



400 Kern Street
Taft, CA, 93268
Phone: (661) 765-2165
Fax: (661) 765-6639
www.taftchamber.com
TaftChamber@gmail.com

Our Platinum Sponsors



Our Gold Sponsors



Friday, December 2, 2016
6-7pm

Westside Furniture
617 Center Street, Taft
FREE for all families!

Sponsored by Monarch Fleet Service & CTEC



Photos with Santa

*Christmas
in
Candyland*
71st Annual Taft Christmas Parade

**Monday,
December 5**

**Center Street
6:00 P.M.**

Line up on Main

*Taft Chamber Staff
Shannon Jones, Maddison
Rubadeau, and Dr. Kathy Orrin
congratulate the
Grand Marshal Bill Black on his
selection for the
2016 Taft Christmas Parade*



**Santa
Fun Run**

**SATURDAY
12.17.16
10:00AM**

**RAILS TO
TRAILS
FREE!!**

DRESS UP IN A SANTA SUIT! GET CREATIVE AND WIN AN AWARD!



Executive Directions

By: Dr. Kathy Orrin,
Executive Director

It is December . . . already. Just forming those words in my mouth reminds me that I am aging. Every New Year's my mother used to say, "Before we know it, it will be December!" Now it is I who is proclaiming the rapid march through the year.

December also marks the switching of gears: November reminds us of those people, events, and possessions for which we are thankful. December tends to focus on people for whom we should provide, events for which we are responsible, and possessions we do not have. If you are not one who naturally lives on the sunny side of life, you may have difficulty with the "Merry" in Christmas.

Most of us, however, enjoy the holiday season because of, for no other reason, the change in weather. The crispness of the morning air helps us to forget the unrelenting heat of most months in Taft. Winter in Taft, when it finally gets here, is a beautiful change.

The holiday season in Taft is one of my favorite times. Even though one's views of Christmas are predicated upon one's memories of childhood Christmases, in general, I still hold that there are many kinds of activities that are present only during Christmas. For example,

1. People who do not normally sing are willing to sing Christmas Carols. Whether it is because most folks know the words to most Christmas Carols, or because

Carols are not as complicated musically, as, say, *The Star Spangled Banner*, or because Carols are usually sung in big groups, or because the big groups may involve partying to some extent—caroling is seen as a socially acceptable activity during the holidays.

2. People wear seasonal attire. Since I am an old school teacher, seasonal dressing is just part of the deal. I have an earring for every occasion, and most K-12 educators, well, at least K-8 . . . OK, K-5 teachers have a necklace, a necktie, or a scarf that screams Christmas. For many people, admitting they are excited about Valentine's Day or Easter is silliness, but dressing "Christmas-y" is totally acceptable.

3. People renew relationships. Apart from class reunions, Christmas is the most traditional time of year for folks to catch up on the activities of friends. Although Christmas cards are not as popular as they once were, people still tend to communicate with out-of-town friends and relatives, bringing people closer, even for a short time.

Whatever the holiday season means to you, whether you celebrate the birth of Jesus or anticipate family time and presents, I hope you will enjoy your holiday this year. In many ways this has been a difficult year economically for our City and many of its families, but we hope this Christmas brings hope and happiness. On behalf of the Taft District Chamber, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.

Taft Chamber Recognitions for 2016

This is your chance to nominate community members who have made a difference in our community for the year 2016. The Taft Chamber Board of Directors will select the winners using the nominations from you. The winners will be announced in January and presented during the Taft Chamber Installation and Awards Ceremony on **Thursday, February 9, 2017.**

Business Man of the Year

Business Woman of the Year

Business of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

Community Service Award

Youth Leadership Award

Please nominate no more than one in each category.

Submit your nominations to

400 Kern St or

taftchamber@gmail.com

by **December 31.**

Highlights from November



US Congressman Kevin McCarthy attended a special Sit n Sip meeting. Chamber members and community leaders were in attendance.



Tracy Thomson won the Downtown Merchants Holiday Raffle Basket complete with a new recliner!

Thank you to everyone who supported the merchants on November 17! Shop local!



Over 40 people attended the Taft Chamber monthly mixer. November was hosted by Chevron Valley Credit Union.

The City of Taft hosted a Veterans Day celebration, honoring all veterans and their families. Hundreds of people were in attendance for the special ceremony including the Mayor, City Council, law enforcement, Kern County Fire Department, and members of the community.



On Saturday, November 19, the Taft Chamber hosted its annual Trout Fishing Derby at Buena Vista Lake Evans. More than 800 anglers, both adults and children came out to try to catch the heaviest trout to win \$1,000 cash.

Thank you to Bob's Bait Bucket for helping with registrations and Cope's Tackle and Rod for helping with entries and the weigh-in. The weather was perfect and lots of fish were caught including a 17.5 striped bass! The heaviest trout of the day weighed in at 4lb 15oz.


See you next year!





DECEMBER 2016




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5-8pm, The Fort Gift Show	2 6pm, Photos with Santa, Westside Furniture First Friday Cruise Night	3 7am, Disc Golf Tournament 7:30pm, Disco Event, Taft Moose Lodge
4 1-3:30pm, West Kern Oil Museum Christmas Tea 4pm, St Nicholas Festival @ St Andrews	5 6:00pm, Taft Christmas Parade on Center Street	6 6pm, Taft ARC Christmas Party 6pm, City Council Meeting	7 9am, Sit-n-Sip 6pm, Industry Night @ Petroleum Club 6pm, Planning Commission	8 4-7pm, Taft College Bookstore Open House	9 City of Taft Christmas Party	10 10am, Soroptimist Home Tour & Fashion Show
11	12	13 8am, Chamber Planning Meeting @ Jo's	14 9am, Sit-n-Sip	15 6pm, Optimal Hospice Light up a Life @ The Fort	16	17 10am, Santa Fun Run @ Rails to Trials
18 4pm, WCMA Community Christmas Service	19	20 6pm, City Council Meeting	21 9am, Sit-n-Sip	22	23	24
25 	26 CHAMBER CLOSED	27 CHAMBER CLOSED	28 NO Sit-n-Sip CHAMBER CLOSED	29 CHAMBER CLOSED	30 CHAMBER CLOSED	31 Nominations DUE NEW YEAR'S EVE



January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Happy New Year!	2	3 12-6pm, Houchin Blood @ Chamber 6pm, City Council Mtg	4 9am, Sit n' Sip 6pm, Industry Night	5	6 6pm, First Friday Cruise Night	7
8	9	10	11 9am, Sit n' Sip 4pm, Chamber Board Meeting	12 5pm, Mixer @ Taft College Transition to Independent Living	13	14
15	16	17 6pm, City Council Mtg	18 9am, Sit n' Sip 6pm, Planning Commission Mtg	19	20	21 Grand Opening Up Cycle Aqua- ponics 6pm, TC Triple


TAFTCOLLEGE

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND ALUMNI**

Taft College Bookstore is hosting an
Open House
for the Holidays and you are invited!


**December 8th 2016
4:00pm to 7:00pm**

Free gift wrapping will be available, bring your
gifts with you,

Donations for the
Keali'i Pearl Memorial Scholarship
will be accepted

Refreshments, Raffles and
Discounts for
everyone!

Taft College Bookstore
515 Finley Drive
Taft, CA 93268
(661) 763-7731
Bookstore.taftcollege.edu



Taft Chamber of Commerce



Santa Fun Run

**RAILS TO
TRAILS
(6TH & MAIN)**

**SATURDAY
12.17.16
10:00AM**

**TAFT
OILWORKER
MONUMENT**

Contact the Chamber at 661-765-2165 or email taftchamber@gmail.com

**ALL AGES
NO ENTRY FEE**

****GET CREATIVE****

**WEAR YOUR
FAVORITE SANTA
HAT, SUIT, OR
T-SHIRT**

Awards For:

Best Dressed

Most Creative

Longest Beard

Cutest Couple

Best Dressed Kid

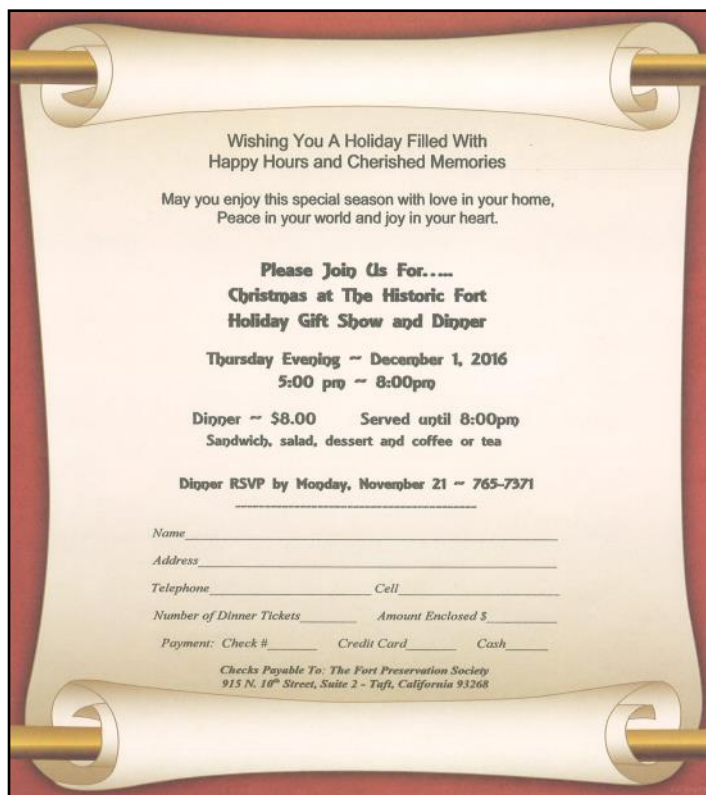
**FOOD
AVAILABLE FROM:**



**FLACO'S
TACOS**

If you don't have a costume, you will be required to buy a Santa Hat for \$5 at the event to participate.

MESSAGES FROM OUR MEMBERS



Taft Art Initiative Meeting

Hello! My name is Megan Luton and I'm a local artist. I am working to infuse more art and culture into the lives and landscapes of our community. If you are interested in seeing more art and culture in our community and have passion, ideas, insights or you are just curious, please join us on Thursday, December 15th from 6 PM to 7:30 PM.

David Gordon, the Executive Director of the Kern County Art Association, is our guest speaker. David has worked with many communities in Kern County on several projects enhancing their cultural experience and has worked with many communities in Kern County Art Association is, what they do and what they can do for Taft!

The meeting will be held in the party room (next to the bowling alley) at the Rec Center, 500 Cascade Place, Taft, CA 93268

You can contact me at 661-623-6255 or email me at lutonmegan@yahoo.com

- Have you wondered how to put Christ back into Christmas?
- Thought about how to De-Commercialize the Season?
- Are you looking for an intergenerational way to draw people together through meaningful fun?

St. Nicholas Day is your answer!

How? Connect the spirit of St. Nicholas, a 4th century bishop in Turkey—the *original Santa Claus*—with children in the Holy Land today.

December 4th, 2016

4:00 PM at

St. Andrew's Church

#661-765-2378

A Saint Nicholas Festival

...The Saint will visit and share some stories

...The children are invited to decorate a Jesse Tree

...Children and families are invited to share a meal

Taft "Adopt a Senior for Christmas" **Want to be Part of the Magic!**

This Program is for low income, homebound and/or isolated seniors in our community. The seniors have already been identified, we just need "elves" to provide the gifts! Each senior is asked to provide a list that contains one (1) item (\$20-25 range) they would like to have; such as a robe, slippers, sweatshirt, towel, etc. and a gift card in the same amount for food or prescriptions at the location of their choice. Go to a participating Partner (SEE BELOW) with ornaments on display. Select an ornament to adopt your senior. Purchase suggested items or your own selection for the senior. Return in a gift bag to original ornament location, or 716 Vista Via Drive. You may choose to adopt a senior with family, friends or co-workers.

Partners: Albertson's—1044 Kern St

Cooper's True Value Hardware—407 9th St

Eye Kandi Salon—510 Center St

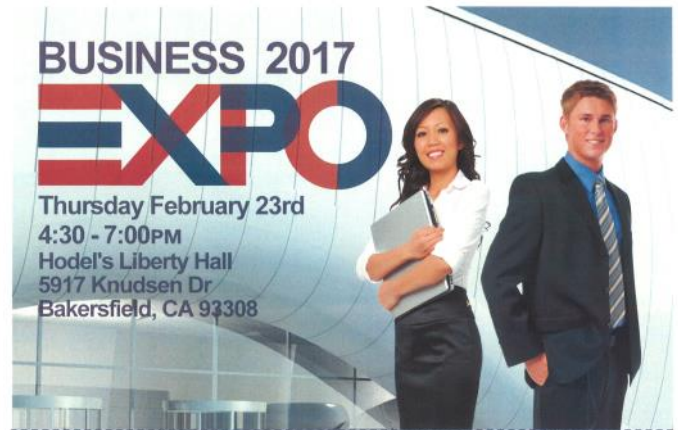
Fastrip—903 Kern St

Rite Aid—1076 W Kern St

It is a joy you will never forget!

Contact Carol Jackson at cjintaft@gmail.com or (661) 765-5541 for more information

MESSAGES FROM OUR MEMBERS



Optimal Hospice Light Up a Life

Thursday, December 15, 2016 @ 6pm

Taft Historic Fort (915 North 10th Street, Taft)

The "Light Up a Life" celebration includes personal reflections by a hospice family member, the reading of the memorial names by hospice staff and volunteers, candle lighting, and the lighting of our Tree of Life.

Please join us!

Yes! Count me in! You'll see my booth at Expo 2017!

NOR Chamber of Commerce

Pricing:
Early Bird (paid in full by Nov 30th) \$85
After Dec 31st \$95
After Jan. 21 \$115

Return Application to:
Email: info@norchamber.org
Mail: NOR Chamber
PO Box 5551, Bakersfield, Ca 93388

For more information contact:
Cathy Wolfe
Call: (661) 873-4709
Email: info@norchamber.org

Included in basic price is (check off as needed):
☐ 6 Skirted table ☐ Two chairs ☐ Electrical is limited first come first serve if required.

(Please print clearly)
Business/Organization: _____
Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____
Mailing Address: _____ Suite: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
E-mail: _____
☐ Check enclosed for \$ _____ \$85 paid thru 11/30/16 | \$95 paid thru 12/31/16 | \$115 thru 1/21/17.
☐ Bill to my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express
Cardholder Name: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____ CVV Code: _____
Credit Card # _____ Billing Zip Code: _____
Signature: _____
Booth assignments are made on a first come, first serve basis, and final placement is determined by the Chamber.
☐ Please check here if you would like to request placement in the lobby.
Full payment due with application to guarantee participation.
Requests for cancellations and refunds must be received by the Chamber no later than three weeks (21 days) in advance of the event.
Selling of food and alcohol are prohibited.
Please initial here to indicate your understanding of all terms and conditions: _____

WCMA presents

Taft Area Community Christmas Service

With songs by a community children's choir and

"THE INN CROWD"

presented by the Living Parables Drama Team of Revival Worship Center

Sunday, December 18th @ 4 pm

Taft Union High School Auditorium

**2016
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Emmanuel Campos
Monarch Fleet Services

1st Vice President: Jordan Miller
Roger Miller Insurance Agency

Treasurer: Bart Hill
United Security Bank

Jan Ashley
Retired RN

Devinder Bains
Taft Chevrolet—Buick

Glenn Black
Black/Hall Construction

Eric Burkhart
Total Western Inc.

Les Clark
West Side Recreation and Park District

Dr. Deb Daniels
Taft College

Bob Hampton
Westside Waste Management

Ed Herrera
Edward J Herrera Insurance Agency

Sharon Hill
Taft Union High School

Sandy Koenig
Westside Community Resource Center

Orchel Krier
Tumbleweed Café

Jamie Little
Synagro

Yvette Mayfield
City of Taft

John Neumann
Accelerated Environmental

Alicia Price
Aera Energy LLC

Dennis Schertz
Asian Experience

Alan Sorensen
Buena Vista Golf Course

Ron Sousa
Albertsons

Harry Starkey
West Kern Water District

Jerry Starr
West Side Health Care District

John Swearingin
Kern County Sheriff's Office

Adele Ward
Taft City School District

Rodney Wikoff
West Hills Church of the Nazarene

GROUND OPENINGS

& Groundbreakings

Vick's Treasures



City of Taft Transit Center

Each year, the members of the Taft Police Officers join with Taft K-Mart to have several underprivileged children in our community go on a shopping spree. These children can buy gifts for themselves and their family at the K-Mart Store during the month of December. The more money that is donated, the more children will be able to participate in this event.

Any donation your organization could contribute to make this event a success will be greatly appreciated. Contact 661-763-3101 or 320 Commerce Way, Taft.

Happy Holidays,

Moises Martinez #48

Police Officer

Taft Police Department



SPONSORED BY

TAFT POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



**400 Kern Street
Taft, CA 93268
661-765-2165**



www.taftchamber.com

Executive Director: Dr. Kathy Orrin
kathy.taftchamber@gmail.com

Director of Operations: Shannon Jones
shannon.taftchamber@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator: Maddison Rubadeau
maddison.taftchamber@gmail.com

Division



Taft Christmas Parade
Monday, December 5, 2016
6:00 P.M.
Center Street

Number

Entry donation recommended: \$10
(goes towards 2017 Fireworks Show)

Name of Organization/Individual: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: (____) _____ # Participants: _____ # of Vehicles: _____

Please select only one category. Design your float to the theme or the holidays!
We will assign the division and number above once all entries have been received.

FLOATS

- ☐ School and School Sponsored
- ☐ Adult Fraternal and Service Clubs
- ☐ Youth Fraternal (Scouts, etc)
- ☐ Religious Organizations
- ☐ Non-Profit Organizations

ANIMALS

- ☐ Mounted Single Equestrian
- ☐ Mounted Group Equestrian
- ☐ 4H / Animals / Pets

AUTO

- ☐ Auto Club or Group
- ☐ Single Vehicle
- ☐ Commercial Auto or Truck
- ☐ Motorcycles

MARCHING BANDS/FLAGS

- ☐ Elementary
- ☐ Junior High
- ☐ High School
- ☐ Fraternal/Service Clubs/Religious

CHEERLEADERS/DRILL TEAMS

- ☐ Elementary
- ☐ Junior High
- ☐ High School
- ☐ Recreational

GROUPS

- ☐ Choral Group
- ☐ Walking Group

Please provide our announcer with a script for your entry that will be read as you pass the grand stand. Make sure to include specific information, a brief history, awards won, and/or other outstanding information about your group or business.

Name and description of entry: _____

Taft Disc Golf Winter Open

Central Valley Series

Time:

Check in 7:00 a.m.

Begins at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 3, 2016

Location:

Franklin Field Complex
281 East Cedar St, Taft

* **Pre-Registration is mandatory!**

- * Register as soon as possible because spots fill up quickly!
- * Registration Deadline is Wednesday, November 23 at Noon
- * Register at West Side Recreation & Park District:
500 Cascade Place, Taft 93268 (661)763-4246 (661)765-6677

* **Make checks payable to: WSRPD**

Lunch will be provided

Raffle Prizes

Player Packages

T Shirts

Closest to Basket

Format will consist of 2 rounds of 18 holes of Disc Golf, Shotgun start.
The field will be limited to 90 players.

Sponsored by:



Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip Code _____ Email _____

Juniors \$30 _____

Division _____

AM \$40 _____

Division _____

Open/Pro \$45 _____

Division: _____



PUBLIC INVITED TO HELP PLAN KERN REGION'S ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FUTURE



For more information, please contact Peter Smith [\(661\) 635-2917](tel:661-635-2917)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organization: Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)
What: Public workshops & "walking audits" to identify regional walking and bicycling needs
When and Where: Thursday, December 15, 2016, at 9:00 A.M at West Side Recreation and Park District, 500 Cascade Place, Taft, CA 93268

Kern County residents are encouraged to help plan the future of the region's walking and bicycling network by participating in a series of "walking audits" and community workshops that will identify challenges and opportunities for people traveling on foot and bicycle.

These events are part of the Kern Region Active Transportation Plan (ATP), a regional planning effort led by the Kern Council of Governments (COG) to improve walking, bicycling and transit access throughout Kern County. Working with local, regional and statewide partner agencies and organizations, Kern COG aims to develop project and program recommendations to make walking, bicycling and transit integral parts of daily life for residents and visitors alike.

Audit participants will walk with professional planning staff in communities throughout the Kern region to point out specific parts of town, intersections, corridors and other areas where bicycling and walking are challenging. Challenges often include damaged infrastructure, system gaps, line-of-sight or vehicle speed concerns or other issues that make walking or riding a bike difficult.

The public is also invited to attend a series of community workshops designed to gather feedback about the existing walking and bicycling environment and how it may be improved. The audits and workshops will run from Nov. 30 through Dec. 15 throughout the region. See Taft's date and location below.

Residents are also encouraged to visit the project website, www.kernatp.org. Website visitors can complete an online survey, illustrate current and desired walking/bicycling routes via an interactive map, and learn more about the overall planning effort.

The data, opinions and information gathered from these outreach efforts will be included in the Active Transportation Plan, which will serve as the basis for future funding and grant requests to support and encourage bicycle and pedestrian travel, including new or improved walkways, bikeways, trails and crossings.

Audit Date and Time

**Thursday, December 15, 2016
9:00 A.M.**

Walk Audit Staging Location

**West Side Recreation & Park District
500 Cascade Place, Taft, CA 93268**

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: A NEW COFFEE TABLE BOOK

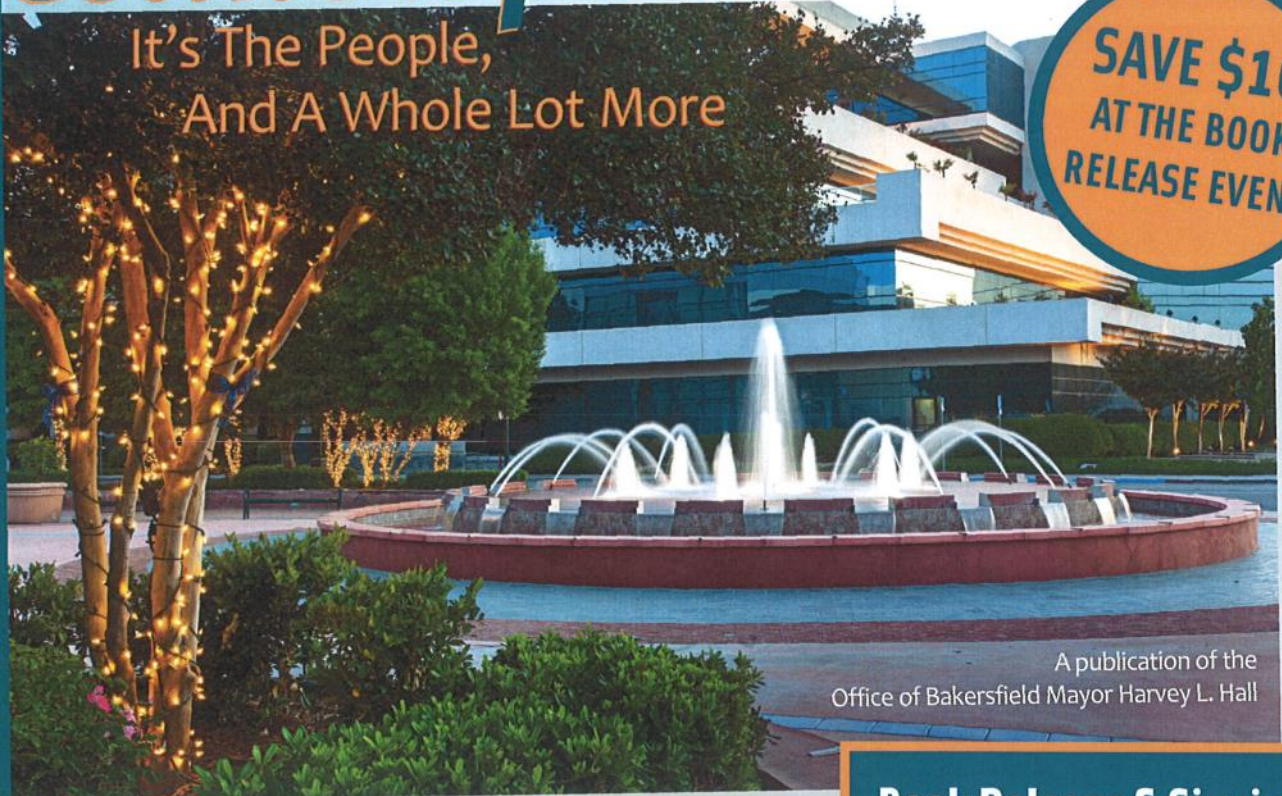
A publication of the Office of Mayor Harvey L. Hall

Bakersfield

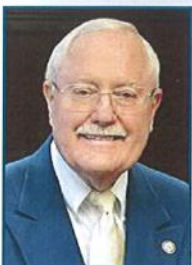
*It's The People,
And A Whole Lot More*

Photography by Greg Iger
Text by Mark Corum

**SAVE \$10
AT THE BOOK
RELEASE EVENT**



A publication of the
Office of Bakersfield Mayor Harvey L. Hall



Mayor Harvey L. Hall

"As a lasting tribute to the city I adore and the people I love, I am excited to announce the publication of a new coffee table book, entitled, *Bakersfield, It's The People, And A Whole Lot More*.

At 304 pages, *Bakersfield* offers a contemporary portrait with a vibrant narrative that captures the culture, character, and essence of our city!"

**Book Release & Signing
December 13, 6-8 p.m.
Rabobank Convention
Center Lobby**

Purchase your copy of *Bakersfield, It's The People, And A Whole Lot More*, and get it signed by Mayor Hall, the photographer, and the author.

ONLINE ORDERS:

bakersfield-book.myshopify.com

\$49.94

(tax included) + shipping