

CITY OF LAKEPORT

*Over 130 years of community
pride, progress and service.*



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City Receives New Lakeport Community Center from Bank of America

LAKEPORT, California -The City of Lakeport is announcing it has been gifted the former Bank of America financial center at 500 N. Main Street to become the city's new Community Center. The community is invited to a public ceremony on Friday, June 7, where city officials will unveil a plaque recognizing the donation of the building and those responsible. The event starts at 2:00 p.m. with tours to follow.

Mayor Tim Barnes, Mayor Pro Tem George Spurr, and City Council members Stacey Mattina, Kenny Parlet and Mireya Turner will join City Manager Margaret Silveira and City staff in welcoming the public and representatives from Bank of America, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, and Rep. Mike Thompson. Senator Mike McGuire plans to attend the ceremony.

Following Bank of America's closure of its Lakeport branch in November 2017 due to declining foot traffic as more customers bank online and by mobile, Silveira approached bank officials and requested the donation of the building for public use as a Community Center, noting its proximity to the City's planned open space development.

The City received funding from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to study its lakefront and determine future uses to revitalize the area. Community members participated in forums and surveys and identified a community center as a primary need for Lakeport. A large indoor meeting space and a location for children's activities were high on the priority list for residents.

According to Silveira in her request for the donation, "The bank building would be an ideal site for a community center for Lakeport. The size and openness of the building makes the transition effortless."

The Lakeport City Council accepted the building from the Bank of America at its regular meeting on January 15 this year. The facility will maintain a Bank of America ATM onsite.

"The City of Lakeport is undergoing efforts to revitalize its lakefront and other areas of town, and we were glad to be able to make our former property available to the City and the community," said Jason Foster, Bank of America.

Through its contract with ENGIE Services for implementing energy conservation measures at various facilities, the City is constructing a solar canopy array over the parking lot, which will be available to the public when the center is not in use.

The building contains over 6,400 square feet of open space that can be configured for a variety of community uses, including meetings and special events.

A.P. Giannini's Bank of Italy opened in Lakeport at the southwest corner of N. Main Street and Second Street in February, 1927, and became the Bank of America in 1930 when he and his partners merged the Bank of Italy and the Bank of America of California, resulting in the Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, at the time the world's largest commercial bank.

The "new" bank building was constructed in 1969 at the northeast corner of N. Main Street and Fifth Street, formerly the location of the Safeway grocery store.

More information about the ceremony and tours on June 7 and future use of the Lakeport Community Center is available from Margaret Silveira, (707) 263-5615, Ext. 104.

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