



# CITY*news*

## CITY BUDGET HEARING

The City's proposed budget for next fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, will be presented to the City Council at their regularly-scheduled meeting on **June 9**.

The meeting will be the first public hearing to comment and provide feedback on the budget. The second opportunity, will be on **June 23**, when the Council will consider adoption of the budget. For more info: [www.novato.org/government/finance/citybudget](http://www.novato.org/government/finance/citybudget)

## SAVE THE DATE

### May 2

2015 Tour of Novato and Community Fair

### May 5

Downtown Novato Farmers Market Opens

### May 8

Friday Night LIVE Music @ City Hall

### May 14

Intro to Novato Watershed Program

### May 15

Hamilton Community Pool Opens

More info:

[www.novato.org](http://www.novato.org)



## WELCOME!

Check out our new citywide newsletter—full of helpful information that you can use to stay updated and connected to your City. Look for our next issue this summer.



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Public Safety: Novato Response Team
- Accessible Novato: Upcoming Public Works projects
- Thriving City: Initiatives to Keep our Economy Strong
- Get Involved and Stay Connected



## GET INVOLVED

Want to know more about the City you live in? Want to make a difference in Novato?

Apply online **now** for a City board, commission, or committee.

[www.novato.org/citycouncil/boardsandcommissions](http://www.novato.org/citycouncil/boardsandcommissions)



In the past year, we launched Open Novato, an online forum that makes it easy and convenient for our community to weigh-in on topics that are important to you. Join hundreds of Novatans on this. Check it out: [www.novato.org/opennovato](http://www.novato.org/opennovato)

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

A recent City survey shows that Novatans are highly-satisfied with their quality of life and the services the City provides. We have a proud tradition of delivering excellent, quality-of-life services that are important to you, while demonstrating fiscal prudence and accountability.

During the Great Recession and amid State takeaways, the City has responsibly managed its budget with long-term community priorities and fiscal sustainability in

mind. Strategic operations have been put in place, a long term Fiscal Sustainability Plan has been adopted, and the City continues to work to restore, maintain, and improve local services important to the community.

We encourage all Novato residents to join the conversation by completing the attached survey and mailing it back to us or fill out online: [www.novato.org/acitythatworks](http://www.novato.org/acitythatworks)—and help us continue being A City that Works for you!

## MEETING YOU WHERE YOU ARE

For us, effective communication means providing timely, accurate, and relevant information to the community about the City and our services; providing easy, accessible, and meaningful ways to connect; and promoting transparency in our decision-making processes.

Now it's even easier to find information about City services—**check out our new & improved website: [www.novato.org](http://www.novato.org)**

Note that our website is a work-in-progress and we will be continually working to improve your experience. Give us your feedback: click on the “feedback” link on any webpage or e-mail [publicinfo@novato.org](mailto:publicinfo@novato.org).

The screenshot shows the City of Novato website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Emergency Preparedness, E-Notifications, Jobs, Contact Us, and a language selection dropdown. The main header features the City of Novato logo and navigation tabs for ABOUT NOVATO, GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY, and BUSINESS. A search bar with the placeholder text "Type Here ..." and a "FIND" button is prominently displayed. Below the search bar, there are several callout boxes pointing to specific website features:

- Improved search function and friendly URLs:** Points to the search bar.
- New department homepages highlighting news and events:** Points to the navigation tabs.
- Contact staff directly through our staff directory:** Points to the COMMUNITY tab.
- Ability to translate the website into a variety of languages, including Spanish:** Points to the language selection dropdown.
- Check out our parks and facilities directory—see photos, location, and list of amenities for each area:** Points to a "Parks & Rec Registration" link in a "HOT Searches" bar.
- Submit a service request online to report a maintenance or other city-related issue, track your request, and get updates by e-mail:** Points to a "SERVICE REQUEST" button in a grid of service links.
- Find out the latest on high-profile issues affecting the community:** Points to an "OPEN NOVATO" button in the same grid.

The main content area includes a "NEWS" section with a featured article titled "Commissions, Committees and Boards Recruitment Deadline Extended" and a "CALENDAR" section. A grid of service links includes "AGENDAS & MINUTES", "WATCH MEETINGS", "OPEN NOVATO", "SERVICE REQUEST", "A CITY THAT WORKS", and "HOT TOPICS".



# A CITY THAT WORKS



## NOVATO IS SAFE

Novato continues to experience historically low crime rates—with more than a 45% drop in total crime over a 20-year period. Our Novato Police Department keeps our community safe through education, enforcement, and working closely with our neighborhoods.

A great example of this is our Novato Response Team—a special police team focused on proactive crime prevention, intervention and enforcement to address gangs, crime and issues affecting quality of life. The NRT:

- meets with residents to provide crime prevention tips,
- visits our schools to mentor our youth and reduce gang involvement,
- works with property owners of multi-family housing to ensure the safety of their residents and the surrounding community.

Recently, the NRT launched a first installment of the GREAT program—a 13-week class, that takes place once a week—teaches students skills to help avoid gang involvement, violence, drug abuse, and crime. To schedule a NRT presentation, contact [nconrad@novato.org](mailto:nconrad@novato.org) or call 415.899.7039.

## NOVATO IS ACCESSIBLE

Citywide, we are improving bicycle and pedestrian safety and promoting safe streets.

Last year, our Public Works Department:

- constructed a new sidewalk on Vineyard Road
- installed a new pathway adjacent to Lynwood Drive
- repaved 5 miles of streets, installed 15 new wheelchair ramps, and repaired more than 150 sidewalks



Coming this year, in addition to our regular pothole and street repair work, our maintenance crews will:

- construct a multi-use path on Nave Drive in front of Hamilton School
- repave pathways in Hoog and Miwok Parks
- rehabilitate over four miles of pavement this summer on 27 streets throughout the City, as well as install more than 30 new wheelchair ramps and repair more than 80 sidewalks

## NOVATO IS THRIVING

We are invested in our local economy—to keep our local businesses thriving and growing, to entice new businesses to locate to Novato and bring high-paying jobs to our community, and to keep our dollars local (visit [shoplocalnovato.com](http://shoplocalnovato.com)). To grow local jobs and take advantage of the emerging life science sector in Novato, the City, in partnership with industry leaders including the Buck Institute, educators, and neighboring counties, formed the North Bay Life Science Alliance to spread the word that our region is the place to be for the life science industry. **Check us out: [nblsa.com](http://nblsa.com)**



## CONNECT WITH US

The City Council meets most Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 901 Sherman Ave.

Meetings are broadcast live on Cable TV Channel 27 and webcast online at [novato.gov](http://novato.gov)

Sign up for e-news at [novato.org/community/connectwithus](http://novato.org/community/connectwithus)

Follow the City and many of its departments on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, NextDoor, Instagram, and Nixle—we will keep you posted on everything from community events, City projects, programs, and initiatives, friendly tips, and other City-related information helpful and relevant to you.

[www.novato.org](http://www.novato.org)

 [facebook.com/OurTownNovato](https://facebook.com/OurTownNovato)

 [twitter.com/TweetNovato](https://twitter.com/TweetNovato)

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THE CITY OF  
**NOVATO**  
CALIFORNIA

922 MACHIN AVE  
NOVATO, CA 94945

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
UNICORN GROUP

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please join the conversation! **Complete our online survey:**  
[www.novato.org/acitythatworks](http://www.novato.org/acitythatworks)

Or fill out survey below and mail to:  
City Manager, 922 Machin Avenue, Novato, CA 94945

Let us know what your top priorities are for Novato:

### KEEP ME UPDATED!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

- Maintain rapid response times to 9-1-1 emergency calls
- Attract, train, and retain qualified police officers
- Maintain Novato Response Team—a special Police Team focused on proactive crime prevention, intervention & enforcement to address gangs, crime & quality of life
- Enhance youth crime prevention and gang programs
- Maintain city streets, roads and repairing potholes
- Maintain and provide adequate parks and recreation facilities
- Provide safe pedestrian sidewalks and crosswalks
- Attract and retain local businesses
- Support the local economy, including local jobs
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other comments or questions: \_\_\_\_\_