



## Community Calendar

- Labor Day - Sept. 6
- Town Hall Closed, trash services will not be impacted
- Virtual Coffee with the Town Manager - Sept. 9 at 9 a.m.
- Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Art Exhibit Opening Event
- Sept. 17 from 5-7 p.m.
- Exhibition OPEN Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Arts and Heritage Center
- Town Commission - Sept. 13
- Tentative Budget Hearing at 6:30 p.m.
- Regular Meeting at 7 p.m.
- Oakland Meeting Hall/ Virtual
- School Advisory Committee - Sept. 14 at 4 p.m.
- Oakland Meeting Hall
- Town Commission - Sept. 28
- Final Budget Hearing at 6:30 p.m.
- Regular Meeting at 7 p.m.
- Oakland Meeting Hall/Virtual
- For more details, visit [www.oaklandfl.gov](http://www.oaklandfl.gov)

# Town of OAKLAND Florida

## TOWN OF OAKLAND CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH EXHIBITION AND EVENT

The Town of Oakland is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by showcasing artists who have found ways to bring Hispanic heritage alive in their works on display at the Healthy West Orange Arts and Heritage Center at the Town of Oakland, starting Sept. 1 and running through Oct. 30. The Town welcomes the community to an opening night event with live music and a food truck from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17 at the Center.

As part of the “Celebrating Hispanic Heritage” exhibition, co-sponsored by Artscapes, Orlando area artist, Sara Burr, draws attention to the beauty and vibrant colors of “Dia de los Muertos,” or Day of the Dead, a multi-day holiday where families gather to remember loved ones that have passed away. Artists Anna Brunelli, Marisela Rodriguez and James Chonody take the everyday life of the Hispanic culture and transform it into enchanting and lively masterpieces.

The opening event will feature the ATTO Music Project, a local band that mixes the lines between jazz, edgy rock and Latin music, playing on the porch and a Latin food truck with authentic dishes available for purchase. The ongoing exhibit will be open through October on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## OAKLAND PD INTRODUCES NEW OFFICER; K-9 EKKO



The Oakland Police Department welcomed two new members.

Officer Nicole Ribeiro! Officer Ribeiro is a Connecticut native who moved to Florida when she was a child. She recently worked as an Account Coordinator for a local food distributor who had to lay off their staff due to COVID.

During her hiatus, she decided to complete a life long dream to go to the Police Academy and become a police officer. Officer Ribeiro is a graduate of the Lake Technical College Institute of Public Safety and was processing with the Oakland Police Department while she was still enrolled.

K9 Ekko is a Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd Hybrid who is under one year old and weighs 55lbs. He was tested by Officer Andrew Ricks and two Winter Garden K9 Handlers. Ekko was part of a group of 5 dogs tested, and he displayed the most desirable traits out of the group.

Ekko will be dual purpose certified for apprehension and narcotics. Ekko and Officer Ricks will undergo approximately 740 hours of training before we deploy them as a K9 Handler Team.

## OAKLAND TEAMS UP WITH BEST FOOT FORWARD

As we gear up for back-to-school, crosswalk enforcement is essential to prepare drivers for an increase of students walking and biking to class, especially in the morning hours. That's why Oakland PD teamed up with Best Foot Forward.

The Town recently installed a crosswalk, signage and a rapid-flashing beacon at the mid-block crossing on Oakland Avenue near Sansparilla Road.

The law states that drivers must yield - slow down or stop - for a pedestrian crossing the street in a crosswalk, even when traffic controls are not present. Drivers who fail to do this can expect a ticket and points on their drivers license. Those drivers who fail to stop may be issued a warning or a citation of at least \$164 and three points on their license.

A proven theory is that sustained, high-visibility enforcement in conjunction with media attention will increase the public's perception of the risk of being stopped by the police, thereby increasing compliance with traffic laws. Remember to always yield for pedestrians!



## PUBLIC INVITED TO COMPLETE STREETS MEETING

Town residents are invited to envision the future character of Oakland Avenue and Tubb Street by providing their input during the first of two planned public meetings at 6 p.m. on Sept. 2 at the Oakland Meeting Hall, 221 N. Arrington St.

GAI's Community Solutions Group, the Town's contractor specializing in planning and landscape design, will help facilitate the meeting and offer a presentation on a "Complete Streets" design based on data collection and evaluation. At around 6:45 p.m., GAI will lead a walking audit from the fountain on Tubb Street to Oakland Avenue. This half-hour walking tour intends to highlight issues and potential design improvements as well as listen to residents' ideas along the corridor. Residents who wish to join the walking tour should wear closed toe shoes, clothing that is comfortable in warm weather and bring their own mosquito repellent. A limited number of safety vests will be available. Water, masks and hand sanitizer will be provided.

The project extends along Oakland Avenue from the proposed west roundabout at State Road 50 to Winter's Landing/Catherine Ross Road (old Motamassek Road) and Tubb Street from Gulley Avenue to State Road 50, for a total project length of 2.52 miles.

As a next step to Oakland's Master Mobility Management Plan, this project will develop detailed concepts for pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle circulation improvements. These plans will provide a basis for the final design and construction of future improvements.

## VIRTUAL COFFEE WITH THE TOWN MANAGER



BYOC (bring your own coffee) to Coffee with the Town Manager on Thursday, Sept. 9 at 9 a.m. via Zoom.

Oakland Town Manager Steve Koontz invites you to join him for coffee and conversation to learn more about Town news, services and programs, including proposed development, the future roundabout, Oakland Avenue Complete Streets Project, Turnpike widening and community programming at the Healthy West Orange Arts and Heritage Center at the Town of Oakland.

Residents who attend will have an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts and ideas about various topics affecting the Town. The event also offers residents and business owners an opportunity to network with each other virtually.

Join the meeting by visiting:  
<https://bit.ly/2W0wGAH>.

Meeting ID: 872 4884 6795  
 Passcode: 635200

## TOWN WELCOMES COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR HOLIDAY EVENT



The Town of Oakland's beloved Light Up Oakland/Santa Day event will return this year as an outside community gathering. Historic Town Center transform into "Santa's Lane," bringing the North Pole to West Orange.

Santa returns to historic downtown Oakland on Dec. 4 from 3 – 6 p.m.

We are welcoming the return of vendors and attractions throughout the outdoor spaces of Oakland. The day will feature a DJ to play festive music and socially distanced games to get visitors in the spirit, a petting zoo with "Florida Reindeer" to offer pony rides, and holiday crafts and activities.

Oakland and our valued volunteers are seeking the assistance of homeowner associations, business owners, churches, and residents to help support this community effort by becoming a sponsor of "Santa's Lane."

Your donations will help us achieve our goal and continue this community tradition of giving. All donations will be recognized.

For more information on partnering with us, please contact Event Planner Jessica Lovejoy at [jlovejoy@oaklandfl.gov](mailto:jlovejoy@oaklandfl.gov) or 407-656-1117 ext.2115.

## OAKLAND NATURE PRESERVES SEEKS MATCHING GRANT

Oakland Nature Preserve is delighted to announce that it has received a Challenge Match Grant for its environmental education programs. This grant will provide matching funds of \$10,000 if ONP is able to raise \$10,000 by Oct. 31.

This is extremely valuable to the Preserve's environmental education programs, which serves people of all ages in both Orange and Lake counties.



"We are very proud of our educational accomplishments over the years, and with this opportunity we can continue to develop and expand our programs," said Jennifer Hunt, Managing Director of ONP.

Your donation will be matched, dollar for dollar, so your contribution will have double the impact and will directly help fund our educational programs throughout 2021-2022 school year. Together we can meet the goal to raise \$10,000!

Oakland Nature Preserve is an active 501c3 organization, and your donations may be tax deductible. You can make checks payable to Oakland Nature Preserve and mail to P.O. Box 841, Oakland, FL 34760. Please note on the memo line that your donation is for the Challenge Match Grant. Or visit

[www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org](http://www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org) and click donate to have your gift matched.