

## News from Town Hall

## September 2019

### Town Hall

#### Town Meetings:

**September 5** - Speer Park Master Plan Community Input Meeting - 6:00 p.m. (OMH)

**September 9 & 24** - Budget Hearing - 6:30 p.m. (OMH)

**September 9 & 24** - Commission Meeting - 7:00 p.m. (OMH)

**September 10** - School Advisory Committee - 4:00 (HTH)

**September 11** - Neighborhood Watch Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (OMH)

**September 11** - Johns Cove HOA Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (HTH)

**September 16** - Deer Island HOA Meeting - 6:45 p.m. (OMH)

**September 16** - Trailside HOA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. (HTH)

**September 17** - P & Z Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (HTH)

**September 19** - Coffee with the Town Manager - 9:00 a.m. (HTH)

**September 26** - Johns Landing HOA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. (HTH)

HTH = Historic Town Hall      OMH = Oakland Meeting Hall

### Crafters for a Cause



Crafters for a Cause is a group of caring hearts that meet every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Oakland Meeting Hall. **Knitters, crocheters, sewers and quilters** of all levels are welcome! All items made are donated to NICU babies and cancer patients in nearby hospitals. Contact Valerie Gibbons at 407.656.1117, x2105 or at [vgibbons@oaklandfl.gov](mailto:vgibbons@oaklandfl.gov) for more info.

### Police Department

As you can tell by the increased level of traffic, school is back in session! For the second year in a row, Oakland Avenue Charter School has a full-time police officer on site as the student resource officer (SRO). This move was made to ensure that our school was following the Marjory Stoneman Douglass School Safety Act that Governor Scott signed after the tragic events there.

Officer Kara Sons is the new SRO this year and has recently completed special SRO training, to better equip her in this role. Working with Principal Dwyer and members of her faculty, our goal is to ensure a safe school year for everyone who attends OACS. Our patrol officers also make frequent trips by the school and through its parking lot during the day, providing additional visibility. Having a safe campus allows the faculty and staff to focus on providing the best possible education for the students who attend. We like that. Please be extra cautious and drive slowly in school zones and be aware of the school busses on the streets. And always remember to buckle up!!

### Public Works Department

#### Did you know?

Did you know the Town has approximately 73,160 feet (13.8 miles) of public sidewalk? And that doesn't even consider the private owned sidewalks in Johns Landing and Johns Cove neighborhoods, or the sidewalks owned by FDOT along State Road 50. As they age, they require repair and maintenance, and sometimes even replacement. Your Public Works staff targets failing sidewalks each year for repair, as recently seen in the Trailside neighborhood.

### Around Town

#### Speer Park Master Plan Community Input Meeting



The Town of Oakland is looking for your input! We will be hosting a Speer Park Master Plan Community Input Meeting, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend to provide input into the master planning process. The first

community input meeting will be from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 5 at the Oakland Meeting Hall located at 221 N. Arrington Street.

#### Coffee with the Town Manager



Town Manager Steve Koontz invites you to join him on September 19 at our **Historic Town Hall** for **coffee** and **conversation** to learn more about Town services and programs. Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts and ideas. **Coffee with the Town Manager** events are the third Thursday of the month from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and are open to the public. We hope to see you there!



Public Works employee, Luis Reyes, maintaining the Town's brick paver sidewalks.

### Hurricane Season

The mid-point of the 2019 hurricane season has arrived! Don't wait until a tropical storm or hurricane is imminent before you begin preparation. Timely, advance preparation can protect both you and your property from harm. Please visit the following websites for tips on how you can protect your family, your property and yourself during times of emergency.

<http://www.orangecountyfl.net/EmergencySafety/DisasterPreparedness.aspx#.V2Py3qT2aUk>

<http://www.ocfl.net/EmergencySafety/HurricaneSafetyGuide.aspx#.XVbYeOhKiUk>

### Sewer System Improvements

In case you haven't heard, the Town recently secured a \$600,000.00 grant from the State of Florida for sewer expansion! This funding is not for expansion of sewer into new neighborhoods, or for serving the commercial areas along S.R. 50, but is going to provide for abandonment of existing septic systems in lower income areas of the Town. We are hoping to begin construction next summer in an area roughly defined as south of Oakland Avenue and West of Nixon Street.

In other news, recently a bid was approved by the Town Commission for two separate extensions of the Town's sewer system. The improvements will include a gravity system in the area of West Oakland Avenue, which will allow for connection of the commercial businesses between the Turnpike bridge and the Circle K store. A second improvement will also be constructed that will extend a force main sewer from the Longleaf at Oakland neighborhood up to Tubb Street, allowing for connection of commercial properties along SR 50.

### Intersection Improvements



Recently, the Town "freshened up" the crosswalks, turn lanes and street striping on Remington Road, as they had severely faded and could potentially cause confusion. Now under construction, the new RaceTrac convenience

store will also provide further improvements and additional pavement markings further north.

## Oakland Nature Preserve



*Celebrating 20 Years of Education, Restoration, and Conservation*

### 2019 Oakland Heritage & Wildlife Festival

The Oakland Heritage & Wildlife Festival is held each fall at the Town's Speer Park. This free festival celebrates the cultural and natural history of the Lake Apopka basin and Central Florida. Join us Saturday, October 26 for this great day of food, entertainment, merchants, live entertainment, and family fun! Sponsorship and vendor applications are available online at [www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org](http://www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org). This is the Preserve's largest annual fundraiser. Proceeds benefit the Preserve and our environmental education programs.

### Happenings

#### Florida Master Naturalist Program

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is an adult education UF/IFAS Extension program developed by the University of Florida and provided by many Extension offices and participating organizations throughout the state of Florida. FMNP training will benefit persons interested in learning more about Florida's environment or wishing to increase their knowledge for use in education programs as volunteers, employees, ecotourism guides, and others.

The FMNP consists of 3 core modules, each module is 40 contact hours, and 5 special topics courses with 24 contact hours each. Activities include fieldtrips, hands-on activities, practical experience, and classroom learning.

**Core Modules** - Upland, Freshwater, and Coastal Systems

**Special Topics** - Habitat Evaluation, Environmental Interpretation, Wildlife Monitoring, Conservation Science, and Coastal Restoration

*Watch the ONP calendar of events and Facebook page for FMNP course offerings.*

### Upcoming Events

- September 7 - Insect Safari
- September 15 - Florida Master Naturalist Uplands Module begins

### Volunteer Opportunities

*(Pre-register at [www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org](http://www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org))*

- **Community Workdays:** Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.
- **Restoration Projects:** Mondays from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

**\*\*Follow us on Facebook to see everything that is happening at YOUR Nature Preserve!**

**Open YEAR-ROUND at No Charge**  
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