



# OUR Voice

Oakland Unified Residents



Summer/Fall  
2019

www.oakha.org

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## The Scoop

### Winning Wednesdays

On the last Wednesday of each month, OHA hosts a Mini-Job Fair at either Lockwood Gardens, in East Oakland or Peralta Village, in West Oakland. *Winning Wednesdays* gives OHA residents a chance to meet with local employers and job training partners, as well as attend workshops around workforce development topics such as mock interviews, resume writing, the job search process and so much more. The free event helps attendees prepare for employment; and for people who attend a financial literacy workshop, additional support can be made available for needs including transportation, training costs and supplemental childcare assistance.

Recent employer attendees were:

- US Census Bureau
- Home Depot
- Safeway
- Southwest Airlines
- Oakland Housing Authority
- ...And many more

To register for an upcoming *Winning Wednesdays* event, please contact (510) 587-5127.

### Newsletter Committee

#### Residents:

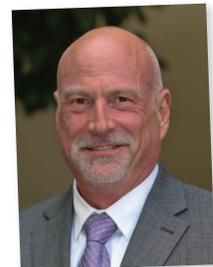
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Omar Ronquillo



## Oakland Housing Authority



It is with mixed emotions that I let you know that after 11 years at OHA I have announced that I will retire by the end of the year. The Board of Commissioners will be conducting a national search for my replacement. I have great confidence they will choose someone who will be responsive and represent the values of our residents, our agency, and our City.

I do want to take this opportunity to let you all know how much living in Oakland, and being a part of the Housing Authority, has meant to me. After nearly 30 years of doing this work, I can honestly say the work we have done together in Oakland is truly innovative, and beyond what any other housing authority I know is doing in addressing quality of life for our residents, participants, and also developing new programs to help serve our unhoused neighbors.

As we are all aware, affordable housing and homelessness in Oakland and America is at a crisis point. It is my personal belief that if we want to solve the homeless and housing crisis in this country, we first must address the wealth inequity that is causing it. Otherwise we are just putting a band aid on a knife wound, and doing nothing to stop the flow of our neighbors onto our streets. Part of the solution is to find new and collaborative ways to provide service-enriched housing for special needs populations. Along these lines, I am very proud of the new set of 'Building Bridges' programs OHA has launched for emancipated foster youth, homeless CalWORKs families, and our two reentry programs, along with our set of owner incentives to attract and keep property owners participating in the traditional Section 8 program.

During my years here, your voices and stories have informed and inspired me personally, and given me the courage and strength to continue on and never stop trying to improve the work we do and the services we offer. It is my hope that I have left this agency better than it was when I arrived in 2008, and that my successor will do the same.

Wishing you and your loved ones great success, and a healthy and prosperous future.

*Eric*

Eric Johnson, OHA Executive Director

OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY • 1619 HARRISON STREET • OAKLAND, CA 94612

# Spotlight

## Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS)

In 2018, a total of nearly \$324,000 was disbursed amongst 17 Family Self-Sufficiency Program participants. Consider enrolling in the FSS program for help setting your own professional and personal goals, while creating a savings escrow account.

## Homeownership Program (HO)

In 2018, several families received financial and credit counseling and homebuyers' education on their path to homeownership with the support of the OHA Homeownership Program. Two families successfully completed the program and purchased homes. This program is open to Public Housing Residents and Section 8 Participants, who may then qualify for partial mortgage assistance.

If you are an OHA resident and are interested in participating in these, or any other, Family and Community Partnerships programs, please contact FCP at (510) 587-5115 for more information.

# 510 AREA CODE CHANGES

On June 21, 2018, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted Decision 18-06-013, approving an overlay that will add the new 341 area code to the geographic region served by the 510 area code. The overlay will allow existing 510 area code customers to keep their telephone numbers and area code. However, as of June 22, 2019, all calls made from 510 area code numbers must be completed by dialing **1 + area code + 7-digit telephone number**.

Calls that are dialed without the "1" and the area code will not be completed and will result in a recording instructing the caller to hang up and dial again. Cell phone callers who have service with certain cell service providers may be able to complete calls without dialing "1" before the area code.

**Note that even if you are calling from a number with a 510 area code, you will still need to dial 1 + 510 + 7-digit telephone number for local calls.**

Calls to 911, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 and 811 will not be affected, and will continue to be dialed with just the 3 digits.

For answers to any of your questions, visit: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/510areacode/>.

# Maximizing Your Summer

## Family Food Pantry

The food pantries at Lockwood Gardens and Peralta Village impact hundreds of OHA households by bringing much-needed food to the community which local residents can get at no cost. For the past year, Imperfect Produce and Alameda County Food Bank have provided fresh fruits and vegetables. Semifreddi's Bakery supplies fresh bread, rolls and pastries. OHA's Food



Pantry is held monthly. Please contact FCP for more information.

## OHA Summer Youth Program

OHA proudly presents the Summer Youth Program, with fun-filled activities and field trips from Monday through Thursday throughout the summer for OHA youth ranging from 5-10 years old. Space is limited for the programs at Lockwood Gardens and Peralta Village; so sign up soon. To pre-register, contact FCP staff at each site's main office or call (510) 587-5115. The Summer Youth Program offers snacks and lunch at no cost to program participants.

## Summer Lunch Program

The Summer Lunch Program provides free nutritious meals to children throughout Oakland. OHA is again hosting the Summer Lunch Program at its Public Housing sites: Lockwood Gardens, Campbell Village and Peralta Village for children ages 0-18, Monday through Thursday, June 3 - August 1, 2019, from 12:00-1:00pm. The summer lunch program helps children in Oakland get the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow during the active summer months—making them better prepared to start another successful school year in August.



## Summer Camp Programs

For the past several years, OHA has sponsored as many as 80 OHA youth to attend summer camp at Camp Mendocino Summer Residential Camp and The Boys & Girls Club Day Camps. Enrollment is now open for the limited spaces. Contact FCP staff at (510) 777-4125 to learn more. To learn about other summer camp opportunities, visit [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org), [www.summercamps.com](http://www.summercamps.com) and [www.y-camp.org](http://www.y-camp.org). Most organizations offer financial aid and scholarships if you qualify and FCP is also a source of support.

## OHA Summer Youth Employment

Once again, OHA is supporting our resident youth by offering summer employment opportunities. Any resident age 16-24 years old, who is on the OHA lease, is eligible to participate and work up to 100 hours during the summer months, earning over \$1000.

To learn more about the types of jobs available and to apply, pick up an application at one of the following sites: OHA's West District Office (935 Union Street) and OHA's East District Office (1327 65th Avenue)

The deadline for applying is Friday, June 21.



# Take Steps Toward Your Future

OHA has partnered with Rising Sun, a provider of training and employment support services, to assist OHA residents who are at least 18 years old and interested in completing a program that will prepare them for a future union apprenticeship in the construction trades. If you meet the basic eligibility requirements you can apply for one of the available slots sponsored by OHA. The training program is rapidly approaching, running from June 18-September 3, 2019.

Program participants will receive valuable bi-weekly assistance throughout program enrollment, including help with transportation, clothing, childcare and other supportive services. Each person who graduates from the program will receive a set of tools and financial help toward initiation fees upon becoming a union member. Union members enjoy union wages, benefits and job referrals.



## Success Stories

Since 2015, **Ms. Lagina Albert** has been a participant in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS). Ms. Albert is a proud, single mother of two teenagers. Her focus and dedication to her goals revolves around being a positive example for her children.



One of her goals was to obtain her bachelor's degree during her participation in the FSS program. Through sacrifice and perseverance, she graduated from California State University East Bay with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in June 2018. She is the first college graduate in her family and she continues to reach for her goals. She was recently hired to a full-time position with the Oakland Housing Authority as a Resource Conservation Coordinator and will graduate from the FSS program in March 2020. Keep up the good work, Ms. Albert!

If you are interested in enrolling in the FSS program, please contact FCP at (510) 587-5115.

## RESOURCES

### Prepare for Your GED

Oakland Housing Authority has expanded its Education Initiative to connect OHA residents with an opportunity to obtain their GED (General Educational Development), at no cost. In partnership with OUSD's Oakland Adult & Career Education office, anyone age 16 and over, with interest in furthering their education by obtaining a GED, can register to attend preparation classes conveniently held at two OHA district office locations: Peralta Village, in West Oakland and Lockwood Gardens, in East Oakland. These classes will be led by certified GED instructors and participants will receive additional academic and career support outside of the classroom.



## YOUR VOICE

**Q: What should I do if pets or stray animals are using my yard as their bathroom?**

**A:** If you are having a problem with dogs or cats using your yard as their bathroom, there are a couple things you can do to remedy the situation. If the animal in question belongs to your neighbor, you can try talking to them about it. They may not be aware that their pet is coming into your yard. If it's a stray animal or your neighbor is allowing their pet to use your yard, you can ask your property manager to get involved and help resolve the problem. If you suspect the problem is being caused by feral/stray cats in your neighborhood, contact Oakland Animal Services at (510) 535-5602 or Fix Our Ferals at (510) 215-9300 for information and assistance. Also, remind your neighbors that feeding stray/feral animals encourages their frequent visits to your neighborhood and often makes the problem worse!

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](mailto:ohacommunications@oakha.org).

## RAB Blog

### The OHA Resident Advisory Board (RAB) is seeking new members!

The RAB was created in 1999 as a resident organization that represents the interests of residents at large, and participates in OHA's annual planning process. The RAB meets once a month and continues to provide valuable input to OHA's Annual Plan and HUD reports, as well as discuss other issues that impact the agency.

#### The ideal candidate has the following:

- Identifies as a leader or is involved in community projects
- Interest in developing personal skills working on community projects as part of a team
- Available the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 5- 7pm for monthly meetings and trainings

#### Details:

- RAB meets 1x per month
- Dinner, transportation and childcare assistance are provided for each meeting
- Meetings are held at 1540 Webster Street in downtown Oakland

Interested? Want more information? Please call Annabelle at (510) 587-5129 or email [asibthorpe@oakha.org](mailto:asibthorpe@oakha.org).

#### 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.

# EDUCATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS

## OUSD Open Enrollment

The Oakland Unified School District now uses an open enrollment system, also referred to as the “options system,” for school registration. If your child is Pre-K/TK or Kindergarten, or if they are promoting to the next school level (i.e., elementary to middle school or middle school to high school) or if your child wishes to transfer to a different school, they must register with the school district prior to the beginning of the school year to avoid unnecessary delays. The registration process also includes choosing and ranking your preferred school(s) based on criteria important to you, such as your home or work location or transportation needs.

If you missed the February 8, 2019 application deadline or the subsequent wait-list announcements, it is too late to get your choice of schools but it is never too late to enroll your child in school.

Visit the Student Welcome Center to complete a late application. The Student Welcome Center (746 Grand Avenue) is open 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Monday / Tuesday / Thursday / Friday. Taking care of this important task now will save a lot of time and energy on the first day of school, Monday, August 12, 2019, when the schools are at their busiest.

<https://www.ousd.org/enroll>

## Jobs Plus Adds R.O.C.K.

The Jobs Plus Program was recently expanded with the launch of a new teen program, Youth R.O.C.K. (Youth Reaching Our Community Kids), based on a peer-to-peer support model. The youth leaders, ranging in age between 14-17, engage with children from their neighborhoods to create an environment where young people are able to develop personal goals and professional skills, while completing community service projects.

The program aims to teach youth effective workplace communication, civic engagement, and leadership skills, while providing a safe and welcoming space that fosters a sense of belonging.

Recently, Youth R.O.C.K. (formerly Leaders of the New ‘Hood) was recognized by Mayor Libby Schaaf for their participation on Community Service Day, March 23, 2019. They were recognized for their community service efforts including delivering food to seniors, litter removal, and by distributing information about local resources to the area surrounding OHA’s West Oakland housing sites.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Youth R.O.C.K., please contact FCP at (510) 587-5115.



## Teen Scene

### Scholarships

Education is important for success. Just as importantly, however, is accessing financial aid to ensure students have the money to pay for it. Take note of these important dates for financial aid and scholarships:

- To qualify for financial aid for the 2019-20 School Year, students must submit their applications to FAFSA by midnight CT (Central Time) on June 30, 2019.
- To learn more about the many scholarships that are available to students visit [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) or [www.Fastweb.com](http://www.Fastweb.com).

## Become an Education Ambassador



OHA is recruiting new Ambassadors for the Education Ambassador Program to work within one of our seven partner schools throughout Oakland. The Ambassadors’ main focus is to promote the importance of school attendance and increase parent engagement, in alignment with OHA’s Education Initiative. This is a part-time paid employment opportunity.

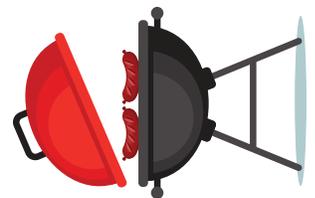
If you are interested in becoming an Education Ambassador, apply at [www.oakha.org](http://www.oakha.org).



continued from reverse

- ▲ Never leave your grill unattended.
- ▲ Keep your grill clean by removing grease and fat buildup from the grill & trap areas located underneath the grill.
- ▲ Have baking soda on-hand in case you need to control a grease fire. [Also, keep a fire extinguisher nearby.] Never use water to put out a grease fire.
- ▲ When using lighter fluid for a charcoal grill, never add lighter fluid to an open flame.
- ▲ When using a gas grill, check for propane leaks by lightly applying a mixture of soap and water to the gas hoses. Turn the gas on. If there is a propane leak, the solution will bubble.
- ▲ For charcoal grills, wait until the coals are cool before disposing. With propane grills, always turn the gas off when you have finished cooking.
- ▲ Store lighter fluid away from children and any heat source.

Have a fun & safe summer!



## Recycling and Composting are Law – OHA is Going Green!

OHA is going green! You can help keep your home and neighborhood clean by recycling and composting the right way. Not only are recycling and composting now the law, when done right, they can keep properties litter-free, resulting in lower trash bills and less costly clean-up efforts. Those cost savings could be redirected to other valuable community programs and services! Apartment complexes with five or more units are required to have a recycling program in place and OHA is taking responsibility for adhering to the law by educating residents about the requirements and supplying much of the equipment to encourage a robust recycling program with the help of the new **Green Team**, OHA's staff recycling experts.

In California, each person throws away on average six pounds of waste per day. That is over 2,100 pounds per person per year! The best practice is to reduce, reuse & recycle! You can **reduce** by shopping smart: buy in bulk, choose products with minimal packaging, and bring your own bags when shopping. **Reuse** by buying reusable water bottles to refill or by donating old clothes to friends and family

or to thrift stores like Goodwill and St. Vincent DePaul. **Recycle** by placing into the recycling container your empty plastic containers, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, metal cans, paper and junk mail as well as flattened cardboard.

Composting is another form of recycling. Organic waste such as plants and food materials are recyclable through composting and mulching, and through anaerobic digestion, which can produce renewable energy and fuel. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—a result of the decomposition of organic wastes in landfills—has been identified as a significant contributor to global climate change. You can compost by placing anything that rots into compost bins, such as yard trimmings, food scraps and food soiled paper like napkins and pizza boxes.

By working together to recycling right, we can keep our homes and neighborhoods clean. Encourage your children and neighbors to recycle too! OHA's Green Team is available to answer your questions via email [allrecycling@oakha.org](mailto:allrecycling@oakha.org).

To learn more about recycling visit Oakland Recycles website at <https://www.oaklandrecycles.com/>.



### GREEN TEAM

As part of OHA's commitment to comply with the law and help the community with its efforts to recycle responsibly, the new Green Team is actively working at OHA properties throughout Oakland. The Green Team is in your neighborhood to provide equipment and assistance for you to support this effort.



### Recycling Resources

To discover why, where and how to recycle, visit these websites for detailed information: <https://www.recyclewhere.org/> and <https://www.oaklandrecycles.com/>

Want to do even more? Visit these sites to learn about youth recycling education programs and other hands-on learning opportunities.

<http://www.stopwaste.org/recycling/schools/transfer-station-field-trips> and <https://www.rethinkwaste.org/publictours>



**S**ummer is almost here! For many of us, that means enjoying cooking outside and grilling our favorite summer eats: barbecue chicken, corn-on-the-cob and ribs. While you are having fun grilling outside, it's important to also be safe. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), outdoor grilling causes an average of 8,900 home fires every year.

Here are some tips for outdoor grilling safety:

- ▲ Propane & charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- ▲ Grills should be placed well away from the home, decks and overlying branches.
- ▲ Keep children & pets at least three (3) feet away from the grill area.

*continued on reverse*

# National Night Out Needs YOU!

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building event that promotes positive relationships between the police and the communities they serve. The goal of NNO is to create safer places to live by giving crime a "going away party." Millions of neighbors take part in NNO across the United States by hosting block parties, festivals, cookouts and other community activities. National Night Out is observed annually on the first Tuesday in August. This year NNO is on August 6th!

OHA is seeking volunteers who would like to host a NNO event! If you would like to volunteer to help organize an NNO for your neighborhood, please contact your property manager by Friday, July 19 or visit <https://solar.oaklandnet.com/go/nno>.



## Oakland Housing Authority

1619 Harrison Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

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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.

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所有辦公地點都會免費提供 151 種的外語翻譯服務。

## AT-A-GLANCE • SUMMER/FALL 2019

### JUNE

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06/16/19 Father's Day

06/19/19 JUNETEENTH

06/21/19 Summer Solstice

07/03/19 *Pedalfest*  
Jack London Square

07/04/19 Independence Day

07/27-28 Art & Soul Festival

08/06/19 **National Night Out**

09/02/19 Labor Day

09/08/19 Grandparent's Day

09/27/19 Native American Day

10/14/19 Columbus Day

10/31/19 *Halloween*

11/03/19 Daylight Saving Ends

11/11/19 Veterans' Day\*

11/03/19 Daylight Saving Ends

11/28/19 *Thanksgiving Day*\*

11/29/19 Day after Thanksgiving\*

\*OHA offices closed, view all observed OHA holidays at [oakha.org](http://oakha.org)

### AUGUST

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### SEPTEMBER

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### OCTOBER

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### NOVEMBER

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## 6 Months of National Awareness



### June

National Safety Month  
Scoliosis Awareness Month

### July

Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

### August

National Breastfeeding Month  
National Immunization Awareness Month

### September

Childhood Obesity Awareness Month  
National Cholesterol Education Month  
Food Safety Education Month

### October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
Health Literacy Month

### November

Hunger Awareness Month  
National AIDS Awareness Month

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