

News from Town Hall

January 2020

Town Hall

Town Meetings:

January 13 - Trailside HOA Meeting - 7 p.m. (HTH)
January 14 - School Advisory Committee - 4 p.m. (HTH)
January 14 & 28 - Commission Meeting - 7 p.m. (HTH)
January 15 - Winters Landing HOA Meeting - 7 p.m. (HTH)
January 16 - Coffee with the Town Manager - 9 a.m. (HTH)
January 16 - Johns Cove HOA Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (HTH)
January 20 - Deer Island HOA Meeting - 6:45 p.m. (HTH)
January 21 - P&Z Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (HTH)
January 23 - Johns Landing HOA Meeting - 7 p.m. (HTH)
HTH = Historic Town Hall OMH = Oakland Meeting Hall

Holiday Hours

Town Hall will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Years. Our offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 2 at 8:00 a.m. **There will be no YARD WASTE collection on Wednesday, January 1. Collection will resume on January 8.**

Happy New Year from all of us at Town Hall!

Around Town

Coffee with the Town Manager



Our next event is Thursday, January 16 at **Historic Town Hall**. We invite all residents to come and learn more about what is going on in our town, ask questions and share thoughts and ideas. **Coffee with the Town Manager** events are the third Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. and are open to the public. We hope to see you there!

Jazz Night



Friday Night Jazz will be held on January 24, with special guests The Justin Mendez Quartet. Come join us in the Town Center from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for a relaxing evening of live music. **Friday Night Jazz** is presented by HAPCO Music Foundation every fourth Friday.

Light Up Oakland

Thank you to everyone who came out to our 4th Annual Light Up Oakland event! The Town Center was filled with hundreds of happy faces, music, singing and dancing, and of course, Santa Claus and his elves! Over 370 kids visited Santa this year! A huge **"Thank You"** to all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped make this event possible. When nighttime fell the Town Center was transformed into a magical scene of wonder!



Town Center Circle

Police Department

Chief Thomas Retires



Oakland Police Chief Steven Thomas is hanging up his badge and retiring after a decorated 40-year career. But the Chief's impact on the town of over 3,000 residents will continue to be felt due to his spirit of service and dedication to serving the community. Under his leadership, every Oakland officer drives each street on their shifts. He has also worked to improve the relationship between law enforcement and the Neighborhood Watch; and developed an Advisory Council on the west side of town, where he makes personal visits. Chief Thomas also launched the Oakland Partners program, which allows elderly residents, or those living alone, to register with the police department to receive daily well-being checks. Mayor Kathy Stark said it best when speaking about his retirement. "We will miss Chief Thomas here in Oakland. His impact on this town has been significant. From community involvement and building trust with residents, to the organization and structure he brought to the department, Chief Thomas has been a steady and

guiding hand leaving a legacy to this town. We cannot thank him enough for his efforts.”

During the December 17 Commission meeting, the Commission thanked Chief Thomas for his service and voted to promote Deputy Chief John Peek to Chief. The transition will take effect January 4, 2020.

This is the last newsletter post from Chief Thomas...

We want to thank everyone who participated in our **Annual Christmas Toy Drive**. This year we had enough donations to distribute toys to nearly 80 children, who otherwise may not have had anything to open on Christmas day. We simply could not do this without the many donations we receive each year. Our heartfelt thanks once again!

We are happy to welcome reserve Officer Anthony Edwards to our police department. Officer Edwards comes to us with previous experience in law enforcement, and we look forward to having him working alongside our full-time officers at the conclusion of his field training period.

I want to take this opportunity to say what a privilege it has been to serve as your police chief for the past 8 years. I appreciate the support that so many of you have given to me and to the department during that time. While I am moving on, I can assure you that your police department and your town are in good hands. Thanks so much and Happy New Year.

Chief Steve Thomas

Oakland Avenue Charter School

On January 7 our lottery application period opens to Oakland residents and the general public for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Lottery applications will be accepted through March 31, 2020 for children entering kindergarten through 5th grade. All applications must be submitted electronically using the online application found on the Town’s website at <https://oaklandfl.gov/241/Enrollment>.

The VPK program’s priority enrollment for Oakland residents, Town of Oakland employees, OACS siblings, and current VPK siblings begins January 7 and runs through the 14th. Call or email the ASP-VPK office to be placed on the list. Contact information and tour dates for VPK can be found on the website at <https://oaklandfl.gov/698/Voluntary-Prekindergarten-VPK>.

Public Works Department

Did you know?

The Town approves the design of, and the construction of all new neighborhood infrastructure. That includes the streets, sidewalks, stormwater systems, water and sewer systems, trail extensions, and streetlights, just to name a few. We don’t just let developers come in and build whatever, and however they want. A combination of Town staff and our consulting engineers spend a considerable amount of time inspecting the work to make sure that it is constructed safely, and in a manner that is consistent with proper engineering.

You may wonder who is paying for all this inspection and review? It’s the developers. The Oakland Town Commission even passed an Ordinance in 2014, and another in 2017, that makes it all possible.



Public Works employee, Wayne Tallman, inspecting drainage facilities at Oakland Park.

10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider starting a rain garden
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly



For more information, visit
www.epa.gov/nps or
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater