



SIERRA SENIOR CENTER NEWS

PO Box 122, 49111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst, CA 93644 (559) 658-2200

Instagram: [@sierraseniorcenter](#)

Facebook: [@OakhurstSeniorCenter](#)

APRIL 
Showers
 BRING MAY
Flowers 

April 2026 LUNCH MENU

The Senior Lunch Program offers a different hot meal every weekday for adults 60 and older, regardless of income. Sierra Senior Center is one of the locations that provides a hot lunch at 11:30a.m. every Monday through Friday.

This program is funded by the federal government via a grant to the counties. Madera County provides additional funds to support the program.

- This program serves seniors 60 and over. If you are a caregiver or spouse of a senior who is attending, you may enroll as well.
- You must order a meal by 11:30am the day before you are attending – in person, via email, or by phone.
- Your meal is free; there is a suggested donation of \$2.50. It is voluntary and no eligible individual will be denied services. This contribution supports the ongoing costs of the program.

You must reserve your meal by 11:30am PRIOR to the day you plan to attend; you can reserve it with our lovely SSC lunch rep Michelle, or contact EMRAP at emrap.seniorlunch@gmail.com or 559-460-3431.

No meal calendar was available at the time of this newsletter's publication. Please visit the Sierra Senior Center to obtain a copy.

April 2026 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<u>1</u> 10am – 12pm SSC Board Meeting 10am – 2pm Open Hours 11am – 1pm Mahjong 1pm – 2pm Tai Chi	<u>2</u> 10am – 11am Exercise 11am General Meeting 11:30am Bingo	<u>3</u> 5pm-7pm PAINT PARTY	<u>4</u> 11am Bingo
<u>5</u> 12pm Mountain Unitarian Universalist Church Svc	<u>6</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 1pm – 2pm Tai Chi	<u>7</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 10am – 12pm Card Group	<u>8</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 11am – 1pm Mahjong 1pm – 2pm Tai Chi	<u>9</u> 10am – 12pm Food Bank Distribution 10am – 11am Exercise 11am Bingo	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> 11am Bingo & \$5 lunch
<u>12</u> 12pm Mountain Unitarian Universalist Church Svc 2pm Bunco	<u>13</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 1pm – 2pm Tai Chi	<u>14</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 10am – 11am SSC Event Committee 10am – 12pm Card Group	<u>15</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 11am – 1pm Mahjong 1pm – 2pm Tai Chi	<u>16</u> 10am – 11am Exercise 11am Bingo	<u>17</u> 2pm – 4pm Food Preservation Class 5pm-7pm PAINT PARTY	<u>18</u> 9 – 10:30am Pancake Breakfast 9am – 2pm Craft Fair
<u>19</u> 12pm Mountain Unitarian Universalist Church Svc	<u>20</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 1pm – 2pm Tai Chi	<u>21</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 10am – 12pm Brown Bag Distribution 10am – 12pm Card Group	<u>22</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 11am – 1pm Mahjong 1pm – 2pm Tai Chi 4 – 9:30pm Gold Dust Dancers	<u>23</u> 10am – 11am Exercise 11am Bingo 2pm – 4pm Koffee & Kards 5:30 – 7:30pm Koffee & Kards 7pm – 9pm Mtn Amateur Radio	<u>24</u> 1pm Master Gardener Workshop	<u>25</u> 11am Bingo & Pizza Lunch
<u>26</u> 12pm Mountain Unitarian Universalist Church Svc	<u>27</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 1pm – 2pm Tai Chi	<u>28</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 10am – 11am SSC Event Committee 10am – 12pm Card Group	<u>29</u> 10am – 2pm Open Hours 11am – 1pm Mahjong 1pm – 2pm Tai Chi	<u>30</u> 10am – 11am Exercise 11am Bingo		

April 2026 Events & Activities



Sierra Senior Center

Board of Directors Meeting

10am Wednesday
April 1, 2026
Senior Center Library

Guests welcome!



MAHJONG!

Learn / Play Mahjong!
at SSC
Wednesday
11am-1pm



Sierra Senior Center

SOCIAL SENIORS

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
10am to 2pm



49111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst | (559) 658-2200
www.SierraSeniorCenter.com

Strengthen Mind, Body, and Soul

TAI CHI

Class

\$10 PER CLASS

Instructor: Richard Blak

Certified Tai Chi instructor Richard A. Blak began his journey with Chris Brown, continued his studies at the Tai Chi Center, and now teaches Saturdays while continuing to train under Francisco Alvarez.

Classes are every Monday and Wednesday starting March 9th and 11th

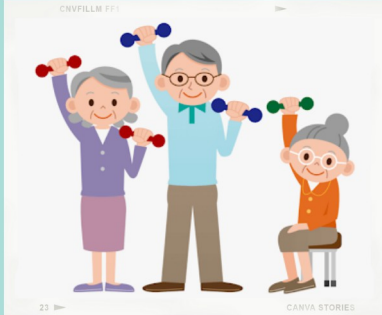
1PM - 2PM

Sierra Senior Center
49111 Cinder Ln, Oakhurst, CA



Sierra Senior Center

Exercise Class



Every Thursday 10am-11am

49111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst
559-658-2200

Sierra Senior Center

General Membership Meeting

THURSDAY
April 2, 2026
11:00am



49111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst
(559) 658-2200 | OakhurstSierraSeniorCenter@gmail.com

Sierra Senior Center



EVERY THURSDAY
12:00pm

Bingo sales close at 11:30am.
Bingo begins promptly at 12:00pm.
Play will not be delayed due to late arrival.
Open to the public; must be 18 yrs old to play.

49111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst
(559) 658-2200 | OakhurstSierraSeniorCenter.com
www.SierraSeniorCenter.com

APRIL

3 FRI
5-6PM

\$25



PAINT PARTY

SPRING
CHICK^a
Dee

LOCATION:

Sierra Senior Center
49111 Cinder Ln,
Oakhurst

INSTRUCTOR:

Rhiana Jones
rhianajones@handmadejoybyrhi.com
Facebook.com/handmadejoybyrhi

Non-Member: <https://square.link/u/eFQOrncP>

Member: <https://square.link/u/2b3K8prj>

Sierra Senior Center

April 4, 2026

• Bingo sales close at 11:30am, arrive early to purchase your games. •



SSC hosts Bingo every Thursday & the 1st, 2nd & 4th Saturday of every month.

• Bingo begins at 12pm sharp. Play will not be delayed due to late arrival. •

49111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst | 559-658-2200
www.SierraSeniorCenter.com



Madera County Library- OAKHURST BRANCH
Free in-person classes
Held at the Sierra Senior Center



DIGITAL LITERACY CLASSES

Wednesdays 10:00am - 12:00pm

- Learn how to navigate PC and Mac operating systems (OS).
- Learn to navigate your smartphone.
- Personal devices are welcome.
- Led by Oakhurst Branch Librarian.

Windows 11 Basics- April 8th
Android Basics- May 13th

For more information, visit the
Oakhurst Branch Library or call
559-683-4838

49111 Cinder Ln, Oakhurst, CA 93644

Playing Cards on Tuesdays from 10AM to noon. Mainly playing Hearts but open to other tables of games

MADERA COUNTY
FOOD BANK
THE ♥ OF COMMUNITY MATTERS

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION



OAKHURST COMMUNITY CENTER
39800 Road 425B, Oakhurst

2nd Thursday Every Month
10:00am - 12:00pm

For more information contact:
Michelle Ruiz: 559-674-1482

Bingo & Lunch



April 11, 2026

Pork Spareribs, Cole slaw, potato salad

- Open to the public, must be 18 years old to play.
- Lunch served at 11:00a.
- Bingo sales close at 11:30a.
- Play begins at 12:00p sharp.



11:00am sharp, lunches sell out quickly!
LUNCH OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



49111 Cinder Lane
Oakhurst, California 93644
www.SierraSeniorCenter.com

Sierra Senior Center
Presents

Bunco

April 12, 2026

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!!

Every 2nd Sunday
of the Month
2pm - 4pm

pay at the door!

\$15

CASH PRIZES!
Must be 18 to play.

RSVP to
Kathy Chisum
530-440-2213
or just show up!

49111 Cinder Lane
Oakhurst

SSC Event Committee

Interested in getting involved with your fellow seniors? Join the SSC Event committee. The committee meets the second & fourth Tuesdays in the Senior Center library at 10:00 a.m. We have great events planned for 2026 but we need YOUR help! Please consider volunteering with SSC.

NOW! Earn free event admission for your help!
Talk to any committee member for details.

UC Master Food Preserver
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

FERMENTATION CLASS:

Sauerkraut, Sour Dough Bread & Yogurt!

This is a 'make & take' class for sauerkraut, sour dough bread plus, yogurt making tips!

With UC Master Food Preserver Regina Florenti

Fri. April 17, 2026 / 2 - 5 pm

LOCATION:
Sierra Senior Center
49111 Cinder Lane
Oakhurst, CA

\$20 per person - Registration required!
<https://link.ucanr.edu/fermentationclass>
or contact Barbara 559-448-7178
Wear apron & closed toed shoes, hair back!

Join us in
facebook

To be added to the email list:
(559) 365-6342 or graceaces@stl.net
<https://link.ucanr.edu/mfps-fresnomaderamerced>
UC Master Food Preservers of Fresno/Madera/Merced Counties

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities. Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/ansrstaff/files/211324.pdf>. Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to John I. Sims, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer/Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397. For local inquiries, call UCCE Madera County (559) 675-7879.

Midnight Monarch



FRIDAY
APRIL

17TH

6PM-8PM

\$25

PAINT PARTY

SIERRA SENIOR CENTER

49111 CINDER LN, OAKHURST, CA 93644

INSTRUCTOR

RHIANA JONES

RHIANAJONES@HANDMADEJOYBYRHI.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/HANDMADEJOYBYRHI

Non-Member: <https://square.link/u/EXssj6lL>

Member: <https://square.link/u/QhnEJw32>

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & CRAFT FAIR

9-10:30
9-2

SATURDAY APRIL 18

**Come one, Come all!
Enjoy SSC's Fabulous Pancake
Breakfast for only \$10,
then Shop til you Drop at our
Spring Craft Fair!**

MADERA COUNTY
FOOD BANK
THE ♥ OF COMMUNITY MATTERS

Sierra Senior Center Brown Bag Program

2026 Schedule

January 20	April 21	July 21	October 20
February 17	May 19	August 18	November 17
March 17	June 16	September 15	December 15

The cost is \$60.00 a year. These funds go toward the program expenses (freight charges, food costs, and warehousing).

*No restrictions on monthly income to qualify.
To register or for additional information contact:

Michelle Gallardo,
Operations Manager/Program Coordinator
559-674-1482
mg.maderafoodbank@gmail.com

IRENE'S KREATE AND KRAFT PRESENTS

Kookies AND Kards

WHEN:
March 26th
April 23rd
May 28th
Session 1: 2:00 till 4:00
Session 2: 5:30 till 7:30

WHERE:
Sierra Senior Center
49111 Cinder Lane Oakhurst

COST:
\$25.00 INCLUDES ALL SUPPLIES
(MOST KITS MAKE 8 CARDS)
DIFFERENT THEMES AVAILABLE...YOU PICK!
NO SKILLS NEEDED
PLEASE RSVP: IRENE GUADAGNINI 559-760-7147



UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

PREPARING FOR FIRE SEASON!
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK
Home Hardening and Simple, Low-cost Actions For Protection

FRI. April 24, 2026 - 1:00 - 2p.m.



Sierra Senior Center
9111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst

Open to the public and FREE OF CHARGE

SPEAKER ALISON DEAK

is the UC Fire Advisor for Mariposa, Madera, and Fresno Counties. She focuses on improving wildfire resilience and community preparedness and promotes safe and effective prescribed burning practices, largely with the Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative. Alison provides education, technical support, and guidance to help reduce wildfire risk and restore landscapes through beneficial fire.



Questions or to get on email list:
(559) 365-6342 or graceaces@sti.net
<https://link.ucanr.edu/maderamg>
facebook/MaderaMasterGardeners



It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>). Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to John L. Sims, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer/Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 750-1397. Or UCCE Madera County (559) 676-7676.

Sierra Senior Center



Radio Club Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month (except November & December) from 7-9:00pm at Sierra Senior Center.

Contact President Terry Burley, W6HRY or revcab@sti.net with questions.

49111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst | 559-658-2200

Sierra Senior Center



Bingo & PIZZA*

4th SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

*free pizza for bingo players served at 11am

SATURDAY April 25, 2026

Bingo sales end at 11:30am-
arrive early to purchase your games

49111 Cinder Ln, Oakhurst
559-658-2200 oakhurstsierraseniorcenter@gmail.com

Sierra Senior Center

CONGRATULATIONS



APRIL 2026

*player of the
month*

Pat Meadows

**Winner receives \$5 off each session of Bingo
played during the month**



49111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst | 559-658-2200

April 2026 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

LIVIA WYANT

Born on April 18 in Los Angeles, Livia Wyant's story is one of warmth, flexibility, and a deep appreciation for life's simple, meaningful moments. Raised in Diamond Bar, California, she spent her formative years surrounded by family, friendship, and memories that would create her gentle, thoughtful spirit.

Some of Livia's most cherished childhood moments unfolded along the coast in Dana Point. As a young teen, she would join her family for beach picnics filled with laughter and her mother's



amazing prepared meals. They often sat together in gazebos near the shore, watching boats drift peacefully across the harbor. On especially lucky occasions, Livia was allowed to bring a friend along, and they would wander down to the harbor for ice cream and small adventures that felt like magic at the time.

Her school years reflected both the era and her individuality. From Kindergarten through sixth grade was elementary school, then onto a traditional junior high, and eventually Walnut High School near

Diamond Bar, Livia carved her own path. She enjoyed drama class and performing in plays, embracing creativity in a time defined by bell-bottoms, hip-huggers, and towering (the higher the better) platform shoes. She remembers the quirky realities of the time too, like the designated smoking section on campus which she and other non-smokers carefully avoided.

Never one for cliques, Livia stayed true to herself, maintaining a close-knit group of friends she still treasures today. After high school, she attended junior college, studying business and going on to work in clerical and administrative roles. Though she once dreamed of becoming a veterinarian, her love for animals ultimately guided her in a different direction, one that allowed her to care deeply without the emotional toll of veterinary surgery. Her compassion for animals has remained a defining part of who she is.

In 1994, Livia's life took a beautiful turn when she met her husband, Dale, through a Penny Saver ad. Their first date, a blind date at the Hungry Hunter, turned into a four-hour conversation. Just four months later, they were married. Decades later, their bond remains strong. While they didn't have children together, Livia embraced Dale's nine-year-old daughter as her own, forming a close and lasting relationship.

The couple spent their first ten years in Oxnard and a couple other locations before eventually settling in Oakhurst, where they purchased a home in 2015 and moved full-time in 2020. That same year marked Livia's retirement after 17 years as an administrative assistant in special education at a high school, a role she deeply valued. She still fondly remembers "her kids" and misses the daily connections she built

with them.

In retirement, Livia has embraced a life rich in creativity and connection. She paints in watercolor and acrylics, crochets, reads, and crafts everything from wreaths to handmade cards and is willing to try anything else that grabs her attention and looks like it would be fun to try. She finds joy in nature, especially listening to birds and continues to feel a deep pull toward the ocean, her favorite place in the world.

Her days are filled with meaningful activities: volunteering at the local senior center (where she also served on the board for 2 years), participating in a book club, and enjoying lively ladies' game nights. She treasures time with friends, whether meeting locally or traveling to visit them in places like Grover Beach and Fillmore.

Travel has been another thread woven throughout her life. Livia and Dale share a love for train journeys, having explored scenic routes in Colorado, experienced the wine train in Napa, and taken memorable rides through the Redwoods to Santa Cruz, as well as excursions in Alaska. One of her most beloved destinations is Vancouver, which she describes as breathtakingly beautiful. Still on her list are dreams of traveling across Canada, visiting Europe—especially Austria at Christmas time, Switzerland, Germany, and France—as well as experiencing the wildlife of the Galápagos Islands up close, as the animals there are not afraid of humans.

Animals hold a sacred place in Livia's heart. Whether it's dogs, cats, elephants, whales, or the birds she listens to each day, her love knows no bounds. Living in Oakhurst, she feels especially lucky to watch deer wander through her yard—a quiet reminder of the beauty surrounding

her. One of her most meaningful symbols is the elephant tattoo on her forearm. Representing herself and her parents—her “Three Musketeers”—it honors their shared love of elephants and keeps their memory close since their passing.

Through every chapter of her life, Livia has remained grounded in love, authenticity, and gratitude. When asked what advice she would leave behind, her words are simple yet powerful: “Be true to yourself, always do what makes you happy, and don’t wait to live your life.”

It’s a philosophy she doesn’t just speak, but lives every single day. So when you see Livia, feel free to wave a hand “hello” and you’ll be sure to be met with a wave back and her warm smile in return.

If you know of someone who would be a great (local) senior to write about, contact Georgia Kopel at 510-499-4973.

Help the SIERRA SENIOR CENTER!



Volunteer Coordinator:
Georgia Kopel
georgiakopelssc@gmail.com
510-499-4973

Volunteer Application Please print clearly!

Personal Contact Information

Date: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Interests and Qualifications

What areas are you interested in volunteering for?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Event Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Media / Marketing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baking for Events and/or Bingo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yard Work
<input type="checkbox"/>	Phone calling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teach classes (exercise, dance, art, etc)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start a club (hiking, Scrabble, bicycling, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Event set-up / prep / clean-up

Your special training, skills, hobbies: _____

Language (s): English Other: _____

Any physical or medical limitations: _____

I recognize that the opportunity to participate as a volunteer at the Sierra Senior may carry a risk of personal injury and I hereby agree to assume all risks that may be associated with my participation. I hereby release, discharge, waive and relinquish all claims, liabilities and damages I may sustain from bodily injury, personal injury or property damage and hold harmless the Sierra Senior Center, its officers, directors, employees and agents.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____



The Sierra Senior Center would like to publicly thank our current members for their ongoing support of the Sierra Senior Center. With your help, we have worked to bring our center back to life and to present more one-time and on-going events.

Support your Senior Center by joining our community or renewing your membership. A single membership is \$20 annually; a couple membership is \$30 annually. Once you register or renew, our automated system will remind you when your membership is about to expire. How simple is that?

Scan the code or visit tinyurl.com/SSCMembershipSSC to join or renew.



Questions? Ask any board member or email us at OakhurstSierraSeniorCenter@gmail.com.



SOS



SUPPORT OUR SENIORS

Join us in making a meaningful difference in the lives of our community's seniors by donating to the Sierra Senior Center. Your generous contributions directly support programs and services that enhance the well-being and quality of life for our community members.

Your donation helps us maintain and expand services, ensuring that seniors have access to resources and support necessary to lead fulfilling and independent lives.

DONATE TODAY—MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR SENIORS!

<https://tinyurl.com/SSCSOS>

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Please fill out Brown Bag Application and mail it in to our office. To ensure you receive your brown bag, please submit your application and fee by the 5th of the month. Here is the break down for **pro - rated** months.

Please note: Calendar dates are subject to change.

January – December	\$60.00	July – December	\$30.00
February – December	\$55.00	August – December	\$25.00
March – December	\$50.00	September – December	\$20.00
April – December	\$45.00	October – December	\$15.00
May – December	\$40.00	November – December	\$10.00
June – December	\$35.00	December	\$5.00

Calendar	Tuesday	2025
Month	Day	Year
January	21	2025
February	18	2025
March	18	2025
April	22	2025
May	20	2025
June	17	2025
July	22	2025
August	19	2025
September	16	2025
October	21	2025
November	18	2025
December	16	2025

For application, contact mruiz.maderafoodbank@gmail.com or call 559-674-1482.



CalFresh Program

Who is it for?

CalFresh is for people with low-income who meet federal income eligibility rules and want to add to their budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table.



Visit www.cdss.ca.gov/calfresh to apply online or call the CalFresh Benefits Hotline at 877-847-3663



LET'S CONNECT

Our Care Companions at Valley Caregiver Resource Center want to provide your senior residents an opportunity to stay connected during this time. We will reach out to them by phone on a weekly basis

All it takes is an authorized referral and we can begin our conversation today!

Funding Provided by Fresno-Madera Agency on Aging

Our phone calls promote:

- Socialization
- Community Connection
- Companionship
- Enhanced Physical & Cognitive Health
- Positivity & Self-Esteem
- Staying Active in their Unique Setting

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Meghan Velasquez
559-224-9121
mvelasquez@valleycrc.org



Eastern Madera County **SENIOR BUS**



For Reservations Call

(559) 263-8080

or

(800) 325-7433

[www.maderacounty.com/government/
public-works/transit](http://www.maderacounty.com/government/public-works/transit)



NEED WATER BILL ASSISTANCE?

Madera County residents may be eligible for the Low Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

Get Help Now!

Submit the following:

- ✓ Complete Application Packet
- ✓ Copy of Applicant's REAL ID
- ✓ Copy of Applicant's Social Security Card
- ✓ Copy of current water bill
- ✓ Provide proof of income for the past 6 weeks for all household members
- ✓ Verification of Benefits from the Department of Social Services for all household members

Contact Us!

(559)675-5721
Lpaz@maderacap.org
1225 Gill Avenue
Madera CA. 93637



MCDPH MOBILE HEALTH



Wellness Checkups

Services:

- ▶ Glucose
- ▶ Blood Pressure
- ▶ Pulse & Oxygen
- ▶ Temperature
- ▶ Body Mass Index (BMI)



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT
[MADERACOUNTY.COM/MOBILEHEALTH](https://maderacounty.com/mobilehealth)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

