

NorwalkNow

norwalk.org The official community publication of Norwalk, California April 2017, Volume 35, #4



City of Norwalk Community Promotion Commission



April marks the start of the City of Norwalk Community Promotion Commission's annual Home and Business Beautification Contest. The competition, open to all single and multiple family residences and businesses in Norwalk, celebrates the efforts of our community members to keep their homes and commercial properties attractive and clean.

Application deadline is May 31, with the judging period beginning in early June and extending through the end of the month. Applications are available online at Norwalk.org/i-want-to-enter-HBBC, or you may pick one up at any of our City facilities.

Community Promotion Commissioners will judge properties in four categories:

- Home Beautiful
 - Multi-Family Dwelling
 - Home Improvement
 - Business Appeal
- (MUST provide "before" & "after" photo.)

Participants may only enter in one category. Winners receive recognition at a City Council meeting and signage commemorating their award. Call (562) 929-5735 for more information.

Consolidated Municipal and Special Election Results

On March 7, the County of Los Angeles conducted a Special Election combined with the municipal elections of more than 30 special districts and cities.

In Norwalk, voters were asked to elect three new members to serve on the City Council. Nine candidates ran for two four-year seats, with three additional contenders seeking the two-year seat vacated in June by Marcel Rodarte.

Candidates Jennifer Perez and Tony Ayala will fill the two Council seats currently filled by retiring Councilmembers Mike Mendez and Cheri Kelley. Margarita Rios will serve the two-year term.

New Councilmembers-elect are scheduled to be sworn in at a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 11, when City Council will re-organize and select a new Mayor and Vice Mayor.

State of the City Recap

At the annual State of the City address, hosted by the Norwalk Community Coordinating Council, City Manager Mike Egan shared the City's recent accomplishments and emphasized 2016 as a year of progress.



Continuing improvements in the local economy, paired with growth in construction activity and commercial development, reflect movement in a positive direction.

Projects affecting residents' quality of life, such as park improvements and water and sewer line repairs, were some of the City's priorities during the year. Attendees were also informed that other long term projects, such as renovation of the Hargitt House Museum, new City Hall entrance ramp and installation of the Armed Forces Memorial, are nearing completion.

If 2016 was full of progress, then 2017 promises to be a year of opportunity. In addition to new City leadership, several upcoming City projects also bring growth opportunity for Norwalk. Mr. Egan announced that the Planning Commission recently

forwarded a proposal for a new commercial center at the northwest corner of Imperial and Bloomfield for City Council consideration. In addition, construction on the Career and College CONNECTION Center at San Antonio and Foster, which will help revitalize Norwalk businesses and community through job training, business development and educational resources, is slated to begin in the near future.

However, Mr. Egan also advised caution, saying that there would be ongoing challenges for the City, such as homelessness and early release of non-violent criminals. Still, he was optimistic, referencing Norwalk's resilience and the strength in numbers revealed in the City's new logo and motto, "Norwalk: A Connected Community"... He stated "this connection is Norwalk's greatest strength. Community connection being the tool that ensures that no

matter what challenges face us as a City, a state, or nation, our community is prepared and ready to move into the future".

Representatives from the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the Norwalk Sheriff's Department provided updates on important work being done in the City. Public Safety remains a priority for residents, and Captain Curtis Jensen advised the crime rate in Norwalk has remained consistently below the national average and this past year, the crime rate increase was the lowest of any City in the surrounding area. In addition, he also stated that response times for emergency calls continue to decrease every year due to ongoing efforts to improve services.

Highlights of the event are available for viewing on the City's website, YouTube Channel and Cable Channel.

Norwalk City Hall Hours of Operation

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

Norwalk City Council

Mayor
Mike Mendez



Vice Mayor
Cheri Kelley

Councilmembers
Leonard Shryock **Luigi Vernola**

City of Norwalk
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Norwalk, CA 90650

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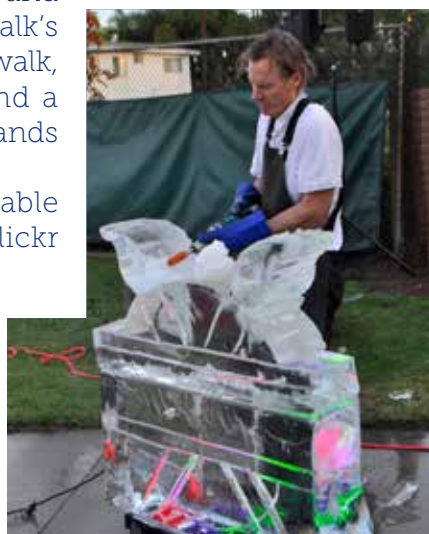
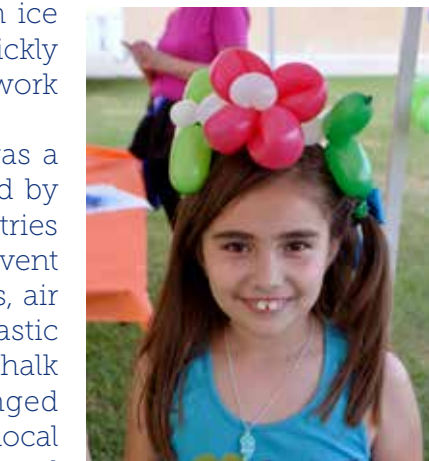
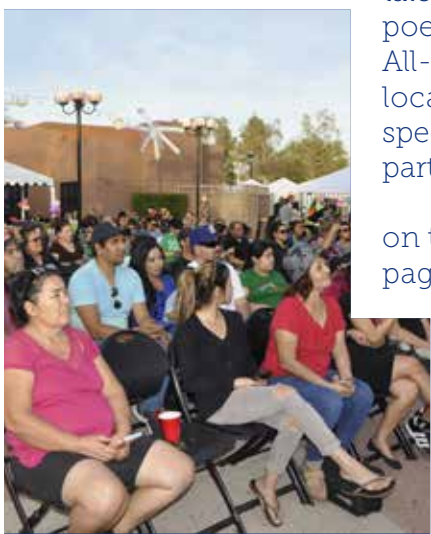
Artastic 2017 Highlights



An estimated 1,500 people enjoyed an evening of fun and creativity at the 8th annual "Artastic" event, hosted by the Recreation and Park Services Department, on Friday, March 17 at the Cultural Arts Center. Participating for the first time, and a highlight for attendees, was an ice sculptor who amazed the crowd by quickly transforming two blocks of ice into a work of art.

The Student Art Competition was a success, with over 200 pieces created by local students on display and five entries awarded scholarships. The free family event also included crafts, such as ceramics, air brushing, and face painting, a Scholastic Book Fair, Street Fair and Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest. Live entertainment ranged from an "Open Mic" stage that featured local talent, including singers, musicians, and poets, to performances by the Norwalk's All-City Youth Band, Miniachis de Norwalk, local vocal choir, a piano recital, and a special routine by the Creative Li'l Hands participants.

Highlights of the event are available on the City's YouTube Channel and flickr page.



Save the Date: Arbor Day Celebration

Arbor Day is an annual observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care. On Saturday, April 29 from 8 to 11 a.m., the City will be hosting its fourth annual Arbor Day event.

Make plans to join us for this great family event and help make Norwalk a "greener" City! You will be able to visit information booths and take part in a community planting event. All tools will be provided. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact the Public Services Department at (562) 929-5511 or ptorres@norwalkca.gov

Join Team Norwalk

The City of Norwalk is looking for friendly, motivated individuals for the following part-time positions:

- On Call Coach Operator**
\$19.10 – \$23.22/hr
- Coach Operator Trainee**
\$13.00/hr

The last day to apply is Monday, April 10 by 6 p.m. Visit norwalk.org/job-openings or call (562) 929-5721 for more info.

Advisory Body Appointments

The City of Norwalk assembles nine commissions or committees that serve in an advisory role to the City Council, assisting them in key decisions regarding specific matters as assigned. The Advisory Bodies are: Art in Public Places Committee, Community Promotion Commission, Historical Heritage Commission, International Friendship Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Public Safety Commission, Senior Citizens Commission, and Social Services Commission. To find a general description of items addressed by these bodies, please visit the City's website at: www.norwalk.org, under the Residents tab. Applications are also available to download.

The retirement of two and the election of three new councilmembers offer many opportunities for community members that wish to serve Norwalk through appointment to an Advisory Body. Terms usually last two years. With the exception of the Planning Commission, there is no compensation for any other Advisory Body.

Applications will be provided to incoming City Council members for consideration. If you have any questions, contact the City Clerk at (562) 929-5720.

It's a Win Win for SkillsUSA and the Senior Center

- JGHS - Robotics Urban Search & Rescue - Gold & Silver**
(Zail Zavala & Antonio Luna, Ariana Hernandez & Luis Lopez)
- Auto Collision Repair - Silver & Gold**
(Leslie Trejo & Kimberly Sanchez)
- Job Demonstration - Silver**
(Lesly Garcia)
- Community Action Plan - Gold**
(Alexis Moreno & Angel Myers)
- Restaurant Service - Gold & Silver**
(Vanessa Rosas & Shianne Horn)
- Promotional Bulletin Board - Bronze**
(Shianne Horn, DaJuan Webber & Ethan Gonzalez)
- Chapter Display - Gold**
(Leslie Trejo, Kimberly Sanchez & Adrian Sandoval)

Congratulations to Norwalk High School SkillsUSA students for representing the City in the SkillsUSA California Region 3 Leadership and Skills Conference.

Norwalk High School students, in collaboration with the City of Norwalk and Lowe's came together to build a community garden at the Senior Center. The students won three awards in the leadership category based on this service project. The students were recognized in: Chapter Display – Gold, Community Action Plan – Gold, and Promotional Bulletin Board – Bronze.

As part of their presentation the teenagers talked about meeting and joining forces with city leaders to plan out the project. They also spoke about the garden being a way to cultivate new relationships within the community.

In addition to this, students from the NHS Culinary Club, NHS Fashion Design Program and NHS Race Team went home with medals as well. Categories ranged from Auto Collision Repair, to Restaurant Service, to Commercial Baking, and Job Demonstration.

John Glenn Engineering Pathway students also went home with medals. In the Robotics Urban Search and Rescue they won both the gold and silver.

Way to go Norwalk and John Glenn High Schools!

Setting Students up for Success!

Many high school graduates are faced with a competitive job market pool. Even if they go on to college many will be seeking employment. In order to give them the proper tools to succeed, the City of Norwalk in collaboration with its education partners, the business community, and Workforce Development conducted their second annual Mock Interview Workshop.

Bing Hyun, Economic Development Manager for the City of Norwalk says, "What we're doing is we're all working together to help the youth of our community. We feel that providing them with the soft skills, to communicate professionally, to shake people's hands, and to look people in the eye and interact with them on a professional basis will really help them in their future."

After their mock interview, here's what some of the students had to say:



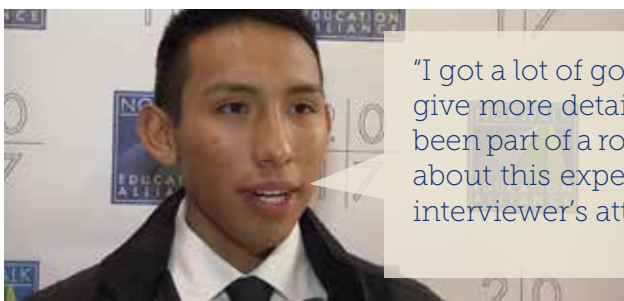
"At first I was nervous, but the more I knew about the person that was interviewing me, the more I got comfortable with them. We started talking about a lot of stuff other than the interview."

- Isaac Toscano, Norwalk High School



"I learned that asking questions is key. So is being confident and not being afraid to show yourself off a little bit is important to acing a good interview."

- Miriam Adhanom, La Mirada High School



"I got a lot of good feedback from my interviewer. He told me to give more details on activities I have done. For example, I have been part of a robotics competition and he said I should talk more about this experience because it's something that will grab my interviewer's attention."

- Luis Lopez, John Glenn High School

More than two hundred students took part in this Mock Interview Workshop, allowing more graduates to be career ready.

To see a full recap on Now You Know, visit our YouTube page at Norwalktelevision or go to <https://youtu.be/1HLJXV3cCEY>.

Coming Soon: Career Exploration Night

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, in partnership with the City of Norwalk and the Norwalk Education Alliance, hosts Career Exploration Night on Thursday, April 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Norwalk City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Boulevard. The public is invited to see what it takes to make it in a chosen field.

Paul Weldon, Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Norwalk says, "Career Exploration Night is about helping our youth understand opportunities exist regardless of their education or experience. Our hope is for people attending to discover an industry or career path they'll want to explore further. With so many education and training possibilities in Norwalk, events like this help people develop an effective strategy to reach their long term goals."

Employers from various fields will be on hand to discuss pathways to careers in art, media, entertainment, health science, advanced manufacturing and engineering. In addition, Microsoft will be sharing information on how to obtain a job in technology, depending on the sector one might choose.

This is a free information and educational opportunity. Come prepared to ask questions and have them answered!



Utility Box Art Project Promotes Recycling

Four fifth grade students spent Saturday, March 4 making Norwalk a better, greener place to live. Eleyna Salazar, Evangelina Salgado, Grettel Torres, and Elizabeth Vasquez, from Lampton and Glazier Elementary Schools re-created drawings they submitted in the City's 2016 Used Oil Recycling Artwork Contest. The traffic signal box located at Norwalk Boulevard and Crewe Street now colorfully conveys the

students' messages encouraging residents to keep streets, gutters and oceans clean. The project, the fifth in an ongoing series administered through Norwalk's Art in Public Places program, emphasizes showcasing young artists' talent while beautifying the community. The next box will feature local winning art from LA County Libraries' annual Bookmark Contest.



Attention Norwalk Landlords:

Free Property Management Workshop and Dinner

Thursday, May 4 • 6 p.m.

The Norwalk Housing Authority is hosting a free workshop for all Norwalk landlords and property managers to learn about funds available to assist property owners with making repairs to rental properties.

Other topics covered will include the City's building permit and code requirements and Section 8 Housing Quality Standards inspections.

A light dinner will be served and all in attendance will be entered into a raffle for an opportunity to win fun and exciting prizes.

For location and registration, please contact the Norwalk Housing Authority by April 27, at (562) 929-5588. Seating is limited and registration for this event is required.

Sanitation Districts to host Earth Day Celebration

Join the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County on Saturday, April 8, for their 11th annual Earth Day celebration – a FREE event featuring fun and educational activities for all ages. Entertainment will be provided throughout the day with music and dance performances, face-painters, magicians, a live animal show-and-tell, and raffle prizes. Food and beverages will be available throughout the day. Guests can



create eco-friendly arts and crafts, visit over 50 green exhibitors with engaging displays and demonstrations, and participate in facility tours, all while learning about environmental issues. Earth Day 2017 will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sanitation Districts' headquarters, located at 1955

Workman Mill Road in Whittier. Event parking with shuttle service will be located nearby at 13181 and 13191 Crossroads Parkway North.

SAVE THE DATE

**City of Norwalk Memorial Day Tribute
Monday, May 29 • 11 a.m.**

**Veteran's Memorial Art Installation
12700 Norwalk Boulevard**

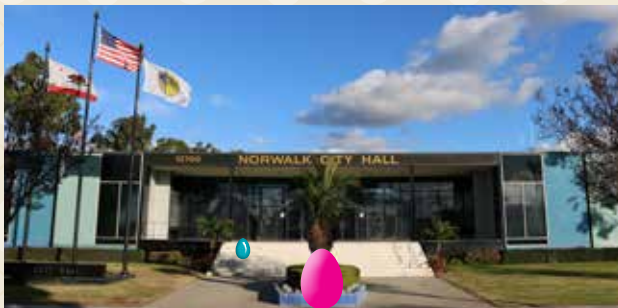


See & Do

Egg-normous Egg Hunt

Week of April 9 City Wide

The search is on! The week of April 9, the community is invited to scour Norwalk looking for Egg-normous Eggs, which will be placed randomly throughout the City. Winners must be Norwalk residents (I.D. required). One egg may be redeemed per address at the Eggstravagant Egg Hunt event at City Hall. For more information, call (562) 929-5702.



Egg-stravagant Egg Hunt

(Ages 10 & under) Saturday, April 15 • 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Norwalk Civic Center Lawn • 12700 Norwalk Boulevard

Bring the whole family and enjoy an afternoon of fun. Following the arrival of the Easter Bunny, four (4) egg hunts, one for each of the age groups listed, will take place. Arrive early so your child doesn't miss their

designated hunt. Have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny for only \$3 each. Those in attendance will experience live entertainment, games and Easter-themed crafts. For more information, please call (562) 929-5702.



Egg Hunt Schedules

- Tiny Tots (Ages 1 ½-3)** 12:30 p.m.
- Funny Bunnies (Ages 4-5)** 1 p.m.
- Egg Heads (Ages 6-8)** 1:30 p.m.
- Wacky Wabbits (Ages 8-10)** 2 p.m.



Norwalk Chamber "Creating Connections"

The Chamber of Commerce and City of Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Department invite you to a very special networking meeting on Tuesday, April 25, from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex. The event, free for Norwalk Chamber members and \$5 for non-members, includes lunch and an opportunity to find out about the variety of programs

and activities that the City of Norwalk offers. Participants are asked to bring tennis shoes and to be prepared to learn the latest adult sports sensation, Pickleball (a combination of badminton, tennis and ping pong)! RSVP to secure your spot by calling (562) 864-7785 or emailing info@norwalkchamber.com. The Arts and Sports Complex is located at 13000 Clarkdale Avenue.

Help Save Norwalk's Citrus Trees



The California Department of Food and Agriculture recently detected Huanglongbing (HLB), an incurable plant disease, in an orange tree and a mandarin tree in a residential area of Cerritos, which puts Norwalk's backyard citrus trees at risk.

As a safeguard, portions of Norwalk are under quarantine, which means citrus plants can't be sold within the area, and citrus plants or plant cuttings shouldn't leave the quarantine area.

HLB is not harmful to humans or animals, but it kills citrus trees. There is no cure for the disease and once infected, trees must be removed to prevent the disease from spreading in the community. While

researchers are looking for a cure, right now the best way to protect against the disease is to stop the pest that can infect citrus trees.

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program recommends the following:

- Don't transport citrus trees out of your local area.
- Only purchase citrus trees from local, reputable nurseries and never bring citrus trees or plant cuttings into California from other states or countries.
- Cooperate with agriculture officials working through the state to stop the pest and disease.
- Inspect citrus trees regularly for signs of HLB. Report symptoms by calling (800) 491-1899 and requesting a free inspection by trained agriculture officials.

Visit CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org for more information and photos of the pest and disease. Let's work together to save our community's citrus.

Read Across America

Nuffer Elementary School celebrated "Read Across America" as officials from the City of Norwalk and the Norwalk Sheriff's Station sat down to read to the students.



Bag-of -Books Sale

Norwalk Library
12350 Imperial Highway, Norwalk
(562) 868-0775
Saturday, April 1 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Book lovers and bargain hunters, don't miss the library's big Bag-of Books Sale! Choose from thousands of used books, spanning all genres and age groups. The price? Only \$5 for a bagful of books! Credit card payments accepted. All proceeds benefit Norwalk and Alondra Libraries.



Senior Center Events

14040 San Antonio Drive • (562) 929-5580

HICAP

Wednesdays, April 5 and 19
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

HICAP stands for Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program and is provided by trained/certified counselors through the Center for Health Care Rights. A HICAP Counselor will provide seniors with free education, counseling and advocacy regarding Medicare and related health insurance issues.

An appointment is required.

IHSS Help Desk

Friday, April 7 • 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

A representative from Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles will be on hand to provide information and to answer questions about In Home Supportive Services (IHSS). IHSS is a program that helps pay for services provided to Medi-Cal recipients who are 65 years or older, or legally blind, or disabled adults so they can remain safely in their home.

CalFresh Outreach Assistance

Monday, April 10 • 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

CalFresh is the new name for Food Stamps. Under new eligibility criteria, those who are age 65 and older can now qualify to receive CalFresh services.

Sponsored by: Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

April Candlelight Dinner

Theme: Tour of Italy

Tuesday, April 11 • 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$6.50 (before April 8), \$8 (after)

Stop by and enjoy a hot and hearty meal and share an evening of warmth with friends and family. Meal service will consist of Beef Lasagna, Fried Zucchini, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert and Beverage. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. and meal service ends at 6 p.m. Prizes awarded. Dine-in only. Tickets will not be sold on the day of the dinner. Registration is currently being taken.

"Stress Management" Seminar

Thursday, April 13 • 10 to 11 a.m.

Stress can negatively affect a senior's health and well-being. A Physician from AppleCare Medical Group will talk to seniors about how they can effectively manage their stress and keep a healthy outlook on life.

Grub Trivia Night

Wednesday, April 19 • 6 to 8 p.m.

Cost: \$3 per person

Do you enjoy trivia? Join us for an evening of fun, food and laughter. Gather two friends and work as a team to answer trivia questions. If you don't have enough to make a team, we will make one for you. The winning team will get a special prize. The night will include two slices of pizza and a soft drink. Registration is currently being taken.

Social Services Center Events

11929 Alondra Boulevard • (562) 929-5544

RTH Stroke Foundation

Friday, April 28 • 9:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Please join us at the Social Services Center for a Spanish speaking educational lecture on stroke and learn about risk factors, warning signs and prevention. Guest speaker will be Adrian Burgos, MD Stroke Neurologist at KECK Medicine of USC. FREE carotid artery and blood pressure screenings will also be available.

Photo Highlights: March City Council Meetings

