

# NorwalkNow



www.norwalk.org

The official community publication of Norwalk, California

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## Keeping up with Council Actions in July

**The Norwalk City Council took action on items affecting transportation, infrastructure improvements, human services, and addressed a ballot measure with critical impacts.**



At the July 5 regular meeting, City Council approved the acquisition of two additional 40 foot Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses, growing Norwalk Transit's CNG fleet from 18 buses to 20 buses. The CNG bus replacements will provide greater reliability, sustainability and cost-effectiveness and is funded in part by Federal Transit Administration Funding and California State Prop 1B Transportation funds. City Council also approved funding agreements with the California Department of Education for support of child care programs for low income families. These programs currently provide assistance for over 380 children in Norwalk.



Also approved in July were projects to replaster the main swimming pool at the Aquatic Center; plans for making bus stop improvements at Alondra Boulevard and Elmcroft Avenue, including upgrades of ADA curb access ramps, sidewalk, traffic signal modifications and installation of a new bus pad;

work performed in the repair and rehab of eleven segments of aging sewer main throughout the city; and a funding agreement with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for intersection improvements at Studebaker Road and Rosecrans Avenue, including consideration of adding left turn lanes in each direction on both streets in order to alleviate traffic.



City Council joined the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority, Gateway Cities Council of Governments, LA County Supervisor Don Knabe, and Metro Board Director Diane Dubois by adopting a resolution opposing Metro's expenditure plan for the proposed 2016 ballot measure. The measure would raise sales taxes for the county by a half percent in order to address regional transportation projects. However, because most of the \$120 million would focus on LA City projects, cities in the Gateway region (southeast LA County) including Norwalk would not benefit for the next 20 years. The measure would place the last portion of the I-5 freeway expansion project, from the I-605 to the I-710, at a start date of 2036.

## Carmenita Bridge Opens



On July 18, officials from Caltrans joined Councilmembers from the cities of Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the new Carmenita bridge at the I-5. Originally constructed in the early 1950's, the new project began in 2011 and includes new north- and south-bound on and off-ramps, three through lanes in each direction and dual left turn pockets in each direction, for a total of ten lanes. These additional lanes bring traffic relief to this busy segment of the freeway and reduces delays. The project also protects the environment by improving stormwater drainage.



## New ADA Ramp/Memorial Tribute Work Begins

On July 11, crews began the removal of three planters from the center of the City Hall parking lot to make way for a new public art installation. The memorial tribute, expected to be completed in Spring 2017, will include five 11-foot tall monoliths with images and text recalling the sacrifices of veterans in all branches of the US Armed Forces. The project will also provide seating areas, a stamped concrete walkway, landscaping and lighting to facilitate visitor interaction.

In coordination with the art work, the current ramp leading to City Hall will be replaced with a stairway and new ADA ramp for easier access to City services.

Throughout the next months, parking will be limited in the lot adjacent to City Hall, and the center aisles of the lot will be fenced off to protect visitors. The old ramp will be demolished and temporary access will be installed.

Funding for this project is being provided through the Art in Public Places program, which is financed through contractor and developer contributions, as well as Community Development Block Grant funds provided through the US Housing and Urban Development department, and limited general fund monies.



## Norwalk Hosts "National Night Out"

**Residents are invited to join together to take a stand against crime**

In conjunction with its Summer Concert Series, the City of Norwalk will host its annual "National Night Out" event on Wednesday, August 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Civic Center Lawn, 12700 Norwalk Boulevard. "National Night Out" is a community-building campaign launched by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). Each August, residents across the country come together to strengthen neighborhood spirit, support local crime prevention and build police-community partnerships to enhance safety and improve quality of life.

This year we have collaborated with local agencies, including the LA County Fire Department, Metropolitan State Hospital, LA County Sheriff's Department, California



Highway Patrol, Helpline Youth Counseling, Cerritos College Police Department, and local military forces, to provide information and community resources. Special appearances will be made by "McGruff" the crime fighting dog and Public Safety's "Rocky the Raccoon," and parents will have the opportunity to have their children fingerprinted by our Public Safety Cadets. In addition, popular Latin R & B band Soto will take the stage as the evening's featured performers.

For more information, contact Public Safety at (562) 929-5732.

### Norwalk City Hall Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Alternating Fridays 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday & Sundays Closed

### Norwalk City Council

Mayor  
**Mike Mendez**



Vice Mayor  
**Cheri Kelley**

Councilmembers  
**Leonard Shryock**

**Luigi Vernola**

City of Norwalk  
12700 Norwalk Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA 90650

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## Fraud Alert: Phony Grant Scams

Beware of telephone callers who tell you that you have been awarded a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), but that they must first collect an upfront fee. HUD will never email or call

to "award" you money.

HUD's Office of Inspector General (OIG) has received complaints about fraudsters using the same scam to trick their targets into sending them "fees" to so they can process grants for thousands of dollars.

### Some examples of the fraud are:

• January 5, 2016, a woman in California was a victim of an attempted scam when a person called her, claiming she had been awarded a \$51,400 federal grant. All she needed to do was fax a copy of her identification to receive the money. The woman asked for the caller's credentials and the caller provided her with the NYHUD Regional Office's address. The caller went by Matthew Maxwell and gave his number as (315) 675-4146 x120.

• May 26, 2016, a law firm representing a woman from Washington, DC, reported a woman had been scammed when a person called her, claiming she had been awarded a \$48,500 grant. All the victim needed to do was wire \$350 to them, using Western Union. After the victim sent funds she did not get her \$48,500 in exchange. The caller went by Alice and her number was (315) 675-4146.

### Do Not...

- Take or return phone calls from (315) 675-4146.
- Give identity information by fax or over the phone to anyone offering you a grant.
- Wire funds to cover the "fees" for the federal grant.

### Do...

- File a report on OIG's Web site: <https://www.hudoig.gov/report-fraud>
- or call the appropriate Special Agent in Charge in the Office of Investigation <https://www.hudoig.gov/about/where-were-located>

## Keep Your Yard Mosquito-Free

In mid-July, the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District (GLACVCD) confirmed additional West Nile Virus activity for the first time this year in Chatsworth, Los Feliz, Montebello, Panorama City, Reseda, Sherman Oaks, Van Nuys and Woodland Hills. Activity has been recorded in 31 other cities in the county, including Bellflower, La Mirada, Lakewood, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier.

### GLACVCD offers the following tips for preventing mosquito breeding:

#### No containers holding water = No mosquitoes

Mosquitoes need standing water to lay their eggs. Almost anything can hold water: Buckets, plant saucers, old tires, a fountain, even a swimming pool. Identify all the containers that can hold water and either dump and drain the water once a week or throw away the containers.

#### Get insect repellent.

Blood is food for female mosquitoes. They need blood to produce eggs. Insect repellent is effective in stopping mosquitoes from attacking. When purchasing insect repellent, look for any of the following active ingredients that have been proven to keep mosquitoes away:

DEET  
Picaridin

Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus  
IR3535

Empower family and friends to become familiar with mosquito issues in your city.

It's impossible for GLACVCD to inspect, treat and continuously re-visit homes for the nearly 7 million residents in our District. Your actions are important in making a difference in your neighborhood.

"Mosquitoes and West Nile virus go hand-in-hand with the hot weather we're experiencing," said Levy Sun, the District's public information officer. "We can expect more virus activity as the summer progresses."

Residents experiencing mosquito problems during the day or at night, even after dumping all standing water, can receive help from the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 or visit [www.ReportMosquitoes.org](http://www.ReportMosquitoes.org).

## Back to School Safety

As children start heading back to the classroom in the coming weeks, it's time for motorists to take extra care. With more school kids walking, riding bikes, and crossing streets, the City's Public Safety Department and the



Norwalk Sheriff's Department will implement a special Back to School Traffic Safety Campaign throughout September. Law enforcement officers will be assigned to monitor crosswalks, school zones, and school drop-off areas.

### Traffic Tips & Tip-offs:

- \*25 mph speed limit in school zones
- \*No double parking
- \*Red zones, seat belt compliance
- \*Bus loading & unloading zones
- \*Watch for children crossing around your vehicle
- \*Yield to children while they cross the street
- \*Use crosswalks when crossing children
- \*Do not unload passengers from the street; park legally

### Reminder to all parents:

Students must be in school or under the direct supervision of a parent/legal guardian between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Need more information? Contact the Public Safety Department at (562) 929-5732.

## Ceremonial Transfer of Property to Mark First Step of Holifield Park Expansion

Legislation introduced in 2014 by Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, 38th Congressional District, made it possible for the City of Norwalk to acquire 15 acres of land owned by the United States Air Force. Congresswoman Sanchez, dignitaries of the Air Force, and Norwalk City Council will gather in a ceremony celebrating the transfer of the property, which will be used to expand Holifield

Park, providing additional community resources and open recreational space for Norwalk families to visit and enjoy.

The public is invited to attend the Ceremonial Transfer of Property at the park on Tuesday, August 16 at 10:00 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. Holifield Park is located at 12500 Excelsior Drive.



## Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 16, 2:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
11929 Alondra Boulevard

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Social Services Center. Please join us by making a life saving appointment.

Sign-ups are available online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). Be sure to enter sponsor code: NorwalkSS or contact Jose Menendez at (562) 929-5603 or at [jmenendez@norwalkca.gov](mailto:jmenendez@norwalkca.gov)



## Los Angeles County Public Library Bookmark Contest Winner

Blessing Kim, a Norwalk resident and senior at Gahr High School, has created art that is being featured at all 84 County of Los Angeles Public Library locations. Blessing is the Fourth Supervisory District's winner in the 9-12 grade category for the Public Library's annual Bookmark Contest.

Initially Blessing received first place in the 9-12 grade category for Alondra Library. Alondra Library sent her work to the County Supervisor-level judging. (Alondra and 18 other County Libraries are in Supervisor Knabe's 4th district.) Supervisor Knabe chose Blessing's bookmark from among nineteen other finalists.

Blessing was volunteering at Alondra Library when coworkers asked her to enter the contest. She grew up drawing and



enjoyed it, but always thought of it as a hobby. When she submitted her artwork, she says, "Honestly I didn't think I'd win. When I made it to the finals I was shocked and intimidated. I'm shy and this awards ceremony turned out to be bigger than I imagined. We received a huge award and stood in front of cameras. It's amazing how one small action, to step up to the challenge, led to the award and recognition."

Her inspiration for the bookmark came from the contests' theme, "Ticket to Adventure". She wanted to incorporate recognizable book characters, including Cinderella, Charlotte's Web, Harry Potter, and the Lord of the Rings.

The bookmarks are free and available locally at both Alondra and Norwalk Libraries.

# LA County Household Hazardous Waste Round Up

Dispose of household hazardous waste in a safe and responsible manner at a FREE Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and E-Waste Round Up. Round Up events are open to all LA County residents. Accepted items include: automotive fluid, cleaners and pesticides, pool chemicals, expired and unwanted medications or sharps, household batteries, and e-waste (computer monitors, keyboards, microwaves, televisions, and cell phones).

**Saturday, August 6, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Los Angeles County Office of Education**  
**9300 Imperial Highway, Downey**

Call (888) CLEAN-LA for more information. Event is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in conjunction with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

## Smart Gardening

Want to learn how to garden using less water and resources? The Smart Gardening Program, sponsored by Los Angeles County, provides FREE beginner and advanced level workshops that will provide you tips and techniques to help you create and maintain healthy and beautiful lawns.

**Saturday, August 6, 9:30 am - 11:00 am**  
**Wilderness Park, 10999 Little Lake Road, Downey**

**Saturday, August 27, 10:00 am - 11:30 am**  
**Hacienda Park, 1885 Hacienda Road, La Habra Heights**

Topics covered at the beginner workshops include: backyard composting, grass cycling and water wise gardening. No reservations are required. Attendees will receive a free garden starter kit provided by Central Basin Municipal Water District. Compost bins will be available for purchase at a reduced price (\$40 for a backyard compost bin and \$65 for a worm compost bin) after the workshop.

For more information, please call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com)



## Norwalk Transit System - Route 3 Modification

**Making a Difference**

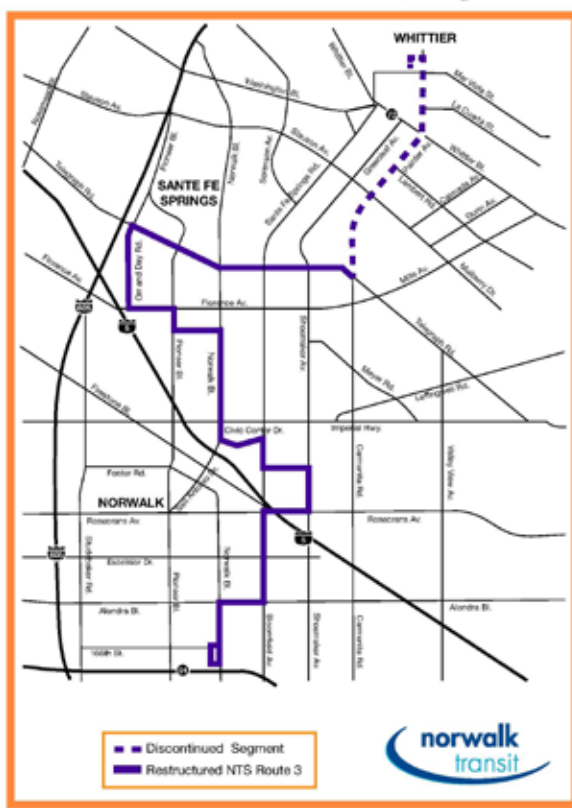
Beginning September 10, 2016, Norwalk Transit System (NTS) will implement changes to Route 3. Currently, NTS Route 3 originates at 166th Street and Norwalk Boulevard and continues on to Civic Center Drive, providing service to the Gateway Plaza Mall and terminating at the Historic Depot located in Downtown Whittier.

NTS Route 3 service has experienced limited success in its current alignment and has the lowest productivity of all NTS fixed-route service as it relates to total passenger trips. Therefore, this service will be modified by eliminating the segment of NTS Route 3 service between the Whittier Historic Depot and the Gateway Plaza Mall at Carmenita Road and Telegraph Road.

Also, the new modified NTS Route 3 would continue serving Santa Fe Springs Civic Center, Santa Fe and John Glenn High Schools; and the corridor to 166th Street via Norwalk Boulevard.

Please contact NTS Customer Service for questions about the upcoming modifications to the Route 3 by phone: (562) 929-5550 or by e-mail: [transportation@norwalkca.gov](mailto:transportation@norwalkca.gov)

### Restructured NTS Route 3



## Fourth of July Festivities!

More than 10,000 people gathered on the Civic Center Lawn to celebrate America's 240th birthday and see a spectacular fireworks show. Families from Norwalk and surrounding communities made the most of their Sunday, bringing lawn chairs, blankets, and a good mood. The audience was treated to the sounds of Liquid Blue, a popular cover band performing classics and fan favorites. The community enjoyed dancing, singing, food, and fun kid's activities before being treated to the "Grand Finale" display, featuring a double round of fireworks to magnify the festivities and light up the night sky.

This was a real treat for the crowd. Many enjoyed the safe and child friendly atmosphere that the Independence Day Pageant provides each year.

Officials remind us when people set off illegal fireworks at home, in many cases injury to self and property has the potential to occur. Deputies issued \$1,000 fines this holiday and confiscated nearly 1,000 pounds of illegal fireworks.

In addition to the City of Norwalk's Independence Day Pageant, the community celebrated another local tradition, the Locks of Love Hair Drive. Individuals grew their hair for donation to an important cause on the day of the Pageant.

The Locks of Love organization provides hairpieces and wigs to help financially disadvantaged children suffering from hair loss due to illness or medical treatment.

A total of 278 pieces were donated this year thanks to caring people in the community, surpassing last year's total of 200. The youngest donor was a three year old girl who donated 16 inches and the oldest was an 81 year old woman who donated 10 inches. In total, nearly 3,600 inches were collected for the program.

To view our "Now You Know" Independence Day Pageant and Locks of Love Hair Drive 2016, including fireworks, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiixuzKBTvl>.



## Help Keep Norwalk Clean

Dumping old furniture, oversized debris or materials is unsightly and illegal in the City of Norwalk. Proper disposal of bulky items on parkways are the responsibility of property owners. There are many free options that allow items too large for trash or recycle receptacles to be reused or properly disposed of without causing an inconvenience.

\*Call for a FREE bulky item pickup. Single family residences are entitled to FOUR FREE PICKUPS consisting of five items each. Any items over the limit are subject to charges. To schedule a bulky item pick-up, contact your disposal company at least two days before your regular collection day and prior to placing items on parkway. You'll need to provide a description of the items. To prevent scavenging, please place items on the parkway no more than 24 hours in advance. Apartment buildings are considered commercial accounts and will be charged a fee. Contact CR&R at (562) 944-4716 or Republic Services at (800) 299-4898.

\*Donate large items that are still in good condition. Rather than having usable items picked up as bulky trash, consider donating them. Many Norwalk organizations accept working small and large appliances, furniture, electronics, fixtures, household goods, and more. Several charitable organizations offer free donation pick-ups including The Goodwill, which requires a minimum of five or more large garbage bags or boxes. Call (562) 435-7741 for details. The Salvation Army and Vietnam Veterans for America charity also offer pick-up service. Visit <https://satruck.org> for the Salvation Army or [pickupplease.org](http://pickupplease.org) for Vietnam Veterans of America to schedule your donation collection. Search online for "donation centers" to find other charitable organizations accepting donations.



See & Do

ENJOY LIVE MUSIC UNDER THE STARS AT THE...

# SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**FREE** CONCERTS ON CITY HALL LAWN • WEDNESDAYS **7 PM**  
12700 NORWALK BOULEVARD



**Wednesday, July 27**  
Smooth Sounds of Santana  
Santana Tribute



**Wednesday, August 3**  
Soto "National Night Out"  
Latin R & B



**Wednesday, August 10**  
Sangria  
Old School Latin & Oldies

Spend your summer evenings with us on the City Hall Lawn for our Summer Concert Series running every Wednesday from July 6 to August 10. Bring your blankets, chairs, and pack a picnic to enjoy live outdoor music with family and friends. Refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information, please call 929-5702.

## Job & Resource Expo

Wednesday, August 17, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue

Looking for a job or information on available housing, education and veterans resources? The Employment Development Department (EDD), in partnership with Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board (SELACO WDB), Southeast Social Services Funding Authority (SASSFA), and the City of Norwalk, are sponsoring a Job & Resource Expo, open to all job seekers!

Please bring your resume and dress for success. Meet with potential employers, receive assistance in creating professional resumes, and take advantage of helpful resources to make your job search easier. Free health screenings, haircuts and manicures will also be available. For details, please call EDD Norwalk Workforce Services at (562) 929-9147.



## At Norwalk & Alondra Libraries

colapublib.org



### Norwalk Library

12350 Imperial Highway, (562) 868-0775

#### The Sounds of Brazil\*

Saturday, July 30, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.



Get fired up for the Olympics with music from Brazil! Internationally renowned musical group Brasil Brazil will play a variety of upbeat and invigorating songs to get you in the Olympic spirit

*Dessert will be served. Parents: Please be aware that refreshments will be served at this program. A list of ingredients will be available. This program is for all ages.*

#### Storyteller Ina Buckner-Barnette\*

Saturday, August 6, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.



Ina Buckner-Barnette presents Together...We All Win. Play games, sing songs and spread your wings with world stories that teach you how to win. Develop your winning game through fair play, successful problem-solving and teamwork.

#### John Mclean Allan's Highland Games\*

Saturday, August 20, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

It's bagpipes, kilts, and games! Let the Norwalk Library transport you to the Highlands of Scotland. Join us for the Scottish and Celtic Highland Games that are held yearly during spring and summer. Preschool and up.



\*These programs are presented courtesy of Supervisor Don Knabe, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

### Alondra Library

11949 Alondra Boulevard, (562) 868-7771

#### Puppet Show and SRP Finale Party

Tuesday, August 2, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.



"Noteworthy Puppets" perform a wacky interactive retelling of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, with a party afterwards to close our last children's program for the summer!

#### Papermaking\*

Friday, August 5, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Learn the history and process of papermaking with artist Laurel Koss in a hands-on activity for all ages.

#### African Tales from Here & There

Wednesday, August 10, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy professional storyteller Michael McCarty's energetic and engaging African storytelling. Program is for all ages.

#### Teen Game Show & SRP Finale Party

Thursday, August 11, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Teens, it's our last Summer Reading Program event. Let's celebrate the program with games, prizes, and food! Program is for ages 12 to 18.

## Norwalk Senior Center

14040 San Antonio Drive • (562) 929-5580

The following events are for those age 50 and older:

### FREE Blood Pressure Screenings

Monday, August 8, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 16, 9:30 a.m.

AppleCare and Pioneer Medical Groups provide this monthly blood pressure screening to seniors. Blood pressure is taken by a licensed/certified medical staff, with the results discussed afterward.

### CalFresh Outreach Assistance

Wednesday, August 10, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Under new eligibility criteria, individuals age 65 years old and above can now qualify to receive CalFresh services, which help put healthy food on the table each month.

Sponsored by: Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

### August Candlelight Dinner

Theme: Fun in the Sun

Tuesday, August 9, 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$6.50 Early Bird, \$8.00 (after Saturday, August 6)

Enjoy a delicious meal of Barbecue Chicken and Pork Ribs and share an evening of warmth with friends. Doors open at 5:15 p.m., with meal service ending at 6:00 p.m. Prizes are awarded throughout the event. Dine-in only. Tickets will not be sold on the day of the dinner.

### Medicare Fraud Seminar

Thursday, August 11, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The Center for Health Care Rights will discuss Medicare fraud. This free seminar will educate seniors on types of fraud and how to identify them. They will also learn what to do to make sure they are not committing fraud as well.

### FREE End of Summer Concert & BBQ

Saturday, August 20, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$6.50 for lunch

Celebrate "The Summer of Love" with us and enjoy an afternoon of food, fun, and music. The Free End of Summer Concert will feature The Jumpin Joz Band. Lunch will also be available. Meal tickets must be purchased in advance. Lunch will consist of two all beef hot dogs, potato salad, chips, beverage and coffee, and an ice cream sundae cup for dessert.

### FREE Thyroid Screening

Thursday, August 25, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

HealthCare Partners will provide seniors with a free thyroid screening. Symptoms of thyroid problems are easily missed and this very important screening is the first step in being able to detect if a thyroid problem exists.

### FREE Dental Screening

Friday, August 26, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Northeast Dental Assistants provide seniors with a basic dental health screening. Findings will be discussed with each attendee, who may contact his or her regular dentist to address any issues.

Sponsored by: Northeast Dental

### Bereavement Support Group

Meets every Friday, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The Bereavement Support Group offers support to participants experiencing loss of a spouse, family member or friend who wish to share their thoughts in a safe and supportive environment. The group is led by a trained mental health professional from Telecare Corporation in Norwalk.



## State of the Nation Address

Learn what our federal government will focus on in the next year.

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce hosts the "State of the Nation" Luncheon Address, featuring Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, on Thursday, August 11 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex. Luncheon tickets are \$30 per person for non-members, \$35 per person for members, and \$250 for a reserved table of eight. Reservation deadline is Monday, August 8. Purchase your ticket online at norwalkchamberofcommerce.com. The Arts and Sports Complex is located at 13200 Clarkdale Avenue.

# JULY 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

