

# The Oak Leaf

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF OAKLEY THE OAK LEAF

## Oakley to Get Its Own Police Department

### Former Police Chief Returns to Oakley

Since its incorporation, the City of Oakley has contracted for police services with the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff. While officers wear the City of Oakley uniforms and drive City cars, they are actually county sheriff deputies. After over a year of analysis, in April, the City Council voted to discontinue the City’s police services contract with Contra Costa County. While the City will continue to contract with the County for various related services, including dispatch and forensics, all sworn police officers will eventually become City employees.

Oakley is fortunate to be one of the safest cities in California, consistently making the list of top 50 safest cities by an independent review. The study and the decision to form our own police department were motivated by the desire to maintain Oakley’s excellent safety and service record. A locally-run police department allows the City to better determine how and where police services and administration can be improved or modified in order to maintain and increase service levels and control costs.

For example, in addition to the cost for each officer, Oakley also pays the County’s administrative expenses associated with each deputy the County provides. During the current fiscal year alone the increased costs were \$650,000 to maintain existing staff levels, but without additional officers.

Chief Chris Thorsen will be returning to Oakley to lead the transition from county-provided services, and to build the local City police department. Chief Thorsen served as Oakley’s police chief from 2005 to 2010 as one of his assignments with the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff. Chief Thorsen currently serves as the chief of police in Clayton.



Chief Chris Thorsen

“Chief Thorsen is an experienced and charismatic law enforcement professional that did an outstanding job previously here in Oakley and we look forward to great things from him again as he leads the newly-formed Oakley municipal police department,” stated City Manager Bryan Montgomery. Thorsen is expected to assume his new Oakley duties in early August.

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## City Improvements

A partial list of the Capital Improvement Program Projects completed this year:

- Construction of storm-drain infiltration basins on Main Street between O'Neil Court and Seventh Street, ending a chronic flooding problem.
- Installation of flashing beacon signs, advanced electronic warnings signs, speed radar feedback signs, ADA curb ramp, pedestrian barricades, and striping through various parts of town.
- Modification to traffic signals and street lighting on Main Street and Empire Avenue to install new illuminated street name signs, pedestrian countdown clocks and push buttons.
- Conversion of over 2,000 street lights from high pressure sodium bulbs to energy-efficient light emitting diode street lights.
- Resurfacing of West Cypress Road from Empire Avenue to Rose Avenue, Big Break Road from Main Street to the marina, Rose Avenue from Main Street to Laurel Road.

## Read the *Oakley Outreach*

The *Oakley Outreach* is the weekly City e-newsletter. Sign up information on page 6.

## Suicide Prevention

### *Oakley Residents Receive Crisis Intervention Training*

Alarmed by an unusually high number of suicides experienced in 2014, local clergy convened by the *You, Me, We Oakley!* Program began to meet to learn how they could play a role in lowering such incidences.

Clergy from St. Anthony's Church, New Lifeline Ministries, Ebenezer Community Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Bread of Life Churches began gathering in August of 2014 to develop a work plan with the goal of making training available for themselves, their membership, and the broader Oakley community in order to better recognize the warning signs of someone contemplating suicide and help refer them to crisis assistance.

In partnership with the Contra Costa Crisis Center, the *Safekeepers Initiative* was developed. At the conclusion of a series of three trainings, totaling 14 hours, participating community members would become certified *Safekeepers* with the opportunity to help individuals in crisis through the Contra Costa Crisis Center and locally. Trainings are free of charge and in English and Spanish.

Over 60 residents answered the call and have completed the first training. Their unselfish commitment and concern for their fellow residents have earned our admiration and thanks. To learn more, contact Gabriela Banos-Galvan, *You Me We Oakley* Program Coordinator at (925) 625-7011 or [gaby@youmeweoakley.org](mailto:gaby@youmeweoakley.org).

If you find yourself in a crisis, for professional help, any day and around the clock, call the Contra Costa Crisis and Suicide Hotline at (800) 833-2900 or 800.SUICIDE for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

## City Council Meetings are Open to All

The Ralph M. Brown Act, authored by California State Assembly member Ralph M. Brown and passed in 1953, guarantees the right of the public to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies. Because the City of Oakley adheres to the Brown Act, meetings of the City Council are open and public.

Additionally, agendas are posted in advance, the media is notified, anyone is welcome, non-disruptive recording is permitted, documents are public, and anyone can address the Council during public comment. Only in rare instances can a City Council discuss matters in closed session and these include topics such as pending litigation and labor negotiations. Plan to attend the next City Council meeting.

## Leadership Academy Starting Soon

### *Pre-Registration Now Open*

The City of Oakley invites residents to participate in the 2015 Leadership Academy. The Academy is a free, interactive civic education program designed to provide those who live and work in Oakley a breadth of background and knowledge of the intricacies of City operations and processes.

The program provides an interesting perspective into the workings of City government and administration, develops civic leadership, and builds a stronger community through well-informed and engaged residents.

Participants will meet for seven two-hour evening sessions, starting at 6:30 p.m. Each session will focus on a specific element of city government through an engaging presentation and discussion facilitated by City staff.

For more information contact Nancy Marquez-Suarez at [marquez@ci.oakley.ca.us](mailto:marquez@ci.oakley.ca.us).

## City Studies Mass-Transit Options

### *Downtown Priority Development Area Market Study*

The City secured a Contra Costa Transportation Authority grant to study benefits that a San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority train station platform and/or Tri-Delta Transit park-and-ride lot would bring to the Downtown Planning Development Area in terms of economic expansion including new retail/commercial uses and job creation.

## Oakley Welcomes New Businesses

Grocery Outlet Bargain Market • Mr. Pickles Sandwich Shop • Sabrinas Pizzeria  
Dabarkads Filipino Cuisine • Jaliscos Mexican Restaurant

It's a fact! Shopping locally builds community. The casual encounters we enjoy in and around where we shop help nurture relationships and community cohesiveness. These are the public gathering places, cafés and businesses that define our sense of place. And the dollars we spend at local merchants help to grow the City's tax base. This year, Oakley anticipates sales tax revenues approaching \$1.6 million.

Shopping locally means keeping this money close to home where it pays for added police protection, street lights, maintaining our City park system, children's summer camps and other City services.

Additionally, changing our purchasing habits to Oakley businesses is a key tool for creating more local jobs. When we shop local, we do our part to maintain our City's character and reward Oakley business owners for their investment in our community. For a full list of new businesses, **visit [www.oakleyinfo.com](http://www.oakleyinfo.com)**.





## Upcoming Family Fun!

### Showcase Oakley Week

The City of Oakley Recreation Division is challenging residents to see just how much they can do in Oakley! Showcase Oakley Week is an opportunity to celebrate our local businesses and organizations. Keep track of all your Oakley activities from August 1st to August 9th and log your progress on the scorecard available on the City website at [www.oakleyinfo.com](http://www.oakleyinfo.com). The top score will be honored with a special, commemorative prize.

Allstate Insurance

DK Salon

Hairy Hounds

Oakley American Karate

Oakley Disposal

Pump it Up

7 Mares

Autumn Lake Dental

East Bay Regional Parks District

Ironhouse Sanitary District

Oakley Chiropractic

Oakley Executive Storage

Scheer Home Systems



*Heart of Oakley Celebrations*

Cypress Cleaners

Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed

La Clinica de La Raza

Oakley Community Garden

Oakley Library

Sunshine House

### Heart of Oakley

Save the date to join us for the 3rd Annual Heart of Oakley Festival on Saturday, September 19th. The fun will take place at Oakley's Civic Center, next to City Hall. Attendees will be able to enjoy a great entertainment line-up of local talent, sample local wines or microbrews, explore the wares of over 50 vendors, and gourmet food trucks. Additionally, learn about a culture other than your own by visiting multi-cultural booths that are sponsored by *You Me We Oakley* and by local residents.

### Out of Darkness Community Walk

Support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention by participating in the Out of the Darkness Community Walk on Saturday, October 10th at Cypress Grove Community Park. Proceeds will benefit local and national suicide prevention and awareness programs. The walk will be held at 4001 Frank Hengel Way in Oakley at 10:00am, registration starts at 9:00am. To register, donate, or to learn more, please visit [afsp.donordrive.com/event/Oakley](http://afsp.donordrive.com/event/Oakley) or email [perry@ci.oakley.ca.us](mailto:perry@ci.oakley.ca.us).

### Harvest Festival

The City of Oakley will host the Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 17th from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Wear your costume to take part in our costume parade. Satisfy your sweet-tooth at the "Pie Eating Contest" or showcase your creativity - bring a pre-carved or decorated pumpkin to enter in our Pumpkin Contest. Children's activities and local vendors are also planned!

### Fishing Derby

We hope to see you at the Oakley/Antioch Pier on Saturday, August 22nd as we hold our annual Kid's Fishing Derby. This free catch-and-release event is for children 15 years old and younger. Prizes will be awarded for smallest, largest and most fish caught. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The Derby runs from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. followed by a free lunch. Participants are encouraged to pre-register at City Hall.

### Movie in the Plaza Series Continues

Join us in Downtown Oakley to enjoy a movie under the stars. Admission is FREE and movies begin at dark. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Snacks will be available for purchase. See the municipal calendar for dates.

## Oakley Recibe Formación Para Prevenir Suicidios

Desafortunadamente, durante el año 2014 Oakley vio un número alto de suicidios. En respuesta, convocados por el Programa *You, Me, We, Oakley!* el clero local comenzó a reunirse para aprender cómo pueden jugar un papel para reducir estas incidencias. Agradecemos a las Iglesias de San Antonio, New Lifeline Ministries, Ebenezer Community Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, y Bread of Life cuyos líderes se reunieron desde Agosto de 2014 para desarrollar un plan de trabajo con el objetivo principal de hacer disponible capacitación para sí mismos, sus feligreses, y toda la comunidad de Oakley con el propósito de que como comunidad sepamos reconocer las señales de alguien pensando en suicidarse y saber referirles a ayuda.

En colaboración con el Centro de Crisis de Contra Costa, la iniciativa de Safekeepers llegó a ser. Una serie de tres cursos de capacitación se ofrecerán. Se pide que participantes asistan los tres cursos. Una vez finalizado el proceso, estos miembros de la comunidad, podrán obtener la certificación de "Safekeepers" y se les ofrece oportunidades para poner su conocimiento en acción para ayudar a las personas en crisis a través del Centro de Crisis de Contra Costa. Los cursos son gratis y están disponibles en español. Más de 60 personas ya han completado el primer curso de formación.

El siguiente entrenamiento se ofrecerá el sábado, 15 de agosto en la Iglesia de San Antonio, 971 O'Hara Ave. de 9:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m.

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## Acompañenos a los siguientes eventos familiares

### Descubre Oakley

Obtén puntos por descubrir tu ciudad en la semana de Agosto 1-9. 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.

### El Festival "Heart of Oakley," "el Corazon de Oakley"

El sábado, 19 de septiembre entre las 11:00 a.m. y 5:00 p.m. se llevara acabo este festival en el Centro Cívico que promete diversión. Habrá entretenimiento, vinos locales, cervezas, actividades para los niños, una variedad de comida, puestos con artesanías y más. La entrada será gratuita.

### El Harvest Festival "Festival de la Cosecha"

La Ciudad de Oakley será el anfitrión de la fiesta de la cosecha anual el sábado, 17 de octubre de 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. en el Centro Cívico. Ven con tu mejor disfraz y participa en el desfile de disfraces. ¡Habrá mas actividades divertidas!

### Concurso de Pesca para los Niños

Este evento anual se llevará a cabo el 22 de 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 pesque la mayoría de pescados, pesque el pez más grande y el pez más pequeño. El evento es gratis.

### Taller de Ciudadanía

El programa de *You, Me, We Oakley!* va a patrocinar un Taller de Ciudadanía para el sábado, 12 de Septiembre en el Palacio Municipal de Oakley, para todos los que necesiten ayuda para empezar el proceso de ciudadanía. Llame al 625-7011 para registrarse asegurar que le puedan asistir en determinar su elegibilidad y recibir la ayuda para llenar su aplicación de ciudadanía.

# MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

## August

- 1-9 Showcase Oakley Week
- 1 Safekeeper Training (English)
- 1 Movie in the Plaza (*Big Hero 6*)
- 7 City Hall Closed
- 11 City Council Meeting
- 15 Safekeeper Training (Spanish)
- 21 City Hall Closed
- 22 Fishing Derby

## September

- 4 City Hall Closed
- 7 City Hall Closed-H
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 12 Community Citizenship Drive
- 18 City Hall Closed
- 19 Heart of Oakley Festival
- 22 City Council Meeting
- 26 Movie in the Plaza  
(*Guardians of the Galaxy*)

## October

- 2 City Hall Closed
- 10 Movie in the Plaza  
(*Monsters University*)

## October

- 13 City Council Meeting
- 17 Harvest Festival
- 24 Día de los Muertos Cultural Workshop
- 26 City Hall Closed
- 27 City Council Meeting

## November

- 6 City Hall Closed
- 7 Safekeeper Training (English)
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 11 City Hall Closed-H
- 11 Veterans Day  
Observance Ceremony
- 14 Safekeeper Training (Spanish)
- 20 City Hall Closed
- 26-27 City Hall Closed-H

## December

- 4 City Hall Closed
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 18 City Hall Closed
- 21-1 City Hall Closed for Year End

\*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 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 & 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 the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month

### 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.
- 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*