

WOODLAKE SUN

January 2025

A publication of Woodlake Homeowners Association.



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Welcoming the New Year

As the calendar turns, we embrace the joy of new beginnings, fresh resolutions, and the chance to come together as a vibrant community. The New Year represents more than just a date—it's a time to reflect on shared experiences, honor cultural traditions, and set intentions for the year ahead. This season offers a perfect opportunity to cultivate gratitude for the past year while welcoming the promise of new possibilities.

New Year's Celebrations Around the World

New Year's celebrations are a universal tradition, uniquely marked across cultures. Each community brings its own history, meaning, and rituals to the occasion, making it a truly global celebration that transcends boundaries.

Ancient Babylon:

One of the earliest recorded New Year celebrations occurred 4,000 years ago in ancient Babylon. Unlike today's January festivities, their New

Year began in March, coinciding with the spring equinox. The Babylonians held an 11-day festival called Akitu, honoring the rebirth of nature and the planting season. This festival was a time of renewal, where kings reaffirmed their role as leaders under the gods' favor.

China:

In China, the Lunar New Year is a dazzling and deeply symbolic event. Streets and homes are adorned with red lanterns, dragon dances fill the air with energy, and fireworks illuminate the sky to banish bad luck and welcome prosperity. Families gather for feasts, exchange gifts, and honor their ancestors. In 2025, Chinese New Year falls on Wednesday, January 29th, ushering in the Year of the Wood Snake. Associated with creativity, wisdom, and growth, the Wood Snake encourages renewal and resilience. The holiday period includes an 8-day public break, from January 28th to February 4th, allowing families ample time to reunite and participate in meaningful traditions. (continued on page 3)

Board of Directors

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Customer Service Representative: Michael Tamsi

Administrative Asisstant: Liz Segura

Woodlake Association

900 Peninsula Ave. San Mateo, CA 94401 (650) 342-7002 (24/7) admin@woodlakeassociation.com

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am-5pm Closed for lunch 12pm -1pm Closed Saturday & Sunday

After Hours Assistance or Building Emergencies:

Call Woodlake's Resident Service Attendant (RSA) at (650) 342-7002 Available 24/7

Common Interest Management Services

Accounting questions: (925) 743-3080 accounting@commoninterest.com

Woodlake Homeowner Portal

Owners sign up to receive Association notices directly to your email via Woodlake's online portal. Call (650) 342-7002 or email admin@woodlakeassociation.com for an access code to register.

Woodlake Sun

Advertising Policies

Both display and classified ads must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to when the ad is to be placed.

Payment must be received by the 15th of the month prior to when the ad is to be placed.

Management reserves the right to refuse any ad.

Space is limited, and there is no guarantee of where the ad will be placed in the newsletter.

All display advertisements must be submitted in PDF or JPEG formats and emailed to: admin@woodlakeassociation.com.

Display ads may be submitted by vendors who offer services to Woodlake residents. All vendors must be properly licensed and insured.

Classified ads are free to Woodlake owners and residents and are limited to 2 lines. Classified ads run for 3 months, and can be renewed once upon request.

Advertising Rates

Effective August 1, 2024

Display Ads

1/8 Page Business Card Horizontal (3-5/8" wide x 2-1/4" high) - \$100

1/4 Page Horizontal (7-1/2" wide x 2-1/4" high) - \$200

1/2 Page Horizontal (7-1/2" wide x 4-7/8" high) - \$400

Do you have ideas, comments, or suggestions for the Woodlake Sun?

Contact: Nancy Bush, Editor

WoodlakeSun@gmail.com

Welcoming the New Year (continued)

Scotland:

Meanwhile, in Scotland, Hogmanay offers a unique and spirited New Year's celebration. Rooted in ancient Norse and Celtic customs, Hogmanay features spectacular fire festivals, symbolizing the cleansing and renewal of the coming year. The tradition of "first-footing" plays a central role—where the first visitor to cross the threshold after midnight brings gifts such as coal for warmth, shortbread for sustenance, or whiskey for cheer, ensuring good fortune for the household.

The United States:

Closer to home, New Year's Eve in the United States is synonymous with the iconic ball drop in Times Square. This tradition began in 1907 and has become a symbol of collective hope and anticipation for the year ahead. Millions gather in person and around televisions to watch the illuminated sphere descend at the stroke of midnight, celebrating with cheers, confetti, and a toast to the future.

A Universal Tradition of Renewal

The global diversity of New Year's celebrations highlights humanity's shared desire for renewal and hope. Whether it's through cultural rituals, symbolic gestures, or collective festivities, the

New Year is a time for reflection, connection, and aspiration. Across the world, people take this opportunity to honor their heritage, look forward to the future, and strengthen bonds with loved ones.

Looking Ahead: Making 2025 Extraordinary

As we step into 2025, we are reminded of the transformative power of new beginnings. The New Year is a time to set personal goals, strengthen connections, and embrace opportunities for growth. Consider using this time to focus on self-improvement, cultivate new habits, or deepen your relationships with family and friends. From small gestures of kindness to bold leaps of ambition, each action contributes to making the year extraordinary.

The Year of the Wood Snake also invites us to tap into creativity and resilience. Whether you're embarking on a new journey, revisiting past dreams, or simply appreciating the present, the New Year offers endless possibilities for fulfillment and success.

Here's to a remarkable 2025—one filled with health, happiness, and prosperity. Cheers to the promise of the future!



When: Every Thursday

Time: 2pm-4pm

Where: Redwood Room in the Clubhouse

Bingo is a great way to have fun, win prizes, and enjoy some friendly competition. Come for the game, stay for the fun!

EV Chargers Reminder

Our EV Community Chargers are available exclusively for use by Woodlake residents. To gain access, simply register your EV with the Woodlake management office. They will provide all the necessary information regarding the EV Charging rules and registration requirements (such as insurance, proof of Woodlake residency, car registration, etc.).

Please note the EV Chargers are shared resources and are available to all residents on a first-come, first-served basis, with no exclusive rights to any specific charger.

A Woodlake Love Story

If you've met Viktar Romanenko, you know he's a warm and welcoming member of the Woodlake community. Viktar moved to Woodlake in September 2013 from San Francisco.

Originally from Minsk, Belarus, Viktar made his way to the U.S. in 2008 through the diversity green card lottery. At 26, he faced challenges like limited English and a tough financial climate due to the 2008 recession, but he powered through. With a master's degree in mathematics and computer science, Viktar now works as an engineering manager at a cybersecurity company in Silicon Valley, where he manages teams across three time zones—North Carolina, California, and Pune, India.

Viktar moved to Woodlake to be closer to his work, and he quickly fell in love with the community's amenities—whether it's the heated swimming pool, gym, ping pong, or the beautiful lake. Viktar loves the safe, welcoming

atmosphere that Woodlake offers its residents, and it's a place where he and his family have found a home.

Viktar's love story with his wife, Tanya, is one of those chance meetings that makes life a little more magical. In July 2015, Viktar was dancing by the pool at a Woodlake gathering with his Ukrainian friend when Sharon Tennison, who had worked in Russia for many years, suggested hosting a Russian potluck party. Tanya had just arrived in the U.S. the day before to help care for her sister's newborn baby. She saw the flyer for the event and convinced her sister to go, and that's where she and Viktar first met—both of them from Minsk, Belarus, almost 6,000 miles away from San Mateo,



and both with a shared love for ping pong! They quickly became inseparable, playing ping pong together every day after work.

Tanya had come to the U.S. on a tourist visa, planning to stay just six months. But as time passed, she and Viktar began to fall in love. When it was time for Tanya to return to Belarus, Viktar was devastated. And in a spur-of-the-moment, movie-like moment, he proposed to her right at the airport. The two were married in an Elvis wedding ceremony in Las Vegas in 2018.

In August 2023, Viktar and Tanya welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Roman, into their family. They also have Tanya's 17-year-old son, Kirill, who's a great student and a talented athlete, excelling in water polo, swimming, and working out at the gym. The whole family loves the Woodlake community and enjoys being part of the many activities and events that bring everyone together.

Tanya's Path to U.S. Citizenship: A Story of Perseverance and Dedication

Tanya's journey to U.S. citizenship is nothing short of inspiring. When she first came to the U.S. from Minsk, Belarus, she had no immigration status and didn't speak English. Initially, she was on a tourist visa, planning to stay only six months. But as she and Viktar grew closer, Tanya decided to make the U.S. her new home.

The road wasn't easy. Tanya faced the challenges of learning a new language, adjusting to a different culture, and navigating the complex immigration process. But she was determined. Tanya enrolled in English classes at the adult school and spent countless hours studying to improve her language skills. She became more confident with reading, writing, and speaking English, all while working hard to prepare for the U.S. citizenship test. (continued on page 5)

Join Woodlake's Book Group

January 21 "Tell Me Everything" by Elizabeth Strout

February 17 "The Color of Water" by James McBride

March 24 "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks

April 21 "Hello Beautiful" by Ana Napoliano

May 19 "The Orphans on the Train" by Gill Thompson

June 17 "The Wedding People" by Alison Espach

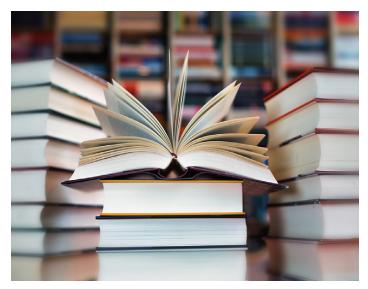
July 15 "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See

August 19 "Songs for the Brokenhearted" by Ayelet Tsabari

September 23 "Body and Soul" by Frank Conroy

October 21 "The Birchbark House" by Louise Erdrich

November 18 "The Spectator Bird" by Wallace Stegner



December 15 "Dust Child" by Que Mai Phan Nguyen

For more information call (415) 840-6115

A Woodlake Love Story (continued)

The test was rigorous. Tanya had to learn 100 civics questions about American history, government, and values, and she knew that the interview would be intense. After months of preparation, the big day arrived. The interview lasted five hours, testing her knowledge of everything from U.S. history to the Constitution. But Tanya's dedication and hard work paid off, and she passed with flying colors.

In August 2024, Tanya proudly became a U.S. citizen, holding her American passport for the first time. Her journey to citizenship is a powerful example of perseverance and the American dream. It wasn't just about passing a test but embracing her new life and becoming an active, engaged citizen. Viktar and their family couldn't be prouder of what Tanya accomplished.

This year, Tanya and her son Kirill celebrated not only their new U.S. citizenship but also the milestone of their family's achievements. Their journey reflects Tanya's strength, resilience, and unwavering determination to make the most of the opportunities life in the U.S. offers.

Community Involvement and Family Life at Woodlake

Viktar and Tanya are very involved in Woodlake life. Viktar is an active member of the Woodlake Poker Club, which now meets on Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Tanya, who learned English at an adult school, joined the club after Viktar taught her how to play poker during the pandemic. They enjoy playing poker together, and before baby Roman arrived, they even used to visit Las Vegas to play!

The Romanenko family truly values the sense of community here at Woodlake. They love that it's a place where they feel safe, where their kids can thrive, and where they can connect with their neighbors from all walks of life.

Roman, their youngest, is already showing signs of being an active little one—he loves riding his tiny bicycle and is already a fan of music and dancing. Kirill, who is in eleventh grade at San Mateo High School, is a bright and friendly young man who volunteers, plays sports, and excels in biology and mathematics.

The Romanenko family's story is one of love, perseverance, and community. They're the kind of family that makes Woodlake a special place to live, and we're lucky to have them as part of our community!

Stay One Step Ahead: Recognizing & Avoiding Common Scams

Scammers are constantly finding new ways to trick people into sharing personal information or account details. You can keep your information safe by learning their tactics and knowing how to respond. Here's what to watch out for and how to protect yourself.

Common Scammer Tricks

Urgent Alerts

You might get an email, phone call, text, or social media message claiming your account is at risk. Scammers use fear to pressure you into acting quickly, clicking links, calling fake numbers, or allowing remote access to your device. These tactics can lead to stolen credentials, personal information, or malware installation.

Impersonating Experts

Fraudsters may pretend to be financial advisors or other professionals. They often use real names and titles to appear legitimate. These unsolicited messages might promote "exclusive" investment opportunities that sound too good to pass up—but don't be fooled.



Fake Websites

Some fraudulent websites are designed to look exactly like official ones, often appearing at the top of search engine results and aiming to steal your login credentials. Be cautious, especially if you see alerts on these sites urging you to call or email fake support lines.

How to Protect Yourself

Use Official Channels

Always access your accounts through the official website or mobile app. Avoid clicking on links from unexpected emails, texts, or messages, even if they look authentic.

Verify Contact Information

Caller ID isn't always reliable, and scammers can spoof legitimate numbers. Instead, confirm contact information by checking official websites, account statements, or the number on the back of your card.

Enable Two-Factor Authentication

Adding an extra layer of security, like a one-time code sent to your phone or email, can make it much harder for scammers to access your accounts.

Bookmark Trusted Sites

Save official websites in your browser to ensure you always visit the correct pages. This helps you avoid fake websites that show up in search results.

Be Wary of Urgent Requests

Scammers love to create a sense of urgency. Pause, take a breath, and verify any unexpected requests before acting.

Protect Your Personal Information

Never share passwords, account numbers, or one-time codes with anyone who contacts you unexpectedly. If something feels off, it's better to double-check.

Knowledge is Power

You can protect yourself from scammers by staying informed and cautious. Remember, if something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't. Take your time, verify requests, and contact a trusted source for help when in doubt. Keeping your information safe is easier than you think—and it starts with staying vigilant!

We Need Your Help Protecting Packages this Holiday Season

We need your help to prevent package thefts, which have been occurring in our building lobbies during the holiday season. Please be cautious about granting access to anyone, including food or package delivery people. Stay vigilant and report any suspicious individuals or those who appear to be surveying our buildings to our RSAs.

Also, be sure to pick up your packages as soon as you receive delivery notifications and avoid leaving them on the lobby table for long periods. Together, we can keep our community safe and protect our packages! Thank you for your cooperation.

RSA Monthly Rule Enforcement Report

RSAs are still actively enforcing parking and balcony regulations. Key points from this month's RSA report include:

- Packages from buildings 800, 802, and 820 were stolen by theives that do not live at Woodlake. Police reports were filed.
- Packages from 816, 818, and 821 were delivered to the wrong buildings but were recovered.
- · Smoking was reported from 902.
- · Noise nuisance was report from 930.
- Rodent problem was reported from B Townhouses.

Custodians are continuing with their duties. New custodian Josefat is providing additional coverage on the weekends.

Our RSAs are dedicated to ensuring a safe and compliant living environment and they appreciate the cooperation of all residents in following the established community guidelines.

If you observe suspicious activity or a crime call 911. If your vehicle is broken into, call SMPD and do not touch or adjust anything in, on, or around it so that SMPD can process it for evidence. For more information on Crime Prevention, please visit https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/4027/Crime-Prevention. San Mateo Police Department: Emergency 9-1-1 / Non-emergency (650) 522-7700.

REMINDER: You must have a Woodlake ID to use our facilities, including the pools, gym, and tennis courts. Minors 14 years and older should also have IDs. Children under 14 years old must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian when using the facilities. Don't forget your pets. They need to have Woodlake IDs, too! The RSAs regularly check IDs, so be sure to carry your ID or store a photo of it on your cell phone.

Woodlake Employee Anniversaries: Congratulations!

Seru Raturala - 16 years James Velez - 16 years Maria Hernandez - 5 years Devon Armstrong - 1 year



January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			New Year's Day!	2 Last Day of Hanukkah BINGO 2-4pm Redwood Rm in the Clubhouse	3 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	4
5	6 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	7	8 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	9 BINGO 2-4pm Redwood Rm in the Clubhouse	10 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	11
12	13 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	14 Executive Session 6:30pm (closed meeting)	15 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood Board Meeting 6:30pm Clubhouse	16 BINGO 2-4pm Redwood Rm in the Clubhouse	17 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	18
19	20 MLK Jr. Day Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	21 Book Club 7:00pm	22 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	23 BINGO 2-4pm Redwood Rm in the Clubhouse	24 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	25
26	27 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	28	Lunar New Year Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	30 BINGO 2-4pm Redwood Rm in the Clubhouse	31 Exercise Class 9:30am Baywood	

Classified Ads:

Do you have something that you want to advertise or sell? Woodlake residents may place a free ad for 3 months in the Woodlake Sun. Email the HOA Office admin@woodlakeassociation.com by the 15th of the month. Guidelines for Ads: 2 lines maximum; posted for 3 months. We reserve the right to refuse any ad.

Searching For: Looking to rent a parking space (maximum \$40 per month). Text or call Julie at (415) 218-0351.

For Rent: Parking space for rent by building B. \$70 per month. Please call Helen at (718) 871-3828.

For Rent: Parking space for rent #88 by building 815. \$70 per month or best offer. Please call Carmen at (650) 292-1758.

For Rent: Parking space for rent, E Building (814 N. Delaware Street). \$75 per month starting January 3, 2025. Contact Catherine at catherineapr@yahoo.com.

Advertising Disclaimer: Woodlake Association does not endorse or recommend any of the products or services advertised in The Woodlake Sun. Additionally, Woodlake Association is not responsible or liable: for a) the accuracy or content of any advertisement in the Woodlake Sun, b) the acts, omissions or statements of any advertiser in the Woodlake Sun, or c) the quality, value or worth of any of the products or services advertised in the Woodlake Sun.



Friendly Reminder: **NO** Cigarette/Cigar Smoking, **NO** Vaping, **NO** Pot Smoking allowed anywhere on the Woodlake property.



Maximize Your Condo's Value, *Minimize Your Stress*.

Selling your home? The agent you choose to work with makes a big difference when it comes to a successful sale. Working with Sharlyne Murphy means you'll have access to innovative tech, money saving programs, market expertise, and a personal home advisor on your side. A local expert and Woodlake resident for 10+ years.

Let's chat about how you can maximize your sale in today's market.



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Sharlyne Murphy
DRE 02097147
REALTOR®
M: 408.455.6499
Sharlyne.Murphy@compass.com
TheBayAreaAgent.com

WOODLAKE REALTOR REPORT

COMPASS

Happy New Year!

In early 2025, the Fed is expected to cut rates, which will open up the real estate market to more buying power and bring more potential homebuyers into the market and to Woodlake.

JUST SOLD! 902 PENINSULA AVE

- · Studio · Luxury Vinyl Floors · Oversized Patio
- SOLD FOR \$453,000

COMING SOON! 814 N DELAWARE ST

· 1 Bedroom · Greenbelt View · Move-In Ready

COMING SOON! 815 N HUMBOLDT ST

· 1 Bedroom · South Facing · Updated Kitchen

Please Contact Us for a No Pressure Evaluation

"Your Woodlake Realtors"



JAMES SHERMAN DRE# 01416978 650.924.5772

james.sherman@compass.com WoodlakeRealtor.com



SUZANNE GARCIA DRE# 01985329 650.924.5772

suzanne.garcia@compass.com WoodlakeRealtor.com

Your Woodlake Neighbor, Here to Help with Real Estate!

Hi, I'm Ruben Hernandez, a proud homeowner at Woodlake and a real estate agent with Kinetic Real Estate—one of the top teams in the Bay Area! Our company has been around for 5 years, recently reaching \$1 billion in sales. I love living here and would be thrilled to assist my neighbors with their real estate needs, whether you're a first-time homebuyer, seller, or investor.

If you're considering buying or selling, let's chat! I'm here to ensure a smooth, stress-free experience. And best of all, I don't charge any fees for advice—I'm always happy to help.

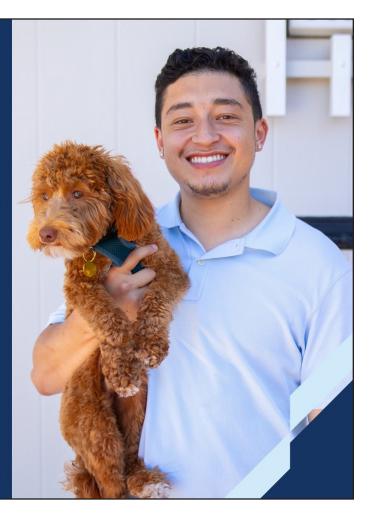
CONTACT ME TODAY



ruben@kineticrealestate.com

DRE# 02164467

P.S. My puppy Kai loves Woodlake just as much as I do!





Thank You, Woodlake **Events Committee & Volunteers!**

Our events don't just magically happen—they are the result of countless hours of hard work by our events committee and volunteers.

We are incredibly grateful for their dedication and all they do to make these events possible at Woodlake.

Do you have some ideas for future events, or are interested in Volunteering?

> Send us an email at: eventswoodlake@gmail.com



SOLANO CONSTRUCTION

◆ Tile & Granite

Plumbing

John O. Solano General Contractor

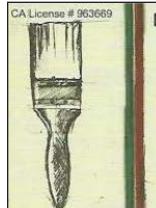
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- ◆ Kitchen & Bathroom Renovations → Popcorn Ceiling Removal / Abatement
 - Soundproofing
- ◆ Flooring
- Painting
- · Shower Valve Replacement
- · Exhaust Fan Replacement
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is something that can be felt inside our community.

- Medication management
- Homestyle meals
- · Activities and engagement
- Reasonable rates

"We appreciate the unique needs of each of our residents, we are grateful that we can respond to residents and families' needs without the pressures from large investment groups." - MARYANN CIMINO SHINN





TOUR TODAY

Ami Anderson Community Relations Coordinator 650.315.1350 Ami.Anderson@CiminoCare.com

CiminoCare.com

415600033 & 410508825

520 Peninsula Ave, San Mateo, CA 94401 | DRE01943875

Woodlakeanchor.net | Rentals (650) 375-1596

Woodlake Anchor Property Management

Management

Did you know...

GREET THE NEW YEAR WITH RESOLVE!

January is the perfect time to make plans for the new year-even if you are planning to sell or rent your unit later in the year, reach out to us now, to prepare your next move in real estate.

TIME TO GIVE BACK

Did you know that San Mateo's own Samaritan House is celebrating 50 years of serving the community? They are always looking for volunteers and canned food & other donations. Contact them at (650) 347 -3648 or

samaritanhousesanmateo.org









FOR SALE

820 N Delaware 410 - 2 bed / 1 bath

Top floor corner unit with filtered lake view! Features rare skylights, convenient and rare corner 2 bedroom floor plan, balcony faces lake.

RENTAL UPDATE

Woodlake is a desirable rental location, let us know how to present your rental to market to optimize your landlording experience.

Exploring rental & property management options? Contact the top team on the Peninsula. Serving Woodlake Sellers, Renters, Landlords since 1997. www.woodlakeanchor.net

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