



–Press Release–

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of the Oakley Library Receive \$400,000 Grant from the Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation for the new Oakley Library and Community Center

Oakley, CA – The Friends of the Oakley Library is excited to announce that the Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation has awarded the group \$400,000. The money will be paid out over two years, with \$200,000 given in both 2025 and 2026. Money from this grant will go directly towards the construction of the new Oakley Library and Community Center. The Friends' fundraising goal was to raise one million dollars for the project, and they now have commitments for \$980,000, all raised within ten months.

“The Leshar Foundation’s generous gift will help Contra Costa County’s efforts to build libraries and other services that meet the needs of East County’s growing population”, according to Contra Costa District 3 Supervisor Diane Burgis. “It takes the entire community to do big things, and the Leshar Foundation’s help will go a long way toward creating the new library and community center that Oakley and East County residents deserve.”

Oakley Mayor and Library Ad hoc Committee member Shannon Shaw shares that “the City is thrilled to hear about the generous donation from the Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation. These funds will absolutely help us build a new library and community center that can meet the needs of our residents. We give many thanks to the Friends of the Oakley Library, who have worked so incredibly hard the past year to bring funds and attention to this critical project.”

The Friends envision a space that everyone in the community can enjoy, from storytimes for young children, study rooms and work areas for teens and adults, and programs for all ages. For more information about the library project or to get involved, visit the Friends' website at <https://www.oakleylibrary.org/> or email the Friends at friendsoftheoakleylibrary@gmail.com. More information can also be found at the City of Oakley's website dedicated to the project at <https://engage.oakleyca.gov/en/projects/oakley-library-and-community-center-1>.

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