

Newark News

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Winter 2014-2015

City seeks Viola Blythe award nominations

The City is seeking your nominations for the prestigious Viola Blythe awards. The City has hosted a program to recognize outstanding volunteerism since 1985. In 1991, the City's program recognizing dedicated local volunteers was named after Viola Blythe, the definitive Newark volunteer who dedicated her life to helping others. The program continues as a tribute to her memory. It is the City's way of honoring those whose unselfish deeds benefit those less fortunate. Their contributions make Newark a better place to live.

The Viola Blythe awards program honoring local volunteers will take place as part of the City of Newark Volunteer Recognition Ceremony in May. The program is held jointly with the volunteer program recognizing those who volunteer their time specifically for City-sponsored programs or at City offices. Eligible City volunteers will be invited to attend the ceremony as guests of the City.

Recognition for the Viola Blythe Volunteer of the Year is by nomination from anyone or any organization in the community. Applications will be available

January 5, 2015, and we want you to participate. Without your nomination that special person may not be recognized.

Nominations will be accepted in four categories: The Viola Blythe Volunteer of the Year, recognizing outstanding contributions in any area of volunteerism; the Group Award, recognizing volunteerism by organizations based in the City of Newark and serving Newark citizens; the Senior Award, recognizing volunteerism by individuals 65 years of age and over; and the Youth Award, recognizing volunteerism by individuals 17 years of age and under.

Typical areas of volunteerism include; cultural, community enrichment, educational, industrial, recreational, political, and social. The Selection Committee will consider contributions during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2014.

Thank you for passing Measure Y

On November 4th, Newark voters overwhelmingly passed Measure Y which extends the existing utility users tax adopted by Newark voters in 2010 and reduces the tax rate to 3.25%. This is a much needed revenue source that provides critical public services for our community. These local funds will continue to support police and fire protection services, school crossing guards, fund maintenance of parks, landscaping, and streets throughout our City, keep the Senior Center open, and provide programs for at-risk youth. Seniors 70 years of age or older and low-income residents of any age enrolled in the PG&E CARE Program can continue to apply for an exemption under Measure Y.

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Free! AARP tax assistance

Do you need help preparing your income tax returns? Volunteers with the AARP Tax-Aide program in cooperation with the IRS will assist low and middle income taxpayers free of charge. There is no age requirement and you do not need to be a member of AARP to get assistance. You do, however, need to make an appointment.

Appointments can be scheduled between 9:15 am and 12:15 pm on Wednesdays from February 4 through April 8, 2015, at the Newark Senior Center. Please call Kelly Hess at 510-578-4845 to reserve your time.

The following items should be brought to your appointment: a copy of last year's federal and state tax returns and any tax documents you have received for 2014, such as pension, social security, interest and dividend statements. If you itemize deductions, please bring two years property tax bills. If you bought or sold stocks or bonds, please bring your broker's statement. If you will be filing a joint return with your spouse, it is helpful if both of you attend the appointment.

Job Fair

The Newark Recreation & Community Services Department invites you to jump into the fun this summer with part-time employment opportunities! Please fill out an application and join us Tuesday, February 10, 2015; 4-6pm, at the Silliman Family Aquatic Center, 6800 Mowry Avenue, for an interview. For more information and application form visit www.newark.org.

IRS telephone scam

The Newark Police Department received information that the "IRS Telephone Scam" is hitting the phone lines in Northern California.

The scam consists of an "agent" calling victims saying they owe money to the IRS. The "agent" demands the money be paid promptly by a pre-paid debit card. If the victim refuses, the "agent" threatens to call the police to have the victim arrested. It is not known if the con artists are working the Newark area.

If you receive a call regarding taxes owed, the IRS encourages you to do the following:

- If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill), then call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector

General at 1-800-366-4484.

For more information on the "IRS Telephone Scam", visit the Internal Revenue Service website at <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Warns-of-Pervasive-Telephone-Scam>.

The Newark Police Department encourages you to be vigilant against phone and email scams. Never give personal identifying information to anyone without first verifying the source. Information such as social security numbers, account numbers and PIN codes should be known by the caller if they are a legitimate source.

As always any person with any information concerning this or any other incident can call the non-emergency line at 510-578-4237. Information may also be left anonymously on the "silent witness" hotline at 510-578-4000, extension 500.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

The City of Newark was awarded a grant in the amount of \$119,000 from the Alameda County Transportation Commission through the Measure B Bicycle and Pedestrian Countywide Discretionary Fund Program (Cycle 4). As a result, the City is progressing towards completing a final draft of its first Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The Master Plan will identify potential infrastructure projects, as well as policies and programs, which could be established to improve the

biking and walking environment in the City.

It is anticipated that the final draft will be available for review by the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the general public, in early 2015. The Master Plan will ultimately become part of the Transportation Element of the City's General Plan. Please watch for a release of the final draft Master Plan through the City's website at www.newark.org, or call 510-578-4286, for more information.

Holiday safety tips

Every year during the Holiday Season the Newark Police Department notices an increase in automobile burglaries. With this time of the year comes packed parking lots, hurried shoppers, and opportunistic thieves. Most auto burglaries are crimes of opportunity and therefore preventable.

By following some straightforward advice and working together, we can ensure that this type of crime is reduced in our community. Some of the advice may sound obvious and rather simple, but it could make all the difference if you follow it consistently. The cost and the time you must spend on repairs and replacement of stolen items can be easily prevented by following some simple tips:

- Remove all valuables - Never leave ANYTHING on display

when you leave your vehicle. Even loose change, cigarettes, cigarette lighters, sunglasses, GPS units, CDs, cell phones, stereos, electronic devices, and bags containing anything including trash, cameras, and clothing...if they can see it, thieves will steal it.

- If you must leave valuables in your car, lock them in the trunk, glove compartment, or center console before arriving at your destination.
- Look around before you get out of your car. Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately to the police.
- Always lock your car and park in a well-lit, easily visible area.

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Identity theft

Certain types of crime occur more frequently during the holiday shopping season. One such crime, fraud through identity theft, is increasing annually. Remember that financial creditors, government agencies, and other entities use many identifiers to verify who we are. More of our personal business is handled via computer networks according to our identifiers. A thief can charge purchases and receive benefits in the name of and at the expense of someone else by obtaining and using just a few of that person's identifiers. Robbers and thieves usually do not act at random, but by opportunity. They take advantage of people not

demonstrating proper awareness and exercising safe habits. Examples of personal identifiers that require protection are proper names and nicknames, bank account numbers, California ID number, date of birth, Social Security number, PIN numbers, mother's maiden name, home address, credit card numbers, driver's license number, health care policy numbers, and telephone numbers.

Remember to be aware of suspicious activities, take action to avoid trouble in advance, report all crimes to police, and dial 911 for emergencies or crimes in progress.

Mercy Brown Bag Program

Seniors, 60 and older, are you in need of extra food to help get through the month? The Mercy Brown Bag Program is a food distribution program for low-income seniors offered twice a month at the Newark Gardens Senior Satellite Homes, Multipurpose room II, 35322 Cedar Blvd., Newark, CA 94560.

The Mercy Brown Bag Program is holding annual registration on Thursday, January 8, 2015, at 9:00am. There is an annual voluntary donation of \$10. Proof of age and income will be needed at registration.

Criteria for eligibility is as follows:

- Seniors age 60 and above
- \$1,459 monthly income or less for a single person
- \$1,966 monthly income or less for a household of two
- \$2,474 monthly income or less for a household of three or more
- \$10 annual voluntary donation to the program
- Picture identification, proof of age and income

Please call Kelly Hess at 510-578-4845 for more information.





Bulletin Board

City Offices closed

- Christmas/New Year – City offices will be closed Wednesday, December 24, 2014, through Friday, January 2, 2015. Police and Fire services, along with the Silliman Activity Center and Aquatic Center, are not affected by this action.
- Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday - Monday, January 19, 2015.
- Presidents' Day - Monday, February 16, 2015.

Operating hours

City offices are closed on alternating Fridays. The Fridays affected through March 2015 are December 19, 2014; January 2, 16 and 30; February 13 and 27; and March 13 and 27, 2015. Police and Fire services, along with the Silliman Activity Center and Aquatic Center, are not affected by this action.

Chili Cook-off Contest

Hey, all of you chili enthusiasts! Enter our chili cook-off and receive bragging rights for 2015 winners. Contestants must bring an already made pot of homemade chili. Chili can be made with or without beans. Please make enough chili for 20 people to taste. Admission to the chili cook off is free for all wishing to attend and taste. Please label if using HOT and SPICY ingredients, beef or chicken. Trophy winners include the judges' choice and people's choice awards. All contestants must pre-register. For more information please contact Kelly Hess at 510-578-4845.

Frank Sinatra sounds from crooner Brad Bann

Celebrate with your valentine on Wednesday, February 11, 1:00-3:00 pm at the Newark Senior Center. Come enjoy Frank Sinatra style crooner music with performer Brad Bann singing Frank Sinatra hits. He has entertained fans from Las Vegas to the Royal Festival Hall in England. He has also performed aboard cruise ships around the world and major venues in California. His voice is reminiscent of the great crooners. Bring your sweetie for this afternoon of ROMANCE. Space is limited - first come first served.

Holiday tree collection

Republic Services offers FREE holiday tree collection and recycling to Newark residents! From January 12-23, you may place your tree in the street at the curbside for pick-up on your regular collection day. Just remember to remove tree stands and ornaments. Unfortunately, they are unable to recycle flocked trees; but, they can be cut into small pieces and placed in your trash cart. You can also bring your tree to Republic's Fremont office for free drop-off January 12-23. Proof of Newark residency required. Republic Service is located at 42600 Boyce Road, Fremont.

Full Time Licensed Child Care Center for Preschoolers

Located at the Newark Community Center, 35501 Cedar Blvd.

Providing 3-5 year olds a safe, happy learning environment for 20+ years

Mon.-Fri.,
7:00am-6:00pm
Child Care with the
added classroom
learning experience
of Preschool!



Newark Recreation and Community Services Department



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now...
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Fee Credit!

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www.newark.org
(search: *child
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