

# Newark News



Official Publication of the City of Newark, California

2024 Summer



## 2024 CITY OF NEWARK State of the City Address Old Town Streetscape Exhibition

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, Mayor Michael K. Hannon delivered the City's annual State of the City Address. This year, the address was held in conjunction with the Old Town Streetscape Exhibition, allowing the opportunity to bring the Address into the community and to bring

awareness to the potential Old Town has to offer as we grow into the future.

View Mayor Hannon's State of the City Address by visiting at [www.newark.org/CityAddress](http://www.newark.org/CityAddress)

## Help us improve walking and biking in Newark!

### Plan Overview

An update to the 2017 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, the Newark Active Transportation Plan, is a comprehensive planning document that develops and prioritizes infrastructure improvements to support walking, biking, and rolling (e.g. mobility devices, skateboards, and scooters) in the City. The Active Transportation Plan will recommend improvements that expand a safe, comfortable, and connected active transportation network for all ages and abilities.

### For more information:

Contact [esther.jung@newark.org](mailto:esther.jung@newark.org)



Scan the QR Code or visit:

<https://fp.mysocialpinpoint.com/newark-atp>



**NEWARK**  
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

可以在我们的网站上找到中文版本：<https://www.newark.org/departments/newark-news/newark-news-translated/-fsiteid-1>.

Una versión en español está disponible en nuestro sitio web en <https://www.newark.org/departments/newark-news/newark-news-translated/-fsiteid-1>.

Phiên bản tiếng Việt có sẵn trên trang web của chúng tôi tại <https://www.newark.org/departments/newark-news/newark-news-translated/-fsiteid-1>.

Magagamit ang isang bersyon ng Tagalog sa aming website sa <https://www.newark.org/departments/newark-news/newark-news-translated/-fsiteid-1>.

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## Upcoming Thornton Avenue pavement rehabilitation projects and repairs

As part of the City of Newark's ongoing effort to protect and extend the life of its streets, the Public Works Department annually inspects asphalt concrete pavement surfaces to identify areas of potential maintenance and determine the timing and type of appropriate repairs.

Thornton Avenue has been identified as a street in need of pavement rehabilitation. The Public Works Department applied for and received \$2M in grant funding for Fiscal Year 2023 from Congressman Ro Khanna with support from Senator Alex Padilla through the Community Project Funding/Congressional Directed Spending (CPFCDs) program for the pavement rehabilitation of Thornton Avenue from Interstate 880 to Olive Street (Phase 1).

The City continued to pursue funding and recently received approval for an additional \$1M in grant funding for Fiscal Year 2024 from Congressman Ro Khanna through the CPFCDs program for the pavement rehabilitation of Thornton Avenue from Ash Street to Spruce Street (Phase 2).

The segment of Thornton Avenue from Olive Street to Ash Street (between Phases 1 & 2) will be

rehabilitated as part of the Old Town Streetscape Improvement Project. The street segment of Thornton Avenue from Gateway Boulevard to the City limits near State Route 84 will be rehabilitated with the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Annual AC Overlay Program Project in 2026. The remaining segments of Thornton Avenue are in good condition. Pavement rehabilitation in general involves grinding of the existing surface and placement of a new layer of asphalt concrete which results in a significant structural upgrade and provides the appearance of a brand-new roadway. In the interim, patch paving repairs will be made at select locations to address severely damaged pavement areas on Thornton Avenue to reduce the potential for damage to vehicles and smooth out the roadway as part of the City's annual pavement maintenance projects.

Alameda County Water District (ACWD) has started construction of their Thornton Avenue Water Main Renewal Project from Cedar Boulevard to Cherry Street which is anticipated to be completed by July 2025. Interim patch paving repairs within this segment of Thornton Avenue will be

coordinated with ACWD to avoid making unnecessary repairs in the path of proposed water main renewal work.

The Old Town Streetscape Improvement Project is estimated to begin construction in Summer 2025 and be completed within 8 to 12 months. The design and preparation of construction documents for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the proposed Thornton Avenue Rehabilitation projects is estimated to be completed by Winter 2025 with anticipated construction to begin in Spring 2026 and completion by Winter 2026. The 2026 CIP Annual AC Overlay Program Project is anticipated to be completed during the summer and fall months. If you have any questions, please email Alex Tat, Senior Civil Engineer at [alex.tat@newark.org](mailto:alex.tat@newark.org).

For further information on the CPFCDs program, please visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/earmark-programs>.

For further information on ACWD's Thornton Avenue Water Main Renewal Project, please visit <https://acwd.org/803/Central-Newark-Thornton-Avenue-Project>

## Overgrown vegetation is a hazard and illegal

Did you know tall weeds, grass and dry vegetation are both a fire hazard and a breeding ground for mosquitos? In addition, unmaintained properties also bring negative attention from trespassers.

As we approach summer and fire season, we remind all property owners of the responsibility to proactively maintain their property year round. Weeds and dry and overgrown vegetation in all areas are to be cut down and all trimmings cleared off the property. This includes areas such as landscapes, walkways, driveways, and surrounding park strips.

If properties are in violation, property owners could face fines up to \$500.

### Rules to follow:

- Trim or remove vegetation that overhangs, encroaches onto/over, or obstructs streets, alleys, sidewalks, or street curbs.
- Trim or remove vegetation and all trimmings that are fire hazards.
- At intersections, trim all vegetation that obstructs with the view in all directions.
- Clear all vegetation from obstructing

or obscuring traffic signs.

- Leave a 2-foot clear zone around fire hydrants.

Please contact the City of Newark's Maintenance Division at 510-578-4806 to request pruning or removing trees in the public right-of-way.

For further information, please contact Code Enforcement at 510-578-4330.

## Social host ordinance

This is a reminder that in 2022, the Newark City Council adopted an ordinance adding Chapter 7.24, Fireworks Social Host Ordinance to the Newark Municipal Code.

The Fireworks Social Host Ordinance establishes strict liability for social hosts that allow the deployment of illegal fireworks on their property or at their hosted gatherings.

The City of Newark is authorized to issue administrative citations of up to \$1,000 per violation

### FAQ:

#### *"What Does This Mean?"*

- If you host a party OR people gather on your property and light illegal fireworks, you may be fined up to \$1,000

#### *"What If I Wasn't The Person Who Lit The Illegal Firework?"*

- You, as the social gathering host or the property owner, are responsible for your guests or those on your property.

#### *"Can I Be Cited More Than Once?"*

- Yes. You can be fined up to \$1,000 per violation.

#### *"What Is Allowed?"*

- California fireworks law divides fireworks into two categories:

1. "Safe & Sane" Fireworks.  
Only State Fire Marshal-Approved "Safe and Sane" fireworks, bearing the seal below are allowed in Newark.

2. "Dangerous Fireworks"  
"Dangerous" fireworks are illegal per Newark Municipal Code 15.17.050 and CA Health & Safety Code 12677

To report individuals using, possessing, or selling illegal fireworks please call the Fireworks Hotline at:(866) 520-7233 (safe).



## Safe and Sane Fourth of July

July 4th is fast approaching. Here are some reminders to help keep your Independence Day activities safe:

The City of Newark has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for illegal fireworks. Possession, use or sale of any illegal fireworks will be strictly enforced. Only Safe and Sane Fireworks purchased at permitted booths are legal for use in the City of Newark.

The use of Safe and Sane Fireworks should be restricted to residential areas only and requires permission of the property owner.

Fireworks cannot be discharged in City parks. All parks will be completely closed by 7:30 p.m. on July 4th.

The Police Department will be actively patrolling for illegal activities related to fireworks and will be citing for any violations. Multiple responses by the Police Department to a given location can result in additional administrative fines and abatement costs.

Safe and Sane Fireworks will be available for purchase from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on June 28, and from 8:00 a.m. 9:00 p.m., June 29 through July 4.

You must be 18 years of age or older to purchase Safe and Sane Fireworks. Comply with all COVID-19 Health Orders while celebrating.

The City's Fireworks Hotline, 1-866-520-SAFE (7233) has been activated. Anyone wishing to report any illegal or unsafe activity, including possession, use or sale of illegal fireworks is encouraged to call the hotline.

Have a very safe and happy Fourth of July holiday!



#162168654

## Composting Food Scraps Helps the Climate

Extreme heat, destructive storms, flooding, drought... bad news about climate change can make us feel helpless and overwhelmed. But there is at least one easy and highly effective thing Newark residents can do to help: keeping all food scraps and other compostable materials out of the garbage and putting them into the green organics cart.

Here is why: When compostable items like kitchen scraps, leftovers and food-soiled paper end up in the landfill—where they have no oxygen to properly break down—they generate methane, a potent climate pollutant. On the other hand, when you put these items in the green cart for composting, the emission of

greenhouse gases is greatly reduced. Plus, the compost made in the process helps gardeners and farmers alike feed soil the natural way.

How to get started: use a container of your choice to collect scraps from meal prep, coffee grounds, spoiled foods, soiled paper napkins, etc. Lining your pail with newspaper or paper bags helps absorb moisture and reduce smells. Empty the pail into the green cart along with yard trimmings and you've helped fight climate change!

Thanks for doing your part! For a list of what is and isn't accepted in the compost, visit [www.RepublicServices.AC.com](http://www.RepublicServices.AC.com).



# City of Newark CERT: Empowering the Whole Community for Preparedness

The City of Newark is dedicated to ensuring the safety and resilience of its residents in the face of emergencies. One of the key initiatives in this effort is the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. CERT training provides invaluable knowledge and skills to participants, enabling them to effectively respond to various emergencies and support their community when needed.

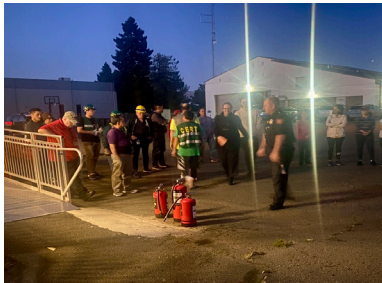
From fire safety and medical operations to shelter training, Newark CERT covers a wide range of topics

essential for emergency preparedness. These trainings not only equip individuals with practical skills but also foster a sense of community cohesion and resilience.

For those looking for a more comprehensive training experience, the CERT Academy in October provides an excellent opportunity. The CERT Academy offers an intensive program designed to further enhance participants' preparedness and response capabilities. If you would like to know more about the CERT Academy or Newark CERT our City website Emergency Preparedness |

Newark, CA has information on these trainings, allowing interested individuals to learn more about our schedule, topics covered, and how to register.

By participating in CERT Academy and the Newark CERT program, residents not only invest in their own safety but also contribute to the overall preparedness of the city. Being prepared for emergencies is a shared responsibility, and the City of Newark is committed to ensuring that its residents have the knowledge and skills necessary to face any challenge that may arise.



*CERT members learning about fire extinguishers from ALCO Fire*



*ALCO Fire showing proper fire extinguisher use at recent CERT training*



## The Newark Center at Ohlone College:

### SHAPING BRIGHT FUTURES FOR STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

The Newark Center at Ohlone College stands as a beacon of opportunity and innovation, providing a nurturing environment where students and community members can learn, grow, and thrive. With its wide array of resources and sustainable facilities, the Newark Center is not just a place to take classes, but a cornerstone for building a brighter future.

#### Academic Excellence and Diverse Programs

At the Newark Center, Ohlone College offers a comprehensive selection of credit and noncredit courses. Students can pursue General Education subjects like Math, Chemistry, and Communications, or dive into specialized programs such as Biotechnology, Environmental Studies,

Physical Therapist Assistant, Registered Nursing, and Respiratory Therapist. This diverse curriculum ensures that every student can find a path that aligns with their interests and career goals.

The center is thoughtfully designed to support students with various resources, including a career center, student health support, English tutoring, and administrative assistance. Whether you're seeking academic guidance or health services, the Newark Center provides a holistic support system to help you succeed.

#### Convenient Location and Modern Facilities

Conveniently located near Highway 880, the Newark Center offers ample parking and an easily navigable

layout with its four distinct wings. This modern, single-building campus makes it simple for students to get where they need to go, fostering a stress-free environment conducive to learning and collaboration.

#### Sustainable and Innovative Design

Sustainability is at the heart of the Newark Center's design. The campus features dual pane glazed glass, glass fiber reinforced concrete, and UltraTouch Blue Jean insulation made from recycled denim. These materials not only provide superior thermal performance and sound absorption but also ensure a healthier environment free from chemical irritants. The use of low VOC paints and recycled carpet tiles further exemplifies the center's commitment to sustainability.

# Volunteer Recognition Program

**B**ack in March the City of Newark held the annual Volunteer Recognition Program, recognizing individuals who volunteer directly at the City of Newark and individuals who were nominated for the prestigious Viola Blythe Awards, named after Viola who dedicated her life to helping those in need.

Volunteers were treated to an evening of fun that included a cruise ship themed party with dinner, entertainment, and presentation of awards.

The City of Newark is thrilled to announce the winners of the Viola Blythe Awards:

**Viola Blythe Group Award: Ohlone Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center** – The Center is where trained rehabilitators provide specialized care for injured, orphaned, displaced, and/or distressed urban wildlife in order to release them back into

their native habitat. The Center stayed open through COVID with a volunteer staff of only 5 people caring for over 800 animals that season. Last year, due to the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza, they completely revamped their intake and cleaning protocols to protect themselves and animal guests from exposure to the deadly virus. Volunteers dedicated over 2,000 hours caring for animals between the end of May and mid-September last year.

**Viola Blythe Senior Award: Lucy Wong** – Lucy volunteers with the Newark Police Department. With the rising theft of catalytic converters, the police department implemented a pilot Catalytic Converter Label Identification program. Almost 840 catalytic converter thefts in Newark as of 2019 were identified, of which 43 were determined repeat victims. Lucy contacted each of the victims of the catalytic converter thefts and offered the

free, labeling service for their vehicles.  
**Viola Blythe Volunteer of the Year: Mary Gorman** – Mary volunteers with the Ohlone Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. She has been an ardent and dedicated volunteer since the Center’s opening in 1990 where she acted as the open house tour guide, served on the board, and managed volunteers. Mary has since retired from her full-time job and has become the Ohlone Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Assistant Manager. In addition, most animals that come into the center need 24-hour care, and Mary has cared for many sick and injured animals in her home. The City of Newark extends its heartfelt congratulations to the winners of the Viola Blythe Awards and thanks City volunteers and the individuals who volunteer within our community for their unselfish and dedicated work



**Mary Gorman**  
Viola Blythe  
Volunteer  
of the Year

**Lucy Wong**  
Viola Blythe  
Senior Award  
Winner

**Ohlone Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**  
Viola Blythe  
Group Award  
Winner

# Community Survey results

**I**n 2023, the City hired an independent survey research firm to conduct a community survey to gauge priorities and satisfaction levels of the Newark community. The consultant used a random sampling methodology to obtain a statistically valid, demographically representative sample based on the latest census data for Newark.

The goal of this survey was to assess residents’ opinions, priorities

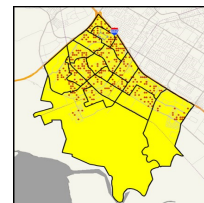
and satisfaction levels of City services and communication. The results of this survey were benchmarked against state and national averages and set a baseline for future Newark surveys.

The Newark City Council and staff will use the data collected to inform strategic goals, budgeting decisions and communication and engagement efforts.

An interactive dashboard displaying the survey results will be

available on the City’s website by the end of June 2024.

For more informatin and to view the results when published, visit [www.newark.org/residentssurveys](http://www.newark.org/residentssurveys)





## POSTAL CUSTOMER

# Bulletin Board

### City Offices closed

- Fridays - June 7 and 21, July 5 and 19, August 2, 16, and 30, September 13 and 28, 2024
- Monday, September 2, 2024 - Labor Day

### Operating hours

City offices are currently open to the public Monday through Thursday and every other Friday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Appointments are available 2:00 - 5:00 pm. Most services are offered online, by email, and by telephone. Please visit [www.newark.org](http://www.newark.org) for updated information for your specific needs. Please be advised that this schedule is subject to change.

### Upcoming Newark Library special events

Join us at the library for Summer Adventure: Engaging the Senses, June 1-August 1, for all ages! Win prizes and attend fun, free events, like:

- Silly Circus Show, Monday, July 8, 1:30 pm
- Mariela's Music Time, Tuesday, July 23, 2:00 pm

Visit [aclibrary.org](http://aclibrary.org) for many more events, eBooks, online research tools, & more!

### Groovin' at the Grove

FREE Friday Night Summer Concert Series located at Shirley Sisk Grove (next to NewPark Mall): June 14, June 28, July 12 and July 26, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, gates open at 4:00 pm. Bands TBA.

### Mariachi Festival

FREE festival including Mariachi bands, food, local Ballet Folklorico performances, community resources, and more! Located at Shirley Sisk Grove (next to Newpark Mall), Sunday, July 21, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

### The Newark Center at Ohlone College

Registration is open now at the Newark Center! Whether you're interested in noncredit courses, general education, English, math, business, science, communications, or ESL, there's a place for you. Explore class pairings online and map out your schedule with ease. Contact your counselor to ensure your classes align with your educational goals.

### Join the conversation

Newark residents selected through a scientific methodology process participated in our recent Community Survey on City service needs and priorities. Participants told us how important it is that Newark must have local control over local funds for local needs to allow the City to continue to be self-reliant in requiring that our tax dollars be spent for Newark residents.

Residents identified the following City service priorities:

- Repair potholes and city streets
- Maintain neighborhood police patrols/fire protection and 911/emergency medical response
- Upgrade fire stations to ensure rapid response times/accommodate modern firefighting and life-saving emergency equipment
- Improve emergency dispatch for rapid response during an earthquake or major disaster
- Enhance parks/recreation programs and maintain sports fields and children's play structures

Now we want to hear from YOU! Please take a moment to give your feedback on this year's City service needs and priorities by visiting: [www.newark.org/JoinTheConversation](http://www.newark.org/JoinTheConversation)

We look forward to this exciting community conversation and keeping you updated on the results.