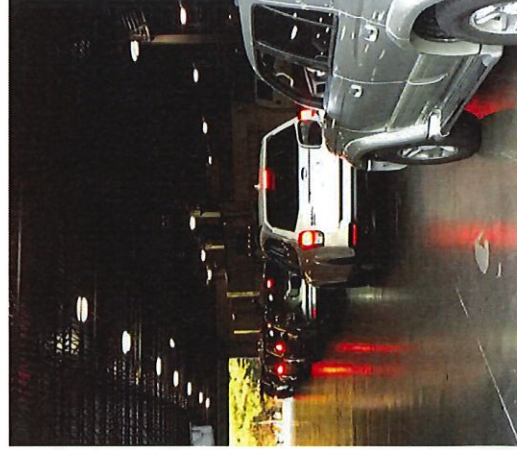


Annual Community Document Shred Event

The city contracted with Shred-It, a mobile document destruction company, to be at the J. D. Foell Public Works Center at 210 Shafor Blvd. on Saturday, September 25 from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. to provide document destruction services. Besides paper products, Shred-It has the capability to destroy microfilm, microfiche, and other material of a secure or confidential nature. All material will be destroyed beyond recognition on-site and, if recyclable, will be baled and shipped to paper mills to be manufactured into new paper products. Any non-recyclable material processed will be disposed of in a secure location. If you have confidential papers or other material of a private nature being stored at your home and would like to have it destroyed, please take advantage of this opportunity. There will be individuals on-hand to assist you with unloading your documents. This event is free of charge. Please be prepared to present identification confirming residency.



Oakwood Citizens Demonstrate High Interest in Inclusion Coalition

Oakwood citizens are proving their determination to promote a welcoming community for everyone who lives, works, and visits Oakwood. The Oakwood Inclusion Coalition (OIC), a citizen-driven coalition dedicated to inclusivity and diversity, has held two public meetings, and nearly 200 citizens have joined the discussions.

The first meeting held in January was an opportunity for residents to learn about the OIC's vision and mission. Citizens expressed specific activities they would like the leadership team to pursue. The meeting provided citizens the opportunity to share their reasons for living in Oakwood and how they can personally demonstrate a commitment to inclusion, equity, and diversity.

The organization exists for people who want to explore how others' experiences have shaped their values and perspectives. Participants seek to discover and understand rather than persuade. Wright Memorial Public Library Director and OIC Chair Kristi Hale explains, "We want to ensure that everyone's views are represented and respected." Meetings allow residents to speak authentically from their hearts and personal experience. "It's not about 'window dressing,' and its focus isn't political," assures Hale. "It's an openness to community building and a recognition that Oakwood has long benefitted from its citizens' imagining what could be."

The second meeting held in April explored the role assumptions and preconceived notions play when we meet "others" unfamiliar to us. Participants viewed bestselling author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk and then broke into small groups to consider how their own efforts to make sense of the world lead them to make assumptions. Adichie acknowledges the human naturalness of stereotyping but warns that there is a real danger in making a judgment about a person or group of people based on what she calls "a single story."

Johnny Appleseed Tree Planting Project

The city of Oakwood and Oakwood Beautification Committee will again offer trees for purchase through the Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting Project. Applications and detailed brochures describing the project and the tree species will be available in mid to late September at the OCC and on the City website. Oakwood property owners may choose from four or five varieties of trees. The trees selected will be approximately 2 inches in diameter and will be discounted at 50%. One tree will be allocated for each approved property site at the discounted price but must be planted in the city right-of-way (property frontage). Trees will be planted in the latter part of November or early December. They will be planted by a local nursery, wrapped, staked, mulched and guaranteed for one growing season. Call the OCC at (937) 298-0775 for more information.



One former "West Virginian" participant shared her angst about relocating to Oakwood for employment. Now a longtime Oakwood resident, she is thankful that she ignored her prejudice about Oakwood gained only through the single story she formed about a whole community based solely on her experience with a disagreeable college roommate from Oakwood. Several participants agreed that they had suppressed the negative impressions they conceived before moving here to take advantage of the school system. "It's pretty amazing," said one participant, "how many of us negatively 'stereotyped' our community before we experienced it."

Behind the scenes of the public meeting, the leadership team has gone about the business of establishing a solid organizational framework. Government, school, library officials, private citizens, faith, ethnic and cultural leaders, and representatives from the business and media communities in the Oakwood area have garnered the support of city, school, and library governing boards. The organization's establishing documents and the expectations and code of conduct for OIC participation are on the OakwoodIC website at www.oakwoodic.org.

The Program and Events Committee launched a big read and book club this summer. The Current Issues Committee, best described as the organization's "think tank," plans to qualify and quantify perspectives of Oakwood during this next year. Its objective is to use data-based research to understand the many stories of Oakwood and allow this information to guide the mission and purpose of the OIC. The Communications Committee is working with Wright Library and other Oakwood organizations to increase the resources available on the OIC website to advise residents of activities and opportunities advancing issues of inclusivity, diversity, and equity.

The OIC leadership team is deeply grateful for the interest Oakwood citizens have shown in this endeavor.