


# Newark News

 Official Publication of the City of Newark, California

Fall 2018

## Unpermitted construction in Newark

Illegal construction is a lot more common than most people realize. If the results are attractive, many home buyers or neighbors do not question the legality of upgrades, extensions and/or conversions.

Given the current popularity of flipping houses, you might think it is easy for anyone to do much-needed improvements such as a kitchen or bathroom remodel, garage conversion, or adding a sunroom or detached game room. However, there are municipal codes, building codes, and State codes that need to be observed relating to this type of work, and getting the proper permits or approvals is number one on the list of must-dos. Failure to obtain a permit before commencing construction will mean that a shiny new upgrade or addition may be classified as an illegal construction that can result in the posting of a Stop Work order and the issuance of citations and other enforcement action being taken by City officials.

Homeowners are civilly liable for any damage caused to people or other property if something goes wrong – it does not matter if the construction

took place before you purchased the home, as any issues to bring the property into compliance are the currently-listed property owner's responsibility. The City can require the property owner to remove any illegal constructions or make alterations to comply with regulations. This could get quite expensive and can be avoided by taking the proper steps.

If you have a property that is currently not in compliance and you are trying to apply for a permit for your own alterations, it may not be approved until issues with any current illegal constructions are resolved. It is better to be proactive and research a home before purchasing it and becoming legally responsible for any illegal construction. Also, if you suspect any illegal construction, please contact the departments listed below immediately.

Here are a few simple things you can do when buying a home to avoid issues:

1. If you are looking to purchase a home or suspect illegal construction ask the real estate

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### City of Newark Hours of Operation and Contact Information

Newark Civic Center  
37101 Newark Blvd. (510) 578-4000  
Monday - Friday\* 8:00a - 5:00p

Newark Community Center  
35501 Cedar Blvd. (510) 578-4852  
Facility rentals only

Clark W. Redeker  
Newark Senior Center  
7401 Enterprise Drive (510) 578-4840  
Monday - Friday 9:00a - 3:00p

George M. Silliman Community  
Activity Center  
6800 Mowry Avenue (510) 578-4620

Monday - Friday 6:00a - 9:00p  
Saturday 6:30a - 7:00p  
Sunday 6:30a - 5:30p  
Call for holiday hours/closures and for specific programs and/or open swim times or check our website at [www.newark.org](http://www.newark.org).

*\*City offices are closed on alternating Fridays.*

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# SB1 is rebuilding Newark

Over the next 10 years, Newark is projected to receive \$9 million from Senate Bill 1 (SB1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act signed into law in 2017. Statewide, SB1 is anticipated to generate over \$5 billion annually in transportation revenue, with \$1.5 billion allocated specifically to cities and counties for repairing and maintaining roads, filling potholes, and easing traffic congestion.

Newark will receive a total of over \$1 million of SB1 funds over fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19. These funds will be used towards the following projects:

- **Street Maintenance** – SB1 funds will allow significant expansion of Newark’s asphalt concrete overlay program, resulting in the removal, replacement, rehabilitation and maintenance of pavement on more roads located throughout Newark
- **Concrete Repair** – Additional areas of damaged concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter will be repaired with the use of SB1 funds

SB1 includes public accountability and transparency requirements to allow members of the public to review how the funds are being spent. For example, SB1 requires that cities and counties publicly adopt project lists at the start of every fiscal year and provide year-end reporting on completed projects. Other accountability provisions ensure these funds are used only for

transportation improvements and that the money cannot be diverted for non-transportation purposes.

### SB1 FUNDING AT RISK

An initiative to repeal SB1 through a constitutional amendment will be on the November 2018 ballot as Proposition 6. If successful, this proposition will:

- Eliminate SB1 funding sources and reduce transportation funding for Newark, Alameda County and throughout the state
- Require legislation to submit any measure enacting specified taxes or fees on gas or diesel fuel, or on the privilege to operate a vehicle on public highways, to the electorate for approval
- Potentially lower future transportation tax revenues

For more information on SB1, please visit <http://rebuildingca.ca.gov/>.



## *Illegal construction - continued from Page 1*

agent for original plans and permit documentation, and compare them to the home as it is now. Look for any inconsistencies not reflected in the original City-approved plan.

2. Ask the Building Inspection Division if there are permits registered for any suspected illegal construction on the property.
3. Ask the Building Inspection Division to investigate any concerns you have regarding any suspected illegal construction in progress.
4. Have a code enforcement inspector investigate any suspected illegal completed construction.

If you have any questions or want to report any illegal construction, please contact the following City staff: **Newark Building Inspection Division** at 510-578-4261 – permits, illegal or in progress construction; **Community Preservation Specialist Patricia Montejano** at 510-578-4213 – completed illegal construction for Residential Areas; and **Community Preservation Specialist Shama Khan** at 510-578-4285 – completed illegal construction for Commercial and Industrial Areas.

## Thank you

Thanks to Rick Arellano for the fabulous photographs of the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony he provided for the summer issue of the Newark News.

## Street sweeping

Street sweeping plays a crucial role in improving the appearance and safety of City streets and in cleaning up leaves, litter, automobile pollutants, and other debris that accumulates over time. Remember that all City storm drain inlets flow to the San Francisco Bay through local flood control channels and that pollutants and other debris can harm these downstream environments. Additionally, items such as litter and leaves can end up trapped in street gutters and in storm drain catch basins/lines, which can lead to blockages and localized flooding conditions during the rainy season. Street sweeping helps prevent storm drains systems from clogging and allows storm water to flow properly to the bay.

Newark's local streets are swept once per month, in accordance with the schedule found on the City's website. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, your sweeping day may be delayed. Any missed areas will be completed at the next available

opportunity.

The Public Works Department needs your help to maximize the benefit of street sweeping operations. Here are the ways you can assist us in keeping Newark's streets and storm drains clean:

- Move any parked vehicles to your driveway or garage on designated street sweeping days.
- Move items such as basketball hoops and garbage cans that are in the street on street sweeping days.
- Do not rake, pile, or blow debris, leaves, or tree branches into the street or storm drain inlets.

For a map of the street sweeping monthly schedule, go to:

<http://www.newark.org/departments/public-works/maintenance-division/street-sweeping-schedule>

## Street tree plantings

In March of 2016, PG&E initiated a Community Pipeline Safety Initiative with the City of Newark. The purpose of this initiative was to work with the City and local residents to analyze trees, structures, or other obstructions in the vicinity of high-pressure gas pipelines that could delay first responders from quickly accessing the pipelines in an emergency or potentially cause direct long-term damage to the pipelines. PG&E worked with City officials and determined that approximately 40 City-owned trees should be removed to comply with the safety initiative. The City was reimbursed by PG&E to plant new trees in other areas as replacement trees for the trees that were removed.

The City of Newark recently completed the street tree replacement planting. A total of over 75 new street trees have been planted this year. Root barriers were installed which will provide an ideal site for the trees to mature and grow to their full potential. The benefits these new trees provide to the community are numerous, including: reducing air temperature, providing shade, minimizing soil erosion, cleaning road water runoff, and improving the ecology and air quality in our urban environment. Planting trees benefits the entire City for years to come.

### You are Invited

#### Alameda County Water District's Newark Desalination Open House & Tours

Did you know that ACWD purifies salty groundwater to produce drinking water for customers in Newark? The Newark Desalination Facility treats up to 10 million gallons of water a day! In recognition of Imagine a Day Without Water 2018, ACWD is hosting an open house and tours to give you a look at all that's done to treat and deliver water to your tap. Plus, there will be hands-on activities and fun for the entire family.

Saturday, October 13, 2018  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Newark Desalination Facility  
6833 Redeker Place, Newark, CA

More information and event registration is available at [www.acwd.org](http://www.acwd.org).



**CITY OF NEWARK**  
37101 Newark Boulevard, Newark, CA 94560-3796  
web site: [www.newark.org](http://www.newark.org) e-mail: [city.manager@newark.org](mailto:city.manager@newark.org)

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## POSTAL CUSTOMER



# Bulletin Board

### City offices closed

- Veterans' Day observed - Monday, November 12, 2018
- Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23, 2018

### Operating hours

City offices are closed on alternating Fridays. The Fridays affected through December 2018 are: September 21; October 5 and 19; November 2, 16, and 30; and December 14 and 28. Police and Fire services, along with the Silliman Activity Center and Aquatic Center, are not affected by this action.

### Ohlone College

It's not too late! Ohlone College offers 6 and 8 week Late Start Classes with hundreds of classes to choose from. Learn on campus or online. Financial Aid and payment plans are available for students who qualify. Find out more at [www.ohlone.edu/latestart](http://www.ohlone.edu/latestart).

### Clark W. Redeker Newark Senior Center 19th Annual Senior Health and Resource Faire

Tuesday, October 2, 9:00am – 12:00pm

At the George M. Silliman Community Activity Center  
6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark

Join us for this free and informative event! Meet a variety of senior health, wellness and resource providers; participate in health screenings; enjoy refreshments, and bring your Medicare Card to receive a \*free flu vaccination. (\*\$5 without a Medicare Card). For more information, please call (510) 578-4845.

### Annual Tree Lighting and Trees of Angels

The Annual Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on Monday, December 3. This event will be held in conjunction with the Washington Hospital Foundation Trees of Angels fundraiser. The Advanced Cougar Chords from Newark Memorial High School and the City's State Licensed Preschool Child Care students will perform. Mayor Alan Nagy will be the Master of Ceremonies. Refreshments will be served, and there might even be a special visitor from the North Pole. Festivities will get underway at 6:30pm. For further information, please contact the Newark Recreation and Community Services Department at 510-578-4620.