

# The Oak Leaf

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF OAKLEY THE OAK LEAF

## Potential New Train Service in Oakley



### Oakley as a Regional Transportation Hub

The City is currently working with the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority to bring an Intermodal Station to Oakley’s Downtown.

The SJJPA governs and manages the train service in the San Joaquin Corridor (Bakersfield-Fresno-Modesto-Stockton-Sacramento-Oakland) and they are moving forward with a plan to implement an early morning start that would get commuters from Oakley to Oakland in about 55 minutes, arriving before 8:00 AM. This service would expand the

commute options available to Oakley residents and all commuters in East Contra Costa County.

Additionally, a train platform in Oakley would provide a number of benefits to the community. A large parking area is planned that can serve as a park-and-ride for the train, bus, and BART (a true “intermodal” opportunity). This parking area will be large enough to also assist the further development... *(Continued on page 4)*

## Oakley Named Top 20 California City

Great news! You already knew Oakley was a special place to live. Oakley was named the **20th Best City for California Families** in a recent study conducted by the personal finance outlet *WalletHub.com*.

The study compared 240 cities across 22 metrics, which included items such as the number of pediatricians per capita, unemployment rates, affordability, crime, playgrounds, and more. The study can be accessed at: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-cities-for-families-in-california/15993>.



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Finance Director:

## Deborah Sultan

"I am excited to become a part of *Team Oakley*. I look forward doing my part in helping the city achieve its goals and becoming an even better place to live, work and play," said Deborah Sultan, the Oakley finance director.

Sultan holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from San Jose State University. She comes to Oakley from the City of Sanger, where she served as the finance director since 2011.



Before Sanger, *Deborah Sultan* worked in finance for the cities of Grass Valley and Santa Cruz. Her vast experience in municipal finance is in addition to 11 years in the private sector.

Under Sultan's guidance, the Finance Department's most visible task is developing the annual budget and directing the collection and investment of city funds, however other responsibilities include accounting and financial reporting, financial planning and analysis, debt management, risk management, purchasing, billing and collection, as well as business license administration, and information technology.

Additionally, Sultan has experience meeting the many State requirements of cities regarding the winding down of the former Redevelopment Agency.

## The New Oakley Police Department

### *Update: Police Services Transition from County Sheriff's Office*

Since incorporation in 1999, the City of Oakley has contracted with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services. The agreement has worked well; however, contracting for services has been expensive, and the costs were continuing to increase. After significant review, it was determined that services could be provided more cost-effectively by forming our own "in-house" Police Department.

As of August, Police Chief Chris Thorsen joined *Team Oakley* and has been busy planning the transition. Such preparations have included development and management of the critical systems required by law enforcement agencies and the expansion of space to accommodate our growing Police Department. Additionally, there has been much testing, interviewing, and hiring of officers in anticipation of our separation date.



*Chief Chris Thorsen*

As part of the new Department, we will have two Police Lieutenants. Lieutenant's Jeff Billeci and Eric Navarro were selected from a group of highly qualified applicants to serve our community.

Lt. Billeci was assigned by the Sheriff's Office as a Sergeant in Oakley shortly after we incorporated in 1999. He continued to serve as a supervisor for many years. Lt. Billeci left the Sheriff's Office in 2012. Since that time, Lt. Billeci served as the Assistant to the Chief of Police in Oakley. Lt. Billeci is highly familiar with "all things Oakley." He brings a wealth of experience in the areas of criminal investigations, fleet management, purchasing and infrastructure for the organization. Lt. Billeci will head up the Administrative Division in the Oakley Police Department.

Lt. Navarro is a long-time member of the Sheriff's Office. Lt. Navarro is highly regarded in the areas of critical incident management, criminal investigations and administrative investigations. Lt. Navarro served in many capacities, retiring as a Lieutenant in 2012. Lt. Navarro will head up the Operations Division in the Oakley Police Department. Both Lieutenants Billeci and Navarro live in East County. *(Continued on page 4)*



## Oakley Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy is a program for citizens of Oakley to learn more about the City and local government. It is an interactive and educational program with the purpose of equipping community-minded residents with the information, resources, and tools to become more knowledgeable community members. The managers of all the city departments and divisions do a presentation to describe the functions of their departments.

This class happens in the Fall every year. For enrollment information, please email Marissa Holder at [holder@ci.oakley.ca.us](mailto:holder@ci.oakley.ca.us) to be put on the wait list for the next session.



From left to right: Richard Ahern, Drew Robinson, Claire Alaura, Martha Morado, Wendy Robertson, Colleen Isenberg from the office of Jerry McNerney, Donna Baker, Mayor Kevin Romick, Imelda Rios, John Wilmott, Patricia Twigg, Tania Passaglia, Ravi Batth, John Amie, Stephanie Martinez, Mike Clarke, Karla Contreras, Diana Kerr, Carolyn Dumain-Dupray. Not present in the picture were Jason Berlin, John Canning, Lanita Mims, and Linda Tamburri.

## Entrepreneur Training Program Starts January 12th

Ten Oakley business owners and prospective businesses will learn sustainable business growth, business branding, marketing, and much more. This program is important to the residents of Oakley because it will encourage long term business growth and give our business owners the tools to succeed in Oakley!

For more information, contact Dwayne Dalman at [dalman@ci.oakley.ca.us](mailto:dalman@ci.oakley.ca.us).



Entrepreneur Training Program Inaugural 2014 Graduating Class.

## Potential New Train Service in Oakley *(Continued from page 1)*

... of Downtown businesses and would be almost entirely available on the weekends when there are fewer individuals commuting.

Nationwide, studies have shown that the development of a train station can see significant property value increases for property within ¼ mile of the station. The station will help the redevelopment of nearby residential and commercial properties. In short, these studies show that creating a transportation focal point can be a stimulus for new development – creating jobs, increasing the tax base, and providing more opportunities to shop and eat locally. Of course, trains are more environmentally friendly and allow commuters a faster, less hectic and less stressful commute.

At the November 20th San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Board Meeting, the SJJPA Board recently approved an item that would formally designate Oakley as a potential station in their upcoming Business Plan update. This joint effort is supported by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and Tri-Delta Transit as well as various stakeholders in the region.

If the SJJPA is successful in implementing the early morning start, riders could expect to see service begin in April of 2016 with a train platform in Oakley sometime late 2016 or early 2017. The graphic on the first page is intended to provide a conceptual layout of the potential platform and surrounding improvements.

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## New Oakley Police Department *(Continued from page 2)*

“Many of the other faces at the Police Department will be familiar to you. Several Deputy Sheriffs who are currently assigned to Oakley have opted to stay with us during this exciting time. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to recruit and retain such highly skilled professionals in our organization,” stated Chief Thorsen.

Chief Thorsen added, “These are exciting and dynamic times in the City of Oakley. We will continue to provide highly professional and compassionate police services to our community. To those who have reached out thus far, I appreciate your support and kind words as we move forward with this demanding process.”

The Oakley Police Department is located adjacent to City Hall on Main Street.

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## New Mayor & Vice Mayor Selected

### *Your elected representatives on the Oakley City Council*

In Oakley, residents get to vote for all Councilmembers in at-large elections rather than just for one councilmember to represent your district. Each Councilmember serves a four-year term and represents one vote of the five for items that go before the Council. Every December, the Council rotates in a new Mayor and Vice Mayor.

During the December 8th City Council meeting Kevin Romick was selected to be Mayor for 2016 by his peers and Sue Higgins as Vice Mayor. Romick who was first elected to the City Council in 2005, will become Mayor for a fourth time, having previously been Mayor 2007, 2012, and 2013.



## Capital Improvement Program Highlights

The Public Works Department has been actively working on design and construction of a wide range of infrastructure improvement projects that enhance the quality of life for the residents of Oakley. The following are a few of the projects that were successfully completed in 2015:

- Main Street Reconstruction (*Bridgehead Road to Big Break Road*):** Reconstructed a section of Main Street that had not been maintained and resurfaced for many years while under Caltrans jurisdiction. This project used a *Cold In-Place Recycling* technique to rebuild this roadway in a sustainable and cost effective manner.
- Hill Avenue Pedestrian/Bike Bridge:** Constructed a new prefabricated bridge across Marsh Creek next to Marsh Glen Park providing much needed access to the regional Marsh Creek Trail for the recreational use of the community.
- West Bolton Road Storm Drain:** Constructed storm drain pipes and inlets to address a chronic flooding problem on this road in advance of winter rains. This road is used by children walking to school, and the improvements helped in creating a safe and functional roadway for pedestrians during the rainy season.
- Residential Streets Repair and Resurfacing:** This project provided much needed repair and resurfacing of several residential neighborhoods in City of Oakley. The residential street resurfacing project is a part of the overall strategy to improve the condition of public streets in the community and enhance the quality of life for the residents.



*From left to right: P.W. Director, Kevin Rohani; EBRPD Director, Diane Burgis; EBRPD, Rich Quesada; Councilmember Perry; Vice Mayor Romick; Mayor Hardcastle; Councilmember Higgins; Councilmember Pope; Assistant Engineer, Billilee Saengchalern; Young Engineer in Training, Shane Saengchalern*

## More Capital Improvement Projects on the way for 2016

In 2016 there are a number of new and exciting Capital Improvement Projects that are under design and construction including:

- Main Street Reconstruction in downtown (*Norcross Lane to 5th Street*):** This project will reconstruct an area of downtown Main Street through the resurfacing of the street, installation of new streetscape components including as new street lights, landscaping, and a new traffic signal to be constructed at intersection of Main Street and Norcross Lane.
- Highway 160/Main Street Gateway Project:** This project will provide enhanced landscaping on the Highway 160 off-ramps to Main Street and install a new gateway monument sign at this off-ramp to greatly beautify this major entrance to the City of Oakley.
- Main Street Median Landscaping:** This project will install new landscaping on Main Street medians from Big Break Road to Empire Avenue, and add an efficient irrigation system to save on water use.



2015 Cityhood Celebration

## Upcoming Family Fun!!

### A sampling of Oakley events:

In 2015 the Recreation Division increased the number of programs and special events offered to the community. Special events added in 2015 included the *Oakley Film Festival*, *Taste of Oakley*, *Main Street Car Show*, *Spring Concert*, *Summer Concert*, *Hometown Halloween* and *Holiday Decorating Contests*. The year also saw expanded *Movies in the Plaza* and more activities added to *Cityhood Celebration* and *Heart of Oakley* festivals.

## Mark your calendars for more fun and excitement in 2016!

### Science Week: April 16-23

A very popular event featuring exciting interactive workshops. Past workshops have included *Owls*, *Reptile Kingdom*, *Lego Engineering*, *Extreme Delta* & more.

### Movies in the Plaza: May 7- October 1

*Movies in the Plaza* kicks off on May 7th and continues into the summer with dates including June 11th, July 30th, August 27th, September 24 and October 1st.

### 5th Annual Memorial Day Observance: May 28

Come together in remembering those who served by joining your neighbors at the Civic Center Park located at at 10:30 a.m. for our 5th Annual Memorial Day Observance.

### Taste of Oakley: May TBA

The inaugural *Taste of Oakley* gave participants the opportunity to sample cuisine, featured seven Oakley restaurants and three caterers including *7 Mares*, *Dabarkad's Café*, *Los Charros*, *Sabrina's Pizzeria*, *La Real de Michoacan*, and more. Be on the lookout for more information regarding the *2016 Taste of Oakley* scheduled for May 2016.

### Cityhood Celebration: July 2

Oakley's annual birthday bash will include jumpers, food vendors, music and more. This event will culminate in a firework spectacular located at *The Basin* at Freedom High School.

### Main Street Car Show: July 23

This year's event features over 50 cars, live music and more.

### Summer Concert: August 20

The *Summer Concert* is back by popular demand and will take place at the Civic Center Plaza.

## Looking for More Fun!

More event details will be released in the *Spring/ Summer Recreation Guide* distributed in March inside the *Oakley Press*.



2015 Memorial Day



2015 Main Street Car Show



## Oakley Reconocido Como Gran Lugar Para Criar Familia

¡Una gran noticia! Oakley fue nombrada la 20ª mejor ciudad en California para familias según un estudio recientemente llevado a cabo por WalletHub.com. El estudio comparó a 240 ciudades a través de 22 criterios tal como el número de pediatras per cápita, la tasa de desempleo, la asequibilidad, crímenes, parques y más.

### Nuevo Servicio de Tren

La ciudad está trabajando actualmente en realizar una estación intermodal de tren y autobús en el centro de la ciudad. El San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) gobierna y administra el servicio de trenes en el corredor de San Joaquin (Bakersfield-Fresno-Modesto-Stockton-Sacramento-Oakland) y acaba de comprometerse a evaluar si Oakley debería ser su próxima estación en una ruta hacia Oakland por las mañanas. Tan pronto como Abril, si todo procede bien los jinetes podrían esperar el tren en una plataforma nueva y llegar a Oakland dentro de 55 minutos (antes de las 8:00 a.m.). El gráfico al lado es el diseño conceptual de las posibles mejoras incluyendo la plataforma.



### Taller de Ciudadanía

El programa de *You, Me, We Oakley!* va a patrocinar un Taller de Ciudadanía para el sábado, 30 de enero en el Palacio Municipal de Oakley, para asistir a los que estén interesados en empezar el proceso de ciudadanía. También habrá ayuda para los que quieran calificar para una extensión y poder evitar el gasto de los \$680 para el proceso de ciudadanía. Llame ahora al (925) 625-7011 para registrarse y asegurar que le puedan ayudar en determinar su elegibilidad y recibir la ayuda para llenar su aplicación de ciudadanía. El evento y los servicios son gratuitos, pero el cupo es limitado.

### Eventos Familiares

Tome nota y acompáñenos

**16-23 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).

**7 de mayo – 1 de octubre: Mas Películas en la Plaza** - Acompáñanos y disfruta de una película bajo las estrellas. Las fechas incluyen el 7 de mayo, 11 de junio, 30 de julio, 27 de agosto, 24 de septiembre, y 1 de octubre.

**28 de mayo: Día Memorial Anual** - Recordemos a aquellos que sirvieron en el servicio militar y murieron con una bella ceremonia que tomara lugar en el Centro Cívico a las 10:30 a.m.

**mayo: Sabor de Oakley** - Este evento inaugural les dio la oportunidad a participantes de probar platos destacados de negocios locales incluyendo 7 Mares, Dabarkad's Café, Los Charros, Sabrina's Pizzeria, La Real de Michoacan entre otros. Este atento a más información con respecto a cuando repetiremos este evento en el 2016.

**4 de julio: Celebración de la Incorporación de Oakley Como Ciudad** - Hace 17 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.

**23 de julio: Exposición de Autos** - Este año, el evento contará con más de 50 coches, música en vivo y mucho más.

**20 de agosto: Concierto de Verano** - El concierto de verano se llevara a cabo en el Centro Cívico.

# MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

## January

- 1 New Year's Day - H
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 12 Entrepreneur Training Program
- 15 City Hall Closed
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - H
- 26 City Council Meeting

## February

- 5 City Hall Closed
- 9 City Council Meeting
- 15 Presidents Day - H
- 19 City Hall Closed
- 23 City Council Meeting

## March

- 4 City Hall Closed
- 5 ECLL Opening Day Parade
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 18 City Hall Closed
- 22 City Council Meeting

## April

- 1 City Hall Closed
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 15 City Hall Closed

## April (continued)

- 16-23 Science Week
- 26 City Council Meeting

## May

- 6 City Hall Closed
- 7 Movies in the Park
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 20 City Hall Closed
- 24 City Council Meeting
- 28 Memorial Day Ceremony
- 30 Memorial Day - H

## June

- 3 City Hall Closed
- 11 Movies in the Park
- 14 City Council Meeting
- 17 City Hall Closed
- 28 City Council Meeting

\* 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](http://www.oakleyinfo.com) and click on *Community Calendar*.

## Have an item for the community calendar?

Local non-profits, service organizations, public clubs, etc. can submit their events for our community calendar. To submit your event, visit the City of Oakley website at [www.oakleyinfo.com](http://www.oakleyinfo.com) and click on *Submit an Event for the Oakley Calendar* under the *About Oakley* heading.

## Stay Informed!

Sign up for the City's weekly e-Newsletter today! Scan the QR code or visit our website.



**Oakley City Hall:** 3231 Main St. Oakley, CA 94561  
925 625-7000 / [info@ci.oakley.ca.us](mailto:info@ci.oakley.ca.us)

### City Meeting Schedule

All City Council meetings are regularly held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.oakleyinfo.com) and at the following locations:

- City Hall, 3231 Main St.
- Delta Vista Middle School 4901 Frank Hengel Way
- Freedom High School Library, 1050 Neroly Rd.

### City Council

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

### 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 .....	625-7011
Parks.....	625-7037
Planning & Zoning.....	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 District (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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month