

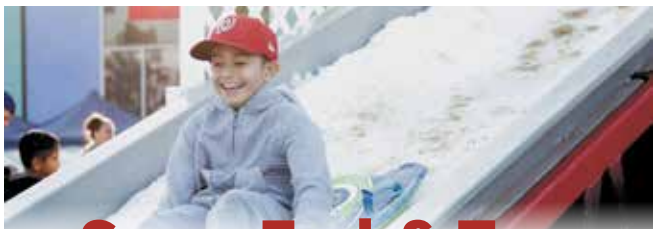
Norwalk^eNow

norwalk.org The official community publication of Norwalk, California November 2019, Volume 40, #11



City Invites the Community to "Honor our Heroes" on Veterans Day

On Monday, November 11, the City of Norwalk, in partnership with American Legion Post 359, presents the annual Veterans Day program, which serves to honor the brave men and women of our armed forces. The keynote speakers will be Petty Officer Third Class, Fernando Lopez, US Navy and Signal Support Systems Specialist, Andy Morales, US Army. City Council will also present Hometown Heroes banners to residents currently serving in the military. The event begins at 11 a.m. in front of the Freedom Memorial Art Installation at City Hall, and is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call Public Affairs at 562-929-5735.



Snow Fest & Tree Lighting Ceremony

Saturday, December 7

Snow Fest: 12 - 6 p.m.

Tree Lighting: 6 - 8 p.m.

**Norwalk City Hall Lawn,
12700 Norwalk Blvd.**

Bring your entire family to the City Hall Lawn on Saturday, December 7 and experience a California Snow Fest! We'll have snow slides, a snow play area, game booths, a holiday train ride, craft tents, face painting, and much more! Local entertainers will perform on stage throughout the event and food will be available for purchase. After sundown, join the Norwalk City Council as they ring in the holiday season by lighting our 30 foot Christmas tree! For more information, please call 562-929-5702.

Schedule: 12 - 5 p.m.

Snow Slides, Snow Play Area, Game Booths, Holiday, Train Rides, Face Painting, Arts and Crafts, and Food

Booths Open: 12 - 6 p.m.

Stage Entertainment: 6 p.m.

Santa Arrives: 6:15 - 8 p.m.

Santa Visits & Stage Entertainment

Residents Have Opportunity to Ensure the City's Fiscal Future

Norwalk is a safe, family-oriented community. Our City prides itself on providing exceptional public safety and neighborhood services that are responsive to the community. From the City Council and staff at all levels, to the volunteers that serve on our commissions, everyone is committed to a strong future for Norwalk.

But, like many neighboring cities we face challenges. Based on current projections, the City's budget is forecasted to go into deficit in 2021 and the deficit is estimated to grow from over \$2 million to almost \$18 million in just five years.

How we got here is simple – the State has reduced funding that we've used for community services, and the demand and cost for these high-quality City services continues to grow. This combination has created a revenue situation that threatens the City's ability to maintain services that support the quality of life enjoyed by Norwalk residents.

In an effort to address fiscal challenges, the City has taken multiple actions over the past several years to keep expenditures in line with revenues while striving to maintain high-quality services. Despite the progress we have made, more is needed.

One potential solution to help ensure our fiscal future is to identify ways to generate more revenue, including through a voter-approved sales tax. Revenue from such a measure could help maintain the public safety and neighborhood services that residents

and businesses rely on. A recent community survey discussed at the October 15 Council meeting indicated that residents believe Norwalk needs additional funding to maintain services.

The City Council has considered placing a measure before voters on the March 2020 ballot to take the City's sales tax from the current rate of 9.5% to 10.25%. It is estimated that such a measure could generate approximately \$7 million annually to support local services.

Any money generated from this measure would go to the City's general fund, which the City Council could use to support all City services. This may include neighborhood services like gang prevention and youth anti-violence programs, repairs to streets and sidewalks, parks and recreation programs and facilities, and homeless prevention services, as well as expanding important emergency services like traffic and pedestrian safety. Without additional revenue, the City may have to reduce these services.

The sales tax measure would help address the revenue challenges, and would include independent financial audits with all funds locally controlled. Ultimately any measure would have to be approved by voters.

The City continues to explore all options to protect and maintain the community services that make Norwalk a special place to live and work.

Community Forum

As we near the end of 2019, the City of Norwalk invites residents and business partners to a Community Forum on **Saturday, November 16 at 10 a.m.** in the Multi-Purpose Room at **Waite Middle School**, located at 14320 S. Norwalk Boulevard. The forum, or town-hall meeting, reflects City Council's ongoing commitment to provide for enhanced opportunities for open dialogue with the community on quality of life issues at varied locations and times. Share your concerns and



provide vital feedback necessary for stronger, safer neighborhoods and the prosperity of our City.

The event will begin with short presentations on services/programs and will be followed by an open floor discussion. Information on the upcoming Census 2020 will also be available.

Light refreshments will be served. Translation services will be available for residents who speak Spanish. For more information, please call Public Affairs at 562-929-5735.

Los residentes están invitados a compartir dialogo con el Concilio de Norwalk en un Foro Comunitario el sábado, 16 de noviembre a las 10 a.m. en la escuela Waite. Habrá servicios de traducción.

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 Margarita L. Rios

Vice Mayor Luigi Vernola

Councilmember Tony Ayala

Councilmember Jennifer Perez

Councilmember Leonard Shryock

City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

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Keepin' it Local: New and Coming Soon



Since the adoption of the Economic Development Opportunities Plan on October 2, 2018, the City has expanded its business portfolio. Check out our map to see the latest and upcoming businesses!

Our efforts to diversify businesses have made us a finalist in the 2019 Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation Most Business Friendly City award. Stay tuned for the results!

As part of the effort to diversify the business community, the City continues to work on the Economic Development Nodes. Check out the graphic below to learn more about the vision for the nodes.

Desde la adopción del Plan de Oportunidades Económicas en octubre 2018, la ciudad ha aumentado su portafolio de negocios. Mire nuestro mapa para ver los recientes y próximos negocios.

SCHEDULED TO OPEN

- 1 TACOS GAVILAN
- 2 STINKIN CRAWFISH
- 3 BURGER IM
- 4 GROCERY OUTLET
- 5 PICK UP STIX
- 6 LA JARA BREWERY

Norwalk Economic Nodes

Civic Center/Entertainment District Node

Having AMC, DoubleTree and City Hall, the City is working to masterplan the area. The City has entered into an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (ENA) with Primestor. New restaurants in the area include: Don's Teriyaki, CC Pho, The Buffalo Spot and reopening of IHOP. The City is also evaluating steps to make the Entertainment District more walkable and the feasibility of adding an additional hotel.



Alondra/Pioneer Node

The City is seeking development for retail and residential spaces, including master plan of adjacent parcels.



Tank Farm Node

The City has entered into an ENA with Lewis Group of Companies to masterplan the site for potential sports center/retail/commercial/office and open space for the community.



105 FWY/Studebaker Node

This area is recognized as a transit hub with potential for transit oriented development. The City is currently in discussions with Caltrans and LA County Metro, the site owner and operator respectively.



San Antonio/Firestone Node

The City is working on grant deployment for Firestone Corridor to activate development.



605 FWY/Firestone Node

This active retail center will expand to attract additional retail and commercial businesses.

Front Street Node

The City is working to revitalize the area for potential walkable shopping and dining.



Professional Office/Development Center Node

Commonly known as Norwalk Fitness Village, the area features: L.A. Fitness, Chick-fil-A and Panera Bread. Coming soon, residents will see Pick Up Stix and professional office space.



Five Points Node

Geographically centered in the City, the area yields potential to attract additional retail, restaurant, and service uses. Coming soon Grocery Outlet and Burger IM.



California Youth Authority Node

The City has entered into an ENA with Lewis Management Corporation to master plan a transit oriented community. Assembly Bill 518 is scheduled to be considered by the State Assembly and State Representatives for the City to purchase site from the State.



COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE

Preparing the Community for Encounters with Coyotes

Like many surrounding communities, the City of Norwalk is experiencing encounters with coyotes in its neighborhoods. To address the community's concerns, the City Council adopted the Coyote Coexistence and Management Plan on October 1.

The primary focus of the plan is to educate our community about the importance of reporting coyote encounters, learning proper coyote hazing techniques, and how to identify and remove coyote attractants.

As part of the plan, we have added a coyote reporting form on the City's website under, Public Safety - Coyote Information. The form will help the City document coyote behaviors, identify hotspots, and utilize data to generate maps for residents on a regular basis. Coyote encounters may also be reported to Public Safety at 562-929-5732.

The City is also collaborating with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to launch our first-ever Wildlife Watch Program in early 2020. The program will assist with additional education resources for coyote encounters.

Public Charging Cable Scam

Please be aware of the latest scam involving public charging cables for electronic devices. There have been reports of hackers being able to utilize these phone charging cables to steal personal and sensitive information from your device.

Ordinary looking phone charging cables can contain software that is specifically designed to disturb, damage, or obtain unauthorized access to computer systems.

How this scam works:

Thieves place charging cables within public places so victims can connect their devices. Once connected, thieves can steal personal information from victims and use the information to make fraudulent purchases or open fake accounts.

One charging cable can be used to take control of any Mac computer, remotely gaining access to passwords and sensitive information.

Once the cable is plugged into a computer

or phone, it can be controlled through a wireless network that is built inside the cable. Once a thief gains access to the information they need, they can stop all traces of evidence that ever existed on the compromised device.

Please exercise caution when using public charging cables and understand the risk of potentially giving hackers the opportunity to steal private information.

Source: LA County Sheriff's Department

Working with Community Partners to End Homelessness

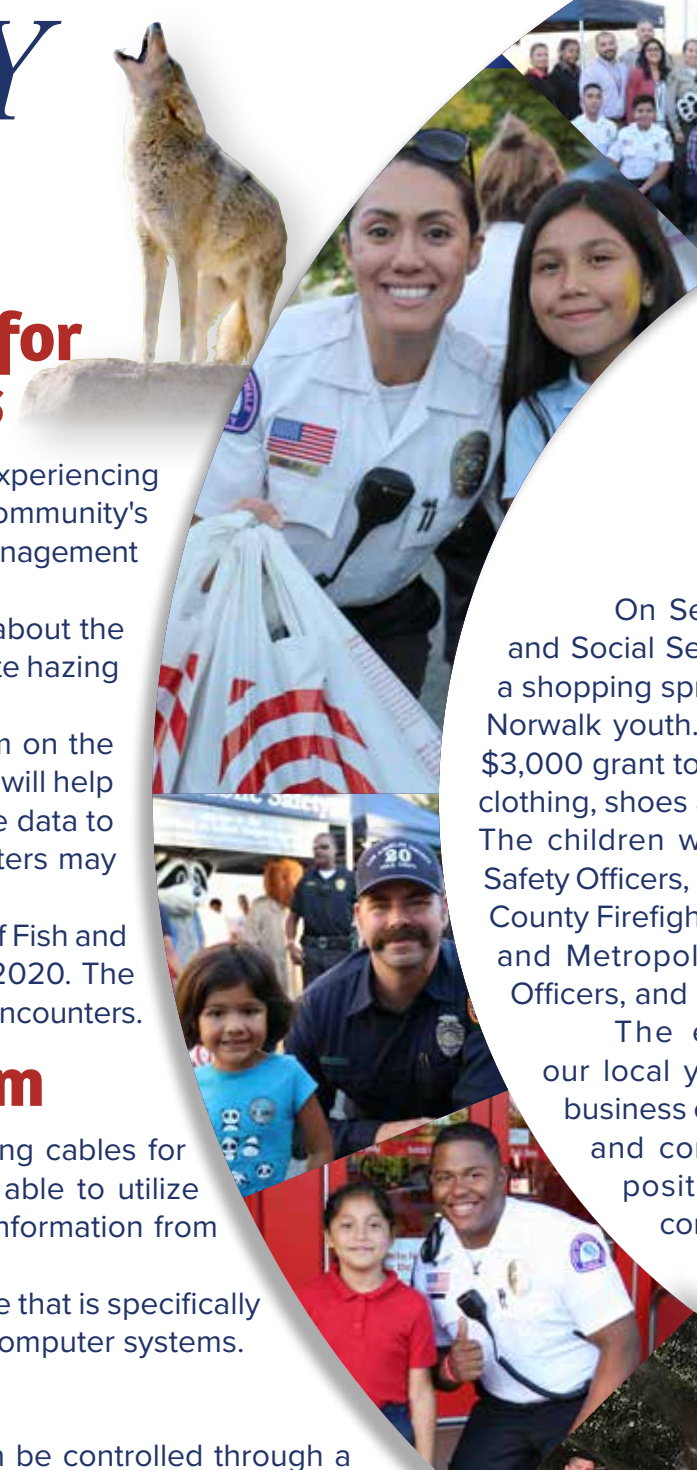


In April 2018, the City adopted its homelessness plan and over the last year, the City has seen a decrease in the number of people experiencing homelessness. According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the Greater Los Angeles 2019 Homeless Count Results for the City of Norwalk was 200 people (98% unsheltered, 2% in shelters). The data reflects a decrease from the 2018 Homeless Count Results, of 262 people.

The decrease can be attributed to the City's investment in homeless prevention efforts carried out by our Public Safety, Social Services, and Housing staff, combined with successful collaborative partnerships with agencies like the Department of Mental Health, LAHSA, Kingdom Causes, LA County Sheriff's HOST team, and more. Our City team is out daily, exploring solutions to connect homeless individuals to a form of housing. From January 2018 to April 2019, 102 homeless individuals/

families were assisted with getting off the streets in Norwalk. The City also assisted 287 families with homeless prevention aid.

The City believes that preventing homelessness is key and has established an Emergency Assistance Program (EAP), which assists individuals/ families who are experiencing financial hardship by providing rental assistance. The City provides funding to support a Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program administered by Kingdom Causes Bellflower. The City's Housing Authority sets aside housing vouchers for the homeless as well. Through the successful network and partnerships established with our partners, the City will continue to collaborate with our homeless service providers to continue making impactful strides producing positive results for our community. The next homeless count will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at the City of Norwalk Social Services Center.



Back to School Shopping Spree

On September 30, Public Safety and Social Services Departments hosted a shopping spree sponsored by Target for Norwalk youth. Target awarded the City a \$3,000 grant to be used for back-to-school clothing, shoes and supplies for local youth. The children were paired up with Public Safety Officers, Norwalk Sheriff Deputies, LA County Firefighters, School Safety Officers, and Metropolitan State Hospital Police Officers, and shopped away.

The event brought together our local youth, first responders and business community for a great cause and continued to strengthen our positive relationships with the community.

Battle of the Badges

On October 5, Public Safety Cadets attended the Battle of the Badges law enforcement scenario competition. The event took place at the Firestone Scout Reservation in Brea. The scenarios were hosted by several law enforcement agencies, and involved scenarios such as Driving Under the Influence, Burglary in Progress, Vehicle Assault, and much more. The purpose behind the explorer competition is to test and expose youth to actual assignments law enforcement officers may encounter during patrol. It also develops teamwork, communication and critical thinking skills.



Thursday, November 21, Bob's Pizza 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 14505 Pioneer Blvd Norwalk, CA 90650

Free Slice of pizza to the first 10 people in attendance!

2020 Census: Accessible to Everyone!

The United States Census Bureau is making sure that the form is accessible however individuals choose to respond – online, by phone, or by mail. Invitations to participate will be mailed beginning mid-March 2020. The online questionnaire will be available in English and 12 additional languages. Moreover, the form will follow the latest web accessibility guidelines. The website will also include a video in American Sign Language to guide participants. You'll also be able to respond by phone in English, 12 additional languages and TDD.

By mid-April, paper questionnaires will be mailed to every household that hasn't already responded. Braille and large print guides will be available online to assist with the paper questionnaire.

Lastly, Census takers will begin visiting households that have not responded beginning mid-May. Census takers who communicate in American Sign Language and additional languages will be available and can be requested.

As a reminder, your participation is crucial. A complete count ensures services like Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, as well as our community programs, can support those who need them.

For details, visit 2020census.gov

Election News

A General Municipal Election will be held on March 3, 2020 to elect three individuals to serve as Members of the Norwalk City Council for four-year terms.

Nomination Process

To be a candidate for City Council, a person must be registered to vote in the City of Norwalk at the time nomination papers are issued. The filing period to be a candidate for this election will be from November 12, 2019 through 5 p.m. on December 6, 2019, unless an incumbent does not file. If this occurs, the nomination period will be extended, except for the incumbent, through 6 p.m. December 11. Candidates must make an appointment with the City Clerk to receive nomination papers and file them.

For more candidate information, a copy of the "Getting Started Candidate Information" pamphlet may be obtained at Norwalk City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Boulevard, Room 10 or the City's website at www.norwalk.org.

Una elección municipal general se llevara a cabo el 3 de marzo de 2020 para elegir tres personas para que formen parte del Concilio de la ciudad. El periodo de presentación de candidaturas será desde el 12 de noviembre hasta las 5 p.m. el 6 de diciembre de 2019, a menos que un titular no presente. Si esto ocurre, el periodo de nominación se extenderá, excepto para el titular, hasta las 6 p.m. el 11 de diciembre.

Let's Keep Norwalk Clean and Litter Free!

Dumped items in alleys and public right-of-ways are an eyesore and may pose a danger to pedestrians or drivers.

Items that cannot fit in your trash containers, such as couches, dressers and doors, are considered bulky items.

Norwalk residents can schedule bulky item pickups for FREE! Here are some guidelines:

- Single-family homes can pre-arrange collections of up to 5 bulky items once a week.
- Apartment units can pre-arrange collections of up to 5 bulky items once a month.

To schedule a pickup, please call Athens Services at 855-557-1007. Bulky items pickups are only scheduled on your regular trash service day.

To help ensure the aesthetics of our neighborhoods, please do not leave items out on the curb more than a day ahead of your trash service day.

Canned Food Drive

Norwalk Transit's (NTS) Annual Canned Food Drive will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 19 and 20. Passengers will receive a free ride in exchange for one canned food item. Each year, NTS passengers donate over 400 cans of food and perishable food items and we'd like to collect even more this year! Collected food items are donated to the City of Norwalk's Social Services Department - Community Emergency Food Cupboard - for distribution to local families during the Thanksgiving Holiday.



For more information, call Customer Service at 562-929-5550 or e-mail: transportation@norwalkca.gov

Stay Warm this Winter

With winter right around the corner, it's time to start preparing for the cold weather. While you get winter ready by dusting off jackets and scarves, don't forget to also get your home winter ready. Install or upgrade insulation in your attic and walls, caulk or weather strip doors and windows, clean your furnace or heater vents and make sure your heating system is tuned up and ready to go. These simple steps can keep your house warm and save you money on your gas bill. For more energy and money saving tips please visit www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy.

Norwalk Students Honored

Heads up, new street banners recognizing local high school students are coming to Pioneer Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue! For the second year, the City is acknowledging Norwalk students for their academic achievements, school leadership community service, and for continuing their education.

This year, we are recognizing 34 students from the following schools: Norwalk High, John Glenn and Southeast Academy.

Norwalk High banners will be placed on Pioneer Boulevard, and John Glenn and Southeast Academy banners will be located on Rosecrans Avenue by Shoemaker Avenue.



Angel Tree Project 2019



Be an Angel and help brighten the life of a child in need this holiday season. You can make a difference in the life of a child 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 9. 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 visit our Social Services webpage at www.norwalk.org

Holiday Schedule & Enforcement for Trash & Street Sweeping

The Public Safety Department will no longer be issuing parking citations for street sweeping on any day where trash collection and street sweeping take place on the same day, as occurs following some holidays.

For example, if an observed holiday falls on a Monday, and creates a one-day delay in trash collection, then street sweeping enforcement will be exempt the rest of the week.

Observed Holidays

Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving

City Hall Closed

Monday, November 11
Thursday, November 28
Friday, November 29

Sweeping

No
No
No

Trash

Yes
No
Yes

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.

Reminder: On regularly-scheduled trash collection day, residents are requested to place their trash and recycle bins at the curb for disposal up to 24 hours before the day of collection and removed and properly stored away from public view by 6 a.m. the following designated collection day. When trash collection occurs on the same day as street sweeping, bins should be placed on the parkway/on top of the curb so that street sweeping activity may take place.

Questions?

Trash Collection
Street Sweeping
Parking Enforcement

Athens Services
Public Services Department
Public Safety Department

888-336-6100
562-929-5511
562-929-5732

Photo Highlights: October 2019 City Council Meeting

