



**FIRST
LOOK!**

At Our New Oakley Library & Community Center

Were you there to see the renderings? The new Oakley Library and Community Center is going to be extraordinary. The building is in the late stages of planning with a construction start later this year (Fall 2026). There were three opportunities for the public to weigh in with their ideas on what the library should (and shouldn't) include. The architects from Siegel & Strain had answers.

Of course, the designers had already incorporated the needs and wishes of the Council's Library Subcommittee and Staff. But the feedback from the community at these meetings was also important to hear. Things like parking concerns, access to bathrooms, layout of the floorplan to accommodate different age groups, etc. The new library will hold 1/3 more book shelving and have comfortable places to READ those books if you so choose!

A few things stand out. There will be a large 'community room' suitable for meetings and events like the annual Friends Book Sale! The traffic pattern will allow only one-way access to the library to keep folks from using the parking lot as a way to avoid Main

Street traffic lights?! Many were surprised to hear that the city will use a portion of the building for their needs such as emergency communications staging and additional office space. The need for a guard at the library, as many libraries now have, will be assessed at a later date.

We were delighted to hear there will be a larger, dedicated space for the Friends of the Oakley Library complete with book storage space and Used Book Sales area. The indoor/outdoor layout of the library will incorporate a 'delta inspired décor' complete with a separate multi-use pavilion.

Friends member Angela Lowrey summed it up perfectly at the end of the final community engagement meeting, "This is really going to encourage life-long learning."

The construction phase will begin before we know it. You can follow the progress of the project at <https://engage.oakleyca.gov/en/projects/oakley-library-and-community-center-1>

☀ Happy Spring from the Friends of the Oakley Library!

This year the Friends of the Oakley Library are embracing a vision of growth and inclusion. We are hard at work expanding our organization with new positions (see below), deepening member engagement, and enhancing our community outreach.

At the end of January, we welcomed the new year with our annual retreat. (Held at the beautiful and welcoming Brentwood Library, we could all envision a time—soon—when we can meet in our NEW Oakley Library!)

This yearly tradition has become pivotal to renew our goals, align our vision, and strengthen our bonds. We also took a meaningful moment to toast (with Martinelli’s cider!) to our 2025 successes. Being able to pause and celebrate all we’ve accomplished served as the perfect fuel for the year ahead.

With the new **Library and Community Center** finally on the horizon, we are more energized than ever. We look forward to strengthening our ties with our members and the Oakley community at large!

Remember, together, there isn't anything we can't do. Consider joining our dedicated team to be sure our library reflects our community. We warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us:

→ Oakleylibrary.org/volunteer



→ Oakleylibrary.org/membership



♥ **President of the Friends of the Oakley Library,**
Lorena Campos

☀ A Generous Investment in Oakley’s Community

We were delighted to receive a check for the second installment of the Leshner Foundation Grant. \$200,000! It is gratifying to know major endowments recognize the value and need for a stand-alone library in Oakley. Thank you so much for your support.

♥ Treasurer of the Friends of the Oakley Library, Liz Fuller

◆ Got Puzzles or Children’s Books to Donate? Please bring them to us on April 25th

The Friends are excited to participate in Oakley’s Second Annual Day of Service event on Saturday, April 25th from 8:00-12:00. The City has set up fun and worthwhile community service projects around Oakley for local residents to get involved in. The event will kick off at the Oakley Recreation Center with a pancake breakfast and non-profit fair before participants transition to their project sites. Pre-registration is required: [Calendar • Oakley Day of Service](#)

◆ Big plans to promote the Friends of the Oakley Library at Upcoming Events

“Shake off the winter cold by volunteering to support the Friends and our efforts to expand programming resources at the library!” says Friends VP and Volunteer Director Alan Kemp. “We’re preparing our 2026 event schedule, and the more robust our volunteer roster, the bigger we can dream of ways to broaden community access to the library.”

Love talking with people about libraries and books? We absolutely need you.

→ To volunteer, go to: [Volunteer with the Friends of the Oakley library](#)



→ If you want to volunteer directly with the library...for instance, help with day-to-day operations and general staff support, use this interest form and select the Oakley Library: [Contra Costa County Volunteer Interest Form](#)



Stay tuned for specifics on when we will be needing help. There will be outdoor festivals, Friday Nite Bites, book sales— so many ways to get involved. “Volunteers have been so hugely integral to our continuing success and community outreach,” says Alan. “We thank you for donating your time and we

look forward to seeing you all!”

Reminder for all volunteers—Current and newbies:

We will have so many more events added to the calendar for 2026 and we'll need plenty of help for them. And, yes, you can volunteer without being a member.

→ Keep updated here: [Friends of the Oakley Library Calendar](#). A call for volunteers typically goes out about a week in advance of an event.



→ If you are not already on our list to be notified and want to be, just fill in this form: [Friends of the Oakley Library Volunteers](#)



♥ Vice President of the Friends of the Oakley Library, Alan Kemp

★ **What Does Membership Mean for YOU in 2026?**

Our dynamic Membership Chair is reimagining what membership offers both to a member AND to the library. Here is a list of “Membership Benefits” that currently come your way:

Early Access to Book Sales hosted by the Friends of the Oakley Library organization.

Friends’ Newsletter sent right to your inbox. You’ll get the latest news...guaranteed!

Early registration for Friends’ events.

Members can vote for board members when we have elections.

Tax deduction? Friends of the Oakley Library IS a non-profit.

The satisfaction of being recognized as a library supporter and contributor to our community!

And what does your membership support offer the community?

Engaging Library Programs (like Storytime, Saturday LEGO Builders, and Summer Reading giveaways).

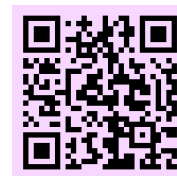
Fun arts & craft supplies (crayons, papers, stickers, glue, and more!).

Supplies for special events.

New books for all ages!

That is quite a bit of positive reinforcement, but Vanessa is also working on Annual Friends’ merchandise and events. That update is coming soon. Renew, and we will reward!

→ If you want to join, renew, or pass along membership info to a friend please visit: <https://www.oakleylibrary.org/membership>.



♥ Friends of the Oakley Library Membership Chair, Vanessa Cendejas

Building the Oakley Library and Community Center Brick by Brick



Purchase a \$250 Engraving Brick Here



With groundbreaking of the new Oakley Library and Community Center anticipated for fall 2026, the Friends of the Oakley Library are offering the opportunity to leave your name on the new Oakley Library and Community Center. A Donor’s Walk near

the library entrance will feature engravable bricks that will be personalized with your name or message. Every time you approach its doors, we hope the Donor's Walk will remind you that the new Oakley Library and Community Center belongs to not only you, its generous patrons, but also to the community at large. Bricks are engraved by Bricks R Us, and can be purchased online at [Friends of the Oakley Library Help Create Our New Oakley Library Donor Walk Donor Site](https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/fotol) or <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/fotol>. The cost is \$250, and buyers will be given three lines, 18 characters per line, to write their personalized message. You can also pay by check (to save the processing fee), payable to Friends of the Oakley Library. Drop it off at the Oakley Library or mail it to 1050 Neroly Rd., Oakley CA 94561. For more info about brick purchases, contact our Brick Guru Alan Kemp at offthehill@aol.com or 925-219-6729.

For more information about the library project visit the Friends' website at <https://www.oakleylibrary.org/> You can also email the Friends at friendsoftheoakleylibrary@gmail.com.

✿ Library Programs Supported by Friends of the Oakley Library

We LOVE to support a wide array of programs at the Oakley Library all year long.

Here are few examples coming up soon:

April 11 @ Noon **Mariela's Music Time** (Babies and Youngsters)

May 2 @ Noon **Guided Drawing & Read Aloud** (Tween Comic Book Fans) FREE COMIC BOOKS!

May 26 @ 6:30 **Stories that Dance: Asia/Pacific Islanders Month** (Entire Families!)

Mark your calendars for the annual **Summer Reading Party** at the Oakley Library on July 11 th .

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Power up learning with the most comprehensive source of materials for K-12 students. Power up

learning with the most comprehensive source of materials for K-12 students. Britannica School delivers fast research, accurate answers, and streamlined lesson planning. Three portals separate access for elementary, middle, and high school levels. Visit the Digital Resources page at ccclib.org to get started.

✿ Save the Date: May 16 — Rotary Club of Oakley Gala: A Night of Aloha



Get ready to experience "A Night of Aloha!" Join the Rotary Club of Oakley for a high-energy tropical celebration filled with great food, live music, and unforgettable community spirit.

This isn't just a gala — it's a party with a purpose. Your ticket helps power impactful local programs, from hands-on community projects to Rotary's cherished Christmas Basket Program. Come dressed to impress, bring your aloha spirit, and be part of a night that gives back while we celebrate together!

Good vibes. Great people. Meaningful impact.

Our Gala needs sponsors: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a-night-of-aloha-an-oakley-rotary-community-gala>

Get your tickets today! Tickets are \$75 per person.

Note on a passing

We were all sad to learn that Joy Kick's husband, Joe Kick, died of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma last month. (Joy is the human dynamo who keeps the Friends of the Oakley Library book sale shelves in order at the library and organizes our book sales.)

“Joe was a writer, an artist, a musician, and a big fan of our Oakley Library. The Library provided him much inspiration in the form of books, DVDs and CDs. Joe was very supportive of our Book Sale endeavor and always available to help with the heavy lifting. I think that Joe alone greatly increased the circulation numbers at the library. He checked out huge stacks of books weekly—many were heavy art books!”

Heartwarming story for us all

Our Financial Director, Liz Fuller, received this email recently:

*Hi Liz,
A girl scout member named, Fiore, volunteered her time to do her Eagle Project at Oakley Library. She did an amazing job leading a bracelet making workshop and creating 225 'Make and Take' craft kits for us to give out to patrons at a STEM event and at the front desk of the library. She accumulated a total of \$200 in donations from her friends and family. She spent \$195.86 during the actual project itself, and she asked if the Friends of the Oakley Library wanted the remainder of the money (\$4.14).*

*Please let us know how you would like to proceed with the remaining funds.
Gianna Baldazo, Oakley Library Assistant*

Liz gladly accepted the \$4.14 for future projects at the library. I think we can all agree, the real treasure was hearing about Fiore and her ambition to complete her projects and help the library! The future certainly looks bright with young people like Fiore.



Help Us Grow Our Library Together!

Your support makes a difference in our library's ability to provide programs, resources, and a welcoming space for our community. By donating, you're helping us bring more books, events, and services to Oakley residents of all ages.

Every donation counts! Whether it's \$5, \$50, or your time, your contribution supports literacy, learning, and connection in Oakley.

Ready to help? Visit www.oakleylibrary.org or stop by the Oakley Library to learn more.

Donate to New Library & Community Center:
https://www.oakleylibrary.org/new_library_and_community_center

Donate to Library Programs:
<https://www.oakleylibrary.org/donate>

Volunteer: <https://www.oakleylibrary.org/volunteer>

Become a Member:
<https://www.oakleylibrary.org/membership>

Subscribe to our Newsletter:
<https://www.oakleylibrary.org/newsletters>

Thank you for being part of our story!

*The **Friends of the Oakley Library** is an all-volunteer, registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has proudly supported the Oakley Public Library since 1972. As advocates for the value of our Library, we speak out in the community and work to enhance library resources, programs, and improvements.*