

# CITY OF MARTINEZ

City News • January 2016



California Cities Prepare for Implementation of

# MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGISLATION

Almost two decades after voters enacted Proposition 215 to give patients access to medical marijuana. California finally has a strong regulatory framework that upholds local control, protects public safety, and enhances patient safety. Governor Jerry Brown's signature on the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act on Oct. 9 culminated an effort led by a broad coalition that included the League, the California Police Chief's Association, labor groups, patient advocates, and portions of the cannabis industry. Licensing will begin in 2018 at the earliest.

Three bills comprise the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act:

- AB 266 (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey and Wood) contains the critical local control provisions and most of the core provisions of the regulatory structure, headed by the Department of Consumer Affairs;
- AB 243 (Wood) regulates marijuana cultivation and provides a regulatory structure specifically to address environmental impacts; and
- SB 643 (McGuire) contains critical provisions on criteria for state licensing, including disqualifying felonies. It also regulates physicians making medical marijuana recommendations and requires a digital seed-to-sale or track-and-trace program for marijuana, similar to that employed for agricultural products. [Read More...](#)

## A Message from the CHIEF OF POLICE

We had several interesting cases this month. On Tuesday, December 22 at 10:53 a.m., Martinez Police Communications received a 911 from Walmart stores, advising an armed robbery that just occurred. The caller described a light skinned male with blonde hair, wearing sun glasses who approached the counter. The subject brandished a firearm and forced the clerk to give him the money in the register. The suspect exited the store and was observed getting into a red and black Jeep Wrangler with paper plates.

As Martinez Police responded, the suspect vehicle was observed by police and the vehicle quickly fled east on Hwy 4, initiating a pursuit by police. The suspect vehicle exited the highway and the pursuit continued on city surface streets. The pursuit was concluded in the 3900 block of Camino Del Sol, after the suspect attempted to drive thru cyclone fencing at the dead of the street.

At the conclusion of the pursuit, the suspect threw a handgun out of the vehicle prior to being taken into



custody. The gun and a large sum of cash was recovered at the scene. The suspect was later identified as 24 yr old Michael Garcia, who is currently on parole. Garcia was



later booked into county jail for robbery, evading, parole violation, and other gun related charges. Garcia is believed to be responsible for another robbery of a Walmart Store in Tracy, CA.

In another case, an individual operating a drone during the hours of darkness, out of their line of sight, almost collided with a CHP helicopter. CHP was following a stolen car on Highway 4 when the pilot suddenly saw the drone in front of his aircraft. The pilot was able to take evasive action and veer away from the drone to avoid what could have been a tragic outcome.

CHP disengaged from the stolen car they were following and followed the drone as it landed on Roux Court. Officers responded and were able to make contact with the drone operator. The case is still under FAA investigation. We want to remind people to be cognizant of the dangers associated with flying drones in public.

The FAA promote's a "Know Before You Fly" campaign to educate the public about using unmanned aircraft safely and responsibly.

There is legislation being considered on drone use. These drones pose a significant risk to aircraft and operators can still be fined by the FAA for inappropriate use.

Further, Officers Russell, Buda, Busciglio, and Sergeant Ferrer responded to a report of a residential burglary in which a suspect, wearing boxer shorts and a blanket, entered a home while the resident was inside. The victim confronted the suspect and asked why he was in her house. The suspect replied he was in "his" house. The victim immediately barricaded herself in the bathroom and called 911. The suspect fled and was found by officers hiding behind a garbage can in the neighborhood – even though he tried to conceal himself, he wasn't too difficult to spot given that he was only wearing boxer shorts.

[Read More...](#)

## The Next BIG Things

Good government will continue to operate nearly invisibly to citizens, tackling the work that citizens can't do for themselves. When residents enjoy their parks, turn on their taps, drive over paved roads, and set out their garbage or recycling, they're benefiting from local government that works.

But behind the scenes, a lot will change...

[Read More...](#)

# EL NINO

*Are you ready?*

## Weather Planning & Preparation

To help you prepare for the predicted El Nino weather this coming winter, here are useful links with information on what you can do to prepare to safeguard your home and family.

- <http://www.ready.gov/ready2015>
- <http://www.ready.gov/floods>
- <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/readiness.asp>
- <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/pdf/be-ready-floods.pdf>



## SAND BAG LOCATIONS

The City of Martinez has designated four locations for the stockpiling of sand and one location with sand bags only for use by residents during heavy rains and/or flooding. All locations are lighted, have easy access, stocked with sand and a sand filling station, and sand bags are located at City Hall in front of the Police Department. Residents will need to provide their own tools for loading the sand. Residents should remember that these facilities may be used by numerous individuals during heavy rains and/or flooding. Please be respectful of others and take only the amount of sand and sand bags that you need.

If you have any questions, you may call the Public Works Maintenance Yard at (925) 372-3580, M-F 7:00a – 3:30p.

Sand Bags are located at  
City Hall @ 525 Henrietta Street.

**LOCATION MAP  
& INSTRUCTIONS**

Nancy Boyd Park	Located on Pleasant Hill Road E. & Church Street.
F Street	Located at the west end of F Street off of Alhambra Avenue, at the beginning of the Park District trail, just past Alhambra High School.
Ferry & Allen Streets	Located at the corner of Ferry & Allen Streets by the Kiwanis Club.
Rankin Park	Located at the end of Buckley Street, upper parking lot.

## Adjust Your Irrigation Schedule

Cooler, wetter weather means it's time to adjust your automatic irrigation system. It's always a good idea to reduce irrigation times in the winter, and you can leave your system off as long as two weeks after a heavy rain.

## How To Use a Rain Barrel

Rain barrels are specially designed containers you can attach to the downspout of your home's rain gutter.

**Use a container** specially designed for this use, with a lid and mosquito screen.

**Choose a location** close to the plants you want to water.

**Attach a hose** to the overflow valve and direct it away from your home's foundation.

**Elevate** your rain barrel on bricks or concrete blocks so gravity helps water flow and you can easily fit a watering can under the spigot.

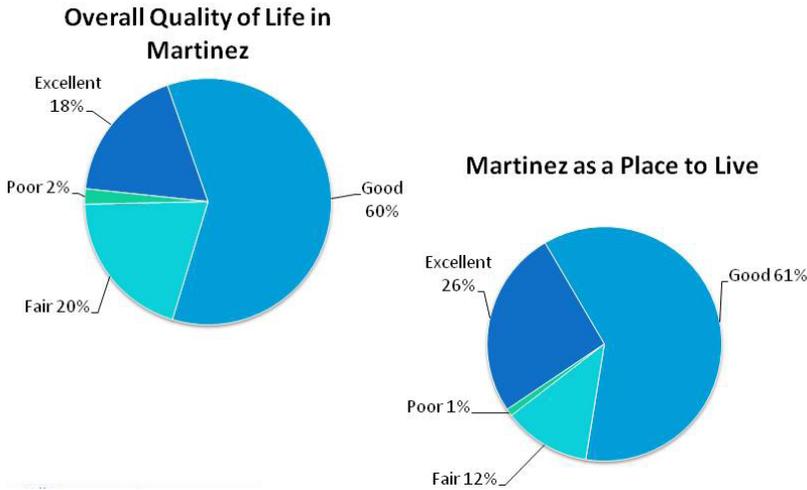


*CityNews*

MARTINEZ • JANUARY 2016

# National Citizens Survey

## Overall Quality of Life Ratings



The National Citizens Survey results show Martinez offering a better lifestyle. The majority voting in 'excellence' or 'good' focused on the City's neighborhoods, place to raise kids, place to retire, and the City's overall appearance.

Safety was a top priority with 4 out of 5 people felt safe. Economy was also a top priority ranking high in a great place to work, visit, and the aspects of businesses and services.

Altogether, 86% prefer to remain in Martinez and 89% recommends the City.



Increase your knowledge! Con Fire offers public education programs such as Fire Safety, CERT, Emergency Preparedness, and many more. Visit their website!

## COOLCALIFORNIA CHALLENGE UPDATE

Thank you for joining us at our CoolCalifornia Challenge event with Bear last month! We gained new signups and Martinez residents have already started saving energy and conserving water by taking simple sustainability actions.

Martinez currently ranks #6 out of 22 Cities, and we hope to continue to climb to #1! Sign up for the Challenge at [www.CAChallenge.org](http://www.CAChallenge.org) to start earning points for the City. Registration takes just a few minutes - check out our [Sign-Up Guide](#) for more information. See ranking [here](#).



## Homeowners Can Qualify to Receive up to \$100,000 in Mortgage Assistance through Keep Your Home California

Despite the much-better economic outlook and job growth, many of the state's homeowners continue to struggle with their mortgage payments. That is where Keep Your Home California comes in, a free mortgage-assistance program, which is helping low and moderate income homeowners avoid foreclosure and remain in their homes. [Read More...](#)

## Where are you SHOPPING?

Shopping online is so convenient these days; however, most shoppers do not realize that choosing an online retailer versus a store in Martinez has an impact on the City's sales tax base.

Cities generally receive 1% of the taxable sales tax generated by businesses located in the City. Sales tax revenues are the City's second highest General Fund revenue source. When a resident buys from an online retailer not located in

Martinez, 1% of the sales tax for the purchase goes to the Contra Costa County pool, rather than directly to the City. The sales and use tax from county-wide online purchases are pooled together.

Individual cities will receive a percentage of the pool tax dollars based on the total taxable sales reported within their city divided by the total taxable sales reported county-wide. We encourage you to shop locally whenever you can. Local businesses will be supported and all residents benefit.



## Art, Wine & Jazz Night

Friday January 22, 2016

4:30 - 8:30pm

Martinez Senior Center, 818 Green Street, Martinez

Join us for some great entertainment, a showcase of beautiful art by our own local artist, Gary Bergren, and a fabulous array of wines provided by Chateau III Independent, Assisted and Memory Care Community, Pleasant Hill. Light hors d'ouvres will be served.

Call (925) 370-8770

Cost: \$10 for Members / \$12 for Non-Members



# Rankin Aquatic Center

# ICE BERG SWIM

SATURDAY, January 9 | 9:00-10:00am

Brrr....ing some excitement to your New Year with an icy dip at the Rankin Aquatic Swim Center, 100 Buckley Street, in Martinez. Post frigid plunge, enjoy a hot beverage. Costumes are encouraged!



**FREE EVENT**  
For information, call the  
Recreation Office  
(925) 372-3510.  
Register now on the  
City's website!



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Building.....	(925) 372-3550
City Clerk .....	(925) 372-3512
City Hall .....	(925) 372-3500
Engineering .....	(925) 372-3515
Event Information.....	(925) 372-3463
Finance/Water.....	(925) 372-3575
HR Job Hotline .....	(925) 372-3513
Parks & Recreation .....	(925) 372-3510
Police/Non-Emergency.....	(925) 372-3440
Planning.....	(925) 372-3515
Public Works.....	(925) 372-3580
Senior Center.....	(925) 370-8770

## MARTINEZ ELECTED OFFICIALS

Rob Schroder, Mayor  
 AnaMarie Avila Farias, Vice Mayor  
 Lara DeLaney, Councilmember  
 Debbie M<sup>c</sup>Killop, Councilmember  
 Mark Ross, Councilmember  
 Richard Hernandez, City Clerk  
 Carolyn Robinson, City Treasurer

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January 1 | Friday

New Years Day - All City Offices Closed (Except Police)

### January 6 | Wednesday

Zoning Administrator ..... 4:00 p.m.

### January 12 | Tuesday

Planning Commission..... 7:00 p.m.

### January 18 | Tuesday

Martin Luther King - All City Offices Closed (Except Police)

### January 20 | Wednesday

Zoning Administrator ..... 4:00 p.m.

City Council ..... 6:00 p.m.

### January 26 | Tuesday

Planning Commission..... 7:00 p.m.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular City Council Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Meetings are televised on Friday, following Wednesday's meeting on Public Access Channel 28 (U-Verse Channel 99) at 7:30 p.m.



City of Martinez  
 525 Henrietta Street  
 Martinez, CA 94553

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



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