



Issue 29 | February 27, 2020

## CLEANING UP

Jesus Sandoval, from our Public Works department, leads a team of staff every other weekend to sites around the city needing attention due to the accumulation of debris. Earlier this month, staff filled six dump trucks, removing 4.8 tons of debris from the area of University Avenue at I-80. This single cleanup effort cost over ten thousand dollars.

A few days previously, the team removed over 6 tons of debris from a variety of locations:

- Page Street where it dead ends,
- Page Street from Eastshore Highway to 2nd Street,
- Eastshore Highway and the northeast corner of Gilman Street,
- 2nd Street and University Avenue (i.e., the underpass),
- 2nd Street and Virginia Street,
- 705 Bancroft Way,
- Channing Way where it dead ends,
- Grayson Street where it dead ends,
- 2nd Street and Cedar Street to Jones Street,
- 2nd Street and Jones Street, and
- Harrison Street from 10th Street to 5th Street.



These clean-up efforts involve months of outreach, connecting people with resources, and working with a variety of City departments, and a maze of other agencies and jurisdictions. If you would like to report debris for removal, call 510-981-CITY (2489) or dial 311 from any Berkeley landline.

## CENSUS 2020



On Monday, March 9, the Alameda County Complete Count Committee is hosting a “Census Webinar for Elected Officials and Staffers.” During this hour-long webinar, individuals will learn how to help Berkeley constituents get counted on Census 2020. Alameda County will review how to answer frequently asked questions, share key talking points to encourage participation, and take questions live. Please RSVP here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/census-webinar-for-elected-officials-staffers-tickets-94888328545>

## LOAN TO REPLACE DOCKS

Recently, the City was awarded a \$5.5 million loan from the California Division of Boating and Waterways (DBAW) to replace the decaying docks D and E at the Berkeley Marina. This team effort, included Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department staff leading DBAW on a tour to tell our story. The awarded monies are one of a number of investments that have recently occurred or are in process at the marina.



## ELECTRIFICATION SOLUTIONS

The City of Berkeley and its partners were recently invited to Sundance in Utah to contribute to electrification solutions. Katie Van Dyke, the City's Climate Action Program Manager, led a proposal submitted to the Rocky Mountain Institute to join together with staff from PG&E, the CA Public Utilities Commission, the CA Energy Commission and other experts to develop a pilot project for specific location(s) that helps existing buildings switch from natural gas to electric for their heating/cooling needs and to also decommission unneeded natural gas infrastructure/pipes. As cities and the state move more and more to minimizing natural gas use in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the question arises of what will become of the existing natural gas pipes. As usual, Berkeley is at the forefront of thinking this through. And the Rocky Mountain Institute has invited our staff and other experts to help problem solve on this issue.

## RENTAL HOUSING SAFETY

Our Rental Housing Safety Program team increased the total number of new housing inspection cases opened from 500 in 2018 to 932 in 2019. In that same time period, the number of proactive inspections (e.g., inspections that take place that are not reactive to a service request from a community member) increased from 259 to 702. Jenny McNulty, who manages the program, attributes this amazing increase to a lot of team work and to efficiency and technology improvements as well. The program team is a high-functioning group, with excellent administrative support, highly-trained and professional inspectors and inspector supervisors, and great leadership from Ms. McNulty. In 2020, the City's goal is to add additional Housing Inspectors in order to continue to increase our inspection capacity. This program is critical for maintaining existing housing stock and helping tenants feel safe and healthy in their homes.

## RECREATION EVENTS

Mar 7 *Youth Sports Jamboree*, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St

Apr 10 *Teen Flashlight Egg Hunt*, 7:00 pm, Grove Park, 1730 Oregon St

Apr 11 *Game of Skate*, 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Skate Park, 771 Harrison St

*Spring Egg Hunt*, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm, Willard Park, 2730 Hillegass Ave (note: \$10/youth)