Keeping Your Family Safe From Fire

In 2018, the State of California has seen a significant increase in wildfires throughout the state. Wildfires, similar to house fires, can spread quickly and cause catastrophic property damage, personal injury and even loss of life. But unlike house or other smaller fires, wildfires are harder to fight because they are more remote causing significant challenges with accessing them to extinguish or to control the spread of the fire. There are 884 fire departments in the state, with 154 of them within the nine Bay Area counties; and of those, there are hundreds of individual fire stations, the most, 49, in the San Francisco Fire department. This means a great deal of resources are available, but more and bigger fires are stretching those resources thin. Having so much presence throughout the state allows the state’s forestry fire service, CAL FIRE, to respond with the help of local fire departments in about 20 minutes to some of the biggest fires we’ve experienced in history. CAL FIRE covers forestry and wildlands and some unincorporated county lands throughout the state. This year has seen an increase in the number and size of fires, as measured by number of acres burned, amount of retardant and equipment used and number of fire fighters needed to fight the blazes. 2019 records have surpassed those of 2018, and are on track to shatter those records with two more months still remaining in the year. The McClellan Reload Base, near Sacramento, has already set an all-time record for retardant delivered at 5 million gallons. Statewide, CAL FIRE has delivered over 11 million gallons of retardant so far, compared to only 7.7 million as of this time in 2017.

Of course, fighting fires that are already underway is critical to the safety of people, pets, livestock, crops and property. However, the bigger goal is to prevent fires.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Millions of people around the world live with or know someone living with diabetes. Regardless of the type, diabetes isn’t yet a curable disease. However, it is a very treatable disease, and no matter how frightening, annoying, and frustrating it can be, people with diabetes can live long, healthy, and happy lives. Left untreated or uncontrolled, this leading cause of disability and death in the United States, can cause blindness, nerve damage, kidney disease, and other health problems.

One in 10 Americans have diabetes — that’s more than 30 million people. And another 84 million adults in the United States are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes. The good news is that people who are at high risk for type 2 diabetes can lower their risk by more than half if they make healthy changes. These changes include: eating healthy, getting more physical activity, and losing weight.

During November, American Diabetes Month, we raise awareness about diabetes risk factors and encourage people to make healthy changes. Here are just a few ideas:

- Make small changes, like taking the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Get regular checkups. Have your blood pressure and cholesterol checked, and ask your doctor about your diabetes risk.

Learn more at www.Diabetes.org or www.healthfinder.gov and enter “Diabetes” into the search field. With the approval of your physician, use the US Department of Agriculture’s www.ChooseMyPlate.gov model as a dietary guideline for a healthy diet.
Feeding the Community with Care

The holiday season is often associated with family meals, decadent desserts and the few extra pounds that may bring. For some, however, this time of year brings additional financial burdens that may make getting basic daily meals out of reach. When living on a limited or fixed income, families may find that purchasing nutritious food is a greater challenge than usual. People who work in construction or on commission often find that work slows down during the holidays and rainy season. As a result, income drops and money is tight, sometimes for months.

Every year, many organizations including Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) and the Oakland Black Firefighters Association, distribute food to families who need additional support around the holidays. If you are interested in receiving more information about holiday food distribution events, please contact FCP at (510) 587-5115. If you are in need of emergency food services during and beyond the holidays, please contact ACCFB at (510) 635-3663.

OHA hosts a food pantry once a month at Lockwood Gardens and Peralta Village. The food pantries provide fresh fruits, vegetables and bread. For more information on dates and times please call FCP at (510) 587-5115.

Holiday Employment

Seasonal work is a common way to bridge the financial gap between jobs or between seasons, or just to earn a little extra income to offset the increased expenses during the holiday season. If you’d like to take advantage of the thousands of part-time or seasonal jobs being offered this year, now is the time to apply. Most retail stores hire extra staff to accommodate the growing crowds during the Holiday Season. There is also an increase in jobs such as warehousing, airlines baggage handlers and restaurant staff, as well as “gig work” like driving for Uber or Lyft. If you need assistance in searching and applying for retail jobs or other seasonal work, please contact FCP at (510) 587-5115.

Spotlight

Through the Jobs Plus Program, OHA wants to develop job-driven approaches to increase earned income and improve employment outcomes for Public Housing (PH) residents. Increases in earned income after enrollment in the program are excluded from rent calculations, therefore, Jobs Plus participants have the opportunity to save rent money.

Work-able PH residents who are 18-61 years old and reside at Chestnut/Linden Court, Campbell Village, Mandela Gateway and Peralta Villa qualify to enroll in the program. Employed, self-employed and unemployed residents are welcome to apply. Oakland Housing Authority is in partnership with Private Industry Council to ensure PH residents are linked with employers, find jobs, and receive the training needed to be successful in the workforce. Currently, 313 residents participate in the program and about 66% are working. For more information about the program, call 510-587-5187.

OHA residents who do not live in public housing but need assistance with employment opportunities can contact FCP at (510) 587-5115.
Success Stories

Congratulations to Temeshia Pierce, an OHA public housing resident, who successfully completed the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program within five years. Through the FSS program, participating residents are able to get support as they work toward long-term goals, while also saving money that can ultimately be used to further their success.

It has not been an easy road for Ms. Pierce, but through perseverance and patience, she achieved success. She worked for two previous employers, before landing her current position as a full-time receptionist for a consulting firm. She has been in her current position for the past three years and just learned she will be promoted to Administrative Assistant in December 2018. Ms. Pierce is now preparing for her dream of homeownership with the guidance of the OHA Homeownership Program. Ms. Pierce would like residents to know that it is possible to start with nothing and work your way to success one step at a time. Way to go Ms. Pierce!

RESOURCES

Disabled Adults Services

Many adults have challenges managing their own business affairs, advocating for themselves, accessing services, finding and maintaining employment and caring for their own mental and physical health. Whether you are the person needing the care or wish to assist others who have special needs identify much needed services, there are resources available throughout the State of California, Alameda County and right here in Oakland.

City of Oakland:
(510) 238-3036

https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/apply-for-paratransit-services

Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly & Disabled (OPED)
(510) 536-2271

Oakland (Downtown) (510) 763-9999
Oakland (Fruitvale District) (510) 238-3036

www.cilberkeley.org
Berkeley (Ed Roberts Campus) (510) 841-4776

Center for Independent Living (CIL)
(800) 949-4232

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/list-of-local-programs-and-services-for-people-with-disabilities

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.

YOUR VOICE

Q: I just moved into my new apartment and I love it, except my neighbor plays his music really loud early in the morning. What can I do?

A: Noise is the most common problem facing apartment residents because the walls are thin and at some point you are very likely to hear your neighbors. There are many ways to resolve the problem without escalating any tension between the two parties. Talking to your neighbor is often the best solution, but remember to do so in a respectful way that allows for a constructive conversation about solutions and not just about problems.

Before you address your neighbor, make sure you feel the situation is safe. If the noise does not appear to be related to anything dangerous or unsafe (e.g., a family argument), then knock politely on the neighbor’s door and ask for a few minutes to discuss an issue of concern. If they don’t have time at the moment, then schedule a time that works for them and be sure you arrive on time.

If it doesn’t appear as if the problem can be resolved peacefully between the two of you, then involve your property manager. In the worst case scenario, call the police, but be certain to use the non-emergency number and do not use inflammatory language. The point is to resolve the problem, not escalate it.

Finally, keep in mind that some noise, like a crying baby, might not be easily resolved. In those cases, a set of earplugs may be the best way to keep the peace.

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.

RAB Blog

The Resident Advisory Board (RAB) would like to encourage you to get involved and support community projects in your area. Starting in October, the RAB will implement a new community initiative called the RAB Visions Project. RAB members will work with the Family and Community Partnerships Department (FCP) and local nonprofits to support various resident and community programs throughout Oakland. The goal of this project is to provide opportunities for members to further develop community leadership skills and support local initiatives that address systemic issues.

The focus areas will include:
- Civic Engagement and Leadership Development
- Education Initiative
- Computer Lab and Digital Literacy Support

If you would like to learn more about this project and/or other community projects and initiatives, please call (510) 587-5129. Take action and become the change.

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.
Some of the most successful adults started off as curious and energetic children who explored the world around them. Whether you are interested in sports, arts, civics, community service or other activities, you are likely to find a comfortable fit in your school or neighborhood if you look for extracurricular activities that interest you. “Extracurricular” is another way of saying an activity pursued in addition to the normal course of study (or outside of regular school work). Many schools no longer offer even some of the basics such as computers, science, athletics and performing and fine arts, due to years of budget cuts and increasing student populations. Therefore, it’s becoming more critical for families to locate programs on their own to supplement their children’s education—and then pay for it themselves.

By joining a sports team, the French club, 4-H, student council, radio, honor society, yearbook, chess club, drumline, drama, science club, choir, math league, ROTC, marching band, Junior Achievement, mock trial team or dance troupe, your child will broaden their horizons and meet people who share their interests. While they may not share much else in common, working and competing with people who come from different backgrounds is a wonderful way to be challenged and get exposure to other cultures and perspectives.

It may take significant effort and oftentimes money, to replace the programs that were once common, but the benefits can be immense. Sports help with focus, teamwork, energy levels, depression and overall fitness. The arts help with self-expression and creativity. Civic engagement leads to a better understanding of your place in the world and helps with self-determination and personal advocacy. These and many other benefits are the result of participating in any number of activities. They also enable the student to have a wide range of demonstrated interests and accomplishments on college and job applications, which admissions officers and employers credit for helping to create a well-rounded and responsible citizen. Other benefits are the result of participating in any number of activities. They also enable the student to have a wide range of demonstrated interests and accomplishments on college and job applications, which admissions officers and employers credit for helping to create a well-rounded and responsible citizen.

MEASURE AA, THE OAKLAND CHILDREN’S INITIATIVE

MEASURE AA, THE OAKLAND CHILDREN’S INITIATIVE if approved by voters, would create a $198, 30-year parcel tax to raise $30 million per year to expand early childhood and preschool education in Oakland. The Oakland Children’s Initiative hopes to dramatically expand access to quality, affordable preschool for every 4-year old from a low-income background in Oakland. The purpose of Measure AA is to try to remove barriers for Oakland children, and also to provide scholarships and financial aid to help increase graduation rates for over 10,000 children annually.

According to proponents, the Measure was developed over the course of almost a year, with over 400 Oakland community members, who participated in drafting the Children’s Initiative through monthly Community Advisory Councils, individual and group meetings, and a public version of the legislation posted for public comment.

Learn more at www.YesOnMeasureAA.com

Teen Scene

College Deadlines

This is the time of year that college-bound high school students need to be aware of application, scholarships and other key deadlines that can ultimately make going to college a reality for them. If your student has already created a plan with their school counselor, now is a good time to check in and make sure they are still on track. If there are any doubts, they should talk to their school counselor or guidance counselor.

The application filing period for University of California (UC) campuses is November 1-30, 2018. California State University (CSU) campuses are accepting applications through November 30, 2017. Check directly with other colleges or universities to determine their specific application deadlines and plan accordingly.

Most scholarships become available in November and many have deadlines in March. Contact OHA's FCP department for more information by calling (510) 587-5135 or email: Achieve@oakha.org. Or visit www.scholarships.com, www.fastweb.com, or www.collegescholarships.org for more scholarship information.

Fire Extinguishers

CO2 extinguishers are ideal for use on hot oil fires because they are non-conductive, do not conduct electricity, and extinguish electrical fires by depriving the electrical device of oxygen. CO2 extinguishers are also useful for use on Class A, B and C fires. They are also used on fires involving electrical equipment, however they do not cool the electrical equipment or fire source as effectively as water.

Powder extinguishers are a good, multi-purpose extinguisher because they can be used on Class A, B and C fires. They are also used on fires involving electrical equipment. However, they are not cool the source as effectively as water.

Wet chemical extinguishers are suitable for use on Class A, B and C fires. They are also used on fires involving electrical equipment. However, they are not cool the source as effectively as water.

Fire blankets are primarily for use on hot oil fires, but can also be used to extinguish Class A fires. They are also useful in extinguishing electrical fires caused by short circuits.

Dry chemical extinguishers are ideal for use on hot oil fires because they are non-conductive, do not conduct electricity, and extinguish electrical fires by depriving the electrical device of oxygen. Dry chemical extinguishers are also useful for use on Class A, B and C fires. They are also used on fires involving electrical equipment. However, they do not cool the electrical equipment or fire source as effectively as water.

Water extinguishers are suitable for use on Class A, B and C fires. They are also used on fires involving electrical equipment. However, they do not cool the source as effectively as water.

When looking for activities consider things like scheduling, location, costs and possible scholarships, which may offset program costs. Remember to look for hidden costs in addition to program fees, such as uniforms, travel, and even trophies and pizza parties. Also don’t forget that some activities, especially sports, can go into playoffs and championships which can create additional challenges for your schedule and budget.
On November 6, Americans will go to the polls to cast votes in the midterm election. This is not a presidential election year, but your vote is as important in this election as in any other. National policies guide the direction of our country and your vote is how you make your voice heard. Along with the bigger picture, there are state and local measures that impact your daily life. By understanding the propositions and local measures on the ballot, you can cast a more informed vote.

You are eligible to vote in California if you are:
- a U.S. citizen living in California
- at least 18 years old
- registered where you currently live
- not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony
- not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court

Some people residing outside California may still qualify as a military or overseas voter in California elections. To learn more visit https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voterregistration/military-overseas-voters/mailingmilitary-overseas-voters/

The City of Oakland will hold a general election for mayor, city council, auditor and School Board. To see an overview of the candidates, visit https://ballotpedia.org/Municipal_elections_in_Oakland,_California_(2018)

In addition, the ballot in Oakland will include:
- Measure AA: Children’s Initiative (see Education section for more information);
- Measure V: Taxation of Cannabis;
- Measure W: Special Parcel Tax on Vacant Properties;
- Measure X: Graduated Transfer Tax;
- Measure Y: Just Cause for Eviction;
- Measure Z: Hotel Workers Wages and Conditions

There are also other regional and special district measures that may impact your household.

The Propositions on the ballot include:

- **Proposition 1** authorizes $4 billion in general obligation bonds for housing related programs, loans, grants, and projects; and housing loans for veterans.
- **Proposition 2** authorizes $2B in bonds to fund existing housing programs for individuals with mental illness as voted in the No Place Like Home Act (2016) and the Mental Health Services Act (2004)
- **Proposition 3** issues $8.877 billion in general obligation bonds for water-related infrastructure and environmental projects.
- **Proposition 4** authorizes $1.5 billion in general obligation bonds to fund grants for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipping of qualifying children’s hospitals.
- **Proposition 5** allows homebuyers who are age 55 and older, or severely disabled, to transfer the tax-assessed value from their prior home to their new home, regardless of value, location in state or number of moves.
- **Proposition 6** repeals the gas and diesel tax increases and vehicle fees that were enacted in 2017 and requires voter approval for future fuel tax and vehicle fee increases.
- **Proposition 7** allows the Legislature, with a two-thirds vote, to change Daylight Saving Time, as long as the change is allowed under federal law. Until any such change, California would maintain the current DST period.
- **Proposition 8** limits the charges to 115 percent of the costs for direct patient care and healthcare improvements, along with rebates, and penalties if charges exceed the limit.
- **Proposition 10** repeals state law that currently restricts the scope of rent-control policies that may be imposed; allows for rental rate restrictions that residential-property owners may charge for new tenants, new construction and single-family homes; and upholds landlords’ right to a fair financial return on their rental property.
- **Proposition 11** requires hourly employees of private-sector emergency ambulance companies (EMTs and paramedics) to be on-call during work breaks and be paid for the time. Other requirements include scheduling, training, mental healthcare and penalties for non-compliance.
- **Proposition 12** creates new and explicit minimum requirements on farmers to provide more space for egg-laying hens, breeding pigs, and calves raised for veal in California, to be phased in over the next several years.

Visit the website of the California Secretary of State at http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/ for a complete look at the 2018 Midterm Election. You can pick up a voter registration form from your library or Post Office or receive the voter registration via mail by calling 1-800-345-VOTE (8683).
Visit the Board of Commissioners web page for Board meeting schedule, agendas and minutes at http://www.oakha.org/boc.html

**AT-A-GLANCE • WINTER/SPRING 2018-19**

**NOVEMBER**

- 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
- 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
- 25 26 27 28 29 30

**DECEMBER**

- 11/04/18 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 11/06/18 Election Day
- 11/11/18 Veterans Day
- 11/21/18 Thanksgiving OHA observed
- 11/22/18 Thanksgiving Day
- 11/23/18 Day after Thanksgiving
- 12/06/18 37th Annual Holiday Splendor

**JANUARY**

- 1 2 3 4 5
- 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
- 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
- 27 28 29 30 31

**FEBRUARY**

- 25 28 29 30 31

**MARCH**

- 1 2 3 4 5 6
- 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
- 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
- 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
- 28 29 30

**APRIL**

- 15
- 16 17 18 19 20
- 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
- 28 29 30

**6 Months of National Awareness**

**November**

- National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month, American Diabetes Month

**December**

- World AIDS Day, Int’l Volunteer Day
- Cervical Health Awareness Month
- National Birth Defects Prevention Month

**January**

- National 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)

**Save the Date!**

**Register to Vote**

Registration Deadline

In California, the deadline to register or re-register to vote for any election is 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the 15th calendar day before that election.

https://registertovote.ca.gov/

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

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

Trường chính thống dịch đầy đủ cho tất 151 tiếng nói miễn phí cho quý vị đăng cúng tại nhiều văn phòng gần đây.

所有辦公地點都會免費提供151種的外語翻譯服務。