

# CROSSROAD

Christmas Tree/Menorah Lighting  
Veterans' Park, December 6, 2015 @ 5 PM

## NEWS FROM THE VALLEY OF "THE PONDS"

SPONSORED BY THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND



### FALL 2015

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## Mayor's Message



Oakland Mayor  
Linda H. Schwager

**O**akland did it again! Since I became Mayor, I have repeatedly reported on the top rankings our community has achieved.

Oakland was recently ranked #6 for Best Small City in New Jersey and #1 in Bergen County by Movoto Real Estate. The criteria used are listed as: amenities per capita; quality of life (cost of living, median home price, median rent, median household income, and high school graduation rate); total crimes; tax rates; unemployment; commute time; and weather (temperature and air quality). However, if resident volunteerism was a listed criterion, Oakland would be ranked #1.

On behalf of all the residents in Oakland, I thank the volunteers for making our town the wonderful community it is. Volunteers run our fantastic recreation program and facilities. Volunteers have created Great Oak Park. Volunteers made Stewart Woods a reality. Volunteers provide care for our residents in need. Volunteers support the library projects. Volunteers arrange the many public events for our families and young children. AND...if it wasn't for the volunteers in the Oakland Communications Commission, you would not be reading this newsletter nor would you be able to watch the council meetings on television. The list goes on and on—Thank you to YOU, the volunteers in Oakland.

*Mayor Linda H. Schwager*

## OAKLAND RECREATION —*GREAT OAK PARK PHASE 1 COMPLETE!*

**I**n late 2012 there was a presentation made about how best to develop the Heritage Hills Property, which was formerly known as Pleasureland and Mueller's Park. The grand idea was divided into two phases. The first phase consisted of making the property safe and usable for people to hike, bike ride, walk their dog, fish and enjoy nature. Since that original meeting Oakland has been busy.

Over the past 3 years, the town bonded together and volunteered their efforts to develop trails, create a parking area, preserve the great white oak tree, restore health back to the C-1 stream and create something out of 30 years of neglect. With the park's opening this summer and new signage this fall this project is becoming something that future Oakland generations will be proud of...BUT we are not finished



(Continued on page 6) **Great Oak Park entrance directly off Doty Road.**

## OAKLAND COMMUNITY OF COMMERCE

A great BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came down to enjoy an absolutely beautiful Sunday afternoon in Oakland for our second annual 'American Pride Car



Show. We were treated to over 200 cars, trucks and motorcycles and one very special, very big guest, BIG-FOOT. We enjoyed great Doo Wop tunes as well as the many vendors who made the event even more special.

The Oakland Community of Commerce would especially like to thank our incredible sponsors who helped us to put the event on. They included; The Oakland-Franklin Lakes Rotary Club, Tire Tech & Auto Repair, The Auto Parts Source and the Chopper Russo Group. Without them this event would not take place. We look forward to an even bigger and better car show in 2016.

Please continue to join us in our effort to continue to make Oakland a better place to live, work and play!

Lastly, everyone is invited to join us for our next community event to prepare for the holidays and supporting those in need through the TOYS FOR TOTS Foundation Toy Drive. Last year Community of Commerce members collected hundreds of toys in support of the Toys for Tots Campaign and this

December 12, 2015 1:00 - 1:30 pm

**TRAIN STOPS HERE**



year's need is just as great. You can drop off your toy at many locations throughout town beginning November 7, 2015 until the train comes to town on Saturday December 12, 2015 arriving at 1:00 pm and departing at 1:30 pm. The entire community is also invited to come down and meet with Santa and his elves and our incredible U.S. Marines for a photo.

Please visit our website for official drop off locations and please remember to support those businesses while you are there. Questions? Contact us at (201) 556-7412 or via email [oaklandcofc@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandcofc@gmail.com).

## OAKLAND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION — *RECEIVES ANJEC AWARD*

The Oakland Environmental Commission received an Environmental Achievement Award from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) for its participation in the annual FLOW Green Film Festival along with Franklin Lakes and Wyckoff. This award program recognizes exceptional projects carried out by environmental commissions across the state.

Market conditions have had a major effect on the recycling industry, which has had a direct impact on Oakland's recycling guidelines. During the town carnival, the OEC presented recycling information and had many conversations with concerned residents about the new guidelines. In response to these inquiries, the OEC recently produced a dis-



play at the Public Library helping residents understand the new guidelines and to clarify what is recyclable and what isn't. The OEC also produced a simple, easy to follow recycling flyer. Scan the QR code below or visit our website: [www.mygreenoakland.org](http://www.mygreenoakland.org) to download the recycling flyer and get up to date information on local environmental

events and news. The OEC welcomes your comments, ideas and involvement and can be reached at: [info@mygreenoakland.org](mailto:info@mygreenoakland.org).

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, December 1, 7:30pm at borough hall.



## RAMAPOUGH CONSERVANCY — *VAN ALLEN HOUSE RESTORATION*

The Ramapough Conservancy has been busy working to restore the Van Allen House. The first large section of roof has been completed and turned out beautifully. A big thank you to the Mayor, the Council, Borough Administrator Richard Kunze, and our community for making this possible.

We are now actively fundraising for the other "half" of the roof. Under our grant from the county, we are required



to raise 25% of the grant monies. We have already raised the necessary amounts for the main roof, and we need your support for the second half of the project. We are hoping to raise \$30,000. We have had good support from our residents, and we are hoping to see support from our business community as well. If you know of a business which would be interested in learning more about us, please

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Oakland Public Schools — *Explores New Initiatives*

The 2015 summer/fall has been a very busy one here at The Oakland Public Schools. We are very excited to introduce 7 new courses for the 2015 - 2016 school year at Valley Middle School. These courses will challenge, support, and encourage students to explore the areas of Financial Literacy, Robotics, S.T.E.A.M., and Italian. At the elementary schools, we have begun our new Balanced Literacy initiative to promote best practices in literacy instruction.

### Financial Literacy

The New Jersey 21st Century Life and Careers Standard, which includes the 12 Career Ready Practices, establishes clear guidelines for what students need to know and be able to do in order to be successful in their future careers and to



achieve financial independence. This standard outlines the important fiscal knowledge, habits, and skills that must be mastered in order for students to make

informed decisions about personal finance. Financial literacy is an integral component of a student's college and career readiness, enabling students to achieve fulfilling, financially secure, and successful careers. To that end, Valley Middle School will implement two new courses for the 2015-2016 school year: Financial Literacy 7 and Financial Literacy 8.

### Italian

Last year our grade 6 students cycled through marking period classes in Spanish, French, and Italian. At the end of 6th grade students chose the language that they would continue to study in 7th and 8th grade. The 7th grade Italian class will emphasize basic learning but in a more conversational based presentation.

### Balanced Literacy

The Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment have been busy getting ready for the continued implementation of many new programs within the Oakland School District. We strive to provide and sustain a rich academic environment where students achieve their academic and personal potential. With this striving environment, summer work in the area of English Language Arts Literacy has focused on the implementation of the Balanced Literacy initiative in each of elementary schools for this school year. At the middle school level, we carefully selected new novels to enhance the curriculum, meet the demands of the standards and keeping in mind student interests. Many teachers in July participated in the Summer Paramus Reading Institute where student learning is paramount for success.

### Support

Each student at VMS will receive one Support period a week. The support period is designed to provide students with the opportunity to complete homework, organized their binders and class notes, meet with teacher to make up tests/quizzes, visit the library, or work in IXL.

### Robotics

The primary purpose of this course is to educate students in the thinking process used by engineers. This course will also build upon the Technology Education course offered at the sixth grade level. Students use the technological design and problem-solving method to engage in activities that simulate the role of engineers. Identifying technological problems, researching potential solutions, modeling, prototype development, testing, and evaluation are integral components of the course. Concepts of structures, productions, and engineering graphics and robotic engineering are emphasized.



Presentation skills (verbal, visual, and written), application of knowledge learned in other disciplines, and careers are integrated into the course. Students use Chromebooks as a designing tool and to simulate results before actual modeling and prototyping begins.

### S.T.E.A.M.

The 6th grade STEAM 101 course integrates physical science, mathematics (data collection, analysis, and graphing), problem solving, technology, engineering, language, and art. The purpose of this course is to develop skills in problem solving, collaboration, and communication in order to investigate a problem and design solutions while working in a structured, team environment.

S.T.E.A.M. 102 takes the problem solving and engineering skills that students have gained in grade 6 STEAM and further advance the mathematical and scientific concepts and student responsibilities. The students will start to engage in more independent problem solving and design oriented tasks, and will also have the opportunity to collaborate with larger groups to further refine their work. As the students advance throughout the marking period long course, they will have the opportunity to design a prototype CO2 dragster, apply that prototype to a constructed and refined final product, and computer design and integrate 3D plastic wheels for their final product dragster. The course will culminate with a series of races that will help the students gather data for their final analysis of the effectiveness of their design process. Discussion will take place between students to analyze and critique the positives and negatives of the final designs and apply these lessons to future projects.



## OAKLAND LIBRARY—FALL & WINTER PROGRAMS

Are you receiving the Oakland Library Monthly newsletter? The newsletter gives you timely information about Library programs, events, NFOPL concerts and what is new on the shelves in the fiction, non-fiction, movies and music collections. You can sign up at the Circulation Desk or on our new website:

[www.oaklandnjlibrary.org](http://www.oaklandnjlibrary.org), where you'll find up-to-date calendars, program registrations, emergency closings and information on the Library renovation.

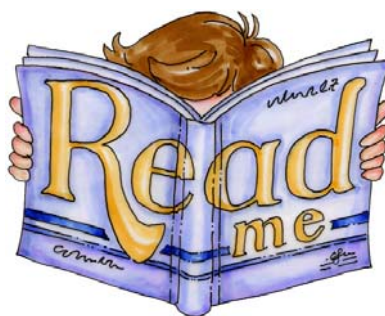
The Children's Department this Fall & Winter offers Story Hours, Music events, Tale-Waggin' Tutors and family programs such as Truck Day. On Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, the NFOPL will host a Holiday Sing-Along with warm cocoa and cookies.

The award-winning author of *Celtic Pride: How Coach Kevin Boyle Took St. Patrick's to the Top of High School Basketball*, Brian Fitzsimmons, will present his sports centered talk at the Library on November 17 at 6:30 PM. One year after earning his first nomination by the New York Press Club Journalism Awards for coverage on basketball, football and recruiting, Fitzsimmons won the 2014

award in sports feature writing. Brian oversees editorial content, video programming, social media and partnerships at AOL.com, and previously served as a senior writer and managing web editor at MSG Varsity Sports.

Fall and Winter Computer Workshop Wednesdays offer workshops on Microsoft Word Basics, Facebook, Gmail, Zinio and Hoopla. Zinio is a collection of over 250 free digital magazines accessible to Oakland Library Card holders. Hoopla, also **free**, is a digital media service with a collection of over 250,000 movies, TV shows, music and much more. All you need is a library card and a computer. The New Friends of the Oakland Library have put together a wonderful Sunday Afternoon Concert Series. The Concerts are on the following Sundays: Feb. 21, March 20 and April 24.

Please drop by the library to find out more about our ongoing Book Clubs, ESL classes, the Knit and Crochet Club, Gallery exhibits and displays. An Oakland Library Card will make those dark days of fall & winter a lot brighter.



## NEW FRIENDS OF THE OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY—UPCOMING EVENTS

The New Friends of the Oakland Public Library opened the NFOPL Sunday Afternoon Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church of NJ, located on 222 Ramapo Valley Road Oakland, with **"Spotlight on Richard Bernstein, Metropolitan Opera Soloist and Bergen County Neighbor"** on October 25. The second concert, November 15, featured the Jazz trio **Tres** with Oakland resident Mark Sganga, Carl Schickler and Kerry Linder. On February 21, **Song Yuan Tang**, from Shenyang, China, who at the age of 17 won First Prize in the Eastman School of Music's Young Artists International Piano Competition, will perform. **Strings and Winds: Together Again** a concert featuring Elizabeth Martyn, piano; Susan Heerema, violin; Mitch Weiss, clarinet; Carla Auld, flute; and Lanny Paykin, cello, will perform mixed chamber music on March 20, 2016. Spring returns with the **Tononi Trio** on April 24. The **Tononi Trio** will be playing Haydn and Brahms trios featuring Elizabeth Martyn, piano; Laura Hamilton, violin; and Lanny Paykin, cello.

December 4<sup>th</sup> brings the lovely Holiday Sing-Along at the Library, a hustle and bustle free evening for families to gather and enjoy warm cocoa and the sounds of the season.

The NFOPL recently purchased more American Museum of Natural History and the Intrepid Museum passes for use by Oakland Library patrons. Please go on the library website, [www.oaklandnjlibrary.org](http://www.oaklandnjlibrary.org), to learn more about this great resource that the NFOPL provides. In early spring 2016, the NFOPL will be presenting Mini-Golf at the Library. Businesses in our area can sponsor a golf hole. Anyone interested in being a sponsor or in helping to put this family-friendly event together, please call the library.



Becoming a New Friend of the Oakland Public Library is a great way to meet other Oakland residents, and an opportunity to get involved or stay involved with our Oakland community.

We have yearly membership that will fit any budget, and we are always looking for those who want to play an active role, such as volunteering during the very successful Book Sale each fall. With your support we can continue helping the library move forward!

## OAKLAND POLICE DEPT — *FALL REMINDERS*

**F**all is here and the Oakland Police Department would like to put out a few reminders to our residents. First and foremost, school is open. Because the weather is still fairly nice this time of year, children like to walk to and from school. Sometimes around this time of year, you have many things going on in your heads, but please be mindful of extra pedestrian traffic in town. Remember, it is the law for a motorist to **STOP** for pedestrians in crosswalks! It is equally important for motorists to obey crossing guards. Our crossing guards do an excellent job preserving the safety of our children so be aware of their presence.

For our Valley Middle School parents, you may have noticed that the traffic pattern has changed in the area around the school. The Police Department and the school have discussed different options at length to ensure the safety of the children around the parking lot and roadways near Valley

Middle School. Please be aware that the things that are happening in that area are for safety reasons and it is important to follow the rules that the school has set forth for drop off and pick up.

Another issue the fall brings is that of falling leaves. Not only are they a nuisance to clean up but they also can be hazardous to the motoring public. Wet leaves on the roadway are very slippery, so please use extra caution when the roadway is wet and covered with leaves.

And just a reminder.....winter will soon be here. Please be aware that the sidewalks and hydrants that are on your property are your responsibility. You are required to shovel your walks and clean the snow from around the hydrants. This will make the walkways safer for our children and other pedestrians and help out the fire department in case there is a fire emergency in your area.

## OAKLAND CODE ENFORCEMENT — *REPLACE SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES*

**A**s residents prepare for winter the Oakland Fire Prevention Bureau reminds residents to replace your smoke detector batteries. Smoke detectors are your first line of defense in the event of a fire. Residents are also reminded that storage of gasoline or kerosene inside your garage or house can be unhealthy and even fatal if there is a fire. Gasoline with its additives lessens its storage time. Old gas is not useful and will even prevent engines, motors and generators from operating when needed. Gasoline and Kerosene should only be stored in approved containers, red for gas and blue for Kerosene and stored in sheds but not inside houses or garages. Gasoline and Kerosene should only be stored for imminent events and used or discarded properly after the event has passed.

The Oakland Building Department wants to remind residents that any home improvement contractor must be licensed with the State of New Jersey. Home Improvement contractors must provide their ID number on any proposal or invoice. Any contractor doing electrical or plumbing work must also be licensed with the State of New Jersey. Remember, the Department of Consumer Affairs rule is that final payment to the contractor is not required to be made before a final inspection is performed. All permitted work must be inspected by the Oakland Building Department. If you need to schedule an inspection or have permit questions contact us at 201-337-1644. Report any contractors who come to your house unannounced and tell you that work must be done or you have to have work done immediately to the Oakland Police Department. Soliciting is not permitted in Oakland without proper approvals.

If you are planning on moving from Oakland remember that a Continued Certificate of Occupancy (CCO) is required. Applications may be obtained at the Building Department. All applications must be completed, paid for and signed off by the Oakland Board of Health before a CCO inspection

can be scheduled. All open permits must be closed. Bank foreclosed properties and vacant home purchases are not exempt from the CCO program. Buyers of these properties should contact their attorney for guidance in complying with the CCO in Oakland. Please contact Ralph Porrino at 201-337-9616 for CCO information and inspections.

### Borough Gets AAA Rating!

**T**he Borough of Oakland achieved a AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's this past spring. This rating allows Oakland the best financing terms available, to accelerate principal payments and reduce total interest paid without increasing its debt service budget. Another way to say this is that we will be able to pay down debt faster and at less cost.

The upgrade in Oakland's bond rating is a direct result of several years of financial planning and implementation. Beginning in 2007, Oakland has enacted policies, stringent financial controls and reporting that had have made this rating possible. By hiring a new Borough Administrator and full time Chief Financial Officer we brought in very capable administrators to implement those policies. As a result, we have shown how the Borough council can work together to accomplish difficult tasks. It is not a result of any one person or group's input but rather a result of cooperation, implementation and execution. With this sound financial footing Oakland has a bright future.

Thank you to the entire staff, elected officials, as well as the residents of Oakland for working with the Council. Without these cooperative efforts, hard work and dedication, this would not have been possible.

Tim Jensen

Council Member, Chairperson - Finance Committee



## OAKLAND RECREATION—*WHAT'S NEW*

### *New programs and new developments to the recreation complex*

Photo by Linda Fuhrman



CPL Patrick Lawlor's sister, Jean Carafello along with Recreation Commissioners, SAO members, council members and the Mayor.

**G**irls Volleyball is coming to Oakland! A new program that runs in conjunction with the IHHS Girls Volleyball program will be starting in 2016. Look for sign-ups to occur right after New Years with the program kicking off later in January.

**Injury Prevention and Safety Seminars!** The Recreation Commission along with IHHS Athletic Department will be hosting 2 FREE seminars in the coming weeks and months. The first on ACL injuries and the second on throwing arm injuries. The first seminar is scheduled to occur in November and they will be open to all parents, coaches and interested people in the community.

Twenty-two more new trees will be planted at the recreation complex including 8 decorative trees behind the outfield fence of Field 5. The Recreation Commission has made a commitment to improve the health and quality of life for those at the recreation complex. Look for the new trees to be planted this fall.

Solemn and important memorials have been placed at the recreation complex. Behind Field 8 there is a new memorial rock with plaque commemorating CPL Patrick Lawlor, who Lawlor Drive is named after. By Field 2, the Joey Gaul Field has a new park bench that adds character and class to the field. These tributes are important reminders of our fellow Oaklanders that left us too soon yet enjoyed the complex just as we do today and others will in the future.

All these upgrades did not cost the taxpayer one cent as they were donated or paid for by the recreation participants. If you ever wish to learn what is going on with recreation, including sign-up dates, sports information or general news, please visit the recreation website at [www.OaklandRec.org](http://www.OaklandRec.org).

## Great Oak Park

*(Continued from page 1)*

yet!

Phase 2 proposals are now on the table, which include a great lawn with band shell, dog park and skate park. This would include reclaiming the old Mueller's Park parking lot and preserving nature just as it has been preserved in the phase 1 development. The borough is now waiting to hear back from the NJDEP, which will inform us as to exactly what can and cannot be developed. As we wait, fundraising efforts continue, plans discussed and excitement builds.

If you haven't already but wish to join in the Great Oak Park development team please attend a meeting. They are open to the public and are held monthly. Follow the Great Oak Park Facebook page to learn when meetings will take place.

## Ramapo Conservancy

*(Continued from page 2)*

feel free to send them our information and we will give them a personal tour of the Van Allen and Stream House properties.

The first large section of the roof was restored with cedar shake shingles, copper and a good deal of hand finished carpentry on site. We restored the dormers, which were raised off on the front of the house, and thus had to build windows (with ropes!) for those dormers from scratch.

We've also had several events this

fall, which included a book signing by the authors of a historical fiction children's book called *Patriots, Redcoats and Spies* and the grammar school children made their annual trip to the properties.

The Ramapough Conservancy does many things in the community you may not be aware of. We co-teach environmental courses at local universities, we work on and are in the process of purchasing open space properties, we sit on the board of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition and advocate for the protection of our drinking water (Oakland is 100% dependent on the forest for its drinking water). We also give mitigation

support to projects impacting the land (pipelines). We support the Native American culture of the mountains, evident in our area since 10,000 B.C. We have interns, volunteers, geologists and archaeologists.

If you want to attend any of our events, learn about interning opportunities, volunteer for working on the Van Allen House (we need cleaning and gardening help), or simply want to hang around while we attend all kinds of hearings, meetings, and the like, please by all means let us know. Thank you!

Ramapough Conservancy, Inc.  
[ramapoughconservancypresident@gmail.com](mailto:ramapoughconservancypresident@gmail.com).



## Oakland Health Department— *Flu Season, Protect Yourself Today*



**It's time for your Flu Shot!** - Flu Season is upon us which means it is time for your Flu Shot. The many locations where the vaccination is offered makes it simple and convenient. Protect yourself and your family by scheduling your flu shot today.

**Oakland Annual Free Rabies Clinic** – Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 PM, Oakland Recreation Storage Shed, 24 Lawlor Drive. Cats must be in carriers and dogs must be on a leash. Written proof of previous rabies vaccination is required for your pet to be eligible for a three-year vaccination. Otherwise, a one-year vaccination will be administered. Program will be held rain or shine. This is the only free rabies vaccination clinic scheduled.

**Help Oakland become "STIGMA FREE"**— According to the CDC, "In 2007, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) surveyed adults in 37 states and territories about their attitudes toward mental illness, using the 2007 BRFSS Mental Illness and Stigma module. Based on 2007 BRFSS data,

- Most adults with mental health symptoms (78%) and without mental health symptoms (89%) agreed that treatment can help persons with mental illness lead normal lives.
- 57% of all adults believed that people are caring and sympathetic to persons with mental illness.
- Only 25% of adults with mental health symptoms believed that people are caring and sympathetic to per-

sons with mental illness.

These findings highlight both the need to educate the public about how to support persons with mental illness and the need to reduce barriers for those seeking or receiving treatment for mental illness.

*Together, we can make a difference. For further information about the Oakland STIGMA FREE Campaign, please contact Councilman Pasquale Pignatelli at [pignatelli@oakland-nj.org](mailto:pignatelli@oakland-nj.org).*



### Commuter Parking Survey

In response to recent concerns expressed about the extent of commuter parking available in the community, the Borough is currently assessing the need for and potential viability of additional park and ride locations. Please help us by taking a short survey by going to <http://goo.gl/forms/WIxOfYWpw9>. All responses will be anonymous.

Scan the **Quick Response Code** and take the survey on your smart phone or use the link at [www.oakland-nj.org](http://www.oakland-nj.org)



## Oakland Communications Commission— *Volunteers Needed*

Find out what's happening on your cable television (Optimum 77, FiOS 45). Our Cable TV Channel provides public, education, and local government programming for and about Oakland, NJ. Programming includes televised council meetings and borough proceedings, local events and sports.

OCC also maintains a televised Community Bulletin Board for borough announcements, meeting information, promotion of borough events and fundraiser awareness. Emergency information and school closings or delayed openings will

also be shown. Visit our web site for online submissions or download the Bulletin Board submission form.

Residents may submit tapes of pre-recorded events for airing on the Cable TV channel. Visit our web site below for submission details.

If you're interested in volunteering, check out our web site for details, attend one of our meetings or contact us by e-mail. Get involved! <http://www.oakland-nj.org/> or Contact us at [occ@oakland-nj.org](mailto:occ@oakland-nj.org).



Get details on upcoming town events, meetings and relevant information about what's going on in Oakland!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Borough-of-Oakland-NJ/423606787800269>



Please  
Recycle



**OAKLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Mayor Linda H. Schwager

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Sandra Coira, Timothy Jensen,  
Eric Kulmala (OCC Liaison),  
Russell Talamini, Chris Visconti

Richard Kunze— Borough Administrator

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Peter Tuohy—oaklandcrossroads@gmail.com

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OAKLAND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
ONE MUNICIPAL PLAZA  
OAKLAND, NJ 07436

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BOROUGH OF OAKLAND

ONE MUNICIPAL PLAZA  
OAKLAND, NJ 07436

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© OAKLAND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**SWIFT 911™**

**EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION**  
**Have you signed up?**

In our efforts to provide more reliable communications with Residents and Businesses in the borough, we have implemented SwiftReach Networks, Inc. an Emergency Notification Provider.

Swift911™ is a system that makes phone calls or send text messages to specific people or areas in the event of an emergency or for sharing important information.

All the calls you receive will have the Caller ID of "Oakland Borough" or "Oakland Police Department".

If you are not receiving these calls, please visit our town's web site at <http://www.oakland-nj.org> and fill out the form to add or update your contact information. You may also remove yourself from our lists.