

The Oak Leaf

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF OAKLEY

THE OAK LEAF

Citizens' Leadership Academy



Citizens' Leadership Academy in session

Last month, the Oakley 2014 Citizens' Leadership Academy yielded its first graduating class of 23 residents. The graduates were recognized by the City Council during the January 13th City Council Meeting.

The new program is designed to provide residents an opportunity

to familiarize themselves with the City operations and processes. The sessions presented by City staff addressed how City funds are allocated, decisions made, current challenges, future plans and much more. Topics covered ranged from Community Development, Development Services, Public Safety and other City services.

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You, Me, We Oakley!

Downtown Monument & Art Exhibit Coming this Spring!

Everyone has experienced, at some point, being the "new kid on the block", feeling unwelcome or out of place. *You, Me, We Oakley!* is an award-winning program committed to preserving Oakley as a welcoming community that respects the intrinsic dignity of all people.

Program activities aim to create opportunities for our diverse residents to come together and better understand one another, appreciate each others' stories, and to recognize their common desire to build a stronger, safer, and more vibrant community.



Oakley children's art for the new monument

This celebration of our diversity will be commemorated in the Downtown Plaza with a bronze sculpture depicting children of diverse backgrounds holding hands around a globe. *Continued on page 5*

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Get City News Directly from the Source

Looking for news?

Want to receive updates regarding upcoming events, City Council actions, construction projects, employment opportunities, police activity and more?

Sign up for the *Oakley Outreach*, a weekly e-newsletter.

Step 1: Download a free QR reader for your smart phone and use this QR code.



Mayor at the Market

Come meet your Mayor

Oakley's Mayor wants to hear from you. Every month, the Mayor will visit a local market to meet with residents to talk about the things that matter to you.

Come out and introduce yourself. Talk about your neighborhood. Ask questions, discuss concerns, and offer comments or suggestions.

For more information contact: Nancy Marquez, Assistant to the City Manager at marquez@ci.oakley.ca.us.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Feb. 7th 12:00 pm

Raleys Supermarket
2077 Main Street

Saturday, March 7th 12:00 am

Lucky Supermarket
2545 Main Street

More to come...

Email Us!

Want to let us know you'll be stopping by? Or perhaps, you know you won't be able to make it, but have a suggestion, question, or concern you'd like to share. Please email: info@ci.oakley.ca.us.

Did you know?

In 1862, Sarah Sellers, one of Oakley's original settlers began her term on the first Iron House Board of Trustees, becoming the first woman in the state of California to serve on a school board.

Capital Improvement Projects

Projects completed and those ahead for Oakley

The City of Oakley Public Works Department has been actively engaged in the design and construction of a wide range of capital improvement projects for the community in 2014.

Last year's feature project was the Civic Center Amphitheater and Veterans Memorial. These projects embodied the spirit of collaboration and volunteerism in the Oakley community, as stakeholders worked together for months to build the Amphitheater and Veterans Memorial site which will be enjoyed by the community for decades to come and have brought an even greater sense of pride to the community.



With a focused approach in improving the public infrastructure system in the community, 2014 saw construction of much needed drainage improvement projects on Main Street and Raye Avenue to address chronic flooding problems that residents had experienced for decades. The traffic safety project installed a modern pedestrian crossing light system in front of O'Hara Middle School and Almond Grove Elementary School along with speed radar signs on Brownstone Road. The support and collaboration of Oakley Elementary School District was instrumental in the success of these projects.

The end of 2014 also brought the successful completion of a project which widened the north side of Laurel Road between O'Hara Avenue and Rose Avenue and improved the traffic flows on this major roadway in Oakley.

The progress of capital improvements will continue into 2015 with new projects to resurface Main Street (Bridgehead to Big Break), Cypress Road, Rose Avenue and Big Break Road, which will get under way this spring. These projects not only improve the public infrastructure, but also enhance the quality of life for community residents and encourages more business development. In addition, new projects will be undertaken to repair and construct sidewalks, improve the pedestrian safety components of traffic signal systems, enhance the parks, and median landscaping, and street resurfacing.



Downtown Revitalization Loan Program

A key component of the recently approved Oakley Strategic Plan is the continued improvement and redevelopment of the Downtown, as well as the beautification and preservation of the Main Street commercial corridor.

On June 30, 2014 the City Council approved \$275,000 to fund a loan program furthering its commitment to the downtown area. The goal of the Downtown Revitalization Loan Program is to leverage public funds and private investment to enhance the physical appearance and economic vitality of the commercial buildings and businesses in the Downtown area. Loan funds can be used for façade improvements, landscaping and exterior lighting, signage, ADA compliance, building infrastructure upgrades needed for new tenant conversion or demolition.

The maximum loan will be \$75,000 for a term of 10 years. Each loan will contain a low interest loan component and a forgivable loan component. Fifty percent of the proceeds for each loan will be in the form of a 2% fixed rate loan. The remaining 50% will be in the form of a 0% forgivable loan. Loan applicants will be required to have a minimum of 10% equity in each deal and to provide applicable collateral. The loan program will be primarily targeted to property owners or tenants located in the Oakley Downtown Specific Plan Project Area.

For questions regarding the program, please contact Dwayne Dalman, Oakley Economic Development Manager at (925) 625-7006 or at dalman@ci.oakley.ca.us.

Upcoming Family Fun *A sampling of Oakley events*

April 18-25: Science Week. A very popular event featuring exciting interactive workshops. Past workshops have included Owls, Reptile Kingdom, Lego Engineering and Extreme Delta.

May 9: Pilates in the Park at Civic Center Plaza. Designed for teens and youth, but all ages are welcome. Bring a mat or towel, water, and dress comfortably. Presented by the Oakley Youth Advisory Council.

May 30: Taste of Oakley. See what's cookin' in Oakley! Take your family Downtown on a culinary adventure where Oakley restaurants will be offering a huge variety of fare for sampling.

May 30 - Oct. 10: Movies in the Park. Join your neighbors for movie night. *Ratatouille* - May 30, *Maleficent* - June 13, *The Lego Movie* - July 25, *Big Hero 6* - Aug. 1, *Guardians of the Galaxy* - Sept. 26 and *Monsters University* - Oct. 10

June 20: Car Show. Oakley and Les Schwab Tire Center to present a car show complete with food trucks and vendors. Contact Cindy Coelho at (925) 625-7044 for more information.

July 4: Oakley Cityhood Celebration. Oakley's popular birthday bash celebrating the City's Sweet 16th year at The Freedom Basin and will include lots of inflatables, music, food, vendors, and a firework extravaganza that you won't want to miss.

August 1 - 9: Showcase Oakley Week. Play a game and support local businesses at the same time. On a scorecard, keep track of all your Oakley activities. Points are earned for each completed category. The top scores will be honored with a special prize. Scorecards available in July. See how much you can do in Oakley!

Aug. 22: Annual Kids Fishing Derby. Grab the poles and bring the kids to the Oakley Antioch Pier for a fun day of catch-and-release fishing, with prizes for the most fish caught, largest fish, and smallest fish.

For more information along with a complete list of Oakley fairs, festivals and events, visit the City website at www.oakleyinfo.com or contact the Oakley Recreation Division at (925) 625-7041.

Rental Inspection Program Reminder

The Residential Rental Inspection Program protects public health and safety by identifying and correcting housing conditions that adversely affect the quality of life for residents living in and around rental units and helps to maintain property values. Oakley property owners have registered over 650 single-dwelling rental units in this mandatory program.

Help keep Oakley a safe and desirable place to live and work by registering your rental property. Deadline to register is January 31.

Oakley-On-Demand

The easy way to request City Services

Need to report a problem to the City? Check out *Oakley-On-Demand*. Oakley residents can enter service requests online at any time, which are automatically routed to appropriate City staff. Residents can then track their requests and provide feedback on the service they receive.

Oakley Loves On-Demand!

Customer satisfaction survey results show that over 60% of the users rated employee effectiveness, response time and employee courtesy as superior, and 45% said that their expectations were exceeded. Service requests increased by 24% from 2013 to 2014. The City is hopeful that we can continue to increase *Oakley-On-Demand* usage.

You can access *Oakley-On-Demand* from the City website at www.oakleyinfo.com or download an app for iPhones or Android devices. A picture of the app is shown on the left. You can find it in the App Store as *GORquest*. Once installed, set your location as Oakley.

The app allows you to snap a photo of your request (malfunctioning streetlights, pothole, graffiti, etc.). It automatically determines the location of the problem and forwards your request to the right staff person. What could be more convenient?



Bits 'n Snips

- New Lakeside and Leeward parks opened at the east end of E. Cypress Road in the Summer Lake development.
- LED “countdown” signals to be installed at several high-traffic intersections to assist pedestrians in crossing the street.
- Entrepreneur Training Program started for existing businesses and individuals serious about starting a new business in Oakley.
- Oakley’s police cars were equipped with automated external defibrillators to help respond to cardiac arrest medical emergencies.
- Plans are being developed for a future Oakley library and learning center to be located at the Civic Center.
- Grocery Outlet is expected to open in March.
- The cost-effectiveness of bringing police services in-house is being studied by the City.
- Park video surveillance cameras are being upgraded.
- Richmond America and Brookfield Homes have started building model homes in the Parklands II and Emerson Ranch, developments, respectively.

Why is it called “Big Break?”

The rich soils and proximity to fresh water led early Oakley settlers to pump dry 550,000 acres of marshland for farming. They built a long network of levees to hold back the waters of the river and Dutch Slough.

However, in 1928 following heavy rains, a BIG BREAK in the levee let the San Joaquin River flood 2.5 square miles of town that was never reclaimed. Before the unlucky asparagus farmer could raise the money to repair the levee, the State annexed the land as part of its waterway system.

Citizen’s Leadership Academy *Continued from page 1*

City Manager Bryan Montgomery said, “I think we accomplished a constructive two-way dialogue over the course of the Academy. We anticipate that many of the graduates will be inspired and feel prepared to seek out opportunities to continue to serve, including

“... this Academy has provided me with the information to be an engaged and active member of my community.”

- Roni Gomez

more impressive. I’m confident that this enthusiasm will be contagious, and these inaugural class members will spread and share their knowledge gained in the course. This all builds towards our goal of increasing civic participation.”

Council-appointed committees or other civic and community organizations, ultimately making a stronger community.”

Councilmember Randy Pope said, “I was very impressed with the enthusiasm for the Leadership Academy. The class was booked with a waiting list immediately after it was announced. The fact that each of these residents volunteered time away from their busy lives to participate makes it even

The City will maintain an e-mail list of graduates and intends to solicit ongoing input and feedback from participants on City issues, plans and activities.

The Academy will be offered again in the Fall of 2015 and is limited to the first 25 participants to register.

For more information or to sign up to receive advanced notice before registration opens, contact Nancy Marquez-Suarez by emailing marquez@ci.oakley.ca.us.

“...the Academy has given me a strong foundation for understanding how our community functions, as well as the many ways I can contribute...”

- Sean Ireland

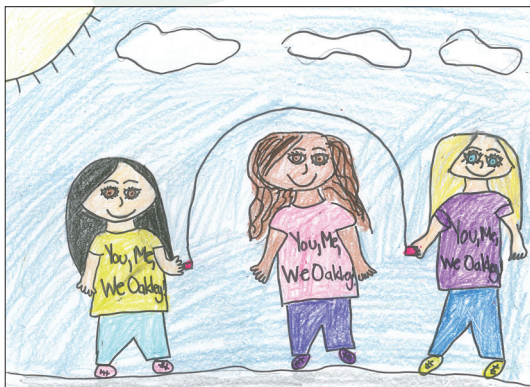


Front Row: Roni Gomez, Dawn Morrow, Sondra Bradley, Elizebeth Wortman, Zachary Coan, Trecinna Lankford-Abundis, Natalie Villasenor. Middle Row: Hitomi Benedetti, Craig Leighty, Sean Ireland, Meghan Bell, Chris Yarbrough, Nancy Yarbrough, Rachael McCorkle, Steven Vantine. Back Row: Ventura Flores, Christopher Dimaggio, Douglas Knowles, Randal Smith, Michael Dupray, Dale Smith, Arnold Fitzpatrick Jr. (Not pictured: Sonia Perez)

New Monument Coming to Downtown Plaza A You, Me, We Oakley! Project

Continued from page 1

The setting for the sculpture will be ceramic tiles with art by Oakley students illustrating their understanding of the YMWO’s Welcoming Principles, such as “treating others the way you would like to be treated, striving to understand cultures other than your own, and challenging myths and stereotypes that divide.” Watch for the unveiling this spring.



Oakley children’s ceramic tile art

Similarly, Freedom High School art students and regional professional artists will host an opening reception of the *Roads to Oakley* all-media juried art exhibit. Cash awards will be given to the piece that most conveys the YMWO! message, as well as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.

Funding for this sculpture, art exhibit, and all *You, Me, We Oakley!* sponsored activities comes from *Welcoming America*, the *Y&H Soda Foundation*, and the *Zellerbach Family Foundation*. For more information please contact Gabriela Baños-Galvan at gaby@youmeweoakley.org.

The Oakley Hotel

In 1908 the Dal Porto family moved to Oakley from Jackson. Two years later, Salvador Dal Porto and family purchased the Oakley Hotel.

The hotel was one of the many local businesses they owned in town, including a bar, an auto and farm service store, and a garage and tire service.

The Dal Portos remodeled and expanded the hotel to 32 guest rooms. Running the Oakley hotel became a family operation. While Mr. Dal Porto managed the hotel, Mrs. Dal Porto ran the restaurant where their twin daughters waited tables for hungry guests. The hotel restaurant soon became a favorite with the townfolks. Because their school didn't have a cafeteria, it was the preferred spot for Oakley School students seeking a delicious hot lunch. Mrs. Dal Porto's grandson, Bob, fondly recalled her home-style cooking, "She made everything: pasta, lasagna, ravioli, and desserts."

The Dal Portos owned and lived in the hotel until 1918, when the family sold it to Joseph Brag. Several years later disaster struck the town of Oakley. The hotel was destroyed in the great fire of 1924, reducing it and much of Main Street to ashes.

Ownership of the hotel returned to the Dal Porto family who rebuilt it as well as other Main Street buildings. The hotel was reopened in 1926 and remained in the family until 1932. Following the death of Sal Dal Porto, the estate sold the hotel to T.E. Sad. Over the years, it passed through a number of owners. It was purchased by Eldo Jenner in 1950 who operated it until 1973, at which time it was sold to Al & Jo Grover who had dreams of converting the hotel into a fine antique restaurant and hotel.

The Oakley Hotel was a familiar place for many Oakley residents during the beginning of the last century. Today it is home to several small businesses. You can still see it located at the corner of Main Street and Second Street.



City Council Transitions



Former Mayor Randy Pope presenting a plaque to departing Councilmember Carol Rios

The City Council welcomed some new faces and bid farewell to an Oakley original councilmember.

Carol Rios, the last of the Councilmembers that served on the original Council post-incorporation, decided not to run again and was honored for her long service during the December 9, 2014 Council Meeting.

Councilmember Diane Burgis left Oakley city service to serve as a board member of the East Bay Regional Parks District. Vanessa Perry was appointed by the City Council to serve out the remainder of Burgis' term, which ends in November of 2016. Randy Pope was re-elected last November to another four-year term, alongside newly-elected Sue Higgins.

The full City Council includes: Mayor Doug Hardcastle, Vice-Mayor Kevin Romick, and Councilmembers Randy Pope, Sue Higgins, and Vanessa Perry.

Nueva Escultura Celebra la Diversidad

Esta primavera, la plaza del centro vera la instalación de una nueva escultura de bronce. La escultura celebra nuestros esfuerzos como una comunidad para lograr que Oakley sea una comunidad que reconoce la dignidad de cada persona a pesar de cualquier diferencia.

El programa *You, Me, We Oakley!*, el cual organiza/patrocina eventos como los talleres de ciudadanía, *Día de los Muertos*, *Leer Para Crecer* etc., inmortalizara este mensaje a través de la escultura de varios niños tomándose de las manos alrededor de el mundo.



Un ejemplo de arte estudiantil



Un ejemplo de arte estudiantil

La escultura será complementada por azulejos de cerámica de arte estudiantil. Los azulejos ilustran varios principios como "tratar a los demás en la forma que le gustaría ser tratado, esforzarse a entender culturas diferentes y desafiar los mitos y estereotipos que dividen."

Mas Eventos Familiares

Tome nota y acompáñenos.

18-25 de abril: Semana de la Ciencia. Cada día habrá un taller interesante y interactivo que introduce la ciencias a tus hijos. Ven a ver los reptiles y lechuzas de cerca, aprende sobre ingeniería usando legos, o descubre el Delta (rio).

9 de mayo: Pilates en el Parque. El consejo juvenil te invita a practicar ejercicios pilates que derrita el estrés y tensión. Recuerda traer una toalla, agua, y ropa cómoda.

30 de mayo: Sabor de Oakley. Traiga a su familia al centro para probar una variedad de comida disponible en los restaurantes en Oakley.

Más películas en la Plaza! La serie de este año contará con seis películas: 30 mayo con *Ratatouille*, 13 junio con *Maleficent*, 25 julio con *The Lego Movie*, 1 agosto con *Big Hero 6*, 26 septiembre con *Guardians of the Galaxy* y 10 octubre con *Monsters University*. Traigan sus cobijas y sillas para ver una película al aire libre.

20 de junio: Exposición de Autos. En colaboración con Les Schwab Tire Center ofreceremos una exposición de autos.

4 de julio: Celebración de la Incorporación de Oakley Como Ciudad. Hace 16 años desde que Oakley se convirtió en una ciudad, algo que es causa de celebración. Este año habrá mas música, comida, actividades para los niños y fuegos pirotécnicos. Nos vemos en el parque adjunto a Freedom High School.

1-9 de agosto: Descubre Oakley. Obtén puntos por descubrir tu ciudad. Esta semana te invitaremos a que visites negocios, organizaciones no lucrativas o completes actividades que existen en tu ciudad. Habrá premios para los ganadores que acumulen la mayoría de puntos.

22 de agosto: Concurso de Pesca para los Niños. Este evento anual se llevará a cabo el 22 agosto en el Muelle de Oakley/Antioch. Únase a nosotros para un día de pesca, habrá premios para el joven (no mayor de 15 años) que pesca la mayoría de pescados, pesque el pez mas grande y el pez mas pequeño.

Para mas información sobre los eventos llame al (925) 625-7007 o mande un correo electrónico a marquez@ci.oakley.ca.us.

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

January

- 13 City Council Meeting
- 16 City Hall Closed
- 19 City Hall Closed - H
- 27 City Council Meeting

February

- 6 City Hall Closed
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 16 City Hall Closed - H
- 20 City Hall Closed
- 24 City Council Meeting

March

- 6 City Hall Closed
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 20 City Hall Closed
- 24 City Council Meeting
- 28 Community Citizenship Drive (YMWO)

April

- 3 City Hall Closed
- 14 City Council Meeting
- 17 City Hall Closed
- 18 *Roads to Oakley* Art Exhibit Recep.
- 18-25 Science Week
- 28 City Council Meeting

May

- 1 City Hall Closed
- 9 Pilates in the Park (by Oakley Youth Advisory Council)
- 15 City Hall Closed
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 24 Memorial Day Ceremony
- 25 City Hall Closed - H
- 26 City Council Meeting
- 30 Movie in the Plaza (*Ratatouille*) & *Taste of Oakley*

June

- 5 City Hall Closed
- 9 City Council Meeting
- 11 Community Softball Game
- 13 Movie in the Plaza (*Maleficent*)
- 15-19 Summer Blaze & Youth CORE
- 19 City Hall Closed
- 20 Car Shows
- 23 City Council Meeting
- 22-26 Summer Blaze & Youth CORE

*H = Holiday

For More Information:

Find detailed information on specific events and a current list of all events at the City of Oakley website at www.oakleyinfo.com and click on *Community Calendar*.

Have an item for the community calendar?

Local non-profits, service organizations, public clubs, etc. are encouraged to submit their events for posting on our community calendar. To submit your event, visit the City of Oakley website at www.oakleyinfo.com and click on *Submit an Event for the Oakley Calendar* under the *About Oakley* heading.



Oakley City Hall: 3231 Main St. Oakley, CA 94561
925 625-7000 / info@ci.oakley.ca.us

City Hall Directory

Building	625-7002
Code Enforcement.....	625-7031
City Attorney.....	625-7000
City Manager.....	625-7007
City Clerk	625-7013
Economic Development.....	625-7006
Human Resources	625-7006
Parks.....	625-7037
Planning	625-7000
Police Non-Emergency	625-8855
Police Dispatch	625-8060
Public Works/Engineering.....	625-7037
Recreation.....	625-7041

Community Services

Services Information	211
Oakley Chamber of Commerce	625-1035
Oakley Library.....	625-2400
Animal Control	335-8300
Fire Department (ECCFPD).....	634-3400

Local Utilities

Diablo Water District	625-3798
Ironhouse Sanitary District.....	625-2279
Oakley Disposal Service	757-7660

Business Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
City Offices are closed the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

City Meeting Schedule

All City Council /City Council acting as a Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency meetings are regularly held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 3231 Main Street.

Meeting agendas are posted online at www.oakleyinfo.com and at the following locations:

- City Hall, 3231 Main St.
- The White House, 204 Second St.
- Freedom High School Library, 1050 Neroly Rd.

City Council

- Doug Hardcastle, *Mayor*
- Kevin Romick, *Vice Mayor*
- Randy Pope, *Councilmember*
- Sue Higgins, *Councilmember*
- Vanessa Perry, *Councilmember*