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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Town of Oakland announces limited hours and service changes due to COVID-19

OAKLAND, FL — On Thursday, March 19, the Town Commission approved a resolution declaring a State of Emergency due to the threat of coronavirus disease (COVID-19.) The resolution is available [online](#). COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Therefore, in following social distancing guidance from the CDC and Florida Department of Health, the following protocols will go into effect beginning Friday, March 20, 2020 until further notice:

Town Hall

- Town Hall will operate with limited staffing and will be closed to the public for in-person services. This decision was made to protect our residents, especially older persons and those with underlying medical conditions—and our employees.
- Those with questions may continue to call the main number at 407-656-1117 during normal business hours.

Utility Bill Payments

- Residents wishing to pay utility bills are strongly encouraged to call in credit card payments to 407-656-1117 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or drop their payments by cash or check in the utility payment box at Town Center or through the mail slot on the side door of Town Hall, located at 230 N. Tubb St.
- In recognition of financial hardships that customers may experience, service disconnections for water customers have been temporarily suspended. This policy may be adjusted as the situation develops.

Planning & Zoning (Building Permits)

- The Town of Oakland Planning & Zoning Department Offices will be limiting its hours for in-person service starting Friday, March 20, 2020.
- Hours of operation will be limited to 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday for pick up and payment of permits and drop-off of new permit applications.
- The public is strongly encouraged to call in credit card payments between these operating hours to 407-656-1117 ext. 2105 or bring a check made payable to the Town of Oakland.
- The below are the ONLY permit types that may be submitted via email as a PDF to permits@oaklandfl.gov:
 - Fences
 - Air Conditioning
 - Interior Renovations /Alterations (Please Call PDCS, LLC at (407) 277-9795)
 - Re-Roof
 - Windows / Doors
 - All other permit types must include a digital copy via disc or thumb drive and appropriate hard copies for the Building Official to review and must be dropped off at the Planning & Zoning Department, 301 N. Tubb St. Suite 114, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Permit Requirements are available online at www.oaklandfl.gov/876/Building-Permit-Information. If you have any questions, email jrichardson@oaklandfl.gov or vgibbons@oaklandfl.gov.
- When your permit is ready, you will be notified directly by the Town of Oakland via email.

Public Works

- The Public Works Department at 50 E. Gulley Ave. will be closed to the public and is only open for deliveries.
- Water and sewer services will continue to be provided in a safe and uninterrupted manner. Tap water remains a reliable and safe source of drinking water for residents.
- Trash, recycling and yard waste will continue to be collected as normal.
- Parks will remain open, but visitors are urged to maintain proper social distancing of at least six feet.
- Processing of right-of-way permits will continue but will only be accepted electronically by emailing mparker@oaklandfl.gov. Visit <https://oaklandfl.gov/638/Right-of-Way-Permits> for the form and instructions.

Oakland Avenue Charter School (OACS)

- On March 17, The Florida Department of Education determined that all public and private K-12 schools must close through April 15 to aid in the containment of COVID-19.
- OACS staff is working to move coursework online until school resumes or for the remainder of the school year. Additional information will be provided to parents as it becomes available.

Police Department

- Oakland Police Department is operating normally with modified nonemergency responses. For more information, call 407-656-9797, ext. 2. For emergencies, call 911.

Fire Department

- Orange County Fire Rescue Station 37 is operating normally providing fire and EMS services.

Business Tax Receipts

- Applications are available online at <https://oaklandfl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/75/Occupational-LicenseLocal-Business-Tax-Receipt-PDF?bidId=>. Once received, the Town Clerk will contact the applicant with the permit fee, which can be dropped off at the Town's drop box. The permit will then be issued by mail.

Oakland Nature Preserve

- The Oakland Nature Preserve remains open, but the Museum is closed.
- Visitors are urged to maintain proper social distancing of at least six feet and wash hands thoroughly.

Events and Meetings

- The Town Commission work session and regular meeting, scheduled for March 24, has been canceled.
- Celebration Among the Oaks, scheduled for April 4, has been canceled.
- All Historic Town Hall and Oakland Meeting Hall scheduled events through April have been canceled.
- An updated list of event and meeting cancellations can be found online at www.oaklandfl.gov.

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