

Norwalk^eNow

norwalk.org The official community publication of Norwalk, California January 2019, Volume 39, #1



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY:



The City of Norwalk continues to move forward to enhance public safety for our residents and business community. As part of our annual holiday safety campaign, the Public Safety Department and Norwalk Enforcement Team (Sheriff's Deputies) partnered to provide high visibility patrols at all our shopping centers in November and December.

The Department has recently hired four additional Officers and an additional four more start employment at the end of January; this will enable us to conduct more proactive patrols to address the quality of life issues that impact Norwalk on a daily basis, including panhandling and transient loitering. The Reserve Officer program recruitment is expanding, with new Reserve Officers beginning training this month.

I'm happy to share that we held our fourth monthly Multi Agency Focus Team meeting, in collaboration with the schools, School Safety, District Attorney's office, Norwalk Sheriff's Station, Probation, Department of Children and Family Services, and Department of Mental Health, with a continued focus on providing intervention services and other resources to our at-risk

youth to ensure their success in school while redirecting adverse behavior.

Public Safety continues to work towards developing a partnership with all of our residents. We want to hear from you so we can be responsive to the issues in your neighborhood. Your involvement and continued active support are critical to achieving our common goal of safe, secure neighborhoods.

We encourage you to participate in your Neighborhood Watch Meetings, Neighborhood Block Parties, "Coffee with a Cop" events and other city-sponsored activities. Contact your Department of Public Safety to learn how you can get involved in helping keep your neighborhood and community safe. We hope to see you at our next event, Pizza with a Cop on Wednesday, January 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at SoCal Pizza!

Wishing you and your family a happy New Year! Please feel free to call me or any member of our Public Safety Team at 562-929-5729 or 929-5732.

Se han programado varios eventos para que la seguridad pública, los diputados del alguacil de Norwalk y los miembros de la comunidad se unan para construir relaciones sólidas y de apoyo.



Las Posadas

Saturday, January 5, 2019

6 - 9 p.m.

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 folklórico dancers. Everyone is welcome!

For more information call the Recreation and Park Services Department at 562-929-5702.

Celebre Las Posadas con nosotros el sábado 5 de enero de 6 a 9 p.m. en el césped del ayuntamiento.



2019 Homeless Count Volunteer Registration Now Open!

Sign up to participate in the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count in Norwalk!

Every January, all across Los Angeles County, we embark on a mission to count our homeless neighbors. Organized by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Count helps us understand the state of homelessness in our region and how to direct resources where they are most needed.

The City of Norwalk's Count takes place on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 8 p.m. The deployment site location is the Social Services Center, located at 11929 Alondra Boulevard.

Sign up to volunteer at www.theycountwillyou.org because everyone counts, no matter where they live.

For more information please contact: Mayra Garcia at mgarcia@norwalkca.gov or 562-929-5507.

Regístrese para ser voluntario para la Gran Cuenta de Personas sin Hogar del 2019 de Los Angeles en www.theycountwillyou.org.



In our December issue, the military seals as displayed in our Veterans Day Ceremony article on p. 1 were incorrect and included two Marine Corps insignias and excluded the Navy seal. We apologize to all servicemen and women for this error. The correct order is as follows:



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

Phone 562-929-5700

Norwalk City Council

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

City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

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Get Involved

City Energy Conservation Efforts

The City of Norwalk took several steps throughout 2018 to reduce our energy and water consumption. Light emitting diode (LED) lighting replaced traditional incandescent lights in several parks and City facilities. The lights provide brighter illumination while reducing kilowatt hours. Calsense controllers were installed at some medians, parks and City facilities. Calsense controllers allow staff to monitor irrigation remotely and the flow meter provides additional controls for the overall irrigation. This efficient technology senses watering requirements thereby reducing the use of water. In addition City Hall, Senior Center, Arts and Sports Complex, and the Cultural Arts Center were recently retrofitted with high-efficiency restroom fixtures. In addition, Holifield Park, Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Aquatic Center, Sproul Barn, Teen Center, Senior Center, and City Hall Parking Structure also had over 2,200 high-efficiency landscape sprinkler heads installed. These upgrades will help the City reduce water usage by up to 30% annually. Plans for further energy conservation are already in the works for 2019.



Home Improvement Program

The City's Home Improvement Program (HIP) provides financial assistance through grants, rebates and loans to low-income homeowners for home renovations. The program recently provided a 0% interest deferred payment loan to Mr. Espinoza for a full home renovation, including remodeled kitchen and bathroom, refinishing of the original flooring, interior and exterior painting, and new plumbing, electrical, roof, heater, windows, and doors.

Now the home is refurbished, increasing the property value, improving the neighborhood, and



most of all, providing a better quality of life for Mr. Espinoza, who commented that "...the Home Improvement Program is making a profound difference in people's lives by enhancing their physical and mental well-being."

Read more about Mr. Espinoza and the Home Improvement Program on our website at: www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development/cdbg-home/home-improvement-program, or call the Community Development Block Grant office at 562-929-5951.



El Programa de Mejoras para el Hogar proporciona asistencia financiera a los propietarios de viviendas residenciales de bajos ingresos para renovaciones. Llámenos al 562-929-5951 para obtener más información.

Be Rain Ready

Winter is here and so is the rain. Make sure you are prepared.

The City, in collaboration with Los Angeles County Fire Department, offers sandbags and sand for Norwalk residents. These items are free and offered on a first come, first served basis. Bags can be picked up at either fire station in the City; Fire Station 20 is located at 12110 Adoree Street, off of Norwalk Boulevard, and Station 115 is located at 11317 Alondra Boulevard. Sand is available at self serve stations located at these City parks:

Norwalk Aquatic Pavilion
12301 Sproul Street

Gerdas Park
14700 Gridley Road

Hermosillo Park
11959 162nd 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.



Stuff-A-Bus 2018

Norwalk Transit System's (NTS) 17th Annual Stuff-A-Bus made visits to John Glenn High School, Nettie Waite Middle School, Norwalk High School, and the City of Norwalk's Snowfest & Tree Lighting event, collecting over 1,200 new toys.



These toys, along with other donations, were distributed to approximately 1,500 children that attended the City of Norwalk's Angel Tree Project event on December 8, 2018. A huge thanks to all of the wonderful organizations and individuals who donated toys to the Stuff-A-Bus this year. The City

of Norwalk plans to recognize everyone who participated at a February 2019 Council Meeting.

If you would like information about the Stuff-A-Bus Program, please contact NTS Customer Service at 562-929-5550 or e-mail:

transportation@norwalkca.gov.

En su decimoséptimo año, con la ayuda de estudiantes, negocios y residentes, el programa anual de Stuff-A-Bus del Departamento de Transportación de Norwalk recaudo más de 1,200 juguetes nuevos para niños en nuestra comunidad.

More Electric Buses Coming to NTS

On September 25, 2018, the United States Department of Transportation, through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), announced that Norwalk Transit System (NTS) would receive funding in the amount of \$986,928 from the FTA's Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program. This was the second consecutive year of successfully being a recipient of these funds. Previously, NTS received \$1.2 million in funding.

These funds will support the purchase of electric buses and related equipment. NTS will initially acquire two zero emission electric buses in 2019 and two more electric buses in 2020. The new buses will help NTS provide more environmentally friendly and cleaner transportation options to its 1.5 million annual passengers.

These funds are part of diverse funding efforts meant to provide our community with access to safe and reliable public transportation, as well as more modern and efficient

bus service.

For more information on NTS services, please contact our Customer Service Department at 562-929-5550 or e-mail: transportation@norwalkca.gov.

En un esfuerzo por ofrecer opciones de transporte más ecológicas y más limpias para los pasajeros, se utilizarán cerca de \$1 millón en fondos de la Administración Federal de Tránsito para comprar dos autobuses eléctricos en 2019, y se programarán dos más en 2020.



Tree City USA Community



Trees are an important part of every community. Our streets, parks, playground and yards are lined with trees that create a peaceful, pleasing environment. They increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements into urban settings. Trees in urban areas can deflect the sunlight which reduces the heat island effect caused by pavement and buildings. The leaves on trees absorb and filter the sun's radiant energy, keeping things cool in the summer so that we can gather under the shade they provide during outdoor activities.

Trees also provide shade to landscaping which helps reduce water needs, increases water quality, slows stormwater runoff and helps recharge groundwater and reduce soil erosion.

Trees improve air quality by removing dust and other pollutants like carbon monoxide and they also take in carbon dioxide to produce the oxygen we breathe.

The City of Norwalk is proud to be recognized as a Tree City USA community and has established guidelines to support efforts to maintain a healthy and plentiful urban forest as well as increase the tree canopy cover for a greener community.

Only trees meeting the following criteria are considered for removal:

- Diseased, dying, unstable or dead trees
- Trees creating major concrete or asphalt damage (sidewalk, curb and gutter) and whose roots cannot be pruned due to affecting the stability of the tree that would result in a safety hazard
- Outside of the above criteria, trees may be removed if there are other extenuating circumstances that can only be mitigated with removal. Nuisance conditions along relating to tree dropping leaves/seeds and/or fallen branches do not qualify for removal.

All requests for tree removal are reviewed by the City of Norwalk Public Services Department. The City's Trees/Greenscape Supervisor or Tree Trimmer will inspect the tree to make a determination. The requestor will be notified of the City's decision via a door notice and/or a phone call, within 30 working days. In lieu of tree removal, the City may address tree-related complaints/issues by performing trimming services, root pruning, concrete/asphalt repair or replacement when deemed necessary.

For additional information, please contact the Public Services Department at 562-929-5511 or email publicservices@norwalkca.gov.

Si el árbol en su avenida muestra una enfermedad, interfiere con la acera o es una molestia, puede solicitar que lo remuevan. Obtenga más información llamando al 562-929-5511.

Senior Center

14040 San Antonio Dr.
(562) 929-5580

IHSS Help Desk

Friday, January 4 • 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

A Representative from Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles will be on hand to provide seniors with information and to answer their 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, disabled adults or legally blind individuals so they can remain safely in their home.

Sponsored by: Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles (PASCLA)

Bereavement Support Group

Meets every Friday • 10 – 11 a.m.

The Bereavement Support Group is a group that offers support to participants who have gone through a loss of a spouse, family member or friend, and want to share their experience in a safe and supportive environment. The group is led by a trained mental health professional from Telecare Corporation in Norwalk. *Sponsored by: Telecare Inc.*

HICAP

Wednesday, January 2 and 16 • 10 a.m. – 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 be at the Senior Center providing seniors with free education, counseling, and advocacy regarding their Medicare and related health insurance issues. An Appointment is required.

Community News

Alondra Library

11949 Alondra Blvd • (562) 868-7771

CHILDREN

Smarty Pants Storytime

Friday, January 4 • 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Let's get ready for school! Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills and having fun. Attendance is limited and advanced registration is required. Ages 2 - 5 with an adult caregiver.

TEENS

Etiquette for Teens

Wednesday, January 23 • 4 - 5 p.m.

Feel a bit lost about dining do's and don'ts? Join us for a crash course in dining etiquette that will help you feel more confident in social situations. For Ages 12-18.

ADULTS

MakMō: Introduction to 3D Printing

Thursday, January 17 • 2 - 3 p.m.

You've heard people talking about 3D printing, now come and try it for yourself! Design your own cookie cutter or anything you like by using a simple web-based software! We'll show you how.

Chinese Paper Lanterns Workshop:

Thursday, January 24 • 2 - 3 p.m.

Our Chinese Paper Lanterns workshop will teach participants the ancient decorative art of making Chinese lanterns by using colorful and festive materials. Each participant will make two different lanterns during the workshop. All materials will be provided.

Classics Book Discussion

Tuesday, February 12 • 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

For February 12, the group will read and discuss *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller. Published in 1961, it follows a paranoid American bombardier of WWII. New members are welcomed. Copies of the book are available at the library and online at <https://lacountylibrary.overdrive.com/>

Pizza with a Cop

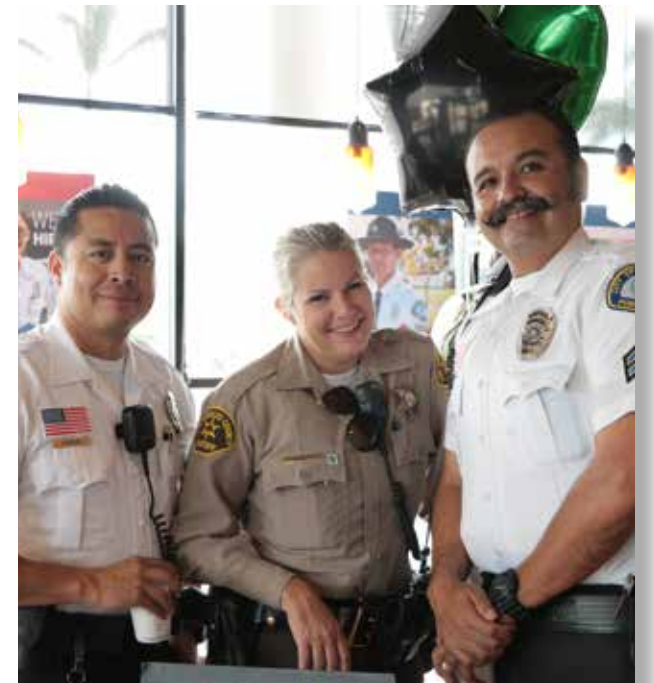


The City of Norwalk's Department of Public Safety invite the community to get to know the men and women who patrol our streets over a slice of pizza on Wednesday, January 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m at SoCal Pizza, located at 12253 Imperial Highway. Make sure to get there early as the first 25 attendees will receive free pizza and soft drinks. Meet with the Director of Public Safety and find out more about the partnerships being developed to ensure the health and safety of community members.

The event reflects the Department's commitment to provide residents with varied opportunities, including "Coffee with a Cop" or the recent "Paint, Pumpkins and Cocoa," to engage with local law enforcement. Meeting in informal settings allows for more personal conversations helping build lines of communication vital to improving the quality of

life in our neighborhoods. Scheduling these events at different days and times also allow for a greater number of residents or families to attend.

For more information, please call Public Safety at 562-929-5732.



Medication Disposal

Expired and unwanted prescription medicines can pose a health and safety hazard to people and the environment. Their ready availability in bathroom cabinets can lead to misuse by children and teenagers, with potential serious consequences, including accidental overdoses. In addition, these items are considered hazardous waste and should never be disposed of in trash cans or toilets as they may contaminate our waterways.

Drop off your expired medications at the Norwalk Sheriff's Station, located at 12335 Civic Center Drive, on Saturday, January 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info, please call the Public Safety Department at 562-929-5732.

No tire los medicamentos por el desagüe! Deje sus medicamentos expirados en la Estación del Sheriff de Norwalk el sábado 12 de enero de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m. para la eliminación fácil y segura.



PUBLIC SAFETY CORNER

- RIDESHARING -



Safety Tips



The popularity and accessibility of ridesharing through Uber, Lyft, etc. is growing. People use ridesharing apps to request drivers to get to the airport, go shopping, and get to and from a night out on the town, and many other destinations. Not worrying about driving in traffic or hunting for a parking space are some perks of ridesharing, but Public Safety would like to remind you to practice the following safety tips when you use this convenient service.

Before Your Ride:

- **Review the App.** Know what safety features the app provides and how to use them.
- **Plan Ahead.** Request your ride while inside your location. Don't wait until you're outside to request a ridesharing vehicle; you may end up waiting longer than you anticipated. Wait inside until your driver has arrived.
- **Verify the Vehicle.** When your driver arrives, check that the license plate, driver photo and driver name match the information on the app. Never get in a car with someone who claims to be with a ridesharing company if the vehicle and driver do not match the app information. If the driver does not match the driver's photo on the app, cancel that trip and request a new one.
- **Share Your Info with a Friend.** Let your friends/family know you're on your way; you can share vehicle information through screenshot. Additionally, ridesharing apps provide the option of sharing your location and vehicle information; your friends and family don't have to download the app to see you!

During Your Ride:

- **Ride in Back.** Sit in the backseat when riding alone. This gives you room to safely exit the vehicle on either side, along with some personal space.
- **Wear Your Seatbelt.** Safety first. Should the vehicle be involved in a traffic collision, wearing your seatbelt helps reduce injuries. Plus, it's the law.
- **Know Your Surroundings.** Follow along with the map on the app during the ride to ensure you're headed in the right direction.

- **Personal Information.** Your contact information is not needed by your driver because they are able to contact you through the app if necessary. Do not tell the driver that they're driving you home; always mention that you're meeting friends.
- **Stay Alert.** Avoid falling asleep during your ride or becoming intoxicated before riding home. Alcohol impairs judgment and slows your reaction time.
- **Protect Yourself.** Trust your instinct and use your best judgment when in a ridesharing vehicle. If you're uncomfortable, have the driver stop the car and request another driver. It's a good idea to carry a whistle, a personal alarm, or pepper spray if you are traveling alone. If you're in an emergency situation, call 9-1-1.

After Your Ride:

- **Never Pay Cash.** You can choose to be charged through the ridesharing app, eliminating having to pay your driver directly. Ridesharing apps also provide an option for you to tip your driver, should you wish to do so.
- **Give Feedback.** You can rate your experience and the driver on the ridesharing app. Be honest; if you had an issue with a rude driver or they made you uncomfortable, share the information. The company can address the issue with the driver and remove them from their services if necessary. Good ridesharing experiences should also be shared.



Save the date!

Electronic Waste Collection,
Shred-A-Thon &
Expired Medication Disposal

Saturday, February 16
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Norwalk City Hall
12700 Norwalk Blvd.

Give The Best Gift Of All



Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. Your single donation has the potential to save up to three lives.

Make a difference in the lives of others by making a donation at the annual City Hall Blood Drive, which takes place in the Lower Level Conference Room on Tuesday, January 8 from 12 to 6 p.m. Donors are encouraged to schedule appointments online at www.redcrossblood.org using the sponsor code CityofNorwalk. Appointments may also be made by calling 562-929-5720.

City Hall is located at 12700 Norwalk Boulevard.



Recycle Used Oil Filters

On Saturday, January 12, Norwalk residents who bring their used motor oil filters to AutoZone at 12124 Studebaker Road receive a brand new filter for FREE! Up to two filters, valued at up to \$12 each, may be exchanged at the event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Used motor oil may also be recycled, as long as it is properly stored in a clean, uncontaminated container. As part of the City's used oil and filter recycling program, qualified participants also receive a free motor oil change kit, while supplies last. Never dispose of oil or filters, which are considered household hazardous waste, in the trash or down the drain. For more information, call 562-944-4766.

Holiday Trash & Street Sweeping Schedule

When trash is not picked up on a holiday, service is delayed one day for the remainder of that week. If a holiday occurs on Monday, trash pick-up is a day later for the entire week.

Observed Holidays	City Hall Closed	Sweeping	Trash
New Year's Day	Tuesday, January 1	No	No
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 21	No	Yes

Street Sweeping

There will be no street sweeping on the holidays noted above.

Important

On a few of the holidays, the schedule causes trash collection to be on the same day as street sweeping. Trash barrels **MUST** be placed up on the parkway for street sweeping to occur.

Questions?

Trash Collection	Athens Services	888-336-6100
Street Sweeping	Public Services Department	562-929-5511
Parking Enforcement	Public Safety Department	562-929-5732

For the 2019 Holiday Trash & Street Sweeping Schedule, please go to norwalk.org/residents/community-resources-levnvironmental-and-recycling-services/refuse-hauling.



Recycle your Christmas Tree

Beginning December 26, 2018 through January 16, 2019, Norwalk residents can have their Christmas trees picked up and recycled at no cost. Trees will be reused as compost and landfill cover.

Curbside collection program customers:

As a safety precaution, please place your tree on the curb the day before trash pickup. Trees will be picked up on the same day as your trash collection by a separate truck. If you forget to place your tree on the curb, please wait until the following week to do so; trees will only be collected on your trash collection day.

Multi-family dwelling customers:

Residents of multi-family buildings can recycle their trees by placing them out next to the regular trash containers. A separate truck will pick up the trees.

GUIDELINES FOR PLACING YOUR TREE OUT:

- Decorations (ornaments, tinsel, lights, etc.) and metal and plastic stands must be removed.
- Wooden tree stands must be removed and disposed of as trash.
- Flocked trees are NOT acceptable and are considered trash.
- Do not place your tree in a bag.
- Trees over eight feet need to be cut in half.

For more information, call:

Athens Services
888-336-6100

You may also call the City of Norwalk at (562) 929-5964 or email at recycling@norwalkca.gov



Photo Highlights: December 2018 City Council Meetings

