

The Brooks Blatter

A summary of news & events from the Office of Council Member Desley Brooks

Oakland Municipal ID/debit card program- opens new East Oakland Office

On Wednesday, November 20th, the City of Oakland opened a 3rd municipal ID/debit card program Office for the public in East Oakland at 8650 International Boulevard, in property owned by the Allen Temple Baptist Church. The two other offices are at 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza on the sixth floor, and in the Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation at 1470 Fruitvale Ave. Since the City of Oakland opened the doors at the first-of-its-kind municipal identification/prepaid debit card program office on Feb. 1, more than 4,000 people have applied for the card. This landmark program combines the empowerment of a government-issued identification with banking services many members of our community have difficulty accessing. A major component of the debit card function is that it provides users with the protections of federal banking laws, which are stronger than the privacy laws afforded other ID-issuing government bodies. The program is cost-neutral to the City and the fee structure for using the card was designed such that card provider SF Global could cover its costs while keeping fees and charges at a minimum. So, the City and SF Global have partnered to eliminate point-of-sale charges for the card. The fees had been capped in April at \$12.50 per month and will now **not** be charged at all. Other fees are also being reduced. Card owners now also have the *option* to register as organ donors. The card administrators are announcing a partnership with DonateLife, the state-authorized organ and tissue donor registry program – the “pink dot” found commonly on drivers’ licenses. More information about the card is available at each of the three offices from 9am to 5pm, Monday - Friday, online at www.oaklandcityid.com, or by calling 888-997-3522.

City of Oakland Opens Winter Shelter

The City of Oakland has operated a temporary inclement weather shelter at the Oakland Army Base since 1999. On Wednesday, November 20, 2013, the City of Oakland’s temporary Winter Shelter will re-opened for the season at the Henry Robinson Multi-Services Center, 559 16th Street, Oakland. Vouchers are available to both single men and women for up to 50 beds in the temporary Shelter (can only accommodate single adults without children). The Shelter hours are from 6:30pm to 7am. Persons who are homeless and seeking assistance and access to the Winter Shelter can gain access through one of the following referring agencies: **St. Vincent de Paul**, 2272 San Pablo Ave. Oakland (510) 832-3600; **Henry Robinson MSC (HRMSC)**, 559 16th St. Oakland (510) 419-1010; **Operation Dignity**, 1504 Franklin St. Oakland (510) 287-8465; **Health Care for the Homeless (HCH)**, 1900 Fruitvale Ave. Oakland (510) 532-1930; **TRUST Clinic**, Oakland (internal referrals only).

Background: The Oakland Army Base Temporary Winter Shelter (OABTSW) closed after the 2012 winter season due to the development of the Army Base. The Mayor and the Department of Human Services have worked diligently along with the County of Alameda to identify and implement a new Winter Shelter location. The Henry Robinson was identified as the most suitable site for this transition.

Additional shelter sites at: *Crossroads at 7515 International (510) 532-3211* - has space for women and men and limited number of families. It is a 24/7 shelter option that has enriched services; *CityTeam at 722 Washington Street (510) 452-3758* - Men only. Hours: 4pm to 6am. Dinner and Breakfast served; *Salvation Army at 2794 Garden Street (510) 437-9437* - For Families (single parent and/or married couples with children). 24 hour service - Clients apply between 9am-5pm M-F but should call ahead.

FREE PARKING HOLIDAYS

The City of Oakland will offer free parking every Saturday between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, plus Plaid Friday which is November 29. On the following days, parking at all City-metered spaces throughout Oakland will be free for the time period posted on the meter or kiosk (30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hours or 5 hours): Friday, November 29; Saturday, November 30; Saturday, December 7; Saturday, December 14; Saturday, December 21; Saturday, December 28. The free parking "holidays" apply to both standard meters and the multi-space parking kiosks located in many commercial districts. Standard parking rules and time limits apply -- if shoppers need additional parking time, they will need to move their cars across the street if it is a two-way street, or park around the block if it is a one-way street. The City will be monitoring parked cars on a regular basis, including enforcing other violations (e.g., red, yellow, green and white zones as well as double parking).

The Alameda County Healthy Homes Department (ACHHD) has grants available for lead paint repair work!

Grants are available for low-income rental and owner occupied homes and apartments built before 1978 and located in Alameda, Berkeley, Oakland or Emeryville. The property must be either vacant, or occupied by a low-income household with either a child under 6, a pregnant woman, or a child under 6 who regularly visits. Assistance includes on-site consultations, financial and technical assistance, and complete start to finish project management services to remediate lead paint, dust and soil hazards. Supplemental funds for other safety and healthy housing issues are also available. More information and an on-line application can be found at <http://www.achhd.org/programs/leadfunding.htm> or by calling 510-567-8280. This is a great program that can help protect young children from the live-long effects of lead poisoning, while improving housing conditions.

Update on Council Redistricting Maps

In the months of July and September, the City of Oakland hosted 7 Town Hall meetings on proposed Council Redistricting maps submitted by the City's consultant, the public, and Councilmembers. The public input obtained at these meetings helped further refine the maps. On October 3, the Rules & Legislation Committee heard a report from the Department of Planning and Building on the possible action reviewing proposed Redistricting Maps. The first Council hearing to discuss Council redistricting boundaries occurred on Tuesday, Oct. 15. At its October 15 meeting, the City Council heard from many residents and considered various maps proposing changes to council district boundaries that would equalize the population and address the Council's adopted criteria. **On October 29, 2013, the City Council voted 6-1 to select Map #26 as the preferred 2013 Council and OUSD boundaries. A public hearing was conducted at the Council meeting of November 19th to adopt the ordinance to adopt this map. The first reading (introduction of the ordinance) was approved by Council. The 2nd reading and final passage will occur December 10, 2013.** For more information on Oakland's redistricting process including a map of current Council Districts, relevant legislation, upcoming Council meeting dates and more, please visit www.oaklandnet.com/redistricting.

Coalition to Announce Launch of Gun Buyback Initiative

A coalition of local and state elected officials, faith, business, and community leaders, and representatives from local law enforcement have launched a Gun Buyback initiative with the goal of empowering individuals to remove guns from their communities through a crowd funded gun buyback program. The official Oakland Gun Buyback event, **scheduled for December 14**, is part of a statewide gun buyback initiative. The Oakland event will be co-hosted by Youth UpRising in partnership with Gun by Gun, an organization founded in 2013 to prevent gun violence by reducing the number of unwanted and illegal guns while creating a new outlet for action on the issue of gun violence prevention. Other cities participating in the official December day of action include Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Jose. Youth UpRising has organized a series of successful gun buybacks over the past several years. A 2012 event hosted in partnership with the Oakland Police Department, which was held just twenty-four hours after the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, removed over 600 guns from Oakland streets. This initiative is unique in that organizers and coalition members are collectively mobilize donors through online fundraising, enabling concerned citizens and businesses to finance the buyback program, tapping into a pool of philanthropic funding large enough to make a dent in Oakland's gun violence crisis. The link to donate online through the Gun by Gun platform can be found here: <https://www.gunbygun.org/oakland-gun-buyback>.

Affordable Health Care Act: Get Your Questions Answered

Wednesdays through 2013, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Oakland's Main Library, 125 14th Street. Come and learn about the Affordable Health Care Act. A certified enrollment counselor will be available to answer your questions and assist with the application process in the Main Library computer lab. For information, please contact Mana Tominaga, Supervising Librarian, at mtominaga@oaklandlibrary.org or (510) 238-6611

Fridays' Festive Night Market at the Oakland Museum

Join the Oakland Museum and Off the Grid every Friday for a family- friendly take on a festive night market every Friday, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Enjoy blues, jazz and bluegrass with DJs and live bands, free dance lessons and extended museum hours. For more information, please visit www.museumca.org or call (510) 318-8400.

College Opportunities for City of Oakland Employees and their family at Patten University/ UniversityNow

I am pleased to announce that the City has extended its relationship with Patten University to offer City of Oakland employees and their family members the opportunity to earn a regionally accredited college degree at little to no cost! This agreement will be in place until June 1, 2015. Interested employees can visit www.patten.edu/partners/oakland.html for more info as well as schedule an appointment to speak with an Enrollment Advisor directly on this site. If you are a City employee, this is an exciting opportunity for you to further your education and advance your career, as well as help a family member complete a degree, without the need to take on student loan debt! For more details about the broader, city-wide implications of this initiative visit: <http://bit.ly/ihe-cw>. The City of Oakland and Patten University will host a series of events for employees and their family members to learn more about the degree programs offered at Patten. The following are the dates for Fall 2013:

December 6, 2013 (2-4 pm) - Large Patten Event (Patten Campus)

December 12, 2013 - Public Works Health Fair (7101 Edgewater)

Jack London Square –Holiday spirit!

Tree Lighting Ceremony - Friday, December 6, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m., Jack London Square, foot of Broadway. Visitors of all ages are invited to enjoy this special evening of holiday magic on the waterfront including festive music, live reindeer, a visit from Santa, cookie decorating, costumed characters and more than 90 local artisans and more. Catch a sneak preview of festive entertainment and meet costumed characters from the America's Children Holiday Parade. For more information, please visit www.jacklondonsquare.com or call (510) 645-9292.

Holiday Pop Up! Indie Shopping Fair – Friday, December 6, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., Jack London Square Pavilion, foot of Broadway. Shop for your holiday gifts locally from Oakland and Bay Area small businesses. Tons of fun vendors, music, performers, hot chocolate, tea, coffee, wine, holiday treats and more. Proceeds support Youth Uprising; Young, Gifted and Black and Oakland Grown. For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/events/1381654998721799/.

14th Annual America's Children's Holiday Parade

On Saturday, December 7, starting at 2:00 p.m., Oakland celebrates the holidays with its 14th Annual Parade in Downtown Oakland (on Broadway between 14 and 20 streets). Some 20 marching bands and nearly 40 children's characters march up Broadway along with giant parade balloons. For more information, please visit www.americas-holiday-parade.com or call (510) 874-4800.

28th Annual Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., Paramount Theatre of the Arts, 2025 Broadway. The award-winning Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir is a multiracial, interfaith group led by Artistic Director Terrance Kelly. Enjoy traditional and contemporary black gospel music and spirituals with special guests: Tuck & Patti, Imani Ya Watume, Liturgical Dance Company from the Imani Community Church Oakland, Oakland Interfaith Youth Choir and Oakland Interfaith Community Choir. For more information, please visit www.paramounttheatre.com or call (510) 465-6400.

Upcoming City of Oakland Job Announcement

During the week of November 25, the Department of Human Resources Management (DHRM) anticipates posting job announcements for the following positions:

- Operator Heavy Equipment Services Worker (Re-Open)
- Veterinary Technician

For updated information on City jobs, please visit the DHRM website at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oaklandca/default.cfm>. This Employment Information page also contains information on minimum qualifications of specific job classifications, how to apply for a job online and how to submit a job interest card for positions not currently posted. For more information, please contact the Department of Human Resources Management Receptionist at (510) 238-3112.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The City of Oakland administrative offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. **Police, fire and emergency services are not affected during the holiday.**

