

Newark News

 Official Publication of the City of Newark, California

Winter 2015/2016

Winter storm preparation

Heavy rains are anticipated this winter season which may lead to localized flooding. City crews prepare for winter storms by circulating throughout the City, cleaning storm drain inlets and removing any debris that could cause flooding conditions. The goal is to keep the streets as safe as possible for the public during the inclement weather.

Any observed flooding conditions in the public right-of-way should be reported to the Newark Maintenance Yard at (510) 578-4806 during normal business hours (Monday-Thursday, and every other Friday, 8:00am-12:00pm). After hours – please call the non-emergency dispatch number at (510) 578-4237.

Help Keep Our Storm Drains Clean

Please take extra care during the winter months to rake or sweep, and appropriately dispose of, leaves and other debris (sticks, branches, paper and other garbage) to help prevent them from entering the storm drain system. This is especially important during our first few winter storms because it allows us time to prevent any buildup of unwanted materials from entering and clogging the storm drain system.

Important reminders for property owners during the winter months

- When raking or blowing leaves, be sure to remove them immediately to eliminate piles of leaves left in or around the streets. The street sweeper cannot pick up large piles of leaves as the equipment is not made for this type of clean up.
- Keep trees and large shrubs pruned properly to prevent breakage which may, if left unattended, end up entering the drainage system. Be

on the lookout after windy/stormy weather for downed leaves, tree branches, pine cones and needles, so you can clean them up as soon as possible.

- Remind all contractors and workers on or near your property that it is their responsibility to eliminate the introduction of leaves, debris, papers, garbage and construction related materials from entering the storm drain system.
- Insist that private contractors and workers properly collect leaves (by not blowing or raking into adjacent properties or the streets). Use the green waste containers provided by Republic Services to dispose of leaves and other materials appropriately. Contact Republic Services at (510) 657-3500 for any green waste or other disposal needs.

By using these simple but effective methods, we can all help keep our storm drain systems flowing freely and cleaner.

Report Fallen Branches and Downed Trees

If a City street tree has fallen or a branch has fallen, please call the Maintenance Division at (510) 578-4806, (if you get voicemail, please leave a detailed message as messages are retrieved several times a day during working hours) or email at maintenance@newark.org. After hours – please call the non-emergency dispatch number at (510) 578-4237.

Please be prepared to provide the following information:

- The location of the downed tree by street address or street and nearest cross street.

- Has the tree fallen on a vehicle or caused any damage to property?
- Is the downed tree blocking the traveled way for vehicles?
- Is it blocking a sidewalk?
- The approximate size of the tree.

The City can only respond to City-owned trees. In addition to park trees, most City-owned trees are located between the sidewalk and the street or in the street median.

Other Resources

For more storm preparation tips and information, visit the following web site: <https://www.acgov.org/pwa/info/tips.htm>.

Sandbag Information

During regular business hours (Monday-Thursday, and every other Friday, 8:00am-12:00pm), the Newark Maintenance Yard (37440 Filbert Street) has sandbags and sand for Newark residents to use to protect their property. You must bring your own shovel. Each resident may be issued up to ten (10) bags. Proof of residency is required at the office.

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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 iconic 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 4, 2016, 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, 2015.

Amended and extended Utility Users Tax ordinance

On November 4, 2014, the City of Newark received voter approval to amend and extend the Utility Users Tax ordinance (UUT). The revised ordinance reduces the UUT rate to 3.25% effective January 1, 2016, and will continue at that rate for five (5) years.

Revenues generated from the tax allow the City to maintain and restore many important City services and programs that were eliminated due to recessionary budget cuts. This includes restoring programs and service levels in police, parks and landscape maintenance, recreation and community services and community preservation as well as re-opening the Senior Center and restoring funding for the Ash Street Summer Nutrition Program for at-risk youth. Revenues have also provided funding for City-wide capital improvements as well as rebuilding the City's depleted reserves.

Any senior citizen seventy (70) years of age and older and any low-income resident enrolled in the PG&E CARE Program are eligible to apply for an exemption. Eligible residents who are not currently exempt and wish to apply for an exemption need to complete an exemption application and submit it to the City's finance office for approval.

Residents who are currently exempt need not re-apply to request

an exemption. The City will automatically roll existing exempt residents to the new revenue measure. Exempt residents, however, still need to renew their exemption every other year for senior citizen exemptions and every year for residents enrolled in the PG&E CARE Program.

The revised revenue measure will also continue to require independent financial audits and reports to the community as well as remain a local tax ensuring all of the funds will stay local and are not subject to be taken by the County, State, or Federal government.

For information, forms, and reports on the UUT, please visit the City's website at www.newark.org and click on "Utility Users Tax" from the "Quick Links" drop-down or contact Laurie Gebhard at (510) 578-4392 or by email at laurie.gebhard@newark.org.

New artwork at City Hall

Kyrie Sismaet has hand drawn a map of the City of Newark. Local sights such as neighborhood hangouts and businesses are highlighted. The map is on display in the first floor lobby at City Hall.

Mercy Brown Bag program

Seniors, 60 and older, are you in need of extra food to help get you 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 14, 2016, 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.

Holiday safety and crime prevention

The holiday season is upon us once again and it is time for a reminder about safety and crime prevention.

Everyone is reminded to remove your keys from the ignition after every use and never leave your vehicle unattended with the key in the ignition or the engine running, even if running into the house for a brief moment. Windows should be closed and your doors locked when you leave your car unattended and never leave ANY type of property in plain view. If possible, do not store luggage, valuables, or packages in your vehicle. If you must, make sure they are not visible when you leave the car and that you placed them in the trunk BEFORE arriving at your destination.

If you must leave your key with a parking attendant, leave only your vehicle's ignition key and do not leave anything attached to it with your name and address. Do not park your vehicle in an isolated area where there are few passers-by, look for parking in secured lots that are well lit, near high traffic areas, and as close to your destination as possible. When approaching your car after a stint away be sure to look around you as you approach, looking in, around and under your car. Once you reach the car look inside the car prior to getting inside. Criminals usually do not act at random, but by opportunity. They take advantage of people not demonstrating proper awareness and exercising safe habits.

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. Never provide personal information to anyone without verification of his or her status. If you are unsure of their right to know, call the agency for verification before you give up personal information. 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.

Some 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. While use of credit cards may decrease the amount of cash you need for shopping, you should carry only the cards you need, and never leave them unattended. Consumers should keep a photocopy of all cards in a safe place (such as a safe deposit box). After a purchase, thank store clerks for comparing your signature on your credit card receipt with that on your credit card, and make sure you get your card back. Keep your receipt to compare it with your statement and then shred or file it as appropriate. Be mindful of your surroundings being sure to pay attention to anyone attempting to eavesdrop as you use your credit, ATM, or calling card. Keep your PIN numbers private and unpredictable to others; do not use your birthday or address, and do not make note of them on your cards or in your wallets; memorize them.

Keep the Newark Police Department non-emergency number (510-578-4237) programed into your cell phones. We ask you to call the department if you see or hear anything you deem suspicious or unsafe at the time of occurrence and from a safe location. Dial 911 for any emergency.

Information contained in this article are brought to you by the National Crime Prevention Council and the Newark Police Department.

Happy Holidays!

Short-term rentals

Many Bay Area communities have experienced an upsurge in short-term rentals of residential units. This phenomenon is being driven by the success of web-based platforms which facilitate the short-term rentals of residential properties.

The rental of residential dwellings as short-term rentals has created nuisances such as noise, disorderly conduct, and parking impacts. Short-term rentals are not compatible with residential neighborhoods. City law does not permit the rental of residential dwellings for short-term (less than 30 days) periods in residential zoning districts. It is allowable to rent a room or two in a home if the owner occupies the home and if the rentals are for at least 30 days. Please be aware that short-term rentals in Newark are limited to hotels and motels, not residential neighborhoods.

Storm - continued from Page 1

After hours, all three fire stations have sandbags (proof of residency is required). Bring the sandbags back to the Newark Maintenance Yard where the sand pile is located to fill them (bring your own shovel).

The Fire Station locations are:

7550 Thornton Avenue
39039 Cherry Street
35775 Ruschin Drive

Sandbag Tips

- Don't fill them more than ½ full – to be effective, the sandbags need to be able to bend to fill in empty spaces.
- Before placing the sandbags at doors, put down some heavy plastic so that it covers the bottom of the door. This will help prevent water that gets past the edges of the sandbags from entering the door opening.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.newark.org/departments/public-works/maintenance-division/storm-drain-channels/>.



Bulletin Board

City Offices closed

- Christmas/New Year - City offices will be closed Thursday, December 24, 2015, through Friday, January 1, 2016. Police and Fire services, along with the Silliman Activity and Family Aquatic Center, are not affected by this action.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday - Monday, January 18, 2016
- Presidents' Day - Monday, February 15, 2016

Operating hours

City offices are closed on alternating Fridays. The Fridays affected through March 2016 are December 18; January 1, 15, and 29; February 12 and 26; and March 11 and 25, 2016. Police and Fire services, along with the Silliman Activity Center and Aquatic Center, are not affected by this action.

Free! AARP tax assistance

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 3 through April 6, 2016, 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 2015, 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.

Holiday tree collection

Republic Services offers FREE holiday tree collection and recycling to Newark residents! From January 11-22 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 decorations. Unfortunately, they are unable to recycle flocked trees; however, you can cut the tree into small pieces and place in your trash cart or you may schedule a bulky pick-up. You can also bring your tree to Republic's Fremont office for drop-off December 28 to January 29 (free for green trees, fee charged for flocked trees) during normal business hours 8am-5pm, M-F only. Again, please remove tree stands and decorations. Please check in with the receptionist; proof of Newark residency is 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



Enroll
now...
Receive 1 week
FREE plus...
Registration
Fee Credit!

Check us out
on facebook,
yelp, or at
www.newark.org
(search: *child
care center*)
(510) 578-4438



CITY OF NEWARK

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