



## Community Calendar

- Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Art Exhibition
- Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Arts and Heritage Center
  
- School Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Oct. 12 at 4 p.m.
- Oakland Meeting Hall
  
- Town Commission
- Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.
- Oakland Meeting Hall/ Virtual
  
- Coffee with the Town Manager
- Oct. 14 at 9 a.m.
- Virtual
  
- Planning & Zoning Board
- Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- Oakland Meeting Hall/Virtual
  
- StoryWalk®
- Oct. 20 from 1:30 - 5 p.m.
- Arts and Heritage Center (Trail)
  
- HAPCO 4th Fridays on the Porch with Thomas Milovac Trio
- Oct. 22 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Arts and Heritage Center
  
- Town Commission
- Oct. 26 at 7 p.m.
- Oakland Meeting Hall/Virtual

# Town of OAKLAND Florida

## TOWN DESIGNATES OCTOBER AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Kathy Stark proclaimed the month of October 2021 as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and asked that all residents join in this worthwhile cause to memorialize lost battles and celebrate successes.

October 2021 marks 36 years that National Breast Cancer Awareness Month has educated women and men about early breast cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment. The American Cancer Society has searched endlessly for a cure through vital research and has the mammoth task of educating our community and all Americans of the risks of breast cancer.

One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. However, through early detection and improved treatments, the five-year survival rate is 90%.

This month, we honor those lost to breast cancer and join with the loved ones who celebrate their memory and the patients who battle this disease every day, as well as our Nation's advocates, medical researchers, and health care providers to renew our commitment to better prevent, detect, and treat breast cancer.

## OAKLAND WELCOMES ARTISTS, GUESTS FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



The Town of Oakland celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by welcoming nearly 100 guests to greet 13 artists who have brought Hispanic heritage alive in their works.

The Healthy West Orange Arts and Heritage Center at the Town of Oakland opened the “Celebrating Hispanic Heritage” exhibition on Sept. 17.

As part of the exhibition, co-sponsored by Artscape, Central Florida area featured artists, Marisela Rodriguez, Jose Pardo, Ralph Aguirre and Nelson Cardenas take Hispanic culture and transform it into enchanting and lively masterpieces. 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. Other artists include Anna Brunelli, James Chonody, Lliana Jimenez, Daniel Longman, Violeta Militaru, Sapphire Servellon, Deborah Smith and Christine Wallbom. The ongoing exhibit is open through October on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## COMMUNITY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN TREES OF THE SEASON

Interested in showing off your decorating skills in a tree decorating contest? The Healthy West Orange Arts and Heritage Center at the Town of Oakland invites you to participate in a holiday tree decorating contest at the Center called “Trees of the Season.”

Schools, families, non-profit organizations and businesses are offered an opportunity to highlight their creativity during this community-centered showcase.

The cost is \$50 for Business or Family and Non-Profit Organization and FREE for \*Schools or Civic organizations. (\*Limit one tree per organization. Additional tree entries can be purchased at the Non-Profit rate.)

Interested applicants can email [arts&heritage@oaklandfl.gov](mailto:arts&heritage@oaklandfl.gov) for more information and inquire about an application. Hand deliver entry form and payment to: Healthy West Orange Arts and Heritage Center at the Town of Oakland, 126 Petris Avenue or at Town Hall, located at 230 N. Tubb St.



## TOWN MOURNS THE LOSS OF JIM THOMAS



Jim Thomas has done more for the environment and conservation in West Orange County than probably any other individual in this area. He created Biosphere Consulting Inc. — a native plant nursery and environmental consulting firm — and founded both the Friends of Lake Apopka and the Oakland Nature Preserve, two organizations dedicated to local environmental restoration and conservation.

Thomas, 86, of Winter Garden, died Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021.

James Milton Thomas, a fifth-generation Florida native, was born Nov. 10, 1934, and was drawn to nature at an early age. When he was a child, his father took him and his brothers to fish in Lake Apopka.

His love of nature continued into adulthood, and he studied biology and environmental studies at Florida State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree. He obtained a master's degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and continued his graduate studies at Yale University, University of Florida, North Carolina State University, University of Puerto Rico and Rutgers University.

- Obituary appeared in the West Orange Times.

## OAKLAND NATURE PRESERVE OFFERS \$20,000 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

The Amon Family Foundation, in partnership with the Oakland Nature Preserve, are excited to announce an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors in West Orange County to participate in the Youth Climate Project (YCP).

YCP is designed to “encourage the environmental leaders of the next generation.” The knowledge derived from science, research, and education, is the key to solving the problems created by climate change and finding innovative solutions.

YCP was created to support participants as they work towards their goals and will be awarding \$20,000 in scholarship funding. Participants who receive high scores on their research could receive between \$1,000 - \$5,000.

Please visit [www.YouthClimateProject.org](http://www.YouthClimateProject.org) for additional information and project registration.

## TOWN PROCLAIMS OCT. 15 AS BLIND AMERICANS EQUALITY DAY

By joint resolution approved on Oct. 6, 1964, Congress designated Oct. 15 of each year as “White Cane Safety Day” to recognize the contributions of Americans who are blind or have impaired vision. In 2011 “White Cane Safety Day” was named “Blind Americans Equality Day.”

Approximately 32,000 residents in Central Florida are blind or visually impaired and for Floridians who are blind or visually impaired, the white cane is an important tool for self-reliance and full participation and inclusion in our society.

Mayor Kathy Stark proclaimed Oct. 15, 2021, as “Blind Americans Equality Day,” ensuring those living with disabilities, have every opportunity to achieve their dreams.

## OAKLAND AND OCLS PRESENT STORYWALK ON THE WEST ORANGE TRAIL

The Town of Oakland is excited to partner with the Orange County Library System for StoryWalk®.

StoryWalk® is a way to enjoy the benefits of reading and the outdoors at the same time! Exercise your body and mind as you have fun reading the story and enjoying nature along the way.

The StoryWalk® will be on display at Healthy West Orange Arts and Heritage Center at the Town of Oakland located at 126 Petris Avenue, Oakland, FL 34760. There is no registration for this event. All are welcome on Wednesday, Oct. 20 between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m., weather permitting.

Our story on display will be *Maybe Something Beautiful/Quizás algo hermoso*.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

## VIRTUAL COFFEE WITH THE TOWN MANAGER



BYOC (bring your own coffee) to Coffee with the Town Manager on Thursday, Oct. 14 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, and more.

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/CoffeeOct> Passcode: 196316



**ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**

**StoryWalk® in Oakland**  
with Healthy West Orange Arts & Heritage

In the fall we buy some bulbs

Walk along and read the pages of the story as you go!