



Greetings Neighbor,

I want to wish you a very merry new year and a joyous beginning to 2020. Next year will be busy with additional work on helping our homeless population, getting more affordable housing approved, protecting renters from displacement, keeping our neighborhoods safe, taking local action on climate change, taking better care of our local parks, and much more.

I want to give my heart-felt thanks to our D-1 full-time staff--Seth Steward, Lisa Jacobs, and Deidra Moss for their tremendous work throughout the year. Thanks also to part-time legislative advisor Olga Bolotina for her great work.

## Annual North Oakland BLOOD Drive - Monday, Jan 20, 2020

Did you know that donating one pint of blood can save up to 3 lives?! Councilmember Kalb is once again sponsoring his annual local SAVE A LIFE BLOOD DRIVE on Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. Day of Service in partnership with the American Red Cross. Please join us for a great opportunity to contribute to your community and help save lives:

**When: Monday, January 20th**  
from 2:00 pm until 5:30 pm

**Where: American Red Cross Center**  
at 6230 Claremont Avenue in North Oakland

If you are available and able to donate, please send an e-mail to Lisa Jacobs at [ljacobs@oaklandca.gov](mailto:ljacobs@oaklandca.gov) or call 510-238-7014 to sign up for a time slot. We encourage those who are available to take a moment to read helpful eligibility requirements information.

Please join with us and other Oakland residents to give a little something to save a life or three. And feel free to forward this to your friends, neighbors and relatives. You can download the [flyer here](#). We look forward to seeing you on the 20th. Thank you so much for supporting your community and for spreading the word about this event.

**Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
and serve your community**



**American  
Red Cross**

The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service  
sponsored by City Councilmember Dan Kalb:*

### Save A Life **BLOOD DRIVE**

**Monday, January 20, 2020**  
2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Location: American Red Cross Blood Donation Center  
6230 Claremont Avenue, Oakland 94618

To schedule your appointment, contact Lisa Jacobs at 510-238-7014 or [ljacobs@oaklandca.gov](mailto:ljacobs@oaklandca.gov)

For information on eligibility, including traveling outside the U.S. within the past 12 months, please call 1-800-733-2767 or go to [redcrossblood.org/eligibility](http://redcrossblood.org/eligibility).

By using RapidPass, you can reduce the time you spend at the blood drive by up to 15 minutes. Learn more by visiting [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass).

- Identification is required -

## NEWS: 2020 Census Call to Action - Become a Census Ambassador!

Starting in March of 2020, every household will be required to complete the official 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. Census 2020 brings federal funding to our schools, roads, and housing. The Census gives us **data** about our community, informs the distribution of billions of dollars in federal funding, and determines the number of decision-makers representing us. Alameda County gets billions of dollars from the federal government for



**Our COMMUNITY Counts**  
An undercount would have grave consequences for Alameda County. Census 2020 will require us to come together to ensure everyone is counted!

essential services -- healthcare, school programs, housing, transportation, social services and more -- based solely on the census count. An undercount means fewer resources for everyone. For every person not counted, our community loses \$10,000 over the next 10 years.

Nearly 26% of Alameda County residents are considered "Hard-to-Count" and face barriers to Census completion. The City of Oakland, in partnership with Alameda County, is working to ensure that we fully count our community.

**What can you do to help? Become a Census Ambassador** - promote the Census in your community - such as at your house of worship or at a neighborhood organization meeting. You, our most *trusted messengers*, will be equipped with training, materials, and messaging to support Census participation. Apply today at: <http://bit.ly/CensusAmbassador>. Ambassadors can adopt-a-block, add Census outreach into your existing programming, host community-building Census events, and/or share information. By registering, individuals and organizations will receive outreach materials, training, and outreach sponsorship (if needed). Sign up [here](#) (It's just a short online form!) For more information, visit <http://www.acgov.org/census2020>.

## Vacant Property Tax (Measure W) Ordinance Passes City Council

Some District One residents may be affected by the 2018 ballot Measure W - the vacant property tax - which passed with 70 percent of the vote. While this measure could help with reducing the number of blighted properties in our city, Councilmember Kalb has been concerned that this new law needs some adjustments. He therefore proposed, and the City Council agreed, to reduce the amount of tax for smaller vacant parcels by 50% - from \$6,000 to \$3,000 - for the first year of collection. We will revisit the tax after learning from our experience in the first year.

With this reduction, City Council approved an implementation ordinance to begin collecting tax from vacant property owners in 2020. There are several automatic exemptions from this tax including:

- Properties that are occupied for at least 50 days in 2019
- Parcels that are contiguous with occupied residential property
- Parcels that are not accessible via public right-of-way
- Community gardens and parking lots
- Parcels owned by very low income residents and low-income seniors (as defined by HUD)



Outside of the above automatic exemptions, we know that there are many vacant parcels that are extremely difficult and/or prohibitively expensive to develop for reasons including lack of sewers, slope, and being in high fire hazard areas. Owners of these properties may qualify for an "exceptional special circumstances" exemption.

In January, staff will be sending notices to owners of properties that they believe may be vacant. If you believe you have received a notice in error, do not despair. Along with these notices will be instructions on how to (1) inform staff that the property is actually in use or meets the criteria for an automatic exemption; or (2) how to apply for an exceptional circumstance exemption. Staff has committed to design the system to be as straightforward as possible. For example, a utility bill showing water and/or electricity charges, will prove that a given property is 'in-use'.

If you have questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact the Finance Department at 510-238-3084 or [vacantpropertytaxinquiry@oaklandca.gov](mailto:vacantpropertytaxinquiry@oaklandca.gov). In addition, finance staff are generally available to answer questions in person Monday through Friday at 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 5432 between 8:15 AM and 4:00 PM.

## Crime Reduction - What is Oakland Doing?

A few neighborhoods in North Oakland have experienced a relatively recent increase in robberies and property thefts. This is unacceptable of course, and I am working with OPD to curb this criminal activity.

As your Councilmember, as well as an armed robbery victim in 2012, I am determined to do what is necessary to reduce serious crime and make sure people are safe in the neighborhood in which they live. As I have in the past, I will push for more funding to have additional police academies for OPD so we can fill the budgeted vacancies among our sworn police force. I recall that in 2013 we had fewer than 630 sworn officers; today, we have over 790 in our budget.



During my regular meetings with the North Oakland Police Captain, we discuss recent crime trends and talk about where the crimes are and how deployment can be adjusted to meet changing realities.

In addition to OPD presence, Oakland has programs to help prevent violent crime. Please see [CeaseFire](#) and [Oakland Unite](#) for more information.

## Local Legislative Updates: Tax Fairness for Cannabis Businesses and Small Rental Property Owners



### Cannabis Tax:

Prior to 2020, cannabis businesses in Oakland with gross receipts above \$500,000 have been paying 10% local business tax, where as all non-cannabis local businesses pay from .06% to 1.395% in local business tax.

Most neighboring jurisdictions in the Bay Area - including Emeryville, Berkeley, San Francisco and Richmond - have much lower business taxes on cannabis. As a result, Oakland risks losing local business to our neighbors. Furthermore, the illegal marijuana market continues to thrive in Oakland due to the higher costs associated with legal adult use marijuana products. Councilmember Kalb wants to make sure our cannabis businesses thrive so we can realize the jobs and tax revenue that come with a thriving cannabis industry.



[Measure V](#), which was overwhelmingly adopted by the voters in 2018, expressly gave the City authority to reduce the gross receipts business taxes on the Cannabis industry. This was in large part due to the now antiquated fact that there were separate tax rates for medical and non-medical cannabis. That distinction may have made sense prior to the 2016 state initiative that legalized marijuana for adult use; however, it makes little sense now, especially since manufacturing and cultivation businesses cannot possibly know how (medical vs non-medical) their product is ultimately used. The clear expectation of Measure V was that the City Council, at a minimum, would harmonize the medical and non-medical rates.

The [Cannabis tax reform ordinance](#), which was adopted on December 10th, will be phased in over three years, so the tax reduction in the first year will be relatively modest. The largest cannabis businesses (gross receipts of \$5M and over) will only receive a small .5% tax reduction (10% to 9.5%) in the first year that this is implemented. Even after we adopt the new, progressive business tax structure for the cannabis industry, they will still pay a higher tax rate than any other type of business in Oakland.

If too many of our cannabis businesses move out of Oakland, we will experience a net loss of tax revenue. Thank you to Councilmember Sheng Thao for co-sponsoring this legislation with me. Let me also be crystal clear regarding any possible short-term budget adjustments: I will not be supporting any budget reductions when it comes to vital services—including homeless services, wildfire prevention, public safety, pothole repair and road repaving.

### Small Landlord Business Tax:

The City of Oakland's current business license tax rate on gross receipts for residential rental property is a flat 1.395%. Given that City of Oakland provides specific tax exemptions for persons of lower incomes in other tax areas, Councilmembers Kalb and Gallo decided to [create legislation](#) to provide tax relief to low-to-moderate income homeowners who rent out up to three rooms in their own primary residence, or only one other unit on their duplex, or an ADU on the property in which they live. This could be particularly helpful for owner-occupied duplex owners, and those who have or want to create an ADU on their single-family property. Property owners who rent out their second unit or additional bedrooms as short-term residential rentals (such as Airbnb's) are NOT eligible for this tax exemption.



## Help Fight Hunger: Holiday Meal for Unsheltered Residents - Saturday Dec 21st

Hunger is a serious problem--both among homeless residents and among some with homes. Join North Oakland Restorative Justice Council, Neighborhood Council 10Y, and the Longfellow Community Association for a holiday meal (potluck) for those in need on **Saturday, Dec 21st** from **1-3pm**. Come sit down with your neighbors and enjoy a meal together. You are asked to BRING A DISH TO SHARE! We will also have a kitchen set-up on-site. Organizers are looking for the following items to share with those in need:

- Tarps/Rain Gear
- Ready-to-eat foods such as granola bars, canned food with pop-top (tuna, sardines, jams, etc)
- Gift cards to Costco/Target
- Food for the brunch (high quality eggs, maple syrup (real), meats, etc)
- Socks, underwear (new)
- Toiletries (new) such as toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, small soaps, feminine hygiene, etc
- Water (1 gallon or larger please)
- Dog food (for unhoused neighbors with pets)
- Barber

Thank you so much for supporting your community and helping those who are hungry during this holiday season.

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As always, the Alameda County Community Food Bank is in need of your financial support. Please make your end-of-year [donation here](#).

## East Bay Community Energy - Update

Did you know Oakland residents and businesses have been buying 85% carbon-free electricity since November 2018? The City of Oakland chose the Brilliant 100 option for city electricity accounts. Each customer can choose to be in any of the three portfolios listed below. As a token of its gratitude to Oakland for stepping up to combat climate change, East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) is providing all Oakland residents with a free year of access to the Chinook Book discount app.

Chinook Book connects local businesses and organizations with conscious consumers in their area, strengthening our local economy while providing residents with discounts! [Click here](#) to download this free app and receive access to hundreds of exclusive coupons for some of your favorite businesses around Alameda County. If you already use the app, enter activation code **11631-3416-3859-4722** to access EBCE's special deals.



Bright Choice is **at least** 38% renewable and an additional 47% carbon-free



Brilliant 100 is **at least** 40% renewable and an additional 60% carbon-free



Renewable 100 is 100% renewable energy from California wind and solar

Want even more offers? Take the next step in combating climate change and [Opt-Up](#) to one of EBCE's 100% carbon-free options ([Brilliant 100](#) or [Renewable 100](#)) and EBCE will send a special activation code by email for access to the exclusive EBCE section. The businesses listed in the EBCE section are only offering their rewards to those choosing 100% clean energy. Whether you opt up or not, treat yourself to a nice (discounted) meal at one of these local restaurants sometime soon. You deserve it for choosing clean energy and investing in a more sustainable future. Councilmember Kalb, Oakland's representative on the EBCE Board, is the current Chair of the EBCE authority working to provide a reliable, resilient electricity system that is one of the cleanest in the country.



## NEWS: Transbay Fare Increases

Starting on January 1, 2020, AC Transit Transbay fares will increase by \$0.50, bringing the total fare for an adult single ride to \$2.50. In the past year, AC Transit added new 78-seat double decker buses and more trips to key Transbay lines to alleviate overcrowding and reduce Bay Bridge congestion, streamlined other routes for greater efficiency and reduced travel times. To support these Transbay service advancements while meeting its capital obligations for the Salesforce Transit Center, in 2018 the District adopted a five-year Transbay fare structure to meet policy goals such as transparency, simplicity, and equity. For more information about the fare increase, please visit [this link](#).

## Mosswood Park Community Center Project

The City of Oakland is engaged in a community-oriented effort to design and ultimately build a new Park Community Center at Mosswood Park. The community is an essential partner in this effort, beginning with a Visioning and Master Plan Phase. Together we will envision the possibilities for the future Community Center and Park. It is critical to the success of this facility that we hear from YOU.

The vision for the new Community Center is to create a vibrant destination for civic, cultural, social, educational, and recreational activities. The Community Center will incorporate sustainable design principles and the City's 'Art in Public Places' program. It will be inclusive of a diverse community of users, universally accessible, flexible in use, and thoughtfully designed.

To take the Mosswood Park community survey, [click here](#). For more information on the overall project and upcoming community workshop dates, [click here](#).

## Minimum Wage Raised

Oakland's Measure FF, a voter-enacted ballot measure passed in November 2014, provides annual increases to Oakland's Minimum Wage based on the local Consumer Price Index (CPI). Effective January 1, 2020, the rate rises 34¢, from \$13.80 to \$14.14 per hour. The law also requires that employers inform employees of the increase by December 15, 2019. To assist employers, the City of Oakland has posted [notification posters here](#). Additional [information can be found here](#).

**Support Oakland Businesses... Support Oakland Workers!** It's important to support our dynamic local business community and in turn support Oakland workers. When you go shopping, shop in Oakland stores where possible, dine at our fabulous Oakland restaurants, visit Oakland cafes, ask your visiting Oakland relatives and friends to stay in Oakland hotels, and hire Oakland-based contractors whenever possible. For local shopping inspiration, visit [www.shopoaklandnow.org](http://www.shopoaklandnow.org).

## Clean Cars for All Program

The Clean Cars for All program offers grants for low-income Bay Area residents to trade in older, more polluting cars and purchase a clean air vehicle. Cars on Bay Area roads are the biggest source of air pollution and the transition to electric vehicles significantly improves air quality and public health in our communities. Clean Cars for All also helps ensure sustainable and reliable transportation is an affordable option for all Alameda County residents. [Click here](#) for more information.



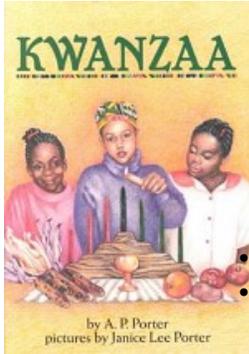
## Fairy Winterland at Children's Fairyland - Dec 20-23, 12-7pm

Each December, Children's Fairyland decks the halls with twinkly lights and festive decor, and brings in Black Santa to hear children's wishes and to lead our nightly Festival of Lights parade. Highlights include:

- Tap Dancing Christmas Trees
- Children's Theatre Personalities
- The Velveteen Rabbit, and other holiday puppet shows
- Snap your kiddo dancing under snow showers
- Cozy up with a cup of hot cocoa or cider, on us

- Hop on the Jolly Trolley, again and again. Dan Kalb's December Newsletter is unlimited!

Fairyland is located at 699 Bellevue Avenue in Oakland, and also will be open from Dec. 26th to 30th, Noon - 7:00PM. Click [here](#) for more information.



## Furaha ya KWANZAA! (Joy of the First Fruits!) - Saturday, Dec 28, 2-4pm

Bring the children! Bring everyone for Furaha ya Kwanzaa! (Joy of the First Fruits!) as we celebrate family, community, and culture.

- WHERE: Saturday, December 28, 2:00-4:00pm
- WHERE: Oakland's African American Museum & Library, 659 14th Street

With the third principle of the season as our focus, we reflect on how ujima, i.e. "collective work and responsibility," will move our community forward. Venus Zuhura Noble, community healer, will lead the festivities. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Around the Community - Golden Gate Neighborhood Spotlight



Former District One Councilmember Jane Brunner, former Mayor Jean Quan, neighborhood activist Laura Ingram, Golden Gate Neighborhood Legend Lillian Edwards, and former District One Councilmember Sheila Jordan, join Dan Kalb at the Golden Gate Community Association Holiday Party, December 14.



Lillian, Sheila Jordan, Councilmember Kalb, and Golden Gate Community leader Angela Gennino.

Dan Kalb's December Newsletter



Golden Gate Community Legend and Jazz on Sundays founder Josephine Lee w/Dan Kalb at the Golden Gate Community Association Holiday Party, December 14



Neighbors and St. Columba Church members, along with artists Debbie and Laurie and Councilmember Kalb at the new mural dedication and celebration.



Polster with Dan Kalb at launch party, December 15. Mural artists Debbie Koppman and Laurie



New Mural on

the St. Columba Church Community Center building at San Pablo and Alcatraz.

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***Reminder: Click below for information or to file a complaint***

[OAK311](#) -- Report illegal dumping, traffic safety, and infrastructure matters

[Code Enforcement](#) -- Report blighted buildings & yards, and other Code violations

[Animal Services](#) -- Report distressed or vicious animals

[Parking Information](#) -- Info and Answers on all things Parking in Oakland

[Vehicle Abatement](#) -- Report abandoned vehicles here

[City of Oakland's Homeless Response Info](#) & [Keep Oakland Housed](#)

**DAN KALB**

Oakland City Councilmember  
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza • Oakland, CA

Follow Dan on [Twitter here](#)