

## NEWS BRIEFS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Novel Coronavirus Update

On January 23 it was brought to the Fremont Fire Department's attention there are rumors spreading quickly on multiple social media outlets regarding possible cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus within the City of Fremont.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently monitoring an outbreak of a 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China that began in December 2019. There are confirmed cases in China, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

The Fremont Fire Department contacted the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD), and the agency verified there are **no confirmed cases of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Alameda County at this time**. The ACPHD also noted the virus does not appear to be spreading in the United States and there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public at the present time.

The CDC always recommends the following everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of flu and other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Symptoms of 2019-nCoV include high fever or cough, and shortness of breath. Having these symptoms, and either



having traveled to Wuhan in the last 14 days or come into contact with someone who may have 2019-nCoV, would make a person more likely to need immediate medical evaluation.

If you meet these criteria, seek medical care right away. **Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.**

To learn more information about 2019-nCoV, please visit the following resources from the CDC and Alameda County Public Health Department:

- Coronavirus Information from the CDC: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- Guidance for Alameda County Clinicians: Checklist for Managing Patients Who May Have Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Infection:  
[www.acphd.org/media/553792/alameda%20county%20guidance%20checklist%20ncov\\_1.22.20.pdf](http://www.acphd.org/media/553792/alameda%20county%20guidance%20checklist%20ncov_1.22.20.pdf)
- Updates from ACPHD: [www.acphd.org/](http://www.acphd.org/)

The Fremont Fire Department will continue to work closely with the ACPHD, and will provide updates if any actionable information is received.

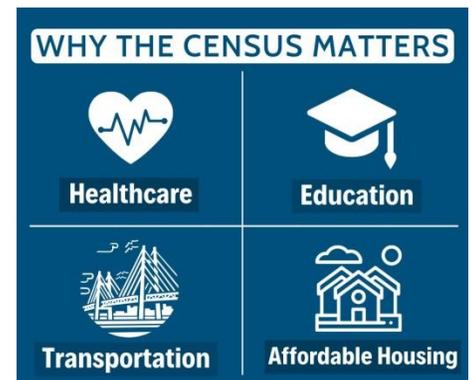
## Census 2020 in Fremont

The City of Fremont, in partnership with Alameda County, is working to ensure that we fully count the community in the upcoming United States Census. Every ten years, the Census Bureau counts everyone living in the country to collect basic information including age, sex, and race, for every adult, child, and baby. Census 2020 will not ask about citizenship status or for information such as a social security number. The Census gives us data about our community, informs the distribution of billions of dollars in federal funding, and determines the number of decision makers representing us. An undercount means fewer resources for everyone; for every person not counted, our community loses \$10,000 over the next 10 years.

Beginning in March 2020, the City of Fremont will administer a Questionnaire Assistance Center, located at the Fremont Family Resource Center to provide the public with access to computers and support in completing the Census. Responses are confidential, and protected by law.

Those interested in getting involved can become a Census Ambassador and promote the Census in Fremont through your neighborhood, community organization, or house of worship. You will be equipped with training, materials, and messaging to support Census participation. If you are interested please send an email to the City's Census Volunteer Coordinator, Ashleigh Howick at [census2020@fremont.gov](mailto:census2020@fremont.gov).

For other Census information, contact Management Analyst Amanda Gallo at [agallo@fremont.gov](mailto:agallo@fremont.gov) or 510-284-4016. For Alameda County Census information, visit [www.acgov.org/census2020](http://www.acgov.org/census2020). For City of Fremont Census information, visit [www.Fremont.gov/Census2020](http://www.Fremont.gov/Census2020).



## Coffee with a Cop on February 5

Join Police Chief Kimberly Petersen and members of the police command staff for the first Coffee with a Cop event in 2020. Join us for coffee and a casual conversation in an informal and friendly setting. Staff from Community Engagement, Patrol, and Investigations will be on hand to answer questions, discuss neighborhood concerns or just get acquainted. No formal presentation is planned, so feel free to drop in anytime during the event.

- Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2020
- Time: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- Location: Starbucks Coffee – 41093 Fremont Blvd. (Irvington location)



We hope to see you there!

## VITA Program Offers Free Tax Preparation to the Community

Tax season is here! The Fremont Family Resource Center's (FRC) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free, quality tax return preparation assistance and electronic filing for eligible individuals and families with an annual household income of \$56,000 or less. IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers will help eligible taxpayers claim their maximum refunds, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can be over \$6,000 for a family with three or more qualifying children.



FRC VITA also provides access to asset building or income support resources such as public benefits, low or no cost bank accounts, and financial education. VITA falls under the City of Fremont Human Services Department's SparkPoint Program and has helped more than 29,000 families receive more than \$45 million in tax refunds since 2002.

FRC VITA offers tax services at four locations in the Tri-City area. The main tax site is the **Fremont Family Resource Center**, 39155 Liberty St., Building EFGH, in Fremont. Walk-in tax services are on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through April 14. On April 15, VITA hours will be extended from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Throughout tax season, free on-site childcare is provided on a first-come basis as space is limited. VITA services are also offered at the **New Haven Adult School**, 600 G Street (entrance on H Street), in Union City on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. through April 11 (closed March 14). VITA is also available at the **Tri-Cities One Stop Career Center**, Ohlone College Newark Campus, 39399 Cherry St., Room 1211 in Newark by appointment only on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through April 14. To make an appointment, go to [www.fremontvita.org](http://www.fremontvita.org) and scroll down to Schedule and Newark.

This year FRC VITA offers a new drop-off service called Valet VITA for those with very simple, uncomplicated taxes. Taxpayers drop off their tax documents one day and pick up the completed returns on another. The

drop off site is the **Union City Family Center**, 725 Whipple Road, Union City on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from January 28 – April 14.

For more information, visit [www.Fremont.gov/FRCVITA2020](http://www.Fremont.gov/FRCVITA2020) or call SparkPoint Fremont at 510-574-2020 or 510-574-2026.

## **Make getting to know your neighbors a goal in 2020 – Start a Neighborhood Crime Watch Group!**

The Community Engagement Unit would like to invite you to get more involved with the Fremont Police Department this year. The Fremont Police Department offers a wide variety of services and programs. One of the largest programs the Community Engagement Unit manages is the Neighborhood Crime Watch (NCW) program.



NCW Programs have been helping communities raise awareness and minimize crime for more than 40 years. In Fremont, there are currently more than 150 active Neighborhood Crime Watch groups throughout the city. The program helps to strengthen the partnership between residents and the Fremont Police Department to improve safety, enhance communication, and prevent crime.

By starting a Neighborhood Crime Watch, staff will help you:

- Get to know your neighbors and how to work with them.
- Learn how to communicate with neighbors efficiently.
- Understand how and why crime happens.
- Learn how to recognize suspicious activity and when to call the police.
- Become an active group and learn ways to stay connected with your neighbors.
- Acquire visible NCW signs to help deter crime.

At your Neighborhood Crime Watch meetings our staff strives to provide a useful forum for airing neighborhood concerns and practicing problem solving techniques. Now is the time to get your neighborhood involved. For more information please contact Public Affairs Specialist Monica Leon at [Mleon@fremont.gov](mailto:Mleon@fremont.gov) or visit [www.fremontpolice.gov/crime-prevention/neighborhood-crime-watch-ncw](http://www.fremontpolice.gov/crime-prevention/neighborhood-crime-watch-ncw)

Additional programs offered include:

Vacation Checks: [www.fremontpolice.gov/i-want-to/file/vacation-security-check](http://www.fremontpolice.gov/i-want-to/file/vacation-security-check)

You Are Not Alone: [www.fremontpolice.gov/community/programs-for-adults/your-are-not-alone-yana](http://www.fremontpolice.gov/community/programs-for-adults/your-are-not-alone-yana)

We look forward to connecting with you. Remember if you see something, please say something.

## Quarterly Fremont Dog Park Maintenance Scheduled

The Central Park Dog Park will be closed for scheduled quarterly maintenance from January 28 through 30. The Dog Park will reopen on Friday, January 31, 2020. The Dog Park is located on Stevenson Boulevard adjacent to the basketball courts and Tri City Animal Shelter. For more details, call 510-979-5700 or visit [www.Fremont.gov/DogPark](http://www.Fremont.gov/DogPark).



## Earth Day Art Contest

This year, Earth Day 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the biggest environmental movement in the world. To celebrate, East Bay Community Energy (EBCE), Fremont's electricity provider, is inviting artists to submit Earth Day inspired artwork designs for buttons and posters. The selected artwork will be printed on buttons and posters available for distribution at Earth Day events in April 2020. Each selected design will also receive \$500.



During the month of April, EBCE staff and volunteers anticipate attending at least 12 Earth Day events throughout Alameda County to connect with the community and share the selected artwork submissions. Staff will also be available to inform residents and businesses about EBCE, the available service options, and local programs.

In Fremont, the City and Washington Hospital will be hosting their annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Washington Hospital. More details will be available soon.

For more information about the Earth Day Art Contest and to submit a design, please visit [www.EBCE.org/Solicitations](http://www.EBCE.org/Solicitations).

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