

NorwalkNow

norwalk.org The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, California June 2020, Volume 41, #6



COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE

• Safer at Home •

Observing Memorial Day Virtually



For years, Norwalk has honored fallen heroes by hosting a public event, drawing in hundreds of veterans and their families. To respect social distancing, while paying homage to our heroes, the City held a virtual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 25. The virtual commemoration featured messages from City Council, a clip from Ronald Reagan, and ceremonial Laying of the Wreath. If you missed the video's unveiling, you can still watch it on the City's Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and the local access channel.

On the Road to Recovery

Los Angeles County residents came together to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by following the Safer at Home guidelines. Evidence suggests that the restrictions imposed by the Health Order have slowed the rate of COVID-19 community transmission. As part of reopening planning efforts, the Department of Public Health revealed the Roadmap to Recovery, a phased approach to reopening as safely as possible.

The Five Stage Reopening Process:

Stage One

- Safer at Home Order • Planning for Recovery

Stage Two

Stage Two: Step One - May 8

- Florists, some retailers, car dealerships
- Golf courses, trails

Stage Two: Step Two - May 13

- Retail businesses • Outdoor recreation areas
- Low-risk businesses (manufacturers, offices)

Stage Three (TBD)

- Higher risk businesses • Colleges & universities
- Movie theatres and bowling alleys • K-12 schools

Stage Four (TBD)

- Entertainment Venues • Large conventions
- Sporting & Spectator events

Stage Five (TBD)

- Fully normal operations

Businesses that reopen will need to adhere to protocols that maximize distancing and infection control to keep employees and customers as safe as possible.

**Information from the County and Health Department changes on an ongoing basis*

Congratulations Class of 2020

COVID-19 has disrupted our daily lives, putting us in an unprecedented situation, none more so than you and your classmates. Lifetime moments like prom night, thesis presentations, and time with your mentors and teachers have been altered. Most heartbreaking, is missing an important rite of passage, walking across a stage to accept your diploma in front of family and friends.

Graduates, keep in mind what you have lost in memories you have gained in perseverance and strength that will take you far on your future journey.



When you reflect on this year, we hope what stands out to you over everything else, is the resilience you and your fellow classmates exhibited. You have thrived under the most difficult of circumstances perfectly highlighting what it is to be #NorwalkStrong.

We join your parents, teachers, administrators and school boards in applauding your hard work and dedication.

The entire Norwalk community extends the Class of 2020 our deepest congratulations. We wish you the best on

all your future endeavors!

City Continues to Respond to COVID-19

As we continue adjusting our lives to COVID-19, the City's number one priority remains unchanged—your safety and well-being.

Please see below for the most recent updates:

Modified City Hall Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday from 8 am – 6 pm.

Modified Norwalk's COVID-19 Hotline Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday from 8 am – 6 pm.



We have continued to host Council Meetings via teleconference. Residents can submit comments by email at publiccomments@norwalkca.gov or by phone by calling into the GoToMeeting at 786-535-3211 to speak on an item under Oral Communications.

Families can also enjoy the parks as the

green areas have reopened. Facilities, and playgrounds at local parks remain closed.

To continue keeping our streets clean, the City has resumed enforcement for street sweeping and preferential parking on June 1.

For more information, visit norwalk.org.

Nuestra prioridad número uno sigue siendo la seguridad y el bienestar de la comunidad. Los más recientes cambios de la ciudad incluyen: modificación de horario de operación de la municipalidad – lunes a jueves de 8 am – 6 pm; modificación de la línea directa del coronavirus – lunes a jueves de 8 am – 6 pm; reabrir las áreas verdes en los parques; y re-implementación de multas de estacionamiento cuando pase la barredora y estacionamiento preferencial.

Loans Available for Norwalk Businesses

COVID-19 has impacted all of our community, especially our local businesses. To our entrepreneurs and business owners, we are here to help you through this pandemic. Utilizing funds from the CARES Act by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, we will be providing loans

of up to \$10,000. The loans will be available to businesses who meet the qualifications and may be used for utilities and rent/mortgage of the business. To learn more about the loan program and eligibility, please visit <https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/guide-to-the-cares-act>.

Norwalk City Hall Modified Hours

Essential services only available by appointment on Tuesdays.

Hotline 562-929-5760

Norwalk City Council

Mayor Jennifer Perez
Vice Mayor Tony Ayala
Councilmember Rick Ramirez
Councilmember Margarita L. Rios
Councilmember Ana Valencia

City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1139
Whittier, CA

To Postal Patron

Improving Our Infrastructure

CDBG Local Streets



Residents near the Five Points area of Norwalk, between Rosecrans and Pioneer, will see newly repaved streets. As part of the CDBG Local Streets Project, the City will be rehabilitating the local streets. The federally funded project includes: repaving, curb and gutter repairs, and upgrading accessibility ramps. Residents with questions may call the Engineering Department at 562-929-5723.

Gerdes Parking Lot



The Gerdes Park Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project has been completed! Work began in March and the improvements included pavement repairs, the addition of one more accessible parking spot and new sidewalk and curb ramps to bring the parking lot into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The entire asphalt parking lot surface was treated with a coat of slurry seal to protect it from deterioration. The final step included minor turf grading. The project reflects the City's ongoing commitment to enhance our parks for the enjoyment of Norwalk families.

Protecting Yourself when Running Essential Services

Even though we are on the road to recovery and State and County orders are being modified, the risk of COVID-19 remains high. We want

to urge our community to take necessary precautions to protect their health and help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Shopping for food and other household essentials

- Order food and other items online for home delivery or curbside pickup, if possible.
- Only visit the grocery store, or other stores selling household essentials, in person when you absolutely need to. This will limit your potential exposure to others and the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others while shopping and in lines.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when out in public.
- When you do have to visit in person, go during hours when fewer people will be there. For example, early morning or late night.
- If you are at higher risk for severe illness, find out if the store has special hours for people at higher risk. (People at higher risk include adults 65 or older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions).
- Disinfect the shopping cart; use disinfecting wipes if available.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- If possible, use touchless payment (pay without touching money, a card, or a keypad). If you must handle money, a card, or use a keypad, use hand sanitizer right after paying.
- After leaving the store, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds as soon as you get home.

Accepting deliveries and takeout orders

- Pay online or on the phone when you order, if possible.
- Accept deliveries without in-person contact whenever possible. Ask for deliveries to be left in a safe spot outside your house, such as your front porch. Otherwise, stay at least 6 feet away from the delivery person.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after accepting deliveries or collecting mail.

Getting Gasoline

- Use disinfecting wipes on handles and buttons before you touch them, if available.
- After fueling, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when you get home or somewhere with soap and water.

Banking

- Bank online or over the phone when possible.
- If you must visit the bank, use the drive through ATM, if one is available. Clean the ATM keyboard with a disinfecting wipe, if available, before you use it.
- When you are done, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds as soon as you get home.

Going to the Hospital or Pharmacy

- Use telemedicine, if available, or communicate with your doctor or nurse by phone or email.
- If possible, call prescription orders in ahead of time. Use drive thru windows, curbside services, or mail order, if available.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when you have to go out in public.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others while inside and in lines.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- When paying, use touchless payment methods if possible. If you cannot use touchless payment, sanitize your hands after paying with card, cash, or check. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home.

Source: Centers for Disease Control

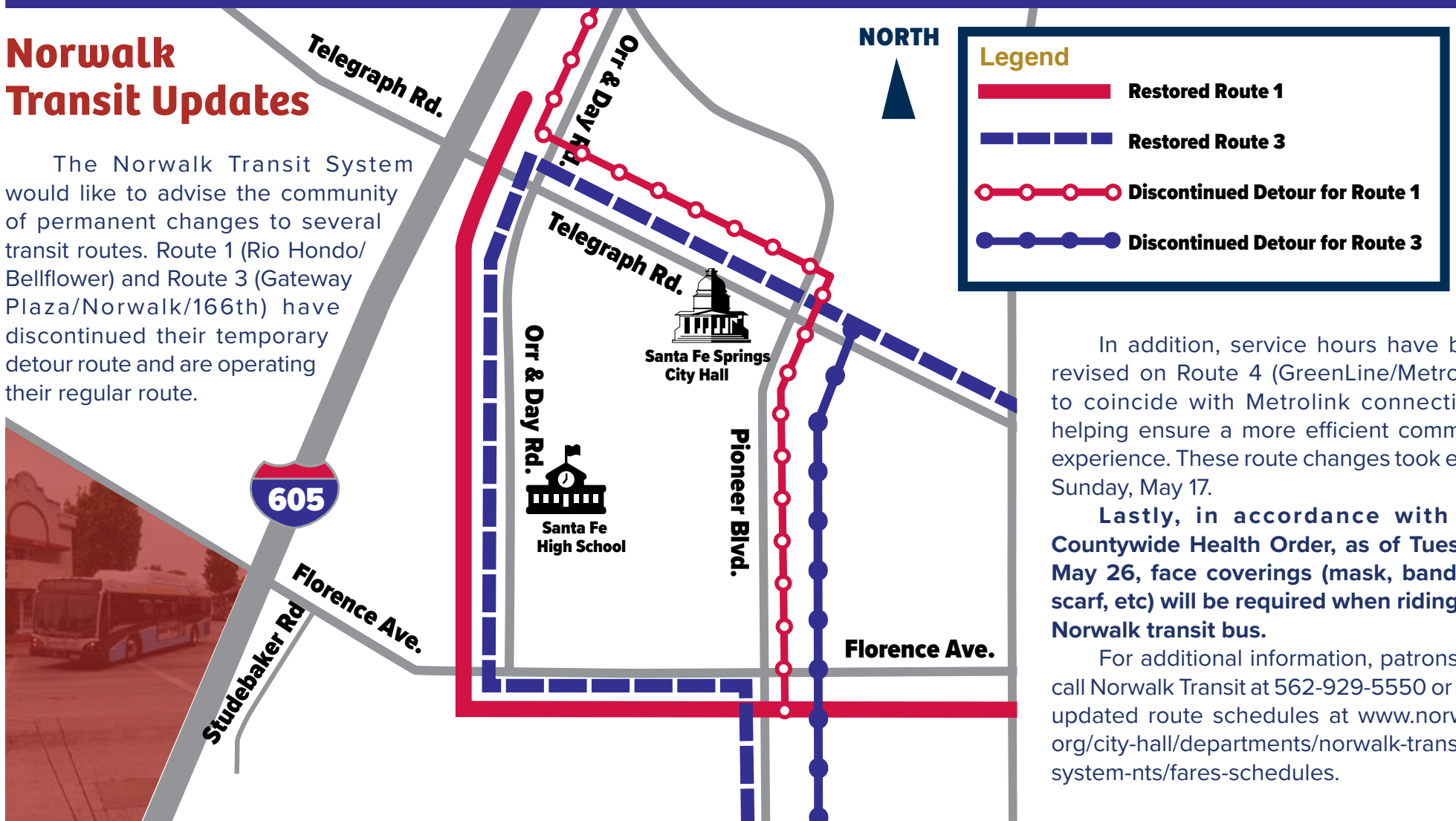


Route 1 & 3 Detour Discontinued

Effective May 17, 2020, Route 1 & 3 will resume regular route as shown on map.

Norwalk Transit Updates

The Norwalk Transit System would like to advise the community of permanent changes to several transit routes. Route 1 (Rio Hondo/Bellflower) and Route 3 (Gateway Plaza/Norwalk/166th) have discontinued their temporary detour route and are operating their regular route.



In addition, service hours have been revised on Route 4 (GreenLine/Metrolink) to coincide with Metrolink connections, helping ensure a more efficient commuter experience. These route changes took effect Sunday, May 17.

Lastly, in accordance with the Countywide Health Order, as of Tuesday, May 26, face coverings (mask, bandana, scarf, etc) will be required when riding any Norwalk transit bus.

For additional information, patrons can call Norwalk Transit at 562-929-5550 or view updated route schedules at www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/norwalk-transit-system-nts/fares-schedules.



COMMUNITY SAFETYZONE

Celebrate 4th of July Responsibly!

Firework Regulations

The City of Norwalk Public Safety Department wants you and your family to enjoy 4th of July in a safe and responsible way, in compliance with the existing Health Orders through this pandemic. Please note the City has a ZERO tolerance policy for illegal fireworks. Individuals will be held accountable for the discharge, possession, storage, and sales of illegal fireworks on their properties. If illegal fireworks are found upon or used at your residence or property you have control of, you will be considered in violation and subject to maximum fines.

Additional rules and regulations to consider:

- Fireworks may ONLY be possessed from 10 a.m. July 1st through 10 p.m. July 4th.
- Fireworks may ONLY be discharged between 10 am – 10 pm from July 1st – July 4th. Fireworks are PROHIBITED any other day.
- Only Safe and Sane fireworks can be discharged in the City of Norwalk.
- Fireworks can only be sold July 1st to July 4th, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- You must be 18 years of age or older to purchase fireworks. Those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible person 21 years of age or older.
- No minor under the age of 18 shall possess, fire, set off, discharge, or use any fireworks unless they are physically supervised by a person over the age of 21.
- Minors under the age of 18 who are in possession of fireworks and not directly supervised by someone 21 years of age or older can have those fireworks confiscated by any law enforcement officer, Fire Department employee or any adult. The confiscated fireworks must be delivered to the Fire Department within one hour after confiscation.
- No one shall possess or discharge fireworks on City property, including City parks, streets, and sidewalks, unless a permit has been issued.
- Offenders will be subject to fines ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The City of Norwalk is committed to the safety of the community. The zero tolerance approach will ensure all violators are held accountable.
- Community members may report illegal fireworks activity anonymously at 562-929-5333.

Para la seguridad de la comunidad, las sanciones sobre el uso de fuegos artificiales ilegales se han extendido a los propietarios (o inquilinos) y han aumentado en costo. Para reportar fuegos artificiales ilegales, llame al 562-929-5333.

Lawn Upkeep



The City would like to remind residents to please maintain your lawn and properties. During this pandemic, residents are still allowed to conduct yard work outdoors and are encouraged to do so. If you rely on commercial landscaping services, please be advised that they are still allowed to conduct services. Even during this challenging time, it remains important for all residents to maintain one's property.

- Premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from any weeds, grass overgrowth.
- Premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from the accumulation of debris and garbage.

If your neighbor is elderly or physically unable to mow their own lawn, please consider offering help. This random act of kindness will be greatly appreciated, especially during these challenging times. Good neighbors make great communities!



Pick up after your pets!

Be helpful in keeping our city clean and beautiful

Failure to properly dispose of pet waste is a nuisance, can present a health and safety hazard, and is prohibited under Norwalk Municipal Code 6.12.050. Pet waste can also end up in the street where it can enter the storm drain, ultimately leading to the ocean.

By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can demonstrate courtesy and consideration, and contribute to keeping your neighborhood clean and safe.

2020 ART CONTEST SAY NO TO DANGEROUS FIREWORKS!

Calling all Norwalk youth!! You are invited to participate in our annual Say No to Dangerous Fireworks art contest. This contest will showcase local youth's artistic skills as they display why they say no to the use of dangerous fireworks. It's simple and easy!!

All you need is a blank 8 1/2" by 11" plain piece of paper and your creativity!



1. Write your message: Why do YOU and your family say no to dangerous fireworks?



2. Use your creativity: Draw, paint, or color artwork that delivers your message.



Deadline: June 25, 2020, by 6 p.m.

Announcement of winning entries

will take place on the City's social media on June 30, 2020.

Winners will be selected by age category (elementary, middle, and high school).

Entry forms must include the following:

- Artist's name, home phone number, address
- Name of the school they attend

Winners will be recognized on the City's social media as well as receive a special Public Safety prize!

All submissions will be kept by the City for display at City Hall. If a participant wishes to have his/her entry returned, please contact the Public Safety Department at (562) 929-5732.

Participants must be residents of Norwalk, and under the age of 18.

Submissions must be delivered by mail to:

City Hall, Public Safety Department, 12700 Norwalk Blvd., Room 15

If unable to mail, please place in box outside of Public Safety Office, Room 15 (Monday - Thursday, 8 am - 6 pm)

COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE

. Safer at Home .

Get Fresh Produce & More, Visit the Farmers Market



There's nothing like having farm fresh fruits and veggies. Support our local Farmers Market and enjoy juicy apples, earthy potatoes and an assortment of nuts and dried fruit. The Norwalk Farmers Market is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 am – 1 pm at 11688 Alondra Blvd. Want to support the Farmers Market but are unable to go in-person? The Norwalk Farmers Market is offering a FARM BOX for delivery or pickup. The FARM BOX includes eggs, oranges, strawberries, kale, lettuce and carrots. For more information about the Norwalk Farmers Market, visit their page on Facebook @NorwalkFM.

Scholarships Available for High School Seniors

Calling all high school seniors in Norwalk who have an interest in environmental issues! The City of Norwalk will be awarding \$1,000 scholarships to five high school seniors who are active in the community and show an interest in environmental issues. Interested students should submit completed applications by 6 pm on June 11. For questions, call 562-929-5964 or email recycling@norwalkca.gov.

Eligibility

- Must be a senior attending a public/private high school
- Must reside in Norwalk
- Minimum 2.0 GPA

Application

- Download application by visiting the Environmental and Recycling Services webpage at norwalk.org
- Essay and unofficial transcript with GPA required
- Submit completed application by 6 pm, June 11
- Applications accepted via email only to recycling@norwalkca.gov

Scholarship

Can be used towards registration/tuition fees

Purchases related to school expenses will be approved at discretion of Norwalk staff.



Census Corner

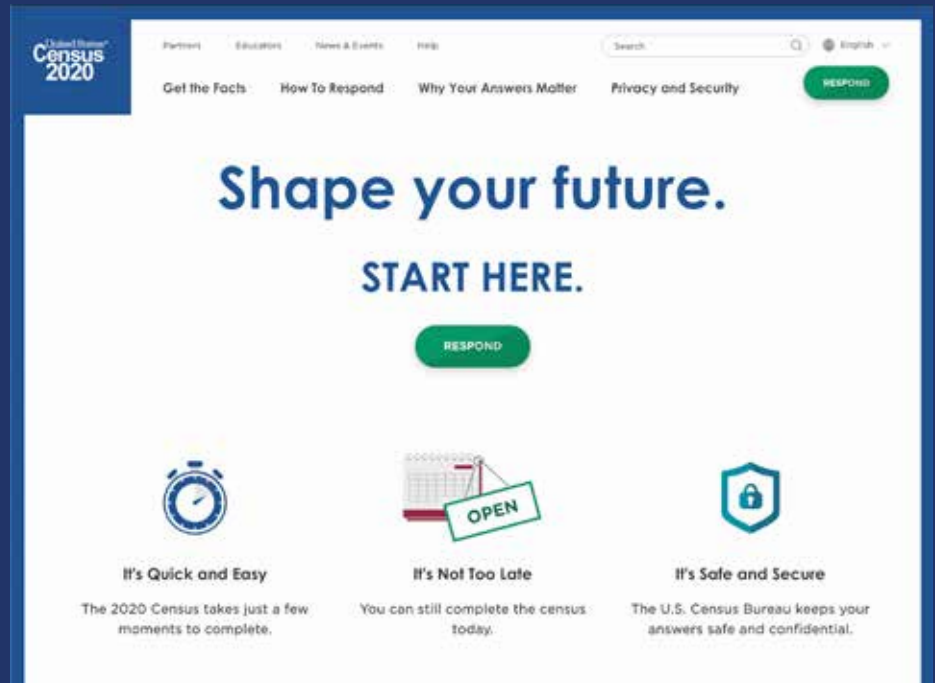


Be Counted. Our Community's Health & Safety Count on it!

Participating in the 2020 Census is critical for the safety and health of our community. Census responses are used to produce statistics about how many people live in what areas. When those statistics are combined with other data, our elected officials are better equipped to make decisions about how to allocate billions of dollars in federal funds for critical public services, including hospitals and emergency response services.

Let's each do our part to ensure our essential services get adequate funding to be able to serve us and our loved ones when we need them.

You can 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.



#NorwalkStrong



The COVID-19 pandemic has not slowed the City's Senior Food Nutrition Program. With a commitment to serve our senior population, the Senior Center has delivered nearly 15,000 meals. The Senior Food Delivery Program provides seniors, who are unable to leave their homes, with a nutritious meal. For more information on the Senior Food Delivery Program, call 562-929-5580.

Stay Fresh at the Cooling Centers



As we approach the hot summer month, 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.

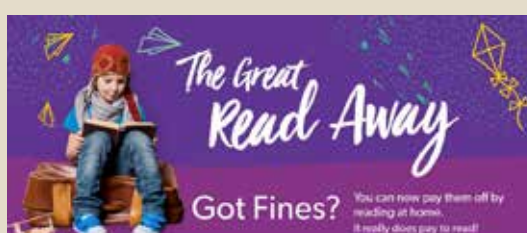
Library Updates



Spring & Summer Discovery Program Available Online

As a precautionary measure against COVID-19, Norwalk Library and Alondra Library remain closed until further notice. We invite

residents of all ages to join the online Spring and Summer Discovery Program to continue reading and participating in virtual activities. Please visit LACountyLibrary.org/summer-discovery to register. Start logging your reading, write reviews, and be entered to win an end-of-summer prize. The Spring and Summer Discovery Program is now available through August 3.



Participate in the Great Read Away Reduce Fines

Are you 21 or under? Have fines with your local library? We can help! The Great Read Away is now

online and you can participate from the comfort of your own home. For every hour spent reading, \$5 in fines will be removed from your account. Visit LACountyLibrary.org/readaway to start reading away your fines. For further details, contact Norwalk Library at 562-868-0775 or Alondra Library at 562-868-7771.

Share your latest reads and activities with LA County Library on social media by tagging @LACountyLibrary and using #LibraryAtHome.