



Business Report

Norwalk's Official Business Newsletter
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5 Upcoming Ramp Closures Relating to I-5 Fwy Project

Four of six construction projects (each approximately 1.2 miles long) are now in progress from the Los Angeles/Orange County line to I-605. Starting in April, the northbound I-5 off-ramp (exiting from the #1 lane) to Firestone Blvd. and the southbound I-5 on-ramp at Firestone Blvd., will close permanently. Motorists can access the freeway from the northbound and southbound I-5 on-ramps at Norwalk Blvd. and Rosecrans Ave.

The City works closely with the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to help mitigate and minimize the potential impacts from the I-5 Freeway expansion projects that affect Norwalk residents, businesses and motorists. The public is encouraged to sign up to receive I-5 Freeway improvement updates by calling the Toll-Free Hotline (855) 454-6335 or visiting www.I-5info.com.

Shine Health Care Grand Opening

On February 23, Shine Health Care Medical Clinic held their grand opening event, which featured a ribbon cutting ceremony, live entertainment and a free community health fair where visitors had the



chance to receive various health screenings. The Norwalk location is their third clinic; there are two other locations in Orange County that offer health services to patients in the surrounding area.

Shine Health Care is an out-patient clinic providing services in pediatrics, family practice and family planning. Approximately five practitioners with over 20 years of experience and six medical assistants work at the Norwalk clinic. For those who do not have medical insurance, staff is on-site to help eligible low-income families enroll in applicable insurance programs. Chief Operating Officer Sean Nihalani says his staff looks forward to serving the Norwalk community.

Shine Health Care Medical Clinic is located at the Civic Center Plaza on 12371 Imperial Hwy. For more information, please contact (562) 929-5000.

General Municipal Election Results & Re-Organization

The City of Norwalk conducted a General Municipal Election on March 5, 2013 to elect two members to the Norwalk City Council. There were initially 6 candidates seeking office for the two available seats; one candidate withdrew his name during the election. Incumbents Mike Mendez and Cheri Kelley were re-elected to serve a new term and were sworn into office on March 19, 2013 at a regular City Council meeting. At that time, the City Council re-organized and elected Luigi Vernola as Mayor and Marcel Rodarte as Vice Mayor.



ELECTED OFFICIALS TO HOST LUNCHEONS AT SPORTS COMPLEX

The City of Norwalk and the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce cordially invite you to attend two events coming up. Take this opportunity to learn more about current trends and issues impacting the region from our elected officials.

STATE OF THE COUNTY LUNCHEON

Featuring Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe
Thursday, April 11 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex
Sproul Room, 13200 Clarkdale Ave.
Reservation deadline: Monday, April 8

STATE OF THE NATION LUNCHEON

Featuring Congresswoman Linda Sanchez
Wednesday, May 1 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex
Sproul Room, 13200 Clarkdale Ave.
Reservation deadline: Monday, April 29

Reservations are required. Tickets will not be sold at the door. The cost for each event is \$20 per person for Chamber of Commerce members; \$25 per person for non-Chamber members. All are welcome to attend these events! For details, please contact the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce at (562) 864-7785.



Norwalk City Council

Mayor Luigi Vernola Vice Mayor Marcel Rodarte
Councilmember Cheri Kelley Councilmember Mike Mendez Councilmember Leonard Shryock

**Have Business Questions?
Need Professional Answers?**

BUSINESS COUNSELING



- **FREE Counseling Sessions**
- **One-on-One** (90 minute session)
- **By Appointment Only**
- **Professional Bilingual Counselor**

Counselor provided by the Small Business Development Center

- ▶ *Business Planning*
- ▶ *Financial Strategies*
- ▶ *Develop a Business Plan*
- ▶ *Marketing*
- ▶ *Loan Application*
- ▶ *Starting a Business*

Call the **Norwalk Chamber** to Reserve a Spot
562.864.7785

12040 Foster Rd, Norwalk

City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
P.O. Box 1030
Norwalk, CA 90651-1030

Return Service Requested

I-5 Fwy Project Town Hall Meeting



Assemblymember Ian Calderon, District 57, in partnership with the City of Norwalk and the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), will host a Town Hall meeting to discuss the I-5 Freeway expansion project on Thursday, April 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Sproul Room, at 13200 Clarkdale Ave. Attendees will hear directly from Assemblymember Calderon and have the opportunity to speak with Caltrans staff about project schedules, design plans, traffic impacts and mitigation efforts. For more information about the Town Hall meeting, please call (562) 692-5858.

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City Moving to Address Critical Sewer System Needs

Sewer system repairs and upgrades are critical to ensuring public health and safety. However, Norwalk's sewer system is old, deteriorating and reaching the end of its anticipated lifespan. Without repairs and upgrades it will continue to deteriorate, increasing the likelihood of sewage spills and overflows. Any raw sewage waste that spills onto our land or leaks into our ground water presents a potential health risk to our community.

The City of Norwalk currently provides sewer service to local businesses through numerous commercial and industrial sewer connections. Any sewage spills and overflows would also likely have a significant economic impact on Norwalk businesses and affect local jobs, and would potentially hamper local economic development efforts. Having an up-to-date sewer system is helpful in attracting quality businesses and jobs to our community.

Unfortunately, there is currently no funding source available for sewer system repairs and upgrades other than emergency reserves or general city funds that are already devoted to funding important city services such as public safety, emergency response and senior/youth programs, among other services.

The City has a responsibility to make the necessary sewer repairs and upgrades to ensure the health and safety of the community. Without repairs, upgrades and proper maintenance, Norwalk's sewer system will continue to deteriorate. The City is fiscally responsible to address these critical needs now, before they become more expensive in the future.

To continue to ensure the health and safety of the community, the City of Norwalk must consider sewer service rates for property owners that benefit from the sewer system.

The City Council will consider this issue at a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, June 4. Unfortunately, health and safety upgrades cannot be made without new rates.

The community is encouraged to participate and provide comments on June 4th and throughout the process. For more information, please visit www.norwalkca.gov.

