



Community Calendar

- Est. 1887 Exhibition
- April 1 - June 17
- Arts and Heritage Center

- ARB
- April 5 at 6:30 p.m./Meeting Hall

- Celebration Among the Oaks
- April 9 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- VanderLey Park

- Coffee with the Town Manager
- April 14 at 9 a.m./Virtual

- Town Commission
- April 12 at 7 p.m.
- Meeting Hall/Virtual

- Planning & Zoning
- April 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- Meeting Hall/Virtual

- Town Commission + Work Session
- April 26 at 6 and 7 p.m.
- Meeting Hall/Virtual

- International Jazz Day
- April 30 from 3-6 p.m.
- Arts and Heritage Center

Town of OAKLAND Florida

CELEBRATION AMONG THE OAKS TO BE HELD APRIL 9

Now with an expanded footprint throughout the Historic Downtown area from VanderLey Park to the Healthy West Orange Arts and Heritage Center, families are invited to enjoy a spectacular helicopter Easter Egg drop, photos with the Easter bunny, petting zoo, interactive kids' activities, live music and more! The event, to be held from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, will offer guests the opportunity to:

- Watch over 10,000 eggs drop from the sky by helicopter during an egg hunt hosted by The Lakeside Church.
- Play, chase and pop a continuous stream of bubbles at The Bubble Bus.
- Visit the Easter Bunny in Oakland's Gazebo with a fresh floral backdrop by Farm Nine.
- Get up close to springtime animals at the Petting Zoo featuring bunnies, baby chicks and goats.
- Enjoy StoryWalk, in partnership with the Orange County Library System, who presents "Planting a Rainbow" by Lois Ehlert along the West Orange Trail.
- Listen to live music on the Center porch, presented by HAPCO Music Foundation.
- Learn how to prune herbs and discover the environmental benefits of pollinators at Westly's Herb Garden courtesy of The Bloom & Grow Society.
- Discover the rich history of Oakland by exploring the new Est. 1887 exhibition, a combination of local art and history.

COMMISSIONERS POLLAND AND MCMULLEN ARE SWORN IN

Oakland Town Commission Seat #1 incumbent Rick Polland and Seat #4 incumbent Commissioner Joseph McMullen were sworn in on Tuesday, March 22 at the Town Commission meeting. Both Commissioners were re-elected in the March 8 Municipal Elections.

The ceremony officially marked the beginning of their new four-year terms.

Commissioner Rick Polland has been an Oakland resident since 2000. He joined the Town Commission in 2012, previously having served on the Board of Zoning Appeals and Adjustment from 2005-2011 and on the Parks and Recreation Committee. As a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Oakland Nature Preserve, Commissioner Polland represents ONP to the Town Commission. He has also been on the Board of Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA) and is active in the preservation and protection of our environment. Commissioner Polland was born in Lakeland, FL.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of West Florida and is a Retired Plumbing Manager at Westbrook Service Corporation. In his free time, the Commissioner enjoys boating and traveling with his wife, Tammy.

Commissioner McMullen has served the Town in Seat 4 since 2006. In early 2021, he was elected as President of the Board of Directors of the Tri-County League of Cities and was appointed as the Florida League of Cities Vice Chair of Land Use & Economic Development.

He is the founder and Chairman of HAPCO Music Foundation, a non-profit organization which connects young people with arts and music programs to help them succeed in life.



Commissioner Rick Polland was re-elected to Seat #1 in the March 8 election.



Commissioner Joseph McMullen was re-elected unopposed to Seat #4.



'EST. 1887' EXPLORES OAKLAND'S ROOTS



Discover Oakland during its heyday as the headquarters of the Orange Belt Railroad with a thriving business district and opera house and learn about the repercussions the Great Freeze of 1895 had on the town's progress in becoming a major city in Florida. "Est. 1887," the new exhibit at the Healthy West Orange Arts and Heritage Center, explores Oakland's history as an industrial and social hub of Orange County 135 years ago.

Featuring historic photographs, documents, and artifacts, "Est. 1887" traces the origins of the Town of Oakland and the major players behind its founding, like Peter Demens, an enterprising Russian immigrant with goals to build a railroad from the St. Johns River to Tampa, and James Gamble Speer, a landowner with dreams of a flourishing town on Lake Apopka.

Local artists, including Joseph Warren, David Minichiello, Anne Fanelli, Heather Lorenz, and Mike Jakubowski, display complementary artwork highlighting the area's unique charm and beauty.

Displays feature artifacts relating to Oakland's incorporation and include historic minute books, the original Town seal, century-old railroad ties, and more. Visitors may also view the Center's cornerstone, the Oakland Presbyterian Church's stained-glass window, dating back to 1919.

The exhibit opens on Friday, April 1. The Center, located at 126 W. Petris Ave., is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

OAKLAND CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

Celebrate International Jazz Day with Healthy West Orange Arts and Heritage Center! Enjoy live jazz music on the porch from 3 - 6 p.m. on Friday, April 29 with talented jazz artists Derrick Harris, Jose Figueroa-Bass, and Robert Bradley, presented by HAPCO Music Foundation.

Florida native Derrick Harris, a trombone player since age 11, is a member of the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Jazz Orchestra. Jose Figueroa-Bass, born and raised in Puerto Rico, carries the low end for many groups and in different styles. Robert Bradley, from Chicago, started playing percussion in church at age 7 and is now a multi-instrumentalist.

Learn about the history of jazz with us with some fun facts and interactive activities for adults and kids, and savor a delicious treat from a food truck. The Center, located at 126 W. Petris Ave., will be open from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

International Jazz Day is an International Day declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.



OAKLAND PD SWEARS IN NEW OFFICERS



During the March 22 Town Commission meeting, Chief John Peek introduced three new officers: Detective Michael Bryant, Officer Reynalis Rojas Mercado and Officer Ralph Spzak. He also proudly announced the promotion of Officer Roger Fischer to corporal. Please join us in welcoming and congratulating Oakland PD's newest personnel!

VIRTUAL COFFEE WITH THE TOWN MANAGER

Virtual Coffee with the Town Manager will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 9 a.m. via Zoom.

Oakland Town Manager Steve Koontz invites you to join him virtually for coffee and conversation to learn more about Town news, services, events and more.

Residents who attend will have an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts and ideas about various topics affecting the Town.

Join Zoom Meeting:

- <https://bit.ly/3LmGCbr>
- Meeting ID: 880 4272 6507
- Passcode: 710553
- Dial by location: 1-646-558-8656

REP. VAL DEMINGS VISITS OAKLAND

Rep. Val Demings, D-Orlando, and Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings visited the the Oakland Cathedral Church on South Nixon Street. Rep. Demings was the keynote speaker for the Community Black History Service.

Oakland Town Commissioner Sal Ramos and his family were in attendance.

