



December 3, 2020

Greetings Neighbor,

In today's update find exciting news about Oakland's natural gas ban in new construction, Covid-19 update including a session to discuss its impact on Oakland's city finances, open enrollment at Sankofa, and suspension of OPRYD's Town Camp activities, due to the Covid surge.

When shopping for gifts this holiday, remember to shop locally! While I wouldn't normally encourage online shopping due to the waste involved, this year with Covid rates resurging I support distance shopping – but locally! Many of our local merchants are set up to receive orders online – please see [VisitOakland.com/SpendStayLove](https://www.visitoakland.com/spendstaylove) for small business directories, online shopping options and fun events.

North Oakland shopping resources include: Piedmont Avenue Merchants (<https://www.piedmontavenue.org>), Rockridge Districts Businesses (<https://www.rockridgedistrict.com>), and Temescal-Telegraph BID (<https://temescaldistrict.org/shop-temescal/>). Again, please do most of your shopping on-line *and* local.

-Dan

District 1 Clean-Up - THIS Saturday, Dec 5

This is a citywide volunteer partnership effort to clean areas around homeless encampments and in adjacent neighborhoods in every district in the city. District 1 event sponsored by Make Oakland Better, Alameda County, and Councilmember Dan Kalb.

When: Saturday, December 5, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Where: Grove-Shafter Park - Meet at 36th and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd

All healthy volunteers welcome – face coverings required to participate (and will be provided to those who don't have one). Social distancing will be practiced. For more information, please contact Deidra Moss | dmoos@oaklandca.gov | 510-238-3557



Make Oakland Better

City Wide Clean-up: District 1

Dec 5th, 2020 | 9am – 11am

MLK Underpass and Grove Shafter Park

Meet at: 36th and MLK

For more information contact Deidra at dmosso@oaklandca.gov or 510.238.3557



All healthy volunteers are welcome · Masks/coverings are required to participate · Tools will be provided · Social distancing will be practiced

Oakland Climate-Friendly Ban on Natural Gas in New Buildings



On Dec. 1, 2020 Oakland City Council unanimously approved my [groundbreaking legislation](#) to improve building safety and reduce Oakland’s greenhouse gas emissions by prohibiting the use of fossil fuel gas in all newly constructed buildings. While building electrification – powering all energy systems like cooking and heating with electricity – is becoming widespread throughout the state, the legislation I introduced with Mayor Libby Schaaf and Councilmember Nikki Bas represents one of the most comprehensive policies introduced in California thus far. The ordinance requires two readings - its second reading is scheduled for December 15 City Council after which it will be effective (assuming another unanimous vote).



Unlike electricity, natural gas burned within homes and buildings cannot be made clean. Natural gas, which is primarily methane, creates greenhouse gas emissions when it is burned, and even more when it leaks throughout the gas distribution system. These leaks have severe climate impacts because methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas, more than 80 times stronger than carbon dioxide in its potential to trap heat in the atmosphere.

Oakland cannot meet its climate goals without shifting quickly away from natural gas use and my legislation will put Oakland at the forefront of [efforts statewide](#). State energy policies and lower prices of renewables mean that substituting natural gas with electricity is one of the quickest, safest, and least expensive pathways to eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from buildings. Additionally, reducing the reliance on gas systems will reduce the risk of fires, simplify building systems and maintenance, and improve indoor air quality.

As of late 2020, about three dozen California jurisdictions have banned or significantly curtailed the use of natural gas in new building construction, including San Francisco, San

Jose, Berkeley and Richmond. Eliminating natural gas in buildings can lower the risk of fire after earthquakes and reduce the likelihood of childhood asthma. Children living in homes with gas cooking are [42% more likely](#) to have asthma.

“Oakland’s national leadership to build cleaner, safer, and healthier cities for all families continues with this historic transition to all-electric buildings,” said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. “I’m proud to have worked with Councilmember Kalb on this bold commitment to reduce our carbon emissions and ensure a greener future for Oakland and the world.”

Once approved, the legislation will require all residential and commercial building developers to submit building applications that will design and build without any natural gas infrastructure. The ordinance does not impact existing buildings, additions, or alterations, or attached accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and waivers may be granted for technology feasibility reasons.



Modern electric systems and appliances are more efficient than older gas technologies, and in some cases offer lower overall installation costs and utility bills. Heat pumps add air conditioning capacity in areas with heat stress, and induction cooking is safer with lower exposure to hot surfaces and no open flames.

In 2019, costs for all-electric new construction were already either on par with or less than those for mixed-fuel (i.e. electricity plus natural gas) construction. A recent analysis by California’s Statewide Utility Codes and Standards Team found that building all-electric reduced construction costs on average \$5,000 for single-family homes and over \$2,000 per unit in a multi-family building.

The Mayor and I served as lead sponsors of the legislation which was drafted as a collaborative effort by the City’s Environmental Services Sustainability Staff and the Planning and Building department. District 2 Councilmember Nikki Bas joined in as a co-sponsor of the legislation.

COVID-19 Updates

As we [reported previously](#), due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases (10,884 cumulative cases in Oakland as of December 1, 2020) [Alameda County is now in the purple tier](#) of the Governor's COVID-19 Reopening & Recovery plan. We have also been under the [limited stay-at-home order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom](#) since before the Thanksgiving holiday. [Thank you for adhering to our public health official's guidance](#) on avoiding unnecessary travel over the Thanksgiving weekend, wearing masks at all times, and limiting your interactions with those outside of your COVID-19 social bubble. It is our collective efforts that will continue to protect our many Oakland residents from a more deadly surge of the Coronavirus similar to what is being seen in other parts of the state and country.

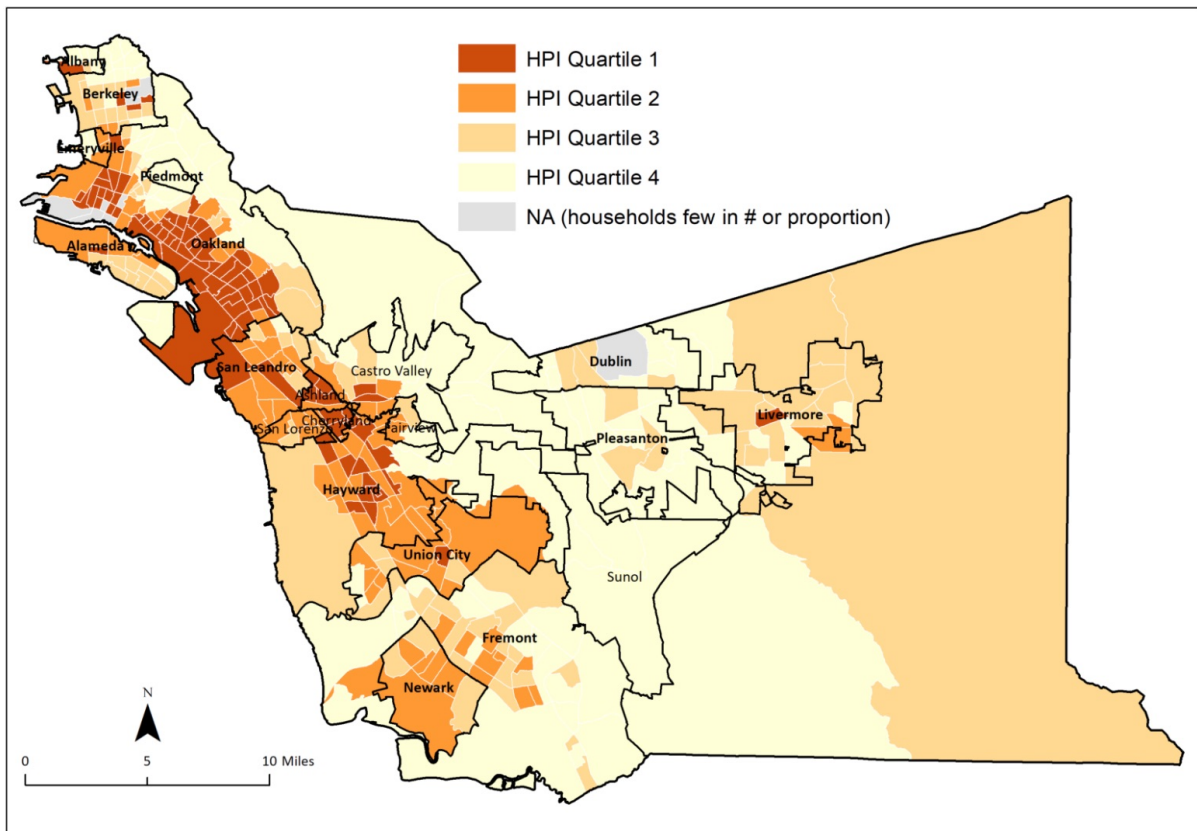
Here is the latest stay-at-home update from Alameda County's Public Health Dept:
<https://covid-19.acgov.org/covid19-assets/docs/press/press-release-2020.12.03.pdf>.

For the latest update from Governor Newsom and state public health officials, go to this link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>

The more we keep our distance, the sooner we can get back together.



Anticipating infection rates to continue rising throughout the holidays, health officials expect that some of us will let down our guards. As a reminder of why this is important, Today, Alameda County total cases are over 30,000 with an unadjusted rate of 16.7 new cases of COVID-19 per day per 100,000 residents which is up from 11.4 last week and keeps us in the Purple Tier for California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Oakland is nearing 11,000 cumulative cases with a case rate of 2,589/100,000 population – second only to Hayward in Alameda County. The disease continues to strike populations differently throughout the County– case rates amongst Latinos is 3,974, compared to 1,373 amongst Blacks, 744 amongst Whites and 633 amongst Asians.



As cases continue to increase, the safest way to celebrate the holiday season is at home with the people you live with fulltime. Gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you increase the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu.

[Stay up to date on the latest COVID-19 health information by clicking here \(https://covid-19.acgov.org/index\)](https://covid-19.acgov.org/index)

Get your Test!!

[Community testing sites](#) and [testing events](#) supported by Alameda County are free and open to anyone who needs to get tested. Some testing sites are experiencing increased demand for appointments. You can find a site that has walk-up or onsite registration capacity or contact your health care provider for a test.

Impact of COVID-19 on City Revenue & Expenses

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the finances of many Oakland households and businesses. It has also negatively impacted our City of Oakland budget. Join me and the [Council's Finance & Management Committee](#) on Monday, December 7th for an update on the City's budget and options for moving forward given the anticipated reduction in revenues due to COVID.

WHEN: Monday, December 7, 2020 at 1.30pm. For instructions on how to attend the meeting and make public comments, [download the agenda found on this page](#). Documentation can be found [on this page](#).

City of Oakland Renter & Homeowner CARES ACT FUNDING

Under the Keep Oakland Housed program renters and homeowners can receive relief for financial hardship due to COVID-19. This funding will provide one-time financial assistance to low-income residents of Oakland. The application opened on September 1st, 2020. Applicants may contact the following providers:

- [Bay Area Community Services \(BACS\)](#) (510) 899-9289
- [Catholic Charities East Bay](#), 510) 768-3100
- [Centro Legal de la Raza](#) (510) 422-5669
- [Housing and Economic Rights Advocates \(HERA\)](#) (510) 271-8443 x300

For more information on the Keep Oakland Housed COVID-19 Relief Financial Assistance program contact: City of Oakland Housing and Community Development, Housing Resource Center at (510) 238-6182.

Help Bring Joy to Oakland's Children

During this season of giving, remember that some families have been disproportionately impacted by illness and layoffs. Help bring joy to a child by supporting the City of Oakland Community Toy Drive with a tax-deductible donation. To keep volunteers and families safe during the pandemic, the Toy Drive has pivoted to distribution of gift cards instead of toys. For donation instructions and more information, visit oaklandca.gov/toydrive, call (510) 777-TOYS or email mayortoydrive@gmail.com.

NORTH OAKLAND BLOOD DRIVE - MLK WEEKEND

Please save the date for Councilmember Kalb's annual Blood Drive to save lives. On either Saturday morning, Jan. 16th or Monday afternoon, Jan. 18th, Dan will be sponsoring his annual Blood Drive for Oakland (and nearby) residents. Contact Deidra at dross@oaklandca.gov for more info to sign up for a donation slot.

OPRYD Town Camp Programs Suspended

Oakland Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Development (OPRYD) provided in-person enrichment programs throughout the summer and has continued in-person programming at the recreation centers since the beginning of the school year. Due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, coupled with the fact that the holiday season and gatherings are anticipated to play a major role in the rise of COVID-19 infections for Oakland families, **OPRYD is temporarily suspending the Town Camp Enrichment Program.**

Outdoor-based youth programming (golf, tennis, and other outdoor-based programs) will continue to operate at this time. **Only the indoor-based enrichment programs at the various recreation centers are being temporarily suspended.**

We realize that this will be a burden on some families. However, city staff feel it is gravely necessary to control the spread of COVID-19, for both the customers we serve AND our own staff and their families. OPRYD will continue following Alameda County Public Health guidelines and protocols over the next few weeks and will communicate when we feel we can safely resume indoor programming.

Sankofa Open Enrollment

Join Sankofa United Elementary School for a virtual tour and Q&A with the community. 2021-22 enrollment is open now. RSVP for a tour this Wednesday (or weekly through the end of January) at [this link](#). Visit the [Sankofa website](#) for more information about Sankofa United.

Longfellow Covid-19 Relief Fund

The Longfellow Community Association is excited to announce the formation of the Longfellow Covid-19 Relief Fund. One of our community members has offered to match the first \$5,000 raised, with an aim of raising \$10,000 to provide direct grants to Longfellow residents in need. If you are in the position to donate, please consider giving today at <http://bit.ly/LCA-COVID-Relief-Fund>. 100% of funds raised will be distributed to Longfellow residents who have been economically impacted by the pandemic. The goal is to distribute up to 20 grants to applicants, by random lottery (look out for announcements in the coming days with info on how to apply for a grant). Donations are tax deductible and tax free to the recipients. If you're curious to learn more about the program, see the FAQs on the Longfellow Community Association webpage: . <https://longfellowoakland.org/covid-relief-fund>.

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 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)



DAN KALB

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