



OUR Voice

Oakland Unified Residents



Fall/Winter
2020-21

www.oakha.org

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The Scoop

To learn about the California COVID-19 color-coded Blueprint for a Safer Economy, with information about what is open by county, visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>.

County risk level

WIDESPREAD

Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed

SUBSTANTIAL

Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed

MODERATE

Some indoor business operations are open with modifications

MINIMAL

Most indoor business operations are open with modifications

Newsletter Committee

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Staying Safe During Wildfire Season

In 2020, there have been over 8,300 fire incidents throughout California, with more than 4,040,900 total acres burned. There have been 9,247 structures damaged or destroyed and at least 31 fatalities as of Oct. 8. The 4 million acres burned in 2020 are the most in a single year since CalFire began keeping records, and more than the last three years combined. While we didn't experience these fires directly in Oakland we were impacted, most notably in our air quality.

During a wildfire, smoke travels and can make the outdoor air unhealthy to breathe. Local officials may advise you to stay indoors as air quality worsens and we encourage you to follow these directions. Please take these actions to reduce smoke exposure:

- Keep windows and doors closed.
- Use fans and air-conditioning to stay cool.
- Reduce the smoke that enters your home by using a portable air cleaner or high-efficiency filter.
- Avoid activities that create more fine particles indoors like smoking cigarettes, spraying aerosol products and using propane or wood-burning stoves.

Another concern that many in the Bay Area have experienced are power outages, whether planned or unexpected. You can call PG&E at 1-800-746-5000 to sign up to receive power outage notifications on your home or cell phone. To learn more about planned power outages and how to prepare, please visit www.prepareforpower-down.com. And always be prepared with a household emergency kit ready to go.

Please note that smoke can be harmful, especially for those who have respiratory conditions, such as asthma or sinus related illnesses. During wildfires, harmful particles are released which can irritate your lungs causing mild to severe inflammation. Symptoms of smoke inhalation include chest pain, increased heartrate, coughing, difficulty breathing, sore throat, etc. You can protect yourself from the smoke by wearing a mask. If you experience any of these symptoms, please contact your physician or call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

People with moderate to severe asthma may be at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. COVID-19 can affect your nose, throat, lungs (respiratory tract); cause an asthma attack; and possibly lead to pneumonia and acute respiratory disease.

If you are experience unusual asthma symptoms brought on by poor air quality or possible exposure to COVID-19, seek medical attention immediately.

To learn more visit these Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) links:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/asthma.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/air/wildfire-smoke/default.htm#:~:text=Wildfire%20smoke%20can%20make%20anyone,Trouble%20breathing>



Staying Connected with family, business & FCP



If your family is like most families these days, you've probably had to learn new things: new ways to engage your kids, new ways to fashion a piece of cloth into a face covering; and how to use technology you may never have heard of before.

One of the ways FCP is keeping its residents informed, engaged, and active is through Zoom. Zoom is a no-cost video conferencing service that allows two or more people the ability to connect, in real-time. Zoom is being used around the world for remote school instruction, business meetings and job interviews, and even for family get-togethers. While it is not the only company that uses this technology, the word Zoom has become synonymous with communication during coronavirus.

Keep an eye out for Zoom programs offered by FCP. A variety of Zoom activities will occur every Tuesday and Wednesday. Each week you will have an opportunity to learn about resources, health information, medical tips, Medi-Cal renewals, cooking classes, exercise classes, online games, Bingo, prizes and more.

The OHA Zoom sessions will connect FCP with also bring local organizations. Programming is scheduled to begin late October. So keep Zooming!

Register Today for OHA Jobs Program

Coronavirus has devastated the economy nationwide, and Oakland and its residents haven't been spared from its impact.

Many businesses have been forced to reduce business hours or services, or close altogether, sometimes permanently, as a result.

Approximately 10 million people are still unemployed as a result of the unprecedented job losses. The OHA Family & Community Partnership Department (FCP) is hard at work assisting residents who seek employment.

To best serve those who need employment support, OHA has collaborated with many staffing agencies, and companies currently hiring, to make opportunities available. Some partner employers include Safeway, A-Paratransit, Frito-Lay, Nelson Staffing, and many more.

The OHA Employment Program offers the following services:

Winning Wednesdays is a weekly 2 pm virtual recruitment event hosted by OHA and Laney College, featuring a local employer who is hiring. It is easy to participate, register at <https://streamingjobfair.com/>

Every month, OHA has collaborated with the following six (6) agencies: Oakland Chamber of Commerce, Lao Family,

Oakland Workforce Development Board, Oakland PIC, Laney College, and The Unity Council, to offer industry-specific virtual job fairs.

Schedule-10 am virtual job fairs:

1. October 22, 2020: Transportation, Distribution & Logistics & Advanced Manufacturing
2. November 19, 2020: Healthcare
3. December 17, 2020: Information Technology

You should register in advance at <https://bit.ly/2YVbI46> and you will receive additional information about the virtual event.

Please contact the FCP Department at (510) 587-5115 for more information or if you would like assistance writing or updating your resume. 🌱



Help Us Help You

Recycle & Compost Right. Report Illegal Dumping. See something, say something.

Practicing safe hygiene by washing your hands, wearing facemasks and social distancing have become our daily routine during the last few months while we've battled the pandemic. Being home more than usual, however, has its downside. As our families are spending more time at home, we are likely using more household goods than usual—which has resulted in more waste, which means more trash.

OHA needs your help to keep our homes clean and free from trash by properly recycling items and composting. When done right, most of the goods we use in our everyday lives can be reused, and just a small amount is 'real' trash that needs to be sent to the landfill and buried.

Recycling and composting could result in a reduced amount of trash, and less overfilling of the trash carts. Recyclables

are turned into new materials, which we can use again. For example, fleece jackets can be made from recycled plastic bottles, cardboard is recycled into cereal boxes, and lots more. All the food scraps, soiled pizza boxes, napkins and plants can be placed in the green compost cart, which are turned into a nutrient rich soil amendment used to grow our fruits and vegetables.

OHA's Green Team has been conducting safe, socially distant site meetings at our multi-family buildings, educating residents on how to recycle and compost properly. We bring resources from Property Management, FCP and OHAPD.

TIPS:

1. When you send children with trash, make sure to specify what they're carrying out – is it recycling, compost or trash. This will avoid contaminating recycling and compost.
2. No plastic bags in recycling and compost carts.
3. When in doubt, place in trash.

Residents need to collaborate with OHA in a joint effort to keep our properties clean and free of trash. If you notice trash piling up at your site, please report it to your property manager. If you have recycling questions, contact OHA Green Team at allrecycling@oakha.org. 🌱

Illegal dumping? See something, say something. Do not allow anyone to trash your home. Do not place bulky materials outside at the apartment buildings without scheduling a pick-up date. Call the maintenance number when you need to dispose of bulky items such as couches, appliances and mattresses etc.

SOURCES: <https://www.oaklandrecycles.com/apartments-condos/>

Domestic Violence Awareness

October is **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. The rate of domestic violence has increased across the United States during the pandemic, including here in Oakland. Domestic violence affects millions, both women and men, of every race, religion, culture and status. The Oakland Housing Authority continues to be committed to providing resources to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

If you or anyone you know is in need, please reach out to any of the following community resources:

If you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

www.thehotline.org

24/7 Hotline: (800) 799-7233

Alameda County Family Justice Center

www.acfjc.org

Phone: (510) 267-8800

Building Futures

www.bfwc.org

24-hour Crisis Line: (866) 292-9688

BAWAR

<https://www.bawar.org>

24 Hour Hotline: (510) 845-7273

Family Violence Law Center

www.fvlc.org

24 Hour Crisis Hotline: (800) 947-8301

A Safe Place

www.asafeplace.org

24/7 Emergency: (510) 536-7233

Adult Protective Services Elder Abuse

24 hour Hotline: (510) 577-3500 or 866-225-5277

Highland Hospital Sex Assault Response Team

24-Hour Crisis Line: (510) 534-9290



RESOURCES

OHA Support: World Central Kitchen

In partnership with the World Central Kitchen, OHA offers FREE meals to the OHA Community! These delicious individually pre-cooked, packaged meals prepared by local Oakland restaurants, are available for pick-up on Thursdays from 11 am - 1 pm.

Locations include:

- Peralta Village - 935 Union St.
- Lockwood Gardens - 1327 65th Ave.

Closing the Digital Divide

The *#Oakland Undivided Campaign* is working to distribute Chromebooks and internet access to 25,000 Oakland students. If your student does not have access to a computer to support their distance learning, please contact Tech Exchange at (510) 866-2260 to learn more.

YOUR VOICE

Q: Is OHA offering any services due to COVID-19?

A: The Oakland Housing Authority closed its offices for all in-person services in March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the continued Alameda County Shelter in Place Order, the offices remain closed; however, many essential services continue to be provided online and by telephone until further notice.

The Family and Community Partnerships Department (FCP) is hosting virtual site meetings to discuss resident concerns, and to offer resources as well as limited services to OHA residents. Please check your mail for the meeting notifications and information on how to access our programs and services during this time.

For assistance with property services including (work orders, rent collections, etc.), you can reach your Property Manager by phone and email.

For Emergencies, please contact:

Maintenance Emergency at (510) 535-3130

OHA Police Dept. (510) 535-3100

Please note, you may experience a delay in responses due to the office closures and reduced staffing levels, which is required in order to maintain 6 ft of social distance among the staff members who are working in OHA offices.

If you would like to submit a resident success story or have an idea for an article for our next issue, please email your information to ohacommunications@oakha.org.

STRONGER
Together
BUT 6 FEET APART!

RAB Blog

The OHA Resident Advisory Board (RAB)

The OHA Resident Advisory Board (RAB) would like to encourage all residents to attend an online board meeting. The RAB provides residents with a forum to share, learn, and discuss matters that are relevant to community members. It also provides an opportunity for residents to learn about the OHA Annual Plan and discuss policies that impact the entire OHA community. This year, the RAB has been involved in a listening campaign to hear from their fellow OHA residents, has participated in online trainings, and has been active in the promotion of voting and the Census. If you believe in the availability of quality affordable housing and wish to support the OHA community, the RAB is for you!

RAB meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, on Zoom. If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please call (510) 777-4124.

RAB'S MISSION STATEMENT: To ensure that OHA Public Housing Residents and Section 8 Participants actively participate in the decision making process regarding OHA policies and procedures and are actively engaged in their community as leaders.

For more information, please call Omar Ronquillo at (510) 777-4124 or email omarr@Oakha.org.

EDUCATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS

Education During the Pandemic



The onset of the COVID-19 health crisis and the subsequent consequences, including safety measures and school closures, as well as the change in daily family routines has been felt strongly throughout Oakland. Although the Oakland Unified School District has started to discuss options to resume limited forms of in-person instruction, Distance Learning will more likely continue through December 2020.

Oakland Housing Authority would like to offer helpful tips and suggestions to guide parents as they navigate this “new normal.” First, organize space within your home for your children to learn; dedicate a corner or desk so students can be focused. Next, parents should limit their children’s access to devices not related to their virtual learning until after instructional time. Phones, tablets, and video games should not compete with your child’s attention. Lastly, grant your children a break when needed. Excessive screen time can be tiring in itself so stepping away for a moment can be greatly beneficial.

Should families need to obtain or replace computers or devices, Oakland Undivided is a citywide initiative enacted to support Oakland public school students with technology access. Families need to complete the Tech Check Survey online or contact their child’s school for assistance with the form: <https://techexchange.tfaforms.net/3>

Parent Resources to Reduce Stress

Like everything else during the pandemic, the stress many parents feel is growing exponentially. Parents are no longer just parents, but also teachers, coaches, playmates & much more. However, you do not have to feel alone in this new reality and there are resources available to help.

Family Paths Parenting Stress Helpline
1-800-829-3777 is a great support.

Family Paths Remote Parenting Classes
<https://familypaths.org/parenting/parenting-classes/> <https://familypaths.org/fathers-page/classes-workshops-for-dads/>

Bananas Workshops for Parents & Families
<https://bananasbunch.org/parents-families/parent-workshops/>

For more resources, please call 211 or visit 211.org



Teen Scene

College Applications

We may not yet know how our education will look, but we do know that the college application process still requires several steps and a formal application. Make sure to check with the schools you wish to apply and submit all required materials on or before their posted deadline. Contact FCP for help.



UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- **University of California** (Application for 2020/21 SY) – November 30, 2020
- **California State University** (Priority Application Filing Period for Fall 2021) – October 1 to December 4, 2020
- **FAFSA 2021-2022 Application for State Financial Aid** – Deadline: March 2, 2021

SCHOLARSHIPS & DEADLINES:

- **Youth Opportunity Scholarship** (Up to \$250) – December 1, 2020
- **Gabriella Carter Failure Doesn't Define Me Scholarship** (\$582) – December 1, 2020
- **Scholarcash Role Model Scholarship** (\$1,000) – December 1, 2020
- **Gen and Kelly Tanabe Scholarship** (\$1,000) – December 31, 2020
- **Nikhil Desai "Perspective" Scholarship** (\$1,000) – February 1, 2021
- **PHADA Scholarship Program** (\$5,000 to \$7,000) – January 29, 2021

FLU vs COVID-19

continued from reverse

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

COVID-19



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath



Symptoms appear 2-14 days after exposure



Muscle aches

ALSO:

- Loss of Taste and/or smell
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Diarrhea

Flu Shot

If you have not yet gotten a flu shot, you may want to consider doing so. It is important to get vaccinated each year and this year it is more important than ever. A bad flu season might catch you off guard. Being vaccinated will help you fight against the flu and protect others.

Continue wearing a mask, which will reduce the chances of being infected by the flu or COVID-19.



Election Day is November 3rd

The 2020 General Election is about more than voting for president. It is an important opportunity for you to make your voice heard—through your vote. The right to vote is outlined in the U.S. Constitution and this year's **Election Day is Tuesday, November 3**. Early voting has already begun! Whether you plan to vote by mail, vote early, drop your ballot in an official drop box, or vote on Election Day, make a plan now. Be sure you are registered to vote, know your polling place and have an official ballot available to you.

For non-partisan assistance for deadlines, polling locations, ballot information, visit the California Secretary of State website at: www.sos.ca.gov/elections

What's on the Ballot?

ALAMEDA COUNTY

- Measure W - County Sales Tax increase

OAKLAND

- Measure QQ - Youth Vote in School Board elections
- Measure RR - Remove limits on fines for ordinance violations
- Measure S1 - Police Commission Charter Amendment
- Measure Y - OUSD Bond Measure

Here a few of the Propositions on the ballot for your consideration:

Prop 14: Stem Cell Research would allow the State to sell \$5.5 billion in new bonds to continue the CIRM's funding of stem cell and other medical research and training, stem cell therapy and delivery of treatments to patients, research facility construction and administrative expenses.

Prop 16: Allow Public Agencies to Consider Diversity by repealing the section of the California Constitution introduced by Prop 209, thus eliminating the ban on the consideration of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public education, public employment and public contracting.

Prop 17: Voting Rights for People on Parole amends the California Constitution to restore voting rights to persons who have been disqualified from voting while serving a prison term as soon as they complete their prison sentence.

Prop 18: Voting Rights for 17-Year-Olds would be extended to 17 years old, if they will be 18 years old by the next general election.

Prop 19: Changes in Property Tax Rules would allow eligible homeowners to transfer a property's taxable value to a more expensive home anywhere in the state, up to three times in a lifetime. Once-in-a-lifetime transfers would still apply to victims of wildfires and natural disasters.

Prop 20: Changes to Criminal Penalties and Parole would change various provisions of AB 109 and Props 47 and 57, which includes the categorization and classification of certain crimes, DNA collection, criteria for Board of Parole Hearings and post-release supervision.

Prop 21: Local Governments and Rent Control would reduce the limits on local rent control laws in Costa-Hawkins, so that cities and counties would be able to apply rent control to all housing which is more than 15 years old, with certain exceptions; and limit how much a landlord can increase rents when a new renter moves in.

Prop 22: Rideshare and Delivery Drivers would reclassify app-based drivers as independent contractors, not employees, unless a

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



Former Vice President
JOE BIDEN

Incumbent, President
DONALD TRUMP

company: sets a driver's hours, requires drivers to accept certain rides or deliveries, or restricts working for other companies. Drivers would not receive employee benefits and protections—including minimum wage, overtime, unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation.

Prop 23: Kidney Dialysis Clinics would require that clinics have at least one licensed physician on site during all hours when patients are receiving treatment; offer same care regardless of payment source; require additional reporting and patient notifications.

Prop 24: Changes to Consumer Privacy Laws would create a new California Privacy Protection Agency, which would oversee consumer privacy rights, categorize businesses effected by Prop 24, assess penalties for violations and generally aid consumers in the protection of their private data.

Prop 25: Yes or No on Getting Rid of Bail would allow SB10 to go into effect, replacing the cash bail system with risk assessments to determine whether a detained suspect should be released before their trial.

For more on this year's ballot, including Propositions, in depth analysis and detailed videos about the Propositions and Measures, visit <https://my.lwv.org/california/oakland/ballot-measure-pros-and-cons-november-2020>.

FLU vs COVID-19

As the Influenza (Flu) season is approaching along with the ongoing global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there can be a lot of confusion and worries. Flu and COVID-19 are both respiratory illnesses and highly contagious. Although there are many similarities, there are differences between the two. Do not panic if you have any of these symptoms, but do isolate if possible, and please seek medical attention right away.

The most common symptoms of FLU are:

FLU



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Headache



Fatigue and weakness



Muscle aches



Runny or stuffy nose

continued on reverse



SAVE THE DATE

Meet & Greet

Patricia Wells, Executive Director

Patricia Wells, OHA's Executive Director, hosts the agency's Spring Meet & Greet.

You are invited to come and share your thoughts and ideas, or just say a quick "Hello!"

Four meetings will be scheduled for your convenience:

March 11, 2021

OHA East District Office

1327 65th Avenue

Palo Vista Gardens (for PVG residents only)

March 18, 2021

West District Office

935 Union Street

March 25, 2021

OHA Service Center

1180 25th Avenue

To sign up visit:

<https://2021ohaspringmeetandgreet.eventbrite.com>

Password: **welcome**. Details to follow.



Oakland Housing Authority

1619 Harrison Street
Oakland, CA 94612

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Permit #3048

Language translation services are available in 151 languages at all offices at no cost.

Los servicios de traducción en 151 idiomas están disponibles en todos las oficinas sin ningún costo.

Truong chình thông dịch đây đủ cho tới 151 tiếng nói miêng phí cho quý vị đang có tạy nhiều vãng phòng gần đây.

所有辦公地點都會免費提供 151 種的外語翻譯服務。

AT-A-GLANCE • FALL/WINTER 2020-21

NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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11/01/20 Daylight Saving Time ends

11/03/20 **Election Day**

11/11/20 **Veterans Day**

11/26/20 *Thanksgiving Day*

12/11/20 **Hanukkah**

12/25/20 *Christmas Day*

12/26/20 **KWANZAA**

12/31/20 New Years Eve

01/01/21 *New Year's Day*

01/18/21 Martin Luther King, Jr. B'Day

02/14/21 *Valentine's Day*

02/15/21 **President's Day**

03/14/21 Daylight Saving Time begins

03/17/21 **St. Patrick's Day**

04/01/21 **Easter** 🐣

04/04/21 **April Fools Day**

04/13/21 *Ramadan Starts*

04/13/21 **Earth Day** 🌍

6 Months of National Awareness



November

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, American Diabetes Month

December

World Aids Day, Int'l Volunteer Day

January

Cervical Health Awareness Month
National Birth Defects Prevention Month

February

American Heart Month, National Children's Dental Health Month

March

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, National Endometriosis Awareness Month

April

Alcohol Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month of Action

(This is a partial list of the national awareness observances)

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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