

# NorwalkNow

[norwalk.org](http://norwalk.org) The official community publication of Norwalk, California December 2017, Volume 35, #12



## City Steps Up for Veterans

The City of Norwalk, home to over 3,400 veterans, appreciates the bravery and dedication of men and women serving the United States Armed Forces.

Recently, several new programs have been established that honor and assist veterans in our community.

On Veterans Day, City Council cut the ribbon on a very special parking stall. "Purple Parking" recognizes the sacrifices of soldiers wounded in service through the installation of a reserved space with easy access to facilities. Joining Council was special guest retired Army Specialist Roger Higgins, who served in the Vietnam War where he was exposed to Agent Orange. Mr. Higgins, who suffers from the effects of this exposure, was the first combat wounded veteran to park in the dedicated stall, which has easy access to the City's Freedom Memorial art plaza at City Hall. Purple Parking stalls have also been placed at the Norwalk Senior Center and Social Services Center.

Earlier the same week, a resolution was passed supporting the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority's (SEAACA's) "Pets for Troops" program. The program offers active duty and veteran residents pet adoptions at half price. The City of Norwalk has enhanced this benefit by offsetting the remaining cost so that Norwalk military members can adopt a SEAACA shelter animal for free, including a six week obedience course to help owner and new pet bond early on. This includes not only dogs, but cats, birds and hamsters. To find out more, contact Communications and Public Affairs at (562) 929-5735.

In September, City Council reinstated the Hometown Heroes banner program, which honors active duty and active reservists from Norwalk by displaying a personalized banner along Imperial Highway. The banners are free for qualified applicants. Banners are displayed for one year, and are then taken down and presented to the service person or his or her family at a City Council meeting. To learn more or apply, visit: [norwalk.org/hometown-heroes](http://norwalk.org/hometown-heroes).



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## A "Diamond Anniversary" in Norwalk



Guadalupe and Mary Ambriz, long-time Norwalk residents, celebrated 75 years of marriage on November 28. Guadalupe and Mary both grew up in the neighborhood near Rosecrans and Carmenita, where they met in their early teens. The young couple married a few years later, in 1942, at a church in Artesia.

After a period away during the first decade of their marriage, the Ambriz's returned to Norwalk in 1952 when they bought their first and only home, raising eight children here. Mr. Ambriz worked in construction laying pipe lines for the Southern California Gas Company while Mrs. Ambriz dedicated herself to their children and household. Showing a strong conviction in the importance of an education, Mary later returned to school and received her GED at Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School.

The Ambriz couple still lives in the same home where they raised their children. Both credit strong faith and commitment to their family for their long and happy marriage. The couple celebrated their diamond anniversary at an intimate gathering with loved ones.

## Honoring Veterans for Sacrifices, Before & After Service

Eleven foot tall granite monuments etched with the images and stories of bravery and sacrifice served as the backdrop for the City's Veterans Day Tribute on Saturday, November 11. A crowd of over 200 gathered at the Freedom Memorial to pay homage to men and women of the United States military, past and present. The All City Band performed the National Anthem, the Service Medley and "God Bless America," with the American Legion and Public Safety Combined Color Guard presenting and posting the flags of our country, state, City and local American Legion Post.

Keynote speaker Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez honored the "unbroken chain of heroes that spans two and a half centuries. Heroes whose sacrifices made our country the symbol of freedom." She also praised the new generation of soldiers, "confronting new and complex threats."

The Congresswoman shared her experiences in the nation's Capitol, moving legislation forward to give veterans with "visible and invisible" wounds the resources they need to transition back into civilian life: a GI Bill modified to transfer the



benefit of fully funded education at any public university or college to a veteran's family member; legislation to speed up the claims process for veterans so that they have timely access to deserved services; and legislation lessening the impact of negative credit while serving active duty.

Congresswoman Sánchez spoke of the ongoing selflessness of veterans, who continue to serve the community through volunteerism and inspiration, recognizing local heroes. She recalled Whittier resident Jose Ramos, who overcame personal struggles to create the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day campaign, shining the light on soldiers who have long felt unappreciated for their service. John Kelsall of Lakewood established the Jonas Project after the loss of his son in Afghanistan. The Jonas Project gives veterans opportunities and resources to start their own businesses.

Last, the Congresswoman called upon the community to be "grateful for the things we so often take for granted," and give thanks for those who "put themselves in harm's way to protect our ability to be free."

## Here Comes the Rain

Keep your home safe in the event of heavy rains this winter season. The City, in collaboration with Los Angeles County Fire Department, offers free sandbags and sand for Norwalk residents. These items are offered on a first come first served basis.

Bags can be picked up at either of the two fire stations in the City. Fire Station 20 is located at 12110 Adoree Street off of Norwalk Boulevard, and Station 115 is at 11317 Alondra Boulevard.

**Sand is available at self-serve stations located at these City parks:**

**Norwalk Aquatic Pavilion**  
12301 Sproul Street

**Gerdes Park**  
14700 Gridley Road

**Hermosillo Park**  
11959 162<sup>nd</sup> Street

**Bob White Park**  
12120 Hoxie Avenue

**Holifield Park**  
12500 Excelsior Drive



For more information, please call the Public Services Department at (562) 929-5511.

### 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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Get Involved



## Winter Wonderland

Join Soroptimist International of Norwalk at their holiday gala and make a young lady's dreams come true. By bidding on a silent auction item or entering to win a fully decorated tree (complete with gifts), you help SI Norwalk to provide career mentoring or scholarships for a female student living in our community. Individual tickets are \$65, with a table for you and seven friends just \$499. Entry includes



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

dinner, no-host bar, entertainment, raffles, dancing and more.

The event takes place at the La Mirada Golf Course, 15501 Alicante Road on Saturday, December 16 starting at 5:30 p.m. with a social mixer followed by dinner at 6 p.m.

Tickets are available by going to [sinorwalk.org/gala](http://sinorwalk.org/gala) or by calling Amanda at (949) 795-2776. Tax ID 501 3(c) 95-0112002.

## NASC Food Drive

'Tis the season of giving at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex. The simple act of donating non-perishable and canned food items can make a significant difference to families in need this holiday season. Drop off your donations in the collection container at the NASC, located at 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, through December 23. All food collected will be distributed to local families.

*The most needed items are: canned meat and soup, dry cereal, granola/cereal bars, juices, peanut butter, pasta and pasta sauce, baby food, baby formula and diapers.*

For more details, please call (562) 929-5665.



## Angel Tree Project '17



You can help brighten the life of a child! Be an Angel this holiday season to a child in need in Norwalk by picking up a clothing tag to donate a gift to be distributed at a holiday celebration. Clothing tags are available at Social Services Center, Senior Center, Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, and City Hall. Simply pick up a tag, purchase one article of clothing and return the wrapped gift by Monday, December 4. The project also accepts financial donations year round.

The Angel Tree Project brings joy and laughter to more than 1,500 children (ages 5-11) whose families face financial hardships during the holidays. Children attend a holiday celebration where they visit with Santa, participate in holiday crafts, and receive gifts of clothing, toys and other goodies. For more information, please call the Norwalk Social Services Center at (562) 929-5544 or [norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/social-services/angel-tree](http://norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/social-services/angel-tree).

12:00  
to  
8:00 p.m.

# Snowfest

## & Tree Lighting Ceremony

Saturday,  
December 2,  
2017

**Norwalk City Hall Lawn • 12700 Norwalk Boulevard**

**Schedule of Events:**

**12:00-5:00 p.m.**  
Snowslides  
Food Booths  
Face Painting  
Snow Play Area  
Arts & Crafts  
Stage Entertainment

**5:00-6:00 p.m.**  
Stage Entertainment  
Continues  
**6:00 p.m.**  
Tree Lighting Ceremony &  
Santa Claus Visit

**Recreation and Park Services Department** FREE!

For more information, please call (562) 929-5702.

**CITY OF NORWALK**  
A Connected Community

# SANTA <sup>2017</sup> SLEIGH

**Saturday, December 2**  
Tree Lighting Ceremony 6:00 p.m.

**Monday, December 4**  
Cresson Elementary School 6:00 p.m.  
12144 Harvest Ave. 7:00 p.m.  
Vista Verde Park 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 5**  
Orr Elementary School 6:00 p.m.  
Studebaker Elementary School 7:00 p.m.  
Lakeside Middle School 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 6**  
Glazier Elementary School 6:00 p.m.  
12641 Kalnor Ave. 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 7**  
Edmondson Elementary School 6:00 p.m.  
Gerdes Park 7:00 p.m.  
Barnwall St. & Flatbush Ave. 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 8**  
Spry St. & Curtis and King Rd. 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 9**  
New River Elementary School 6:00 p.m.  
Morrison Elementary School 7:00 p.m.  
12122 Kenney St. 8:00 p.m.

Photos with Santa \$2.00 each

**Monday, December 11**  
Cesar Chavez Elementary School 6:00 p.m.  
Molete St. & Bechard Ave. 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 12**  
Volunteer Ave. & Crewe St. 6:00 p.m.  
Paddison Elementary School 7:00 p.m.  
Lakeland Elementary School 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 13**  
Sanchez Elementary School 6:00 p.m.  
11433 McLaren St. 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, December 14**  
14729 Clarkdale Ave. 6:00 p.m.  
Silverbow Ave. & Sprout St. 7:00 p.m.  
Moffitt Elementary School 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 15**  
Cheshire St. & Belshire Ave. 6:00 p.m.  
11243 Lakeland Rd. 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 16**  
14314 Crossdale Ave. 5:00 p.m.

**Please Note: In the event of rain or inclement weather, some stops may be cancelled or rescheduled.**

*For additional information, please call (562) 929-5566*

SAVE ENERGY GAS  
**COMMUNITY CONNECT**  
UTILITIES WATER SNOWFEST

DECEMBER 2, 2017 | 12-5PM AT CITY HALL  
STOP BY AND VISIT COMMUNITY CONNECT!

From noon to 5 p.m., meet with City staff and have your questions answered. SoCalGas and SCE representatives will share ways to lower your monthly bill through participation in various programs such as family energy savings assistance, bill-reducing rates, one-time bill assistance and the energy assistance fund. You'll also have the opportunity to ask SCE about residential solar, energy efficiency programs and electric vehicle (EV) rebates. Income-qualified households can sign up on-the-spot to receive monthly discounts on gas and electric bills. SoCalGas will be giving away free gas savings kits to residents with their gas bill on hand.

Look for free faucet aerators, low-flow hose nozzles and water-saving tips from Golden State Water and Liberty Utilities.

Brighten your season by participating in the 2nd Annual LED Holiday Light Exchange at COMMUNITY CONNECT! Bring in two (2) old strands of holiday lights, a current Norwalk SCE bill and a valid form of identification to receive two (2) new strands of LED holiday lights per household. Program offered to the first 200 households in attendance.





## Benefits of LEDs

In 2016, the City completed replacement of more than 3,000 4' fluorescent tube light bulbs with 4' LED bulbs at several City facilities. Now, approximately a year later, the City is realizing approximately 8,460 kilowatt hour (kWh) savings. The savings is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions from 15,432 miles driven by an average passenger vehicle.

*This project was partially funded by an SCE special program that offered cities a rebate as part of the Aliso Canyon outreach project.*

The City's commitment to energy savings doesn't stop with facilities. Next time you are at your local park, take a look at the walkway lights. Gerdes, Glazier, Hermosillo, New River, Ramona, Sara Mendez, Vista Verde, and Zimmerman Parks have recently had light fixtures replaced with new, LED energy efficient fixtures.

## NeighborWoods

The City of Norwalk loves trees, and even more, working with the community to plant and care for our trees. On Thursday, October 26, two fifth grade classes from Cesar Chavez Elementary School joined Public Services staff to plant thirteen Podocarpus trees along their school parkways. The project was part of NeighborWoods Month, when volunteers across the nation take action to make their communities greener and healthier by planting trees. Chavez students got first-hand experience with the City's urban forestry efforts and learned more about the various benefits trees provide, including improved air quality, reduction of water pollution, and energy conservation. The



students had fun getting their hands dirty, and even named their trees, and say they look forward to watching them grow.

The Public Services Department Tree Maintenance Section maintains over 17,000 trees citywide ensuring a healthy, thriving urban forest. City staff plant trees from November through May and residents may request to have a tree planted in the parkway adjacent to their home, at no cost.

For more info, including the type of trees planted, please call (562) 929-5511 or visit [norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/public-services/greenscape-and-tree-maintenance](http://norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/public-services/greenscape-and-tree-maintenance).

trees planted, please call (562) 929-5511 or visit [norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/public-services/greenscape-and-tree-maintenance](http://norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/public-services/greenscape-and-tree-maintenance).

## Las Posadas Celebration

Saturday, January 6 • 6 to 9 p.m.

Norwalk City Hall Lawn, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

Join us for a traditional cultural celebration! A candle-lit procession at the City Hall lawn will bring the community together during the holiday season. This festive event will feature caroling of holiday songs, light refreshments, cultural activities for children, such as piñatas, and special performances by Mariachis and ballet folklorico dancers. Everyone is welcome to participate in this free community event.

For more information, please contact the Recreation and Park Services Department at (562) 929-5702.

## HOLIDAY HOME Décor CONTEST

Don't miss out! Show your seasonal cheer and creativity and win! The City of Norwalk Community Promotion Commission is sponsoring a Holiday Home and Business Décor Contest, and invite you to enter or nominate a neighboring home or business. Applications will be accepted until noon on Friday, December 8. A photo or brief video must accompany the nomination form.

Viewing and judging will take place between December 18 and December 29, and winners will be announced in February. Contest winners will receive signage commemorating their award and will be recognized at a City Council meeting.

Nomination forms are available at all City facilities, or can be completed online at [norwalk.org/holiday-contest](http://norwalk.org/holiday-contest).

All nominated properties must comply with City of Norwalk Building Codes.

For more information, please call Communications & Public Affairs at (562) 929-5735 or [publicaffairs@norwalkca.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@norwalkca.gov)



## Holiday Trash & Street Sweeping Schedule

| Observed Holidays | City Hall Closed          | Sweeping | Trash |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------|-------|
| Christmas Day     | Monday, December 25, 2017 | No       | No    |
| New Year's Day    | Monday, January 1, 2018   | No       | No    |

**Street Sweeping:** When there is no street sweeping due to a holiday, sweeping will NOT be made up. Streets can only be swept on the posted day.

**Trash Collection:** When there is no trash collection due to a holiday, 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.

### 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 |

**Christmas Tree Recycling:** Don't forget to put out your trees for recycling on your trash day! From December 26, 2017 through January 13, 2018, Norwalk residents can have their Christmas trees picked up and recycled. Trees will be reused as compost and landfill cover.

**Single-family residential customers:** Trees will be picked up on the same day as your trash collection. Please place trees out by the curb the night before your trash collection. A separate truck will collect the Christmas trees at a different time than the rest of the trash. If you forget to place your tree on the curb on your regular collection day, please hold off until the following week to do so; trees will only be collected on your trash collection day.

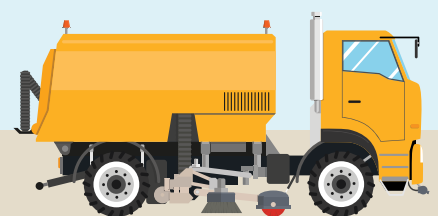
**Multi-family dwelling (apartment) customers:** Residents of multi-family buildings can recycle their trees by placing them out next to regular trash containers. A separate truck will pick them up.

### Guidelines for placing your tree out:

- Remove decorations (ornaments, tinsel, lights, etc.).
- Remove metal and plastic stands.
- Remove wooden tree stands and dispose as trash.
- Flocked trees are NOT acceptable and considered trash.
- Do not place your tree in a bag.
- Trees over eight feet need to be cut in half.

### For more details, call your trash hauler:

- CR&R (562) 944-4716
- Republic Services (800) 299-4898
- You may also contact the City at (562) 929-5964 or [recycling@norwalkca.gov](mailto:recycling@norwalkca.gov)





See & Do

## Norwalk Library

12350 Imperial Hwy., Norwalk, CA 90650  
(562) 868-0775 colapublib.org

### Adult Programs

#### Lit Wits Book Club: Child 44

Monday, January 29, 2018  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Because of the Christmas holiday, the Lit Wits will not meet in December. Readers are invited to pick up January's selection, Child 44 by Tom Robin Smith, at the Info Desk. In 1950s Soviet Russia, a secret police agent investigates a child serial killer. New members always welcome. Refreshments will be served at the discussion meeting.

### Teen Programs

#### Otaku Club

Wednesday, December 6 • 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Teens, if you're a fan of Japanese pop culture, manga, anime, or gaming, then Otaku Club is for you! We'll talk about our favorite series, play trivia for prizes, watch anime, showcase new manga titles the library has to offer, and play video games. For ages 13-18.

#### Holiday Slime Time

Saturday, December 9 • 12 to 1 p.m.

It's the most wonderful time of the year; celebrate with some slime! Teens will experiment with different seasonal slime recipes to get in a festive mood for winter holidays. For ages 13 – 18.

#### TeenFLIX: Wish Upon

Wednesday, December 27 • 3 to 4:30 p.m.

This winter break, enjoy a special movie screening just for teens. The library will show Wish Upon (PG-13). Be careful what you wish for! A bullied teen receives a music box that grants her wishes, but at a steep price. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. For ages 13 – 18.

### Kid Programs

#### Decorate Your Holiday Stocking

Tuesday, December 12 • 4 to 5 p.m.

Children are invited to decorate a holiday stocking that will be stuffed with holiday treats. All materials will be provided while supplies last.

#### Paws to Read Program

Wednesday, December 13 • 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

PAWS to Read allows children to read aloud to a therapy dog to improve reading and communication skills. Children read individually to trained dogs (and their handlers) who make them feel comfortable and confident. After all, a dog will not correct them or make them feel awkward if they stumble. The PAWS for Reading program is made possible by the volunteers of Beach Animals Reading to Kids (BARK) and meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

## Alondra Library

11949 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • (562) 868-7771 colapublib.org

### Adult Programs

#### "Classics I Was Always Going to Read"

##### Book Club: Little Women

Tuesday, December 12 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For December, Alondra Library's classic book club will read Part 1 of Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. Read or listen to the book and then join the light discussion. Refreshments are served. New members are welcomed.

### Teen Programs

#### Teen/Adult Ukulele Strum Along

Wednesday, December 6 • 5 to 6 p.m.

Teens and adults, come rock out and learn a few simple songs with our librarian. Ukuleles will be made available during the program on a first come, first played basis. Feel free to bring your ukulele if you have one. Beginners always welcome. For ages 12 and up.

#### Teen Button Making

Wednesday, December 20 • 5 to 6 p.m.

Teens are invited to make cool and original button accessories with a button maker. For ages 12 – 18.

### Kid Programs

#### Toddler Storytime

Fridays, December 1 – December 22

11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bring your toddlers for stories, songs, and fingerplays. They'll be introduced to early literacy in a fun environment and will be able to socialize with new friends. For ages 1 – 3 years old.

#### Family Game Day

Saturday, December 2 • 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Fun activities and board games will be provided for a friendly rivalry with your family and friends. For ages 4 and up.

#### Family Winter Art Activity

Saturday, December 16 • 1 to 2 p.m.

Join us for a winter art activity for the whole family. For ages 4 and up.

#### Family Storytime

Thursday, December 21 • 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and art activities with the whole family. For ages 4 and up.

#### MākMō: Building with Cubelets

Thursday, December 28 • 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Join us for activities with Cubelets, which are special blocks used to create robots. For ages 8 and up.

## Senior Center Events

14040 San Antonio Drive • (562) 929-5580

### "Basics of Medicare/MediCal Coverage" Seminar

Tuesday, December 5 • 10 to 11 a.m.

This seminar, presented by Sterling Insurance and Financial Group, will provide seniors with basic information about both of these programs and what coverage is available in each.

### HICAP

Wednesday, December 6 • 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 their Medicare and related health insurance issues. An Appointment is required.

### CalFresh Outreach Assistance

Monday, December 11 • 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

### "Laughter Therapy" Seminar

Tuesday, December 12 • 10 to 11 a.m.

It is a known fact that a sense of humor and laughter have a healing effect. This seminar/demonstration will teach seniors a different way of coping with stress using laughter and humor. Participants will have an opportunity to apply the techniques they learned by actively participating in a demonstration presented by Independence at Home.

### "Anxiety and Stress" Seminar

Wednesday, December 13 • 10 to 11 a.m.

Anxiety and stress are difficult emotions to experience and a large percentage of the U.S. population experience them. Come to this seminar presented by Telecare Corporation to find out the roots of stress and anxiety, how they can affect you physically and more importantly, how to cope with them.

### Blood Pressure Screening

Thursday, December 21 • 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Pioneer Medical Group provides this monthly blood pressure screening to seniors free of charge. Blood pressure is taken by licensed/certified medical staff with the results discussed afterwards with the senior.

### New Year's Eve Celebration

Friday, December 29 • 9 to 11 a.m.

Cost: Free

Come ring in the New Year with an apple cider toast with your friends and family. Musical entertainment will be provided. For information, please call (562) 929-5580.

## Social Services Center Events

11929 Alondra Boulevard • (562) 929-5544

### "Financial Elder Abuse and Scam Tips" Seminar

Wednesday, December 6 • 10 to 11 a.m.

Financial elder abuse is on the rise as scammers continue to target vulnerable seniors. Learn how to look for signs and tips to protect yourself against scams, fraud and deceptive practices and how to process a consumer complaint. This seminar will be presented by the State of California Department of Insurance. For information, please call (562) 929-5544.





# Photo Highlights: November City Council Meetings

