



FRIENDS OF THE OAKLEY LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Lorena Campos

Spring is just around the corner and with it we hope to jump into an exciting new stage of outreach in the Oakley and surrounding community. In the early part of this year The Friends of the Oakley Library had the opportunity to convene for a planning retreat. We met on Saturday, January 14th, to do some brainstorming, update our mission statement and set goals for the year. Our goals for 2023 are to:

- Identify new opportunities for fundraising;
- Continue our stride to do more outreach and grow our partnerships with local community organizations;
- Boost our membership alongside volunteer engagement.

These goals are seeded in our mission:

The Mission of the Friends of the Oakley Library is to: Support the Oakley Library by enhancing collections, programs, and facilities, to enrich the lives of Oakley's diverse community.

Message from the President continued...

As a group we look forward to how these goals build on the initiatives we set in the latter part of 2022 when we became recipients of the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant funding initiative to make this funding available for local non-profits.

APRA Grant Update

Thanks to the City of Oakley our organization received \$15k in ARPA dollars, to cover our expenditures in the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

The ARPA grant has enabled the Friends to both better support the library's programs and services, and to increase our outreach in the community. Both the programs and outreach have elevated the Friends' and library's profile in the community. So far we've held an outreach booth at local festivals including Summer Fest, Heart of Oakley, the Oaktober Festival, and Oakley Elementary's Safety and Resources Fair. We've supported a number of library programs including: Dan Gutman author visit, Lauren Tarshis author visit, Teokalli Aztec dancers, Fratello marionettes, Howl-la-la Boo, pumpkin decorating, trunk-or-treat, and yoga story time. We have plans to use the remaining funds for new library furniture that will improve the use of already limited space available. This new furniture will also assure there is enough space around the tables and chairs to meet ADA guidelines.

We have made connections with community members who are now informed and excited about plans for a new library. Membership for the Friends has increased 33%, and we have attracted several active and enthusiastic new members to our meetings. With more cardholders and Friends members we are more convinced than ever that having a strong presence in the community will assist us with efforts in getting a new library for Oakley.

NEW LIBRARY UPDATE

by Jimmy Ramirez



Growing up in Oakley, as a student at Freedom High School, I recall having to travel to coffee shops in Antioch and the library at Los Medanos College in Pittsburgh for a place to study.

Since the time I graduated from high school Oakley has added over 12,000 new residents. Today the City of Oakley is at almost 44,000 people.

Last year, I started volunteering with Friends of the Oakley Library to contribute to the ongoing dialogue concerning the need for a library because libraries promote literacy among people of all ages.

New Library update continued...

At the Heart of Oakley festival, Friends of the Oakley invited our neighbors to imagine and dream up what a new library in Oakley would look, feel, and sound like:



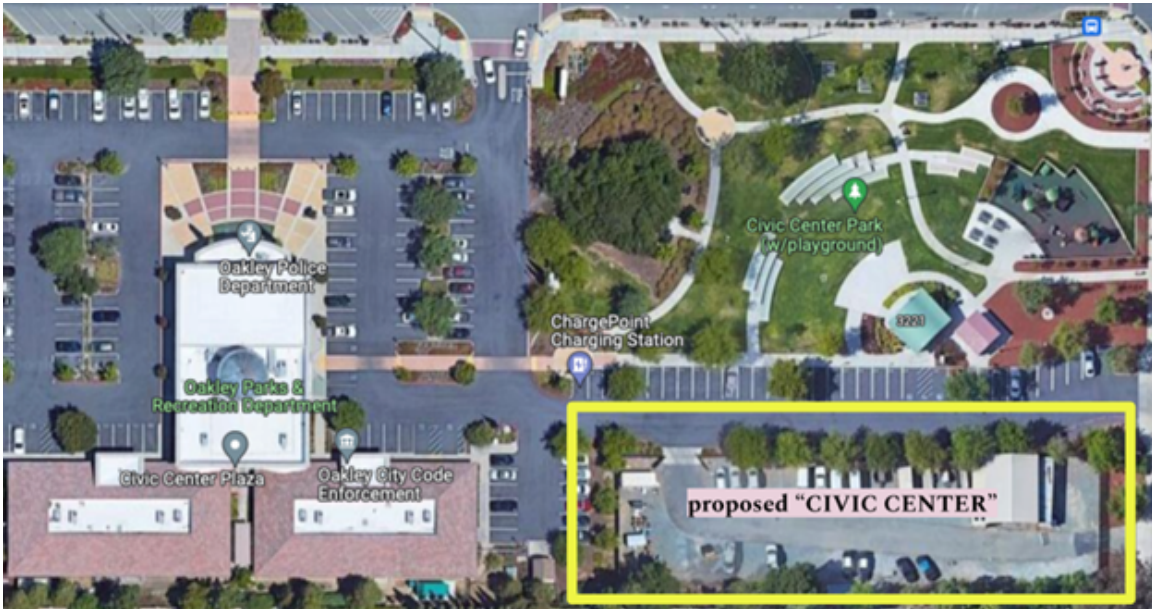
On January 24 2023 at the City of Oakley Council meeting, consultants from Baker Tilly presented a feasibility study on the construction of a new library at O'Hara and Acme. The consultants presented three scenarios for the city to consider on how to fund the construction of a new library.

The most inexpensive option recommended the City of Oakley leverage sites at Acme & O'Hara to construct low to medium density housing. Consultants explained by working with developers to construct housing in the area it would offset the costs of constructing a new library.

The least expensive option for the city proposed that the library be constructed on land currently used for storage and parking beside City Hall. The hope is that this large community center would serve as a resource center for seniors, veterans, library patrons, and potentially be used as the new home for a county department or office.

New Library update continued...

The next steps are for Oakley City Council to amend the site specific plan to allow for more housing units and discuss next steps with Contra Costa County officials. If you are interested in taking part in the effort to get a new library built in the City of Oakley, I highly recommend volunteering and getting involved with the Friends of the Oakley Library.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Liz Fuller

Thanks to all of you who have joined the Friends! We appreciate your support and want you to know your dues are put to good use. Dues pay for most of the special programs held at the Oakley Library, including craft programs, book giveaways, and special performers. We collect dues every year, and notify you via email when it is time to renew. You can join by filling out a membership form and leaving it at the library along with your dues or by paying online at our website: www.oakleylibrary.org.

BOOK SALE UPDATE

As many of you are aware, our book sale area is where we raise most of our funds for our library programs. We are so lucky to have Friends volunteer Joy Kick as our book sale leader. She is in the library every week, sorting through donated items and organizing them onto our book sale shelves. She also works with a company called The Book Forest. Joy reviews the donated books for those that might be worth over \$10 and gets those books into the hands of The Book Forest. If the books are sold, the Friends receive 40% of the sale price.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: LIBRARY STAFF BIOS

The Oakley Library has a great team. Their experience, creativity and energy have allowed us to make improvements in our shared space to provide better programs and services. I want to introduce you to our team.

Lisa Cano-Loomis, Community Library Manager.

Lorie Butler, Library Clerk-Senior Level, has worked in the Contra Costa County Library system since 2013. She looks forward to coming to work each day with so many dedicated and caring staff members and wonderful patrons. She loves music, singing, and reading, and always has a friendly greeting and smile.

Lucia Flores, Youth Services Librarian-Bilingual, has served Contra Costa County Library since she began as a volunteer in 2016. She loves to conduct storytimes, plan fun programs for kids, and share library love with the community at outreach events. She enjoys reading books with her 7- and 3-year-old, as well as her newborn.

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Stacey Lawson, Library Clerk-Senior Level, started working at the Oakley Library in 2021. Prior to that she was a clerk at the San Pablo Library, starting in 2017. She's cheerful and helpful and loves trees and all growing things. Come by and check out our seed library, and discuss plants and share tips of the trade with Stacey.

Mark Bachofer, Library Assistant, is the newest addition to the Oakley Library team. Mark started with the library as a Library Aide. After a brief stint at Risk Management, Mark is excited to be back with the library and enthusiastic about programming, welcoming patrons, and helping find patrons their next new favorite read! He is a huge fan of board games, puns, and books.

Lisa Cano-Loomis, Community Library Manager, has been with the Contra Costa County Library system for 21 years. She started with the library as a Library Assistant. After receiving her Master's in Library Science degree, she came to the Oakley Library as the Youth Services Librarian. She became the manager of the Oakley Library during the pandemic with all of the unique challenges that entailed. She knows that one important characteristic of public libraries is that they are community builders. They bring people and ideas together and with each other to create connections and strengthen bonds. She enjoys serving this community and looks forward to bigger and brighter things to come for Oakley.