



Dear North Oakland residents and friends,

Thank you for your ongoing support of our community during these trying times. I am in awe of how much help, care and kindness our residents continue to show toward each other. In this newsletter you will find our most recent COVID update, an invitation to join in my town hall meeting with our new police chief LeRonne Armstrong, an update on our city's budget process along with my budget priorities, and more.

If you haven't already done so, please make your appointment for a COVID vaccination as soon as you are eligible. Details are below.

Best wishes,

*-Dan*

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## COVID UPDATES

### **Alameda County Moves to State's Orange Tier Allowing More Activities, Higher Capacities**

Alameda County has advanced to the Orange Tier in the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) reopening framework. In the Orange Tier, office workspaces for nonessential businesses may reopen with modifications, however telecommuting is still very much encouraged; indoor dining increases to 50% capacity; retail store capacity increases to 100%; gyms, fitness centers and yoga studios may increase indoor capacity to 25% with modifications; and indoor pools may reopen at limited capacity; however, hot tubs, saunas, indoor water parks and steam rooms must remain closed. Movie theaters may expand indoor operations to 50% of maximum capacity or 200 people, whichever is less. Hair salons, barbershops and personal care services may continue to operate indoors with modifications. For the full roster of activities, visit [covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/](https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/) and enter Alameda in the search field. **The changes in allowed activities took effect on March 31.**

**Museums and zoos** can expand indoor operations to 50% capacity. Houses of worship and cultural ceremonies may also expand to 50% indoors, along with funeral homes.

**Wineries, breweries and distilleries** where meals are not served are allowed to open indoors with a 25% capacity or up to 100 people. Dance studios can increase indoor capacity to 25%. Hotels may increase their fitness center capacity to 25% and open their indoor pools. Family entertainment centers and indoor playgrounds may open bowling alleys, climbing walls and other indoor distanced activities at 25% capacity.

### **Activities eligible effective April 1:**

- **Outdoor sports and live performances with fans/attendees:** In the Orange Tier, capacity will be limited to 33 percent and with advanced reservations only. Concession sales will be primarily in-seat (no concourse sales). Designated indoor seated dining area capacity will be limited to 25 percent. Attendance will be limited to in-state spectators and guests must attest their reserved seats are only for one household. [See guidance for more details.](#)
- **Amusement parks:** In the Orange Tier, overall park capacity and indoor capacity will be limited to 25 percent, including indoor dining. Small groups with a maximum of 3 household groups may attend together. Attendance will be limited to in-state visitors. Walk-up ticket sales will be permitted, but park operators must collect name and contact information of the ticket purchases for necessary contact tracing.

The following activities remain restricted in the Orange Tier and are not allowed by the State to operate:

- Indoor concert venues
- Festivals
- Nightclubs
- Live theater

**Small and time-limited private gatherings** among no more than three households are permitted indoors under State guidance, but **outdoors is still strongly encouraged. Masks and physical distancing are still required for these gatherings**, and anyone who is experiencing symptoms must not attend. Gatherings should be 2 hours or less. Per state guidance, singing, shouting, chanting, cheering, or exercising are strongly discouraged

and not permitted indoors. Those at high risk of severe illness are strongly encouraged *not* to attend. **Large gatherings are still prohibited.**

**Bars in Oakland are now allowed to open outdoors**, and along with restaurants that wish to expand operations outdoors, **should look to the City's [Flex Street Initiative](#)**. With beautiful spring weather, outdoor beverage and meal service remains a safer alternative. All fees have been waived and permitting has been streamlined for business' use of the public rights-of-way, including sidewalk, parking lane and partial or full street closures. Businesses expanding operations to private parking lots and other private outdoor areas will also benefit from streamlined permitting processes at [oaklandca.gov/flexstreets](http://oaklandca.gov/flexstreets). Since launching in June, more than 130 businesses have received permits through Flex Streets.

**The Oakland Public Library** will announce its plans for limited indoor operations later this week. Four computer labs were [made available for public use](#) on March 22, and [Sidewalk Service continues](#) at 16 locations.

**Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development (OPRYD)** is crafting plans to open indoor and outdoor pools (at limited capacity), which are allowed to operate in the Orange Tier, within current budget restraints. Indoor pools remain closed under the State's reopening blueprint.

OPRYD reminds Oaklanders that the State and County have lifted restrictions and playground use is allowed. Oakland playgrounds are "Use At Your Own Risk."

For the City's Parks, Open Space and Restrooms, their regular opening and closure schedules remain in effect. Download park hours [here](#).

All [OPRYD rental facilities](#) will remain closed per the Alameda County Order. Applications for future events and gatherings will be accepted, but permits will not be issued until the Alameda County Order is lifted.

OPRYD intends on opening the following athletic fields in the next few weeks. For more information on renting one of these fields, please contact Frederick Morris at [fmorris@oakalndca.gov](mailto:fmorris@oakalndca.gov).

- Bushrod Field
- Caldecott Field
- Curt Flood Field
- Greenman Field
- Lowell Field
- Oak Port Field
- Otis Spunkmeyer Field
- Owens Jones Field

- Raimondi Field

OPRYD continues to provide safe childcare services meeting County Health guidelines. Register for Town Enrichment and Summer Town Camp at <https://cityofoakland.perfectmind.com> or search activities at: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/search-the-catalog-of-parks-and-recreation-activities-programs-and-classes>

The State's guidance and reopening plan are available in multiple languages at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19MultilingualDocuments.aspx>

**Get tested:** Free, confidential COVID-19 testing is available to everyone that needs it. Protect the ones you love. [Find a testing site](#) near you.

While the change to Orange Tier is encouraging, Alameda County reminds all Oakland residents to **follow the 5 Ws to stay safer:**

- **Wear a mask,**
- **Wash your hands,**
- **Watch your distance,**
- **Wait to see loved ones,**
- **When it's your turn, get vaccinated!**

Be sure to [register](#) to get notified when it's your turn to receive the vaccine!

**When are you eligible for your COVID-19 vaccine?**

**Vaccinate ALL 58**  
Together we can end the pandemic.

**Phase 1A:** All healthcare workers and nursing home residents.

**Phase 1B:** Anybody 65+, agriculture, education, and emergency service workers.

**As of March 15th:** People aged 16-64 at higher risk for serious COVID-19 illness.

**April 1st:** Anybody 50+

**April 15th:** All Californians (ages 16+)

**I am urging everyone who is eligible to seek an appointment and get vaccinated as soon as possible. For information on vaccinations in Alameda County, go [here](#) and [here](#). The state's [MyTurn website can be found here](#), with additional questions answered at <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>.**

Vaccinations sign-ups can also be found through [CVS](#), [Safeway](#), and [Walgreens](#), as well as through your healthcare provider such as Kaiser, Stanford Health Care and Sutter Health.

Over 600,000 Alameda County residents have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine, and more than 374,000 of those have been fully vaccinated. Please make your appointment for vaccination today. If no appointments appear to be available, try back a later in the day. Please be persistent.

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## **Budget FY 2021 – 2023**

Last month the Council started to deliberate on final budget adjustments for fiscal year 2020-2021 and outlining priorities for the fiscal years 2021-2023. The Council will consider selected budget modifications and restorations for the current FY 20-21 budget at our upcoming April 12th City Council meeting. On March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at our [Council Meeting](#) and [Council Retreat](#) councilmembers shared their priorities and visions for the city. **Please see Councilmember Kalb's Budget Priorities [here](#).**

Over the next few months the Mayor, City Council and the City Administration will conduct analyses and meetings to arrive at the final budget no later than June 30, 2021.

You are invited to share your top priorities with Councilmember Kalb by emailing him at [dkalb@oaklandca.gov](mailto:dkalb@oaklandca.gov). Councilmember Kalb will be hosting virtual Community Town Halls on the city budget in April and May. Details to be announced.

## **Oakland Revenue Bureau Public Information**

Did you know that if you rent out a room(s) in your house, you are required to have an Oakland business license? Anyone renting property (residential, commercial, or industrial) in Oakland must apply for a business license and pay an annual business tax. If you only rent a few rooms in your primary residence, you may be eligible for a partial or full exemption from the tax through 12/31/2030. For more information go to <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/business-tax-applications-1>, e-mail [BTWebSupport@oaklandca.gov](mailto:BTWebSupport@oaklandca.gov), or call 510-238-3704.

Do you own and occupy a property in Oakland? Are you a low-income homeowner? If so, you may qualify for a Property Tax Special Assessment Exemption and/or Refund. To find the Exemption/Refund application and for more information, please visit <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/request-property-tax-special-assessment-exemption-or-refund>, e-mail [SPARE@OaklandCA.gov](mailto:SPARE@OaklandCA.gov), or call 510-238-2942. You may also be eligible for additional Property Tax Special Assessment Exemptions from Oakland Unified School District. Please visit their website at [www.ousd.org/domain/3290](http://www.ousd.org/domain/3290), e-mail [ousdparceltax@ousd.org](mailto:ousdparceltax@ousd.org), or call 510-879-8884.

Do you have parking tickets and are facing financial challenges? Payment plans are available for: (1) low income individuals (Income Driven Payment Plan) and (2) people who have over \$250 in unpaid Oakland parking citations (Traditional Payment Plan). For more information, visit <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/parking-ticket-payment-plan> or call 510-238-7475 or 510-238-3816.

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## Supporting the Asian American and Asian Pacific-Islander Communities in Oakland

As we've all seen in news reports locally and beyond, violence perpetrated on our Asian American neighbors has been on the rise. Anti-Asian racism, violence and recent hate incidents reported in Oakland and across our country are abhorrent to say the least and must be stopped! Hate has no place in Oakland. [Watch a PSA from our Bay Area Mayors](#), and [read this posting from the San Francisco Foundation](#).



The Oakland Public Library has put together an important [collection of resources](#) for learning about the history of anti-Asian racism in America and supporting our communities ongoing anti-racist education and work.

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## Meet Oakland's New Police Chief - April 14

Please join in at our Wednesday, April 14th Town Hall with OPD Police Chief **LeRonne Armstrong** in conversation with Councilmember Kalb on Zoom, 6:30 - 8:00pm.

Chief Armstrong, along with representatives from Oakland's Department of Violence Prevention, will be on hand to answer your questions. Register in advance at <https://t.ly/3KhV>.



**ZOOM EVENT:**

**MEET POLICE CHIEF LERONNE ARMSTRONG**

**IN CONVERSATION WITH DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB**

**WITH Q&A**

**WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 14  
6:30 - 8 PM**

Registration Link :  
<https://t.ly/3KhV>



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## Making Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Available to Everyone

Emergency Preparedness is critical! Please join Councilmember Kalb and his staff on **Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** for the Town Hall dedicated to sharing information about the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The City's Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) team will share their knowledge and inform you on how you can become a part of this program and help our community and your neighborhood in times of crisis.

The team will also appreciate you spreading the word, and hearing your insight and recommendations with regard to making Community Emergency Response Team training available to everyone in Oakland.

Councilmember Kalb is participating in the City's CERT pilot project and is proud to support the City's efforts of creating a robust crisis response plan and an active network of volunteers who are willing and ego to help their neighbors.

**What: CERT training information Town Hall**

**When: Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM – 7:30PM**

**Where:** On Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5346630875>

Please contact Olga Bolotina at [obolotina@oaklandca.gov](mailto:obolotina@oaklandca.gov) with questions.



## Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Are you struggling to pay rent or have a past due utility bill? Do your tenants owe you some rent? You may qualify for the City of Oakland's Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Apply online at: <https://hpp.bayareacs.org>. For more information call (510) 238-6182.

# COVID-19 RENT RELIEF

Struggling to pay rent?

Have past due utility bills?

Are you a housing provider who is owed rent?

You may be eligible for the

## Emergency Rental Assistance Program

- Income is no greater than \$65,250 for a 4-person household
- Qualify for unemployment or experiencing financial hardship
- At risk of experiencing housing instability or homelessness

## TO APPLY

Visit: [hpp.bayareacs.org](https://hpp.bayareacs.org)

Or call one of our partners:

Bay Area Community  
Services

**510-899-9289**

Catholic Charities  
East Bay

**510-860-4985**

Eviction Defense  
Center

**510-452-4541**

For more information visit:

[oaklandca.gov/emergencyrent](https://oaklandca.gov/emergencyrent)

Email: [HousingAssistance@oaklandca.gov](mailto:HousingAssistance@oaklandca.gov)

Call: 510-238-6182



CITY OF  
**OAKLAND**

Keep Oakland  
HOUSED

Additional info

at <https://oaklandca.gov/emergencyrent> and <https://www.keeпоaklandhoused.org>.

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## Ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers and String Trimmers

As many of our constituent know in the fall of 2020, the Oakland City Council passed the law that was authored by Councilmember Kalb to ban Combustion Engine-Powered Leaf Blowers and String Trimmers. To insure that people had sufficient time to prepare for the implementation and enforcement of this law there was a grace period established that ended in early April 2021.

The Public Works Department has the web page informational component up and published: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/oakland-bans-the-use-of-combustion-engine-powered-leaf-blowers-and-string-trimmers> We've been also informed that notices to appropriate businesses have been sent. We appreciate everyone who supported this Ordinance and welcome your help spreading the word.

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## Slow Streets Program

Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) had a range of initiatives implemented in the response to the pandemic. One of those initiatives is a [Slow Streets Program](#), which "was intended to support safe physical activity and alleviate overcrowding in parks and on trails by discouraging through traffic on certain local streets." Temporary barricades were installed on several streets, preventing the traffic flow in one or both directions on a single street.

[District One has a number of streets](#) that are part of the Slow Streets program. The City is currently engaged in [Phase II](#) of the program, which consists of evaluation and development of specific recommendations for each location.

Many district residents expressed support and interest in this program.

Councilmember Kalb and D1 staff are receiving periodic reports on the program as a whole and on each District 1 location and will be sharing more information as we receive it and as the program develops.

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## Paint the Town Program

[Paint the Town](#) is a by-request program that allows community groups to paint street murals on neighborhood streets. While Paint the Town program is on hiatus

as it transitions from pilot to a permanent program, we are happy to report that a few previously proposed projects around the city, such as the one at Mystic and Rockwell Streets were approved and are planned to be painted as soon as the weather permits.

Stemming from PLACE for Sustainable Living and Councilmember Kalb's collaboration in 2015 and with support from the Mayor, this pilot program allowed community residents to paint dozens of temporary street murals on Oakland's roads. Murals are designed and painted by Oakland community members, reflecting our communities' cultures and values, while also bringing some vibrancy and delight to our standard asphalt.

We are thrilled that this program that brings us together and provides work for our local artists is moving forward and is transforming into the permanent City program.

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## Earth Day and Earth Month 2021 in Oakland

Oakland is celebrating our 27th Earth Day in 2021 with volunteer activities throughout the month of April. Individuals, households and small groups are invited to clean up your neighborhood streets, parks and waterways with litter removal, habitat restoration and other beautification projects.

For more information please visit and to report your volunteer activity: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/oakland-earth-month-april-2021>.

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## Opening a Conversation About People, Communities and Their Parks

The Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation released and presented an in-depth report on **Parks and Equity: The Promise of Oakland's Parks** to the City Council. This report is looking at how Oaklanders are using their City parks and how parks are served especially as gentrification, climate change and a global public health crisis exacerbate disparities along income and racial lines.

You can find more information here: <https://www.oaklandparks.org/parks-and-equity-the-promise-of-oaklands-parks/>. To see the full report please visit: <https://www.oaklandparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/OPRF-Parks-And-Equity-2021-01-12.pdf>.



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## The Rockridge News March 2021 – 35th Anniversary Issue

The **March 2021 edition of The Rockridge News** marked the 35th anniversary of the newsletter and includes a quick retrospective of its history. It also contains important information about the Rockridge Community Planning Council's upcoming Election (April 15), The Virtual Candidates' Forum (April 8), as well as other RCPC sponsored activities. Future digital copies of the newsletter will once again be posted to the Rockridge.org website once any technical issues have been resolved.

The online digital version — in color, with hotlinks to online resources and information is available here: [https://issuu.com/editor-rockridge/docs/march\\_2021\\_rockridge\\_news\\_color](https://issuu.com/editor-rockridge/docs/march_2021_rockridge_news_color)

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## Please Make Way For Tree Trimming Along Paving Streets

Our paving team at OakDOT is working hard to bring paving to the Oakland streets. In the Temescal, Rockridge, Santa Fe, Gaskill, Longfellow, Bushrod and Piedmont Avenue neighborhoods of our District alone more than 25 street segments have been paved within this paving plan process so far. And more are on the way.

OakDOT is currently preparing for paving in [North Oakland and East Oakland hills](#) as part of the Measure KK-funded [2019 3-Year Paving Plan](#) slated to begin in June.

As part of this process, OakDOT staff are working with their colleagues in OPW Tree Services to trim trees along the streets that are going to be paved. This is important so that the paving operations do not damage trees (and so that trees do not swipe our machine operators!). However, this work often generates questions in the field. While all City staff are happy to answer questions from the public, conversation can slow down our crews' progress.

To keep our paving project on schedule, OakDOT kindly requests that residents allow OPW Tree Services to complete their expert trimming as efficiently as possible. Please make way for tree trimmers, and if you have any questions regarding this work, please contact [311](#).

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## Great Plates Delivered Program

Off the Grid has partnered with the City of Oakland to expand the Great Plates Delivered Program. This is a temporary food program that delivers fresh prepared meals from local Oakland Restaurants daily to individuals Seniors 60+ who are at high risk for COVID-19 and are struggling to obtain food.

Someone qualifies if:

- Are age 65 or older, or age 60-64 and have been diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, or are considered high risk by the CDC
- Lives alone or with one other program-eligible adult
- Earn less than \$74,940 (single) or \$101,460 (2-person)
- Are not currently receiving assistance from other state or federal nutrition assistance programs, like CalFresh/SNAP or Meals on Wheels
- Have difficulty accessing food or preparing meals
- Live in the City of Oakland

[www.offthegrid.com/oakgreatplates](http://www.offthegrid.com/oakgreatplates)

# GREAT PLATES DELIVERED OAKLAND

## MEALS FOR SENIORS IN OAKLAND

Great Plates Delivered Oakland is a temporary food program that serves older adults who are at heightened risk due to COVID-19.



CALL TO LEARN MORE: (510) 288-7887

Great Plates connects eligible seniors with two free meals a day, delivered directly to their home.



### LUNCH AND DINNER PROVIDED



### DIETARY RESTRICTIONS ACCOMMODATED

(vegetarian, low-sodium, pork-free, etc.)



### MEALS PREPARED BY LOCAL FOOD PROVIDERS AND RESTAURANTS



### SAFE, SECURE DELIVERY BY VERIFIED DRIVERS

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I QUALIFY?

Oakland residents who meet all of the following criteria:

- Are age 65 or older, are age 60-64 and have been diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, or are considered high risk by the CDC.
- Live by yourself or with one other program-eligible adult.
- Earn less than \$74,940 (single) or \$101,460 (2-person).
- Are not currently receiving assistance from other state or federal nutrition assistance programs, like CalFresh/SNAP or Meals on Wheels.
- Have difficulty accessing food or preparing your own meals.

For information about other available food resources, such as pop-ups please visit:

[offthegrid.com/oakgreatplates](https://offthegrid.com/oakgreatplates)



Additional information on this and other food distribution efforts in Oakland can be found [here](#).

## Capital Improvement Program

The City of Oakland is working on finalizing our FY 2021-2023 Capital Improvement Program. The City Council will make the final decision in June. For more information, including the status of community suggested capital projects, please go to this link: [www.oaklandca.gov/topics/capital-improvement-program](http://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/capital-improvement-program).

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## Tiny Homes Village

I was thrilled to be part of the effort to create the Youth Spirit Artworks Tiny Homes Village in East Oakland for unhoused young adults.



Thank You Sally Hindman and all the many people—including a number of East Bay faith leaders and volunteers, as well as our partners in Berkeley—who joined together over the past few years to make this happen.

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## Contacts:

Dan's [COVID Resources](#) page.

**Oakland SeeClickFix** - Call 311 - <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/oak311>

**Alameda County Social Services and Referral** - Call 211 <http://211alamedacounty.org/2-1-1-alameda-county-resource-finder/>

**Dan Kalb's Council Office** - 510-238-7001

**OPD Emergencies** - 911 (or 510-777-3211)

**OPD non-emergencies** - 510-777-3333

**Oakland Recycling/Waste Collection Hotline** - (510) 238-7283 ([recycling@oaklandca.gov](mailto:recycling@oaklandca.gov))

*Follow Dan on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)*