

# Newark News

 Official Publication of the City of Newark, California

Summer 2020

## Census 2020

**W**ell done, Newark! April 1 was the official kick off date for the 2020 Census. As of June 30, the City of Newark has reached a 75.6% self-response rate! Your responses inform where billions of dollars in federal funding is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.

### What is the census?

Every ten years, since 1790, the Census Bureau counts every adult, child, and baby living in the country to collect basic information. Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future. In March, the Census mailed information to all residents with instructions on how to participate. By law, everyone must complete the 2020 census either online, by phone, by mail, or by speaking with an official Census employee who provides proper identification.

### Why is Census participation important?

An undercount means fewer resources for everyone. For every person not counted, our community loses \$10,000 over the next 10 years.

### What if I can't find the instructions that were mailed to me in March?

You can still respond online to the 2020 Census even if you did not receive a letter or paper questionnaire. Go to [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) and select the link that says, "If you do not have a Census ID, click here." It is located below the Census ID login field. You can also respond by phone at 1-844-330-2020.

### If I didn't reply, what happens next?

If you don't respond online, by phone, or by mail by July 31, census takers will follow up in person at your home starting on August 11.

### Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

### What will I be asked?

The 2020 Census asks how many people are living or staying at each address. For each person, the Census asks about name, sex, age, date of birth, relationship, Hispanic origin, and race. You will also be asked whether the housing unit, such as the house, apartment, or mobile home, is owned or rented, and for contact information in case additional information is needed.

### What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, anything related to political parties, driver's license, pin codes or passwords, or citizenship status.

For more information about Census 2020, please visit [www.acgov.org/census2020](https://www.acgov.org/census2020).



**COUNT ME IN**  
**CENSUS 2020** ✓  
OUR COMMUNITY COUNTS. OUR COMMUNITY BELONGS

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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## City Hall closure

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as part of the shelter-in-place orders, the City declared a Local State of Emergency on March 16, 2020, resulting in a closure of City Hall at 37101 Newark Boulevard. Although City Hall has remained closed for the duration of the shelter-in-place period and there is no direct person-to-person contact, most services provided at City Hall continue to be available to the public. Building and Encroachment Permits, Business Licenses, and other service needs are generally available electronically through a combination of the City's website ([www.newark.org](http://www.newark.org)), email, telephone, and fax.

For Building Inspection Division services, including permit applications, plan review submittals and scheduling of inspections, please see the Division's web page at:

[www.newark.org/departments/public-works/building-inspection-division](http://www.newark.org/departments/public-works/building-inspection-division).

Inspection requests for issued permits can be emailed to [birequests@newark.org](mailto:birequests@newark.org) and called in by phone at (510)578-4261.

For all Engineering Division services, including but not limited to Encroachment Permits, plan review submittals, street light, and traffic signal maintenance, and to report any other public infrastructure problems, please email [public.works@newark.org](mailto:public.works@newark.org) or call (510)578-4589. Additional information is available on the Engineering Division webpage at: [www.newark.org/departments/public-works/engineering-division](http://www.newark.org/departments/public-works/engineering-division).

The Community Development Department can be contacted for all planning, economic development, and code enforcement services by calling (510) 578-4330 or by viewing the Department's website at: [www.newark.org/departments/community-development](http://www.newark.org/departments/community-development).

The Finance Department and Cashier's window at City Hall remain closed to the public. However, credit card and check transactions related to building inspection fees, permit issuance, licensing, and other payments can be completed via email, telephone, and/or fax. Please contact the Finance Department by email at [finance@newark.org](mailto:finance@newark.org), by phone at (510)578-4310 or by fax at (510)578-4358.

The Department's webpage can be found at: [www.newark.org/departments/administrative-services/finance](http://www.newark.org/departments/administrative-services/finance).

There is no specific timetable for the re-opening of City Hall for in-person services. This decision will be largely based on the easing of the shelter-in-place orders by Alameda County.

Please remain safe during this time period!

## Newark parks

With the warmer summer months now upon us, it is time to get outdoors and enjoy our wonderful Newark Parks!

People need parks – now more than ever – as they are viewed as essential for public health and wellness, especially stress relief. Current state and local shelter-in-place orders allow for “outdoor recreation activities” as an “essential activity” as long as social distancing requirements are followed. The current Alameda County Health Order requires that high-touch areas such as playgrounds, picnic tables and BBQs remain closed for the time-being. As the Health Order is revised, we look forward to allowing access to these important park features. For now, the community can enjoy use of tennis and basketball courts, walking paths, open space areas, NewBark Dog Park and Newark Skate Park.

We are doing everything we can to keep our parks open and safe while also limiting overcrowding and educating visitors to:

- Wear face coverings/masks as recommended by the CDC.
- Maintain 6 feet social distance from other park users while walking, biking, and fishing.
- NO picnicking, gatherings, or meetup groups (only immediate households).
- Keep dogs ON LEASH at ALL times in ALL parks.
- Bring water and hand sanitizer. Water fountains in parks are temporarily closed to slow the spread of virus.

## Budget reductions

On June 25th, City Council approved the 2020-2022 Biennial Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. This document is the City's spending plan for the next two fiscal years, and is the first budget in about a decade that includes budget reductions.

Economic impacts from COVID-19 and the resulting shelter-in-place orders have caused the City to make significant budgetary adjustments to face the anticipated multi-million dollar shortfall. These measures include significant reductions of Citywide supplies and contractual services, cancellation of all non-essential employee travel and training, reduction of temporary staff, a hiring freeze for non-essential positions, and elimination of general salary increases for all staff and City Council in 2020.

These reductions were made in anticipation of continued dramatic declines in three revenue sources: sales tax; Transient Occupancy Tax (known as hotel tax); and charges for City services, licenses and permits. While so much is still unknown about how long and how deep these revenues will be affected, the City is using reserves to balance the budget so that our workforce can remain intact and avoid any long-term consequences to the City's programs and services. Short-term impacts may include longer wait times for plan review and other City services; and a decline in citywide landscaping, road repairs, and other maintenance.

The 2020-2022 Biennial Budget and Capital Improvement Plan can be found on the City's website at: <https://www.newark.org/departments/administrative-services/finance/budget>.



# New Civic Center project update

The new Civic Center is now ten months into a 24 month construction schedule. Because of the Shelter-in-Place Order, construction was shut down for about six weeks. Prior to reengaging in construction activities, Webcor developed a detailed Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan to address COVID-19 related issues. Despite the temporary shut-down the project remains on schedule.

The City Hall building is fully framed. The rough mechanical, electrical and plumbing is almost complete and the exterior cladding

(which is mostly stucco) is underway. Roofing has started and some interior drywall has been installed.

The Police building is almost fully framed. The rough mechanical, electrical and plumbing is about 25 percent complete and the exterior cladding is well underway. Roofing has just begun. The foundation for the microwave tower is in and the installation of the tower will begin in August.

The Library building's structural frame is complete. Most of the exterior cladding substrate has been installed. The rough mechanical, electrical and

plumbing installation has started.

It is anticipated that phase one of the project will be complete in March 2021 and City and Alameda County Library staff will begin to move into the new buildings. The demolition of the existing City Hall building is scheduled to begin in April 2021. The new Civic Center, including the new parking lot and all site work, should be completed in August 2021.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the project, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Team at [roya.gonzalez@newark.org](mailto:roya.gonzalez@newark.org).



View of City Hall Lobby on June 24, 2020.



View of Library Lobby on June 24, 2020.



View of Police Station Lobby on June 24, 2020.





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## POSTAL CUSTOMER



# Bulletin Board

### City Offices closed

- Labor Day - Monday, September 7, 2020

### Operating hours

City offices are currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, most services are still being offered online, by email, and by telephone. Please visit [www.newark.org](http://www.newark.org) for updated information for your specific needs.

### Summer Recreation Programs are back!

A combination of limited on-site and virtual classes are now being offered.

#### Camp Newark – Second Session begins Monday, July 13

- Children ages 6-11 years
- Daily activities including arts/crafts, sports, yoga, special events and more!
- Fee: \$768 for 4-week session (pay weekly for only \$160)
- Camp is located within the award-winning Silliman Activity and Family Aquatic Center

#### Camp H2O – Session begins Monday, July 13

- Children ages 10-14 years
- Aquatics-based camp with water play, Lazy River, Play Structure, inflatables and much more!
- Arts and crafts, special projects and theme days
- Fee: \$768 for 4-week session with \$160 deposit due at registration (pay weekly thereafter for only \$152)
- Camp will be held within the Family Aquatic Center and Event Rooms

Other classes now available include Youth Basketball Camp, Dance Classes, Theater Factory Drama Camp. Virtual offerings include Jr. Giants Youth Baseball, Masako's Music and Kids Love Soccer.

A complete swim lesson program is now available but due to County Health Department restrictions, the first session scheduled to begin July 6 was cancelled. Please check our website for swim lesson updates.

To register for classes, please visit [www.newark.org](http://www.newark.org)

### I have not received my federal stimulus check

Are you one of the estimated 12 million Americans that have not received your stimulus check from the federal government? If you are a citizen who does not need to file a tax return, generally based on minimum income requirements, then you will not be identified by the federal government as a citizen who is entitled to receive a stimulus check (\$1,200 for individuals and \$500 for dependents).

Therefore, if you have not received a stimulus check, and are not required to file a tax return due to income thresholds, please consider completing the following form located at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

If you are not required to file a 2018 or 2019 tax return, visit [Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here](#). (Source IRS.gov)