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News from Town Hall

JANUARY 2018

Town Hall

Town Meetings:

January 8 - Trailside HOA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. (HTH)

January 9 & 23 - Commission - 7:00 p.m. (HTH)

January 15 - Deer Island HOA Meeting - 6:45 p.m. (HTH)

January 16 - P & Z Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (HTH)

January 17 - Winters Landing HOA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. (OMH)

January 22 - Southern Oaks HOA Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (HTH)

HTH = Historic Town Hall OMH = Oakland Meeting Hall

Holiday Hours

Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 1 in observance of New Years. Our office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2 at 8:00 a.m.



Around the Town



Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Join us Monday, January 15, 2018, as we come together as a community to honor and celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Festivities include announcing the winner of our Oakland Avenue Charter School 5th Grade Essay contest, plus a reenactment of the "I Have a Dream" speech. The celebration will be from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 21, 2018, as HAPCO Music Foundation and the Town of Oakland present **Wine and Dine for the Arts, International Jazz Month**. Join us for an evening of unlimited wine and New Orleans

theme menu by Chef Anthony Fothergill. Musical guests include Vincent Gardnerr quartet, plus local talent Thomas Milovac. Early bird tickets are on sale now:

<https://hapcowinedineforthearts2018.eventbrite.com>

Oakland Avenue Charter School

We are proud to announce that our "Secret Life of Pets Celebrates the Holidays" themed float was awarded the prestigious Grand Marshall's Award in the Winter Garden Christmas Parade. Parent volunteers, students, and staff helped to create the amazing float, and an extra, extra special thank you goes out to Empire Foam for their outstanding efforts.

OACS begins its second semester when students return from winter break on Monday, January 8. Our 5th grade students will be participating in a Martin Luther King Jr. writing contest sponsored by the Town of Oakland. We will be celebrating Literacy Week January 22 - 26.

January 8 - March 31 is our open enrollment period for new families that wish to be placed in the lottery for the 2018-2019 school year. All applications must be submitted electronically using the online application found under the enrollment section of the school's website. Visit www.oaklandfl.gov for more info.

Police Department

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make our Christmas Toy Drive an enormous success once again. This year, because of the kindness of so many we were able to distribute hundreds of toys to children in Oakland and the surrounding area. The families that received these toys are very grateful and thankful that their kids can enjoy Christmas morning with gifts to open and toys to play with.

This is the time of year that we like to remind residents of our Oakland Partners program. This free program ensures that those who may be living alone or otherwise may not have a family member or loved one to check on them, have a safety net to depend on. The program is a simple one and only requires the member to call the police department once a day before noon. If we do not hear from the partner we give them a call. If they do not answer, we send an officer by to check on

them. Oakland residents can enroll by going to the Town's website, www.oaklandfl.gov. Click on the "Departments" tab, then scroll to the police tab. There you can download the membership application. If you don't have that capability, then feel free to give us a call at 407-656-9797 or stop by the police department and we will be glad to help you fill out the membership application in person.

As we continue through this Holiday season, we want to remind everyone to drive cautiously, and always remember to buckle up! We wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Public Works Department

Stormwater Project

The construction work along East Henschen, slowed by the seemingly endless rainfall this past summer, is almost over! The improvements include repairs and retrofits to existing stormwater ponds that will provide for removal of phosphorus, nitrogen, and other contaminants commonly found in stormwater runoff. Long term monitoring of water quality will take place for several years afterwards to document the performance of the improvements. This project, Phase 1 of a multi-phase effort, was made possible through a collaborative funding effort between the Town of Oakland, the St. John's River Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Sanitary Sewer Project - Phase 1B

Recently completed, this phase consisted of construction of gravity sewer facilities that extended the system from a point along Old SR 50 near our regional lift station, easterly to Oakland Avenue. The new facilities allow for immediate connection of the new homes being built in the Oakland Trails subdivision. With these new customers beginning to move into their newly constructed homes, we are now pumping wastewater to the City of Clermont's Hancock Road Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Sanitary Sewer Project - Phase 1C

This phase, currently under construction, extends the system across Oakland Avenue, and then along SR 50 to the intersection of Remington Road. Several property owners along the route, including the Town's largest employer, ABC Companies, will connect to the new facilities as soon as they are ready for service.

Sanitary Sewer Project - Phase 1D

Phase 1D is fully designed and will soon be under construction. It is the result of a public/private partnership between the Town and the Developers of the 57-acre Longleaf Project. Gaining permission to place the pipeline under the turnpike was no easy or quick task and took almost an entire year to engineer and permit. Phase 1D allows for immediate connection of the Longleaf development and will eventually serve as the connection point for all sewer facilities east of the S.R. 50 and Turnpike interchange.

Proper Items to Recycle

Here is a question we get from time to time... "Why did they put my recyclables into the back of the garbage truck?" The answer is very simple. The recycle bin contained items that were not supposed to be in it. Please visit the following website to find out what items can, and cannot, be placed in your recycling bin.

<http://www.advanceddisposal.com/for-home/curbside-collection/recycling.aspx>

Oakland Nature Preserve

Happenings

- On Tuesday, the 5th of December, a prescribed burn was conducted over 5 acres along the Orange Trail. Prescribed fire is a vital management tool for Florida's fire-adapted plant communities. Historically, the now imperiled Sandhill habitat burned every 2-4 years and many species of plants, birds, insects, and reptiles living there adapted to this fire regime. Many plants won't produce adequate or viable seeds unless they have been exposed to fire. Those seeds are not only key to future survival of plant species themselves, but are an important food source for birds and other wildlife. Visit the preserve and watch as this wonderful habitat springs to life over the next few months.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Saturday Community Work Day & Monday Restoration Day:** Volunteers are needed every week for general work being done at the Preserve. Come join us from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. as we clean trails, pull weeds, and do maintenance and repairs. We appreciate everyone's time and hard work.
(Pre-register at www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org.)

Upcoming Events

- **January 16** - After School Science Club
- **January 19** - Florida Master Naturalist Program Freshwater Module
- **January 20** - Invasive Species Blitz "Toga" Party
- **January 20** - Volunteer Appreciation Gathering

For additional information, call 407-905-0054 or visit www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org. Oakland Nature Preserve is free to the public. Trails are open 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset. We're located at 747 Machete Trail, Oakland, FL 34760.