being an OHA volunteer. Tell us what you like doing and how much time you can spare: **OakmoreHomes@Yahoo.com** ("Volunteer for OHA" in subject line).

Winners' Circle

The September *OCN* Quiz was too hard! We didn't get one fully correct answer. But someone came very close, worthy of the Tiny Prize.

The question: *What role did Milton W. Dobrzensky have in the creation of Oakmore Highlands in 1926?*
The answer: Mr. Dobrzensky (1892-1960, final resting place Plot 67 in Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery) was "a Notary Public in and for said County of Alameda, State of California" and affixed his "Official Seal" on the Articles of Incorporation of Oakmore Homes Association on May 12, 1926. This answer was "hiding in plain sight." It's on the Oakmore Homes website. View the original Articles and his signature **there** (on page 7).

Congratulations to Brad Buckman for his answer to this tough question:

> *"Milton W. Dobrzensky was a real Oakland attorney who practiced with Fitzgerald, Abbott & Beardsley from at least 1928 into the 1950s, so he was certainly in the right firm at the right time to have helped Walter H. Leimert with Oakmore Highlands. It is easy to imagine him drafting or reviewing the covenants or handling the legal filings for the development. The one thing I ran into is that I could not find anything online that actually links Milton to Oakmore or to the homes association. The names that show up in the published history are Walter and Harry Leimert as the developers, George Posey on the bridge, and William Schirmer as supervising architect starting in 1927. No attorney or firm gets a mention in any of the accounts I could find, so his role, while very plausible, seems to live somewhere other than the searchable internet."*

Treasures on our OakmoreHomes.com website still hide on the internet! The "*Milton detail"* definitely "*traces back to a real source."* Brad suggested going to the Alameda County Recorder for the 1926 documents, but you don't have to do that. Just click the link in the "Answer" paragraph and OHA's website will reveal all.

NEW Quiz: With a Tiny Prize!

THE QUESTION: Who was Mayor of Oakland in 1926, when Oakmore Highlands began?

Send your answer to OakmoreHomes@Yahoo.com with OCN Quiz in subject line. Include your name, address and the best way to reach you.

THE TINY PRIZE: A beautiful Oakland Puzzle Company jigsaw puzzle depicting a local scene.
Contest Rules: All entries with the correct answer, received within one week of OCN 's email distribution, will be "put into a hat" from which we'll draw one Prize Winner. *OCN* will recognize all with the correct answer as "Quiz Winners" unless anonymity is requested .

TOMORROW:

Parting Thoughts

Look for a combined November/December issue of *OCN*, in late November. **We hope to see to see you November 7th at OHA's 100th Celebration!** Meanwhile…



…enjoy our Oakmore sunsets and watch out for *all* Oakmore pedestrians



Seen on Bywood by Alexis Schroeder

