

Norwalk Now

norwalk.org The official community publication of Norwalk, California May 2017, Volume 35, #5



New Leadership

During a Special Council Meeting on April 11, Norwalk City Clerk Theresa Devoy administered the oath of office to newly elected Councilmembers Tony Ayala, Jennifer Perez and Margarita L. Rios, who were sworn in surrounded by family and friends.

As their first order of business, City Council selected Luigi Vernola as Mayor and Leonard Shryock as Vice Mayor for the 2017-2018 term. Mayor Vernola spoke to the audience of over 200, including State Senator Tony Mendoza and former councilmembers Bob Arthur and Marcel Rodarte, and those watching on television, about his priorities during the upcoming year, including public safety, assisting businesses, senior citizen engagement and making Council meetings more accessible to more residents throughout the city.

Find out more about each of your elected officials and how to reach them at City Hall by visiting <http://norwalk.org/city-hall/mayor-and-city-council-information-copy>.



City Council Hits the Ground Running

Just days after taking office, Norwalk City Council called a Special Meeting for Saturday, April 15 at 8 a.m. to discuss their goals for the year.

During this meeting, Councilmembers requested that community meetings be scheduled to give residents the opportunity to be heard in their "own backyards," at locations more accessible and less formal than City Hall.

As part of the City's effort to strengthen community connections, these forums will be offered each quarter to provide an opportunity for the people of Norwalk to share concerns, questions and comments.



The Community Forums will have a more relaxed format than regular City Council meetings, and, to make it more convenient and easier for residents to attend, will take place at locations throughout Norwalk.

The first Community Forum, scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 at 6 p.m., will take place at New River Elementary School's Multi-Purpose Room. New River Elementary is located at 13432 Halcourt Avenue. Registration is not required. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call (562) 929-5735 or email publicaffairs@norwalkca.gov.

New Promenade Style Commercial Center



At the meeting of April 18, the City Council unanimously approved plans for a new commercial center to be constructed at the northwest corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Imperial Highway. The 12.45 acre development will include a 37,000 square foot, state of the art LA Fitness gym, a 4,530 square foot restaurant building designated for Chick-fil-A, a third building with a 4,640 square foot restaurant space for Panera Bread, and a fourth building with 6,380 square feet and space for additional retail and restaurant tenants. Both Chick-fil-A and Panera Bread plans include 300 square feet of outdoor dining space and designated drive-thrus.

The center, tentatively titled "Norwalk Fitness Village," will also feature a promenade area which will contain pedestrian amenities, including 2,000 square feet of outdoor seating areas for visitors and patrons, as well as a 500 square foot stage for entertainment. The applicant, Global Pacific LLC, informed City Council that the stage is intended for community use, to highlight student and school performances and other family oriented activities.

Representatives for the applicant/developer told City Councilmembers that the Norwalk Fitness Village would not only provide expanded dining options for residents and visitors to Norwalk, it would also offer plentiful employment opportunities and serve as a gathering place with businesses committed to giving back to the community they serve.

Memorial Day Event to Reveal City's Newest Public Art



The City of Norwalk's long-awaited Freedom Memorial art installation will serve as the backdrop for this year's Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 29 beginning at 10:30 a.m. The installation, which pays tribute to veterans of each branch of the United States military through 11 foot tall granite monuments, was commissioned through the city's Art in Public Places Committee in 2016. The artist, Nan Butler-Beckstrom, used historical images and information to create etchings telling the stories of soldiers who bravely fought to preserve our freedom.

The event will open with an unveiling of the five monuments, with a WWII vintage aircraft flyby planned as the program begins. The Norwalk City Council, and American Legion Post 359 will share their Memorial Day message "Honoring our Heroes" as part of the program, with performances by the All City Youth Band.

Slated to present the keynote is John B. Kelsall. Mr. Kelsall, who was recently honored as a recipient of the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, together with wife Teri founded The Jonas Project, a non-profit organization that helps veterans realize the dream of owning and operating their own business. The program began as a result of unimaginable tragedy after John and Teri's son, Lieutenant Commander Jonas B. Kelsall, a US Navy Seal, was killed in the line of duty while serving in Afghanistan in 2011. It was Jonas' love of country, fellow servicemen and his desire to give back to his community that inspired the Kelsalls to establish a way to keep their son's memory and purpose alive.

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 Luigi Vernola
Vice Mayor Leonard Shryock
Councilmember Tony Ayala
Councilmember Jennifer Perez
Councilmember Margarita L. Rios

City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

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City Egg Hunts Egg-normously Successful



90 Egg-normous Eggs were randomly hidden throughout the City during the week of April 9th for residents to hunt for in Norwalk's City-wide Egg-normous Egg Hunt! On Saturday, April 15th, residents who were fortunate to find one of the eggs, redeemed them at the City's Egg-stravagant Egg Hunt program on the Civic Center lawn for an Egg-normous prize provided by our local business community. Congratulations to all our winners and an Egg-normous thank you to all our sponsors!

On Saturday, April 15, the Norwalk Civic Center lawn was transformed into a giant egg hunt for families to enjoy. The Easter Bunny arrived in-style, in his golf cart after visiting the Don Knabe Golf Center and Junior Academy, which is scheduled to open in mid-June. Following the arrival of the Easter Bunny there were egg hunts designated for children of various age groups, photos with the Easter Bunny, games, crafts, face painting, and inflatable attractions. There were approximately 4,500 in attendance for this afternoon of family fun. Thank you to all our event sponsors for connecting with the City and making this event a huge success!



Finance Does it Again!

For the 30th consecutive year, the City of Norwalk's Finance Department has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the annual report presented for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. This certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.



History Unveiled!



Join the City of Norwalk's Historical Heritage Commission for the Grand Re-Opening Celebration of the Hargitt House Museum. After several months of renovation, the historic home has received a major facelift and is ready for its debut!

Travel back in time to try your hand at turn of the century activities like old fashioned butter churning and lawn games, and tour the home of one of Norwalk's first families. Kids can participate in arts and crafts as well. Bring the entire family for a day full of FREE local history and fun!

Saturday, May 20 • 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
12426 Mapledale St., Norwalk

Six of Norwalk's Best Bus Drivers Awarded High Honors

At the City Council meeting on April 18, six Norwalk Transit System (NTS) bus drivers were honored as the 2016 Distinguished Coach Operators of the Year.

The honorees had previously been recognized in front of their fellow NTS staff at a department recognition luncheon. To be selected, the employee must have achieved strict performance criteria and exemplary work behavior, including outstanding attendance, a safe driving record and excellent customer service throughout the calendar year.

The recognition program enhances employee morale as well as helps ensure staff adhere to NTS' commitment to safety and customer service.



Congratulations to all the following honorees!



Liset Escalera joined NTS as an On-Call Coach Operator in 2008 and promoted to Full Time Coach Operator in 2013. She is the proud mother of three, with her oldest daughter currently serving in the United States Navy. She considers NTS her second family and strives to provide great customer service to all patrons.



Janet Sims has been a Full Time Coach Operator since 2003 and fills in as Acting Dispatcher when needed. Janet has three children and four grandchildren who she loves spending time with.



Viviana Velasco was hired as an Coach Operator in 2010. She has three grown children and she credits them as her motivation for her strong work ethic. Viviana loves working with her NTS coworkers.



Adam Martinez was hired as an On-Call Coach Operator in 2003 and recently promoted to full time status in 2016. This is Adam's third time being honored, having been previously selected in 2013 and 2015 demonstrating his dedication to safety and excellence.



Chambers Smith joined NTS in 2004 as an On-Call Coach Operator. He has been married to his wife, Glory Joy, for 43 years. His greatest job satisfaction comes from the opportunity to meet and assist patrons every day.



Michael Washington joined NTS in 2005 and recently became full time in 2016. He was previously honored as a Distinguished Driver in 2012 and 2013. Michael sees NTS as a second family.

The Sky's the Limit!

Chidinma "Promise" Agbo, a senior at Norwalk High School, has been named a 2017 Edison Scholar! She received a \$40,000 scholarship from Edison International.

Each year Edison provides scholarships to 30 deserving high school seniors planning to major in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) fields.

Promise is planning to attend Stanford University in the fall of 2017. She applied and was accepted to: Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Rice, Georgia Tech, New York University, USC, University of San Diego, UC Berkeley, and UCLA.

She participated in extracurricular activities throughout her high school career including: Young Senators Leadership Program, Girls State, and Key Club California.

In her junior year Promise attended a summer program with NASA where she researched and



tracked androids. In addition she used her engineering skills to build a telescope.

Promise says, "My family has always encouraged me to challenge myself and push my limits. My parents, who are both teachers, have fostered my love of learning and unfettered curiosity. It is because of them I have been able to accomplish so much. I'm motivated by my desire to attain more knowledge and make those around me accomplish so much! I also hope to inspire underclassmen and show them hard work truly does pay off!"

Promise has a total GPA of 4.47

and plans to major in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Computer Science. We wish her all the best in her exciting new future.

Be a Junior Park Ranger!

Making a Difference



The City of Norwalk's Public Safety Department offers a community outreach program for children between the ages of seven to eleven. The Junior Park Ranger program teaches life skills, helps build self-esteem and develops coping mechanisms to help youth deal with social pressures and effectively navigate situations. By incorporating outdoor games and arts and crafts activities, the program provides a positive learning environment. In addition, Rangers take field trips, including visits to the Sheriff's Station and local Fire Department.

These experiences give students the tools to be successful at home, in the classroom, and in the community.

The Junior Park Ranger Program is offered at:

Hermosillo Park
Mondays & Wednesdays
9:30 to 11 a.m.

Norwalk Park
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:30 to 11 a.m.

To register, pick up an application from the Public Safety Department, located in Room 15, at City Hall. Registration begins May 2.

Come to a Neighborhood Association Meeting Near You

The City of Norwalk is expanding its current Neighborhood Watch Program. In partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Public Safety Department will be kicking off "Neighborhood Watch Association" meetings, with the goal of reducing crime through citizen involvement.

The Neighborhood Watch Association Program organizes the community into twelve segments or "associations," with meetings coordinated twice yearly in each association, giving

residents more opportunities to attend a meeting located in or near their neighborhood. Residents may bring up issues in an open forum, get to know their neighbors and the officers who serve the community, and learn crime prevention tips and strategies.

Each meeting will end with "coffee and conversation," and community members will have an opportunity to speak with city staff, officials, and law enforcement officers one-on-one.

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

Neighborhood Watch Association Meeting Schedule:

Association #6:
Thursday, June 1, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Norwalk United Methodist Church
13000 San Antonio Dr.

Association #12
Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Hermosillo Park
11959 162nd St.

Association #2
Thursday, July 6, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Sara Mendez Park
11660 Dune St.

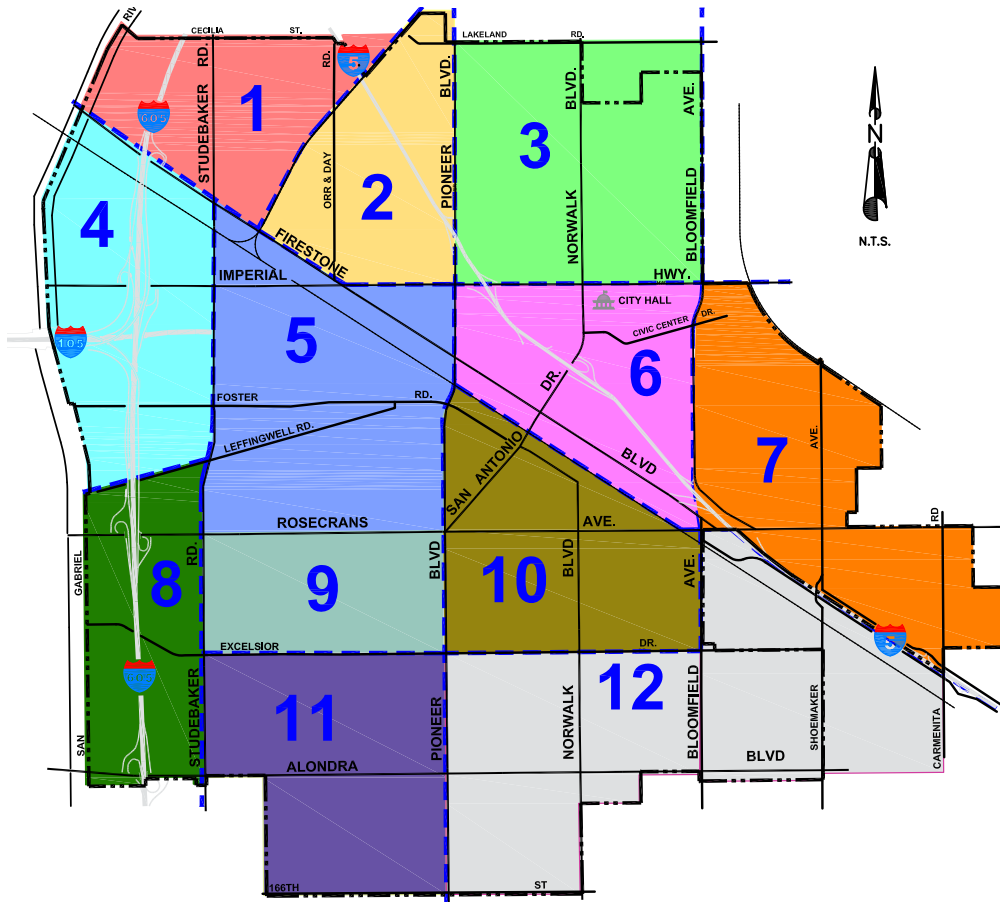
Association #7
Thursday, July 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Village Baptist Church
12641 E. Foster Rd.

Association #9
Thursday, August 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Gerdes Park
14700 Gridley Rd.

Association #4
Thursday, August 24, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
New River Elementary School
13432 Halcourt Ave. (Pending approval)

Association #11
Thursday, September 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
La Senda Antigua Church
15000 Studebaker Rd.

Association #1
Thursday, September 21, 6:30 to 8:30pm
Lakeside Middle School
11000 Kenney St.



Association #5
Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
New Harvest Christian Fellowship Church
11364 E. Imperial Hwy.

Association #10
Thursday, October 26, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Calvary Community Church
14626 Pioneer Blvd.

Association #8
Saturday, November 18, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Glazier Elementary School
10932 Excelsior Dr. (Pending approval)

Association #3
Thursday, November 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Paddison Elementary School
12100 Crewe St.

Recycle Your Used Motor Oil & Oil Filters

The City of Norwalk will be sponsoring a used motor oil filter exchange event on June 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at O'Reilly Auto Parts, located at 11559 Rosecrans Avenue. In exchange for bringing in used motor oil filters, residents will receive new motor oil filters free of charge (limit two per resident, while supplies last). Residents may also bring in used motor oil in a secure uncontaminated container. The City encourages all residents to participate in the event and to recycle their used motor oil and filters year-round. Other used oil collection centers in Norwalk can be located on the Environmental & Recycling Services page at norwalk.org. For more information, please call (562) 944-4766.



Holiday Trash & Street Sweeping Schedule

In observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 29, there will be no street sweeping or trash collection. When there is no street sweeping, it will NOT be made up. Streets can only be swept on the posted day. However, trash collection WILL be made up. Trash will be collected the day after the normal collection day for the remainder of the week. For example, Monday's trash will be collected on Tuesday.

Important:

The altered schedule may cause trash collection to be on the same day as street sweeping in some areas. During these times, please place trash barrels up on the parkway (grass between sidewalk and street) to allow the sweeper to properly clean the street. We appreciate your efforts in keeping the streets safe and clean by ensuring trash cans do not interfere with sweeping.

Questions?

Trash Collection	CR&R Waste Services	(562) 944-4716
	Republic Services	(800) 299-4898
Street Sweeping	Public Services Department	(562) 929-5511
Parking Enforcement	Public Safety Department	(562) 929-5732



Norwalk Library Events

12350 Imperial Highway • (562) 868-0775

Maker Thursday

Thursday, May 11 • 4- 5 p.m.

Maker Mobiles (MākMō) deliver creative activities that promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs. Kids and teens learn about electricity with Snap Circuits, construct with Keva Planks, and build with Makedos. Come see what fun activities MākMō has in store for ages 5 – 18.



Lit Wits Book Discussion:

The One-in-a-Million Boy

Monday, May 22 • 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.



May's book group selection is The One-in-a-Million Boy by Monica Wood. An unlikely friendship blossoms between a 104-year-old woman and the sweet, strange young boy who is assigned to help her around the house. Share your thoughts on the book at the discussion meeting. New members are always welcomed, and refreshments are served.

Alondra Library Reopens

11949 Alondra Boulevard • (562) 868-7771

Thank you for your patience during Alondra Library's temporary closure. Alondra Library is reopening in the month of May with lots of fun activities and services for the whole family.

Día de los Niños

Wednesday, May 3 • 4 to 5 p.m.

Celebrate reading for children from all different backgrounds and explore diverse books and cultures. There will be family fun and children will be able to participate in a special art activity. Program is for all ages.

Mommy + Me Festivity

Wednesday, May 10 • 4 to 4:45 p.m.

The whole family is invited to an early Mother's Day celebration. Enjoy snacks and an art activity honoring mom. Program is for all ages.

Teen Ukulele Strum Along

Thursday, May 4, 11, & 18 • 4 to 5 p.m.

Teens, come rock out and learn a few simple songs with our librarian, Kascia Samel. Ukuleles will be made available during the programs on a first come, first played basis. Also, feel free to bring your ukulele if you have one. Beginners are always welcome! For ages 12 – 17.

Parent-Child Workshop

Friday, May 19 and 26 • 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Nurture your child's love of play and encourage early literacy by participating in our Parent-Child workshops. Learn tips and information from a resource specialist while your child has fun in the library! Program is for ages 1 – 3 years old. Pre-registration is required.

Teen Bullying Prevention Program

Thursday, May 25 • 4 to 5 p.m.

The County of Los Angeles Public Library is teaming up with Get Safe to talk about bullying prevention. Find out how to recognize bullying behaviors and what you can do if you or someone else is being bullied. For ages 10 – 17 years old.

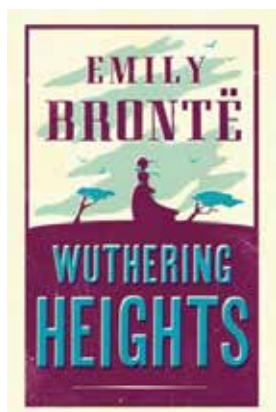
Family Art Walk

Saturday, May 27 • 1 to 2 p.m.

Spend quality time with your family by creating art at Alondra Library. Finished artworks will be proudly displayed in an "art walk" environment at the end of the program. Program is for all ages.

"Classics I Always Said I Was Going to Read" Book Club

Tuesday, May 9 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



The title for the month is Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë. Copies of the book are available at Alondra Library or many other branches of the County of Los Angeles Public Library System. New members are always welcomed and light refreshments are served. Program is for adults.

Senior Center Events

14040 San Antonio Drive • (562) 929-5580

HICAP

Wednesday, May 3 & 17 • 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 from the Center will provide seniors with free education, counseling and advocacy regarding their Medicare and related health insurance issues. An Appointment is required.

IHSS Help Desk

Friday, May 5 • 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

A Representative from Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles will provide information and 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, legally blind, or disabled adults so they can remain safely in their home.

CalFresh Outreach Assistance

Monday, May 8 • 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Under new eligibility criteria, those who are age 65 and older can now qualify to receive CalFresh services, which help to put healthy food on the table each month.

Sponsored by: Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

"Arthritis & Stress" – Seminar

Tuesday, May 9 • 10 to 11 a.m.

Arthritis can affect more than just the body, it also affects the mind. Join us as staff from the Arthritis Foundation teach techniques for relaxation and stress management to help you take control.

May Candlelight Dinner

Theme: Tour of Italy

Tuesday, May 9 • 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$6.50 (before Saturday, May 6)

\$8.00 (after Saturday, May 6)

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 6:00 p.m. Prizes awarded. Dine-in only. Tickets will not be sold on the day of the dinner.

Neighborhood Watch: "Street Smart Seniors" - Seminar

Wednesday, May 10 • 10 to 11 a.m.

Norwalk Public Safety will help seniors learn how to be more aware when out on public streets and to recognize signs of possible danger so they can avoid putting themselves at risk.

"Caregivers Are People Too" – Seminar

Thursday, May 11 • 10 to 11 a.m.

Being a caregiver for a loved one is a big responsibility. Join us for an educational seminar presented by Independence At Home. Caregivers will learn about the importance of self-care as well as tips on how to cope with the demands of caregiving.

Blood Pressure Screenings

Thursday, May 18 • 9:30 a.m.

Pioneer Medical Group provides this monthly blood pressure screening to seniors. Blood pressure is taken by a licensed/certified medical staff with results discussed afterward.

Photo Highlights: April City Council Meetings

