

CITYnews

EN ESPAÑOL

Esta hoja informativa está disponible en español. Si desea recibir esta versión, envíe su dirección postal ó dirección electrónica a: publicinfo@novato.org ó llame al 415.899.8903

Copias también estarán disponibles en los siguientes lugares:

- Novato Library
Main Branch,
1720 Novato Blvd
- Margaret Todd
Senior Center,
1560 Hill Road
- Downtown
Recreation/
Gymnastics Center,
950 Seventh Street

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, Oct 24

10am–5pm

Sunday, Oct 25

11am–4pm

Scream on the Green Faire

Downtown Civic Green,
Sherman Ave

novatochamber.com

Saturday, Oct 24

11am–2pm

Downtown Safe Trick or Treat

downtownnovato.com

October 2015

Family History Month

Check out our museums
& galleries:

visitnovato.com



(Clockwise from left) 1. Resurfacing. 2. Nave Drive multi-use pathway, before. 3. Nave Drive multi-use pathway, in progress.

NOVATO: PUBLIC WORKS STRONG

Summer is a busy time for the City's Public Works Department. On any given day, you will see our crews roadside, in one of our more than 20 parks, or in a City facility, fixing, cleaning, installing, constructing, surveying, maintaining—all to make Novato a **safe, accessible, and sustainable community**.

Here are just a few recently- or nearly-completed Public Works projects:

Annual Street Resurfacing

This summer, the City replaced damaged concrete curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and street trees, installed 40 new access ramps at crosswalks throughout Novato, as well as repaired and resurfaced three miles of Novato streets to help preserve the existing street and to prevent pot-holes from forming. Every fall, the City prioritizes streets to be resurfaced—which typically lasts 10-15 years—and schedules the work during the summer months.

Nave Drive Multi-Use Pathway

Just in time for start of the new school year, the City has installed a multi-use pathway on Nave Drive between Bolling Drive and Main Gate

Road—which runs parallel to Highway 101 and fronts Hamilton Meadow Park School (K–8) and the Hamilton Community Gymnasium.

The project includes a paved pathway which provides safer access for pedestrians and bicyclists, connects two active bus stops at Main Gate and Bolling Drive, and includes new lighting, the preservation of existing trees and the planting of new trees, improved stormwater drainage and filtration, and a left-turn lane to the entrance of the gym.

LED Streetlight Conversion

The final phase of the City's streetlight conversion program is nearing completion. The project includes the conversion of all 4,500 City streetlights and outdoor lighting at City-owned facilities from existing conventional High Pressure Sodium lighting to a more energy and cost-efficient LED fixture. Not only will the City be using one million fewer kilowatt hours per year, but will be saving more than \$150,000 in energy and maintenance costs annually.

For more information on Public Works projects, check out the Public Works Department homepage at novato.org/publicworks.

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



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



WHAT IS MEASURE C?

You—our residents—have told us what City services are important to maintain our quality of life in Novato. These include maintaining streets and repairing potholes, 9-1-1 emergency call response, maintaining parks and neighborhood police patrols and attracting and retaining qualified police officers. Without an ongoing, locally-controlled revenue source, our City cannot maintain our current level of service.

In response, the City Council unanimously approved placing Measure C on the November 3, 2015 ballot to maintain essential services and the City's fiscal stability, while reducing existing tax rates.

Measure C reduces existing local sales taxes and maintains locally-controlled funding previously approved by a majority of voters to protect our quality of life services — including streets, parks, youth and senior programs, and public safety services.

The ballot language for Measure C reads:

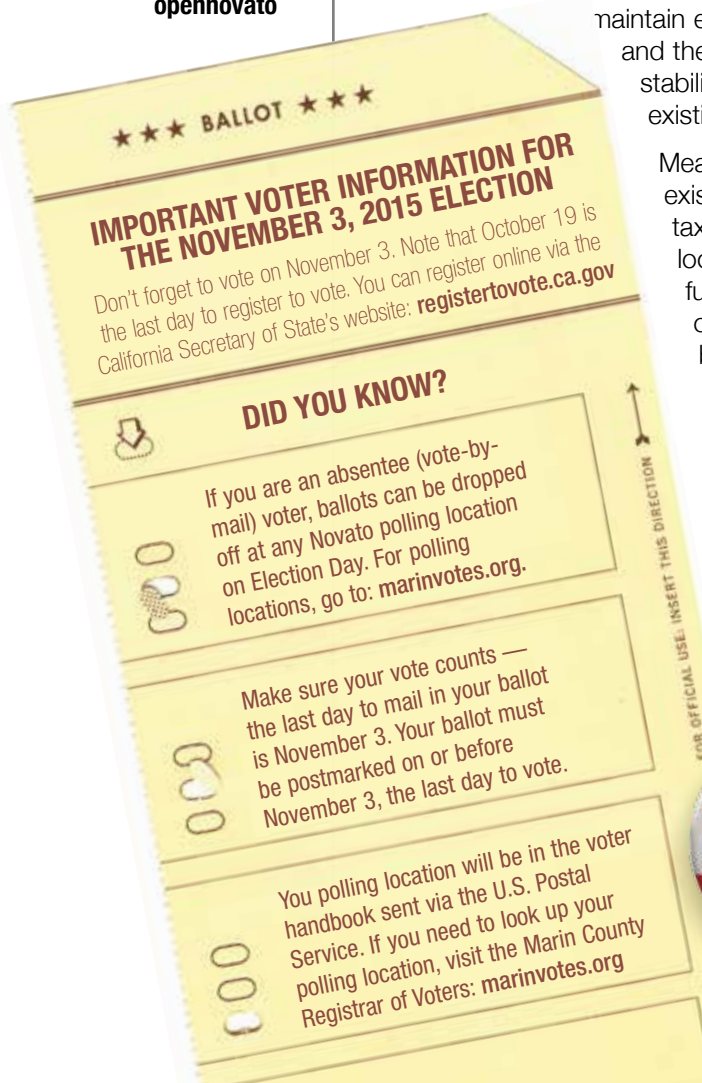
"To continue funding, that cannot be taken by the State, for general city services including, but not limited to, protecting neighborhood police patrols, 9-1-1 emergency response, crime prevention/gang intervention services; fixing potholes, streets, parks; attracting/retaining qualified police officers; supporting the local economy/increasing jobs; and providing youth, senior, recreation programs, shall the City of Novato extend the existing voter approved sales tax, reducing the rate from 1/2 cent to 1/4 cent, requiring oversight and audits?"

If enacted, Measure C will reduce sales taxes while continuing to protect essential services that the community has said are important, including:

- Maintaining city streets, roads and repairing potholes
- Responding to 9-1-1 emergency calls
- Maintaining parks
- Maintaining neighborhood police patrols
- Attracting, training and retaining qualified police officers

Measure C requires fiscal accountability, including Independent Citizen Oversight and reports to the community to ensure the funds are spent responsibly. By law, all funds from Measure C continue to be required to pay for services provided by the City of Novato or for purposes that benefit the City.

On Nov. 3, Novato voters will be asked to consider Measure C to maintain essential City services. You can find more information on Measure C on the City's website: novato.org/acitythatworks.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MEASURE C

Q: Why was Measure C placed on the ballot?

A: To continue a locally-controlled ongoing revenue source--at a reduced sales tax rate that cannot be taken by the State--that will assist the City in providing essential services that the community has said are important to maintain their quality of life.

Q: Does Measure C increase taxes?

A: No. Measure C *reduces* the existing tax rate for residents and maintains locally-controlled funding previously approved by a majority of Novato voters to protect our quality of life services--including streets, parks, youth and senior programs, and public safety services.

Q: How has the City improved its financial condition?

A: The City has taken a variety of steps to improve long-term fiscal sustainability:

- Leaner work force—eliminated 38 full-time staff
- Implementing technology to improve customer service and efficiency

- Negotiated wage and benefit reductions for all employees for 5 years
- Reinstated an economic development program—after the State eliminated redevelopment and associated funding--to protect local business and attract higher-paying jobs for Novato

Q: How can we be sure Measure C will continue to be spent responsibly?

A: Measure C requires fiscal accountability, including Independent Citizen Oversight and reports to the community to ensure the funds are spent responsibly on general City services consistent with community priorities. By law, all funds from Measure C continue to be spent on services provided by the City of Novato or for purposes that benefit the City.

Q: How will Measure C continue to maintain city streets and parks?

A: Novato needs to invest at least \$1 million annually to properly maintain and repair potholes, roads and other important City infrastructure. Measure C will help the City to maintain quality parks and address street and pothole repair to levels desired by residents.

Q: How will Measure C continue to maintain public safety services?

A: Measure C will assist in maintaining current levels of public safety and police services including neighborhood patrols, crime prevention and investigation programs, 9-1-1 response times, and the Novato Response Team (NRT), a special Police Team focused on proactive crime prevention, intervention and enforcement to address gangs, crime and quality of life.

For more information about Measure C, visit novato.org, or call 415.899.8900 or email city@novato.org to arrange a community presentation.

Measure C reduces existing tax rates & maintains local control for local needs with funding that cannot be taken by the State.

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.org

Sign up for e-news at novato.org/community/connectwithus

www.novato.org

 facebook.com/OurTownNovato

 twitter.com/TweetNovato

WANT TO REPORT AN ISSUE?

Submit your non-emergency request online at novato.org/servicerequest

Your request will go directly to the appropriate City staffer and you can track its progress. Photos can also be uploaded with your request.

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City News is printed on recycled paper with soy inks.



THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

922 MACHIN AVE
NOVATO, CA 94945

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WELCOME VILLAS AT HAMILTON TO THE CRIME FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM

Recently, the Villas at Hamilton completed the final phase in the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program and became the twelfth fully-certified property in Novato.

The Crime Free Multi-Housing program is recognized worldwide as the leading crime prevention program targeted at reducing crime, drugs, and gangs in multi-unit housing properties. In 2014, the City's Police and Code Enforcement Departments launched the program to work with property owners and managers of multi-family housing to ensure the safety of their residents as well as the surrounding community.

For more information on getting certified, call 415.899.7039 or e-mail nconrad@novato.org.



NPD IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Novato Police Department offered **two free youth programs** this summer: Youth Camp and radKIDS.

Youth Camp is an opportunity for kids in grades 6-9, to have fun while learning more about careers in law enforcement. Camp topics include: patrol, the canine team, Special Response Team (SWAT), CSI/ evidence procedures, traffic enforcement, and dispatch. Campers learned how to take fingerprint evidence, use police radio codes, and how to write a traffic citation.



radKIDS is a Safety Education Program for kids ages 5-12 that strives to empower children and their parents with real life skills to recognize, avoid, resist, and escape violence or harm.