**January 2019 Newsletter**

DRAFT 1.8.19

**2019 MLK Day of Service Blood Drive**

Did you know that donating one pint of blood can save up to 3 lives?!

My office is sponsoring a local **Save a Life Blood Drive** on [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service](https://www.allforgood.org/projects/xJYwzrQD) 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 21st** from 2:00 pm until 5:30 pm

Where: American Red Cross Center at 6230 Claremont Ave. in North Oakland.

If you are available and able to donate, please send an e-mail to Lisa Jacobs at ljacobs@oaklandca.gov or calling 510-238-7014. We encourage those who are available to take a moment to read helpful [eligibility requirements information](http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood/eligibility-requirements).

Please join with us and other East Bay residents to give a little something to save a life *or three*. And feel free to forward this to all your friends, neighbors and relatives.

We look forward to seeing you on the 21st. Thank you so much for supporting your community and for spreading the word about this event.



**Congratulations to New Councilmembers**; **Committee members appointed**

Warm Congratulations to our three newly-elected City Councilmembers—each of whom were sworn in at a Special City Council meeting ceremony on Monday January 7th:

**Ms. Nikki Fortunato Bas**, representing **District 2**;

**Ms. Sheng Thao**, representing **District 4**; and

**Mr. Loren Taylor** representing **District 6**.

The first business of the 2019-2020 City Council was to elect new officers, as follows:

**Council President**: Councilmember-at-Large **Rebecca Kaplan**

**President *Pro-Tem***: Councilmember **Dan Kalb**

**Vice-Mayor**: Councilmember **Larry Reid**

I am honored to that my colleagues have selected me as Council President *Pro-Tem*, which means that I will chair City Council meetings in the absence of the President.

In her first duty, the new City Council President Kaplan announced Committee appointments as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| Sub-Committee | Leadership and Members  |
| Finance and Management | Chairperson: Lynette McElhaneyMembers: Sheng Thao, Nikki Bas, **Dan Kalb** |
| Public Works | Chairperson: **Dan Kalb**Members: Larry Reid, Sheng Thao, Noel Gallo |
| Community and Economic Development (CED) | Chairperson: Larry ReidMembers: Nikki Bas, Loren Taylor, Noel Gallo |
| Life Enrichment | Chairperson: Loren TaylorMembers: Lynette McElhaney, Rebecca Kaplan, Nikki Bas |
| Public Safety | Chairperson: Noel GalloMembers: Rebecca Kaplan, Nikki Bas, Loren Taylor  |
| Rules and Legislation | Chairperson: Sheng ThaoMembers: Rebecca Kaplan, **Dan Kalb**, Lynette McElhaney |
| City Port Liaison | Chairperson: Rebecca KaplanMembers: Nikki Bas, Sheng Thao, Noel Gallo |
| Education Partnership | Chairperson: Nikki BasMembers: **Dan Kalb**, Sheng Thao, Loren Taylor |

Congratulations also to **Courtney Ruby**, who will be returning to the office of City Auditor. And finally, Congratulations to Mayor Libby Schaaf on her re-election to a second four-year term.

**Oakland Animal Services – Service updates**

Starting on Saturday, January 12, Oakland Animal Services (OAS) will be **open** **six days per week** (closed Wednesday) to align its hours with industry standards and other Bay Area Shelters. The new hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday -- 3-6 p.m. (closed Wednesdays)

Saturday & Sunday -- 1-5 p.m.

Just a few years ago, the dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, and countless other animals who arrived at the shelter’s doors faced an uncertain future. Now OAS routinely rescues and saves the lives of more than **80 percent** of the animals taken in – a 50 percent increase over the shelter’s “live release” rate just a few years ago.

OAS has also made great strides in recruiting and hiring full-time staff and volunteers dedicated to serving both the animals and humans who need its assistance. Today, there are **35 full-time staff** members, and since 2016, the shelter has employed a **full-time veterinarian** to provide critical medical attention to the thousands of animals arriving at its doors. The number of **dedicated volunteers** who support the department and the animals in its care has doubled: **equivalent to thirteen full-time employees**. OAS has also increased its number of adoption partners – organizations in California and beyond who have capacity to take in hard-to-place animals rescued by OAS – by nearly 40 percent.

Animal lovers who wish to support the shelter’s ongoing work to improve the city’s services for its homeless animals can make a tax-deductible gift to Friends of Oakland Animal Services’ campaign to raise $25K to support lifesaving medical care for homeless animals awaiting their second chance in the new year.

**Upcoming Community Office Hours**

As you may know I hold monthly Community Office Hours generally the first Saturday of each month by appointment at rotating cafes in North Oakland.

January 12th: La Boulangerie de San Francisco (5500 College Avenue)

February 2nd: Café Dejena (3939 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way)

District One residents can sign up for a 20-minute slot by contacting Cooper Nordquist at CNordquist@oaklandca.gov, or 510-238-3557. Please include the topic of your inquiry or issue when you reserve a spot.

Additionally, I generally hold drop-in office hours on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Temescal Farmers Market from 10:45am – 12:45pm

**Mayor Libby Schaaf's Celebrate Oakland Arts**

Closing out Oakland’s **Inauguration Week**, newly re-elected Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf is hosting a ***free*** afternoon event to celebrate artists and the artistry of Oakland on Saturday, January 12th, from 1pm to 5pm, at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, on 1428 Alice Street.

Stop by for a free, fun-filled community event for the entire family featuring live music on two different stages, dance showcases, arts & crafts, games and food trucks. Click [here](https://www.celebrateoakland.com/oakland-arts) for information about parking and the full listing of performances.



**2019 Everyone Counts – January 30, 2019**

The **Alameda County Homeless Point-In-Time Count** of those experiencing homelessness records the number of people experiencing homelessness on one night in January (locally known as **EveryOne Counts**!). This effort takes place every two years and is required for maintaining our federal funding for services to end homelessness. Most importantly, it gives our community useful and critical data for strategic, program, and policy and fiscal planning.

The County needs 500 volunteers to work in teams to complete the visual count of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in every city throughout Alameda County. If you are interested in volunteering, register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019AlamedaPIT>

For more information, download a fact sheet here: [http://files.constantcontact.com/6793e4f9601/139a79e9-9460-4a4a-914d-f84df7d033a4.pdf](http://files.constantcontact.com/6793e4f9601/139a79e9-9460-4a4a-914d-f84df7d033a4.pdf%20)

**Preparing for Winter – summary of recommendations and services from the City of Oakland**

Every year, Oakland prepares for [winter storms](http://www2.oaklandnet.com/ElNino/index.htm). Oakland Public Works and Department of Transportation crews have been making advance preparations to help mitigate weather impacts and enable City crews to respond as effectively as possible to any requests for services. City crews are in the process of:

* Cleaning storm drains, inlets, culverts and drainage structures
* Laying down plastic tarp and sandbags in areas that have seen previous mudslides or flooding
* Coordinating planning efforts with other agencies in the region

**Preparedness Tips for Residents and Businesses**

* Clear your gutters and downspouts; ensure downspouts are working and pointing away from your house
* Keep your curbs and sidewalk gutters clear of leaves and debris (and please dispose of in your green bins – not sweep them into the gutter)
* Check the storm drain near your house and use a rake to keep it clear of debris (see Adopt-a-Drain information on the next page of this release)
* Check that backflow prevention devices on sewer laterals/cleanouts are functioning properly – or consult a plumber to have one installed.
* Trim trees on your property to help them handle wind and rain; call a certified arborist to inspect your trees if you observe unusual leaning or dead branches
* Check out your local hardware store for flood prevention tools and techniques such as using sandbags to divert water away from your property or prevent it from coming in through doors and basement windows
* Review your property insurance; if you don’t have flood insurance, consider getting it now – it takes 30 days to take effect
* Review emergency procedures and evacuation plans at your children’s schools
* Make sure you have emergency supplies to last for at least three days, including enough water, food, medicine and other supplies for family members and pets
* In the event of flood conditions, please be careful and safe by avoiding walking, riding or driving across standing water

**Volunteer with Adopt-a-Drain to Help Minimize Flooding**

Residents and businesses can help minimize flooding in their neighborhood by volunteering with the City’s [Adopt-A-Drain](http://adoptadrainoakland.com/) program to keep a storm drain near their home or business free of debris. About 1,100 storm drains are currently adopted by Oaklanders, but many thousands more are waiting to be adopted. By signing up, you will receive storm notification emails before large storm events, and the City can provide rakes, brooms, dust pans, bags and other supplies. Remember: “Clear the drain before the rain.” To sign up, visit [adoptadrainoakland.com](http://adoptadrainoakland.com/) or call (510) 238-7630.

**Free Sandbags**

Oakland Public Works is providing residents and businesses with emergency sandbags (up to 10 per household) and plastic sheeting (up to 20 feet per household) while supplies last, to help divert runoff away from buildings and to help prevent flooding and mudslides:

Municipal Service Center, 7101 Edgewater Drive

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Drainage Services Facility, 5921 Shepherd Canyon Road

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**How to Report Flood-Related or Storm-Related Problems**

Please keep these numbers handy for emergencies, and share them with neighbors:

**For storm-related emergency issues on public property and in the public right-of-way** (such as flooding, mudslides, landslides, and manholes overflowing onto streets and sidewalks), contact OAK 311. Dial 311 from any phone within Oakland or call 510-615-5566.

**For non-emergencies**, OAK 311 can also be contacted in other ways:

Email: OAK311@oaklandca.gov

Online: <http://311.oaklandca.gov/>

Mobile App: Seeclickfix or OAK 311, available in the App Store for Apple devices and Google Play for Androids

**For downed power lines or if you smell natural gas**, leave the area immediately and then call 9-1-1 or PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

**For power outage alerts** go online to pge.com/outage alerts.

**For water service emergencies** (e.g., no water service, broken hydrants, broken water main pipes), contact EBMUD at 1-866-403-2683.

**For life-threatening emergencies**, call 9-1-1 from a land line or (510) 777-3211 from a cell phone.