

# Norwalk<sup>e</sup>Now

norwalk.org The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, California July 2020, Volume 41, #7



## COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE • Safer at Home •

### City Hall Reopening By Appointment During COVID-19

Throughout the pandemic, we have been focused on maintaining the well-being and safety of our employees, and YOU-our community.

City Hall is open by appointment only, Monday - Thursday from 9am - 5pm. Starting Friday, July 17, appointments will also be

*A lo largo de la pandemia, nos hemos centrado en mantener el bienestar y la seguridad de nuestros empleados y de usted, nuestra comunidad.*

*La municipalidad está abierta solo con cita, de lunes a jueves de 9am a 5pm. A partir del viernes 17 de julio, las citas también estarán disponibles cada*

available every other Friday from 9am - 5pm. We ask residents to call the respective departments to make appointments.

Please note, document drop-offs require appointments, and guests who wish to see multiple departments in one visit must make appointments with each department.

*otro viernes de 9am a 5pm. Pedimos a los residentes que llamen a los departamentos respectivos para hacer citas.*

*Tenga en cuenta la entrega de documentos requieren citas, y los residentes quienes desean visitar varios departamentos en una visita deben hacer citas con cada departamento.*

To maintain safety and health protocols, all guests entering City Hall/facilities must wear a face covering and will be screened for temperature and symptoms associated with COVID-19.

For more information, visit [norwalk.org](http://norwalk.org).

*Para mantener los protocolos de seguridad y salud, todos los invitados entrando al municipalidad deben usar una cubierta facial y se les hará un examen de temperatura y síntomas asociados con COVID-19.*



### - Spreading the Census Message -

The Census Parade made its debut in Norwalk on Wednesday, June 17! A caravan of brightly decorated cars visited three neighborhoods spreading the important message that Everyone Counts. Upon hearing festive music and car horns, residents came out to greet the vehicles and receive prizes. Among those participating in the parade were Norwalk

City Council members, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, the office of Assembly Majority Ian Calderon and SELA Collaborative. Thank you to everyone for their support!

Similar events were held in other surrounding cities as part of regional effort to raise awareness about the importance of participating in the Census.

*Follow our social media to find out about upcoming parades!*

As of June 24, the Census response rate is:

Norwalk	California	United States
65.2%	65.2%	61.5%

Complete the 2020 Census questionnaire online or by phone! Simply visit <https://my2020census.gov/> or call 1-844-330-2020. Households who received a paper form may submit via mail.



### New Mailing format for Norwalk Now

Starting with this July edition, the Norwalk Now will be mailed to your homes every quarter. We will continue updating the community on a monthly basis. The Norwalk Now will continue to be available monthly at <https://www.norwalk.org/residents/community/community-publications>.



### On the Road to Recovery:

#### ADDITIONAL BUSINESS OPENINGS

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health has released guidelines for the opening of additional businesses. To access the reopening guidelines, visit [publichealth.lacounty.gov/coronavirus](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/coronavirus). Per the County, businesses that are now allowed to open include: restaurants, bars, wineries and brewery tasting rooms (that do not offer sit-down/dine-in), spas, museums, zoos, day camps, and gyms. For the complete list, visit [covid19.lacounty.gov](http://covid19.lacounty.gov).

#### Norwalk City Hall Modified Hours

Open by appointment only.

Hotline 562-929-5760

#### Norwalk City Council

Mayor Jennifer Perez

Vice Mayor Tony Ayala

Councilmember Rick Ramirez

Councilmember Margarita L. Rios

Councilmember Ana Valencia

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Norwalk, CA 90650

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## Tacos Gavilan Coming Soon!

Great news: within a few months, Norwalk families can look forward to dining at Tacos Gavilan. The popular restaurant will be located at 10986 Rosecrans Avenue and Studebaker Road. The previous structure was recently demolished and construction on the new 45,000 square foot building is anticipated to start soon. Even better, Tacos Gavilan may open its doors this Fall! Follow our social media for more updates!

## Qualifying Businesses May be Eligible for Outdoor Dining

Are you a Norwalk business looking to increase dining capacity? As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Norwalk is authorizing qualifying restaurants to temporarily host outdoor dining on privately-owned restaurant premises. For more information, contact Monica Rodriguez at [mrodriguez@norwalkca.gov](mailto:mrodriguez@norwalkca.gov) or 562-929-5710 or Beth Chow at [bchow@norwalkca.gov](mailto:bchow@norwalkca.gov) or 562-929-5953.

### Requirements:

- Outdoor dining area must close with restaurant's hours.
- A physical barrier must be provided.
- Possess a valid City of Norwalk Business license as of date of application.
- Outdoor dining must maintain ADA accessibility.
- ABC COVID-19 Temporary Catering Authorization License required for alcohol sales.
- Restaurants shall comply with all LA County Public Health requirements.

### Application Requirements:

- Submit Temporary Outdoor Dining Application with property owner authorization.
- Submit a legible site plan of dining area layout.

## - Loans for Small Businesses -

To assist our business community impacted by COVID-19, the City of Norwalk recently launched a small business loan program. Our local businesses have responded positively; to date, the City has received over 50 applications. The Business Loan Program was made available utilizing funds from the Community Development Block Grant. Loans are available for up to \$10,000 at 0% interest, and must be used for lease, rent or mortgage payments. To apply or obtain more information can be found online at [norwalk.org](http://norwalk.org).



## Sign Up Your Business to Receive City Alerts

Do you have a business located in Norwalk? Sign-up to receive City alerts pertaining to businesses. Text the number 888-777 with the keyword NWKBIZ, to begin receiving alerts.



## Norwalk Awarded Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding

The Public Safety Department recently submitted an application for the Bureau of Justice Assistance Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program. On June 8, they received correspondence from Office of Justice Programs that the City has been awarded \$94,787 in federal funding to assist in responding to the coronavirus. The awarded funds will be used to pay for a portion of unforeseen expenditures such as personnel overtime working on COVID-19 measures, maintaining the Emergency Operations Center, and purchasing supplies/equipment (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer, sanitizing equipment, Plexiglas barriers).



## Improving our Infrastructure

### More Trees in Norwalk

The City of Norwalk is collaborating with TreePeople, an environmental non-profit organization, to plant trees in residential neighborhoods. Approximately 1,000 trees are being planted in the right-of-way between the sidewalk and street curb. TreePeople will be responsible for the care and watering of the trees for 24 months.

The work is part of a freeway mitigation program in which TreePeople will plant 11,000 trees in the cities of Downey, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, Commerce and La Mirada over the next three years. The project is funded by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). As of June 17, 345 trees had been planted, with the project scheduled to be completed by end of June.

This current collaboration follows our recent Arbor Day celebration with TreePeople, when 40 trees were planted at Gerdes Park.

All of these newly planted trees will provide shade, remove carbon dioxide from the air, release oxygen into the atmosphere and beautify our neighborhoods. All of these planting projects reflect the



City's commitment to an innovative urban forestry program, which have resulted in our designation as a Tree City USA for the sixth year in a row and Growth Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation.



# COMMUNITY SAFETYZONE

## Auto Burglary & Theft Prevention

Like many neighboring communities, our City has seen a recent increase in vehicle theft. We want to encourage residents to take all the necessary steps to deter predators from targeting you. Do not make it easy for a thief to gain access to your vehicle! Most vehicle burglaries are preventable.

**We would like to offer a few tips to prevent yourself from becoming a victim of vehicle theft:**

- ALWAYS lock your car and REMOVE the keys. Never leave your car running or unattended.
- Lock your valuables in the trunk. Do not leave personal items in plain view.
- Install an anti-theft device that is highly visible, hard to defeat, and that renders the car undrivable—Use alarms or wheel lock devices.
- Park in a garage or a well-lighted, heavily traveled area.
- Always be observant for suspicious persons while driving and while entering / exiting your vehicle.

**If your vehicle is stolen or burglarized, have record of the following:**

1. Year and make & model, color of your vehicle
2. License plate number / VIN number
3. Special vehicle equipment
4. Any other distinguished features

To report suspicious activity or if have any questions, please contact Norwalk Public Safety at 562-929-5732, or the Norwalk Sheriff Station at 562-863-8711.

## Bicycle Safety Tips

With great California weather upon us, the Public Safety Department would like to remind residents on the importance of bicycle safety and share the following tips:

- Everyone under the age of 18 must wear a helmet when riding a bicycle, no exceptions. (A proper fitting helmet should get right above the eyebrows and be tightly buckled so it doesn't slip when riding)
- Wear bright or reflective clothing when riding your bicycle so other people (especially drivers) can see you.
- Pay attention to your surroundings; refrain from using audio players and do not wear headphones so you can devote your full attention to the road.
- When crossing the street, cross only at intersections and try to use marked crosswalks as often as possible. Remember to walk your bicycle across busy intersections.
- Give vehicles ample time to make a complete stop before you step into a crosswalk; do not assume drivers see you.
- Bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Be courteous, share the street.
- Try not to ride at night or in bad weather but if you must, make sure a working headlamp and taillight are attached to your bicycle.
- If you ride your bicycle on the road, remember to ride your bicycle with traffic, and stay as close as possible to the right side of the road.
- When riding your bicycle alongside motorized vehicles, always use proper hand signals when turning and/or changing lanes.
- When traveling in groups, always ride your bicycle single file. Make sure to keep an eye out for people opening car doors.

*We want residents to enjoy this summer season to the fullest by exercising these easy tips to ensure their safety!*

## Cadet Graduates

We would like to congratulate our very own Cadet Officers Denise Gutierrez and Enriquez Martinez from graduating high school. Denise Gutierrez, who graduated from Santa Fe High School, joined the Cadet program in April 2018 and completed 500 volunteer hours. She recently enlisted in the Marine Corps. Enrique Martinez, who graduated from Southeast Academy High School, has been in the Cadet program since January 2014, and has completed over 1,185 volunteer hours. Enrique has been offered admission to University of California, Berkeley.

We want to thank both Cadets for their years of service and commitment to keeping our community safe. Congratulations to them both and we wish them much success!



## Responses to Loud Parties/Gatherings

Be courteous of your neighbors!! Loud disruptive music/noise associated with a gathering/party can negatively impact the quality of life of our residents. When any loud or unruly gathering/party occurs, the person in charge of the premises and/or the event is held liable for the cost of providing Sheriff personnel during a second response to that location; this can ultimately result in a bill of thousands of dollars depending on number of personnel and resources. On the first time responding to said location, Deputies will issue a warning to the responsible party to control the disturbance and help him/her avoid the bill for subsequent Sheriff responses.

If you have any questions, please contact Public Safety at 562-929-5732.



# COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE

• Safer at Home •

## Keep Your Pets Vaccinations Current, Attend our Drive-Thru Clinic

Is your pet due for vaccines? The City of Norwalk in partnership with Vet Care will be hosting a Drive-Thru Vaccination Clinic on Friday, July 10 from 3 – 7 pm. In addition to vaccines, the following services will be available: fecal exams, de-worming, physical exams, micro-chipping, nail trimming, prescription flea control, and diagnostic testing. A vehicle and face covering is required to enter the drive-thru vaccination clinic. Vehicles may enter via Imperial Hwy and Volunteer Ave. For more information, call 1-800-988-8387.



## Save time when Renewing Pet License

Save time when renewing your pet license! Mail in your paperwork and payment to City of Norwalk Dog Licensing PO BOX 1030, Norwalk CA 90650. Remember, include your ID for senior discount, and the following certificates: rabies and sterility. Please only include check or money orders made payable to 'City of Norwalk.' Residents wishing to pay in person must make an appointment with Pet Licensing by calling 562-929-5711.

## • Easy Ways to Pay Your Water Bill •

Paying your water bill can be completed in numerous ways. Residents can visit our website <https://www.norwalk.org/i-want-to/pay-my-water-bill> to make electronic payments. You may also drop-off payments. Please include the statement, check/money order (made payable to City of Norwalk), and place all items in an envelope. Documentations can be dropped off in the payment box at City Hall. Residents wishing to come in person must make an appointment by calling Utility Billing at 562-929-5766.



## Recycling Makes "Cents"

Why Recycle Beverage Containers? We all use them; plus, every bottle and can you recycle makes a difference! Just in the United States, we use approximately 2.5 millions of plastic bottles every hour. Unfortunately, if a plastic bottle ends up in a landfill rather than recycled, it will take almost 700 years to break down. Each of us has a role to play in reducing our impact on the environment, and our choices matter.

### Benefits of Recycling Beverage Containers

- Saves Space in our Landfills
- Conserves Natural Resources
- Reduces Greenhouse Emissions
- Creates Jobs

Thanks to the California Redemption Value incentive, more than 300 billion aluminum, glass, and plastic beverage containers have been recycled since the program began in 1987.

Recycling bottles and cans is EASY; simply place any CRV containers in your blue lid recycling container. Even better, you can redeem your containers for cash by taking to a buy-back center.

- Aluminum Cans
- Plastic Bottles
- Glass Bottles

Remember, when you recycle, you not only protect the environment, but you also keep our community clean and green! For more information, please call 1-800-RECYCLE.

## FREE Summer Lunch Program

Children 18 years and younger will be invited to join the Recreation and Park Services Department from July 7-August 8, 2020, for a "Grab-N-Go Lunch" program at the parks. The City, in conjunction with the County of Los Angeles, will begin offering a free, nutritious meal at three park sites: Gerdes Park, Hermosillo Park and Norwalk Park. The program will take place Tuesday-Saturday from 12:30-1:30 p.m.



## Finding Activities for Mental & Physical Wellness

The outbreak of COVID-19 has shown that reaction to stress can be displayed differently based on a number of factors such as an individual's background, age and values. Managing stress levels is imperative to one's mental and physical wellness. Here are a few activities to help you and your loved maintain positive mental and physical wellness:

- Walking around the block with members of your household (while wearing face coverings)
- Taking bike/skate/skateboarding trips around your local neighborhood or designated parks
- Visiting a local Norwalk park to throw a Frisbee or fly a kite
- Hosting outdoor movies with members of your household
- Pick up new hobbies, such as gardening

If you are experiencing stress and need to speak to a counselor/support staff, call the Disaster Distress Helpline 24/7 at 1-800-985-5990. For Español, press #2.

## Stay Fresh at the Cooling Center



As we approach the hot summer months, the City will be activating its Cooling Centers. The Senior Center and Social Services Center serve as the City's designated Cooling Centers, and are activated during heat advisories. When activated, we ask residents to wear face coverings and call in advance to make a reservation, 562-929-5580.

## Norwalk Library Updates

### sidewalk service

AT SELECT LIBRARIES STARTING JUNE 8

1. Wait until your holds are ready.
2. Park in a Holds Pickup spot.
3. Call the number on the sign.
4. Follow staff instructions.
5. Enjoy your items!
6. Return them to a bookdrop.

[LACountyLibrary.org/express-service](https://LACountyLibrary.org/express-service)

