



## Oakley Launches First Citizens' Leadership Academy

This past Tuesday, the Oakley City Council recognized 23 graduates of the Inaugural Citizens' Leadership Academy.

The new program is designed to provide residents an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the City operations and processes. The sessions presented by City Staff addressed how City funds are allocated, decisions made, current challenges, future plans and much more. Topics covered ranged from Community Development, Development Services, Public Safety and other City services.

City Manager, Bryan Montgomery said, "I think we accomplished a constructive two-way dialogue over the course of the Academy. We anticipate that many of the graduates will be inspired and feel prepared to seek out opportunities to continue to serve, including Council-appointed committees or other civic and community organizations, ultimately making a stronger community. "

Participant Craig Leighty stated, "Great sessions- I learned a lot about our city, but more importantly I now know how (and where) I can give back to my city. I'm looking forward to getting more involved and helping to make Oakley even greater than it already is."

Similarly, Nancy Yarbrough who completed the Academy alongside her husband, Chris said, "I would highly recommend any resident who is interested in learning more about Oakley and has the time to get involved and sign up for the Academy. Very informative and positive experience!"

Councilmember Randy Pope said, "I was very impressed with the enthusiasm for the Leadership Academy. The class was booked with a waiting list immediately after it was announced. The fact that each of these residents is volunteering time away from their busy lives to participate makes it even more impressive. I'm confident that this enthusiasm will be contagious, and these inaugural class members will spread and share their knowledge gained in the course. This all builds towards our goal of increasing civic participation."

The City will maintain an e-mail list of graduates and intends to solicit ongoing input and feedback from participants on City issues, plans and activities.

The Academy will be offered again in the Fall of 2015 and is limited to the first 25 participants to register. For more information or to sign up to receive advanced notice before registration opens, contact Andrea Crosat by emailing [crosat@ci.oakley.ca.us](mailto:crosat@ci.oakley.ca.us).