

# NorwalkNow

[norwalk.org](http://norwalk.org) The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, California October 2020, Volume 41, #10



COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE • Safer at Home

## Governor Newsom's Emergency Powers Affect Norwalk

For the third time in six months, the State of California has targeted the City of Norwalk with its "emergency powers" in their response to challenges created by COVID-19.

In April, Los Angeles County made efforts to temporarily place people experiencing homelessness, considered vulnerable to COVID-19, at the Saddleback Motel in Norwalk. On September 10th, the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) informed Norwalk residents of its intent to renovate and possibly house COVID-19 negative patients at the California Youth Authority (CYA) facility located on Bloomfield Avenue. Now, Los Angeles County officials have informed the City of its intent to purchase the Motel

6 on Rosecrans Avenue, as part of Governor Newsom's Project Homekey. Unfortunately, the City has no legal recourse to prevent the State from exercising its "emergency powers."



In response, the City Council has made the following attempts to address these issues with both state and county officials:

- In April, the City Council voted unanimously to impose a temporary ban to prevent motel conversions for Project Roomkey without prior City approval.
- In July, the City Council unanimously passed an emergency ordinance that requires any public agency to consult with the City prior to placing a homeless or COVID-19 facility in Norwalk.
- In September, City officials met with representatives at Metropolitan State Hospital and DSH to arrange a town hall meeting to ensure residents were fully informed regarding their plans for possibly re-opening of the CYA facility.
- Last week, in response to the County's efforts to purchase Motel 6 on Rosecrans Avenue, the City informed County officials regarding the negative impact on Norwalk resources such action would have. The City recommended the County cease their efforts in purchasing the hotel for that purpose.

The City of Norwalk has always been a willing participant in doing its fair share in its fight against homelessness. The City's own homelessness taskforce has directly contributed to the rapid decrease in the latest homeless count by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

In order to keep residents informed of the CYA facility, the City has requested an additional town hall meeting on **October 8, 2020, from 6 pm to 7 pm**. Details regarding this event will be on our website and social media page. You can access our website at [www.norwalk.org](http://www.norwalk.org) and Facebook page @cityofnorwalkca.

*El condado de Los Angeles considera la adquisición del Motel 6 en Rosecrans en Norwalk para albergar a personas sin hogar como parte del proyecto Homekey.*

## Paint Norwalk PINK

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month, the City is once again partnering with the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the American Cancer Society to raise awareness about preventative screenings, treatments and resources available.

The campaigns, Paint the Town Pink and Real Men Wear Pink, aim to raise funds to combat the disease.

Norwalk's very own City Manager, Jesus Gomez, is participating in the Paint the Town Pink, where he will challenge other cities and participants in fundraising efforts. In addition, Norwalk's Sheriff Captain James Tatreau and Cerritos College President, Dr. Jose Fierro will also be leading their own Real Men Wear Pink teams!

Interested in supporting Paint the Town Pink and Real Men Wear Pink? Visit these Chamber restaurants, where portion of their proceeds will benefit the campaigns!

Look for additional PINK throughout the City for more fundraising opportunities!



October 8  
Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant



October 15 & 29  
So-Cal Pizza



October 21  
Chick-fil-A



The Halloween season is upon us! We may not be celebrating together, like we usually do, on the City Hall lawn, but we have several events lined up for you and your family to have a ghoulish good time!

**Halloween Drive Through Event & Car Decorating Contest**  
Saturday, October 31 • 5 - 8 pm • Norwalk City Hall Parking Lot  
Free to attend, but participants must pre-register.

Show off your creativity by decorating your car before coming down to City Hall for the Halloween Drive Through event.

**Halloween Pop-Up**  
October 12-26

Stop by our Halloween Pop-Up Tents for a free Halloween mask giveaway! Tents will be popping up throughout our parks and the times and locations won't be disclosed until the day of the event; so make sure to follow @NorwalkSportsComplex and @reknorwalk.

**Community Scarecrow Contest**  
For easy registration, open your camera phone and point it here.



Brush off those creative cobwebs and join the holiday excitement by creating an original, fun, and creative scarecrow.

**Important Dates**

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 9  
Scarecrow Display: Friday, October 23-November 13  
Judging: Friday, October 23-November 4  
Winners Announced: Monday, November 9 on Social Media

Homes and businesses will be judged separately, with winners chosen in the following categories: People's Choice, Traditional, Most Original, and Best Overall Display.

Our community can get in on the fun by choosing their favorites! We'll have online judging taking place October 23 to November 4. For more info, visit [norwalk.org](http://norwalk.org).

### 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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# NEW Water Utility Billing Payment System

Pay your bills faster, easier, more conveniently, and securely with the City of Norwalk's NEW online and phone payment system.

## New Features

- **One-Time Payment** – Allows for quick online payment without registering for an account. To use this feature, visit <https://ipn.paymentus.com/rotp/nrwk>
- **Registered Account** – Allows for paying multiple accounts online, viewing payment history, and setting up automatic payments, and securely saving payment information. To use this feature visit <https://ipn.paymentus.com/cp/nrwk>
- **Payment Methods Accepted** – Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Electronic Checks.
- **Interactive Voice Response** – Pay bills over the phone by calling 888-647-2502.

**For more information, call the Norwalk Water Billing Division at 562-929-5766.**

**Convenience charges will be removed from the NEW payment system.**

Page sus facturas más rápido, y de manera más conveniente con el NUEVO sistema de pago en línea <https://ipn.paymentus.com/cp/nrwk>

# Keeping Norwalk Safe & Clean!

Did you know that we have a maintenance team dedicated to the removal of graffiti 7 days a week? Staff remove graffiti on a request basis, and actively look for tags along our thoroughfares or graffiti "hot spots."

Help us keep Norwalk safe and clean by reporting graffiti as soon as you see it. We offer graffiti removal from buildings, medians, light poles, signals, curbs and signs in the public right of way. We make all efforts to remove graffiti within 48 hours after it is reported.



**Reporting Graffiti: Via the Norwalk Connects app  
Call the Graffiti Hotline at 562-929-5555  
Send an email to [publicservices@norwalkca.gov](mailto:publicservices@norwalkca.gov)**

# Assisting Those in Need, Keeping Community Safe

The City of Norwalk is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our community for a high quality of life. Like most cities throughout our state, homelessness has been a critical issue in Norwalk. In 2018, the City released an Adopted Homeless Plan recognizing the need for a strategic approach to meet the needs of the homeless community and residents. The plan serves as a guide to address homelessness with ethical policies and a team of knowledgeable individuals who connect individuals to resources.

Despite the impacts brought by COVID-19, our City Council remains dedicated to addressing this issue by allocating staff and resources, including \$345,000.

Our proactive approach and collaboration with a task force has had positive results.

Through our Homeless Operation Prevention and Engagement (HOPE) team, the City continues to actively provide services to people experiencing homelessness, while working to keep areas safe and clean. The HOPE team removes transient encampments on a daily basis, and monitors these locations in order to provide resources and deter individuals from returning. In addition, the Public Safety and Public Services Departments continue to promptly respond to illegal dumping, vandalism and nuisance activity that may contribute to camp sites.



# New Program Facilitates Assistance Between Neighbors



During these unprecedented times, it is important as a community to stay connected and help each other, especially our seniors. To help facilitate assistance and communication between residents, the City of Norwalk is introducing the **Connect, Call, and Care Community Program**. Residents can request a "Connected Community" packet for themselves, a neighbor or a loved one. These packets include three 11" x 17" color cards. Seniors will be advised to place the appropriate card in a window so that their neighbors know how they are doing. If neighbors are unable to help at that moment, they can call the Norwalk Senior Center and staff will follow up with the senior.

## These cards are for non-emergencies.

- **Green:** Indicates that the senior is doing well and does not require assistance.
- **Yellow:** Indicates that the senior has a non-urgent matter and may need some help in resolving it.  
*Example: "I'm feeling very isolated and can use someone to talk to."*
- **Red:** Indicates the senior has an urgent, non-emergency matter and will need assistance to resolve the issue soon.  
*Example: "I am running low on food and have no way to go grocery shopping."*

For more information please contact the Senior Center at 562-929-5580 or [seniorcenter@norwalkca.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@norwalkca.gov)

*Durante tiempos difíciles, es importante como comunidad permanecer conectados y ayudarse unos a otros, especialmente a nuestras personas mayores. Para ayudar a facilitar la comunicación entre vecinos, la Ciudad está presentando el Programa Comunitario "Connect, Call y Care" (Conectar, Llamar y Asistir). Los residentes pueden solicitar un paquete de "Comunidad Conectada" para ellos mismos o un ser querido. Estos paquetes incluyen tres tarjetas de colores que las personas mayores pueden colocar en sus ventanas para que sus vecinos sepan cómo están. Si la persona mayor necesita ayuda pero su vecino no puede ayudar en ese momento, pueden llamar al Centro de Personas Mayores para solicitar asistencia. Para más información, llame al 562-929-5580.*





# COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE

## National Night Out 2020



The Norwalk Public Safety Department and Norwalk Sheriff Station invite you to participate in this year's National Night Out on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 in a revised COVID-safe manner. To ensure the safety of our community, we ask for your participation in this year's National Night Out campaign by simply turning on your porch light from 6 to 8 p.m.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood comradery to help make neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live. By participating in National Night Out, you can help strengthen neighborhood spirit and send a message to criminals that your neighborhoods are organized and unified!

## Report Coyote Sightings



The Public Safety Department would like to remind residents to report coyote sightings to us. You can report sightings using our online form on the City website under, Public Safety - Coyote Reporting ([www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/public-safety/](http://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/public-safety/)

coyote-awareness/coyote-reporting), Norwalk Connects app, or by calling the Public Safety Office at 562-929-5732. Reporting the coyote sightings/interactions will help the City document coyote behaviors, identify hotspots, and utilize data to generate maps for residents on a regular basis.

Visit our website under Public Safety-Coyote Information for additional resources.

## Great Shake Out 2020

On Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 10:15 a.m., the City will be participating in the Great ShakeOut, the world's largest earthquake drill, practicing "**DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON**," the recommended technique to protect oneself during an earthquake. We encourage all residents and businesses to participate in this nation-wide drill at their homes and facilities.

**• During an earthquake, you may only have seconds to protect yourself before strong shaking knocks you down -- or drops something on you. Most earthquake-related injuries are caused by falling and flying objects, so once the shaking starts, it is extremely important that you move as little as possible, reach a safe place as quickly as possible, and take cover wherever and however you can.**

**• Look around you now to identify safe places to take cover, such as under a sturdy piece of furniture in your home, office or school, so that when an earthquake happens, you can respond quickly. Also, keep an eye out for hazards like objects hanging from walls or heavy, unsecured items like bookcases and file cabinets.**

On the day of the drill or during an actual earthquake, if you are inside a building: **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!), Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops.

Stay indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. In most buildings in California, you are safer if you stay where you are until the earthquake is over.

If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, you should find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, streetlights and power lines, then **DROP** to the ground and **COVER** your head and neck with your arms. Stay there until the shaking stops.

If you are driving, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Once the shaking stops, proceed with caution and avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged.

For more information on the Great ShakeOut and additional earthquake safety tips, please visit [www.shakeout.org/california/](http://www.shakeout.org/california/)



## Stay Vigilant to Prevent Auto Theft

Most vehicle break-ins occur because perpetrators see an opportunity. Do not give them any reason to believe they can make you a victim!

It is a common tactic for thieves to walk through neighborhoods checking doors of vehicles to see if they were left unlocked. Once they find a vehicle that is unlocked, it only takes them moments to take valuables or even personal documents.

By taking these following steps, you may prevent your vehicle from falling victim to theft:

- **Do not leave your key inside the vehicle, even if it is not in plain sight.**
- **Never leave your vehicle running or unattended.**
- **Park in well-lit areas whenever possible.**
- **Never leave valuables in your vehicle.**
- **Make sure every door is locked, windows are rolled up, and the alarm is set before you walk away**

If you see anything suspicious or unusual in your neighborhood call the Norwalk Sheriff's Station to report the activity at 562-863-8711.

## Internet Safety Tips

Due to recent distance learning a higher number of youth are using the internet. Whether they are checking their emails or social media accounts, now more than ever before, our youth are online. We would like to remind parents to stay vigilant and discuss internet safety. If not properly supervised, children are vulnerable to social engineering scams, and potentially being conned into revealing sensitive information about themselves and family, or even sharing compromising photographs of themselves. Below are some tips to protect your child from becoming a victim.

- **Speak to your child, no matter their age, about internet safety.**
- **Review applications on their phone that request access to their photos, videos, and messaging capabilities**
- **Make sure you have privacy settings so that applications and websites are scanned**
- **Monitor your child's internet; keep devices in an open, common room of the house. Contact your internet service provider to learn how to enable parental controls**
- **Check your child's social media accounts to ensure they are not sharing personal information such as address, phone number, or any other private information**
- **Make sure children know that anyone who asks a child to engage in sexually explicit activity online should be reported to a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult and law enforcement.**

For additional information, please visit [LASD.org](http://LASD.org) for additional resources. CyberTips can be reported to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) website at <https://report.cybertip.org/>

Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department



# COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE

• Safer at Home •



## Save the Date Veterans Day Virtual Ceremony

While COVID-19 continues to modify our in-person gatherings, the City of Norwalk will honor our uniformed men and women via a virtual Veterans Day Ceremony. Please tune in on Wednesday, November 11 at 11 am on Facebook, Instagram and our local access channel.



## Green Waste Recycling



Many residents take pride in maintaining their homes and enjoy working on their yards and gardens. Thanks to our Residential Green Waste Recycling Program, a lot of the material you'll be left with after a busy afternoon doing yard work can be recycled and reused as compost, helping to save space in our landfills.

To make sure that we all benefit from our collective efforts to recycle, we'd like to remind you that not all yard waste is the same! In other words, not everything found in your yard should be placed in your green containers.

### These items can be placed in your green waste containers:

Branches      Leaves      Flowers  
Tree trimmings      Brush      Untreated lumber, scrap wood & plywood

### The following items should not be placed green waste containers. Rather, they should be disposed of in your black trash containers.

Rocks & Dirt      Pet Waste  
Bird of Paradise or Palm Fronds      Foam

WHY? Unfortunately, these items cannot be reused as compost. What's worse? By placing these items in your green waste containers, the entire load may be considered contaminated.

Thank you for keeping our community clean and green! For more info, please call Athens Services at 888-336-6100.

## Kudos Given to one of our Own



The Norwalk Transit System (NTS) is committed to providing the community with quality, efficient and safe transit services. One member of our Transit team, Coach Operator John Ybarra, certainly delivers!

A patron, who is new to public transit, recently reached out to let us know what a great job John does greeting and assisting riders. The patron finds herself riding a NTS bus seven days a week and mentioned that John always shares a smile and a friendly greeting. Her feedback reaffirms the dedication that our staff have in delivering services to the public. Most importantly, it also illustrates how a simple act of kindness can make a huge impact on someone's day, particularly during difficult times.

John has been recognized for his exemplary customer service in the past. He won first place in the Customer Service Challenge at the 2018 International Bus Rodeo.

Thank you, John, for providing stellar customer service to our community!



## Resources to Help You Save Money During COVID-19

If you're facing financial hardships or are looking for ways to save during the COVID-19 emergency, these programs and tools may help. Southern California Edison (SCE) offers a number of payment assistance options for customers, including payment extensions and arrangements for customers who may need more time to pay their bill. You can also visit the SCE Help Paying Your Bill page to find out what options are available for you.

If someone in your home requires the use of electrically powered medical devices or equipment, you may qualify for their Medical Baseline Allowance program.

Learn more about how SCE is helping customers lower their electric bills during COVID-19. [www.sce.com/safety/coronavirus](http://www.sce.com/safety/coronavirus).

*Si está buscando formas de ahorrar durante la emergencia de COVID-19, existe programas que pueden ayudar con las facturas de utilidades. Southern California Edison (SCE) ofrece una serie de opciones de asistencia de pago para los clientes, incluso las extensiones de pago. Visita la página de Ayuda de SCE para averiguar qué opciones están disponibles.*



## Census Extended to October 31!

The Census has been extended to October 31st, but don't wait to complete your form! Take just 10 minutes to complete the Census form and you'll set a lasting impact in our community. Visit [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov) or call 844-330-2020.



## Scholarship Opportunities

Are you considering a career change? Now, may be a great time to explore technical training. The City of Norwalk recognizes the importance of education and training in building successful futures. To assist our community secure stable incomes, we are offering scholarships to assist low income residents with the cost of tuition in health sciences and medical technology or welding/metal fabrication. Training is offered through the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School (NLMAS) with funding provided by the Community Development Block Grant program.

The City will pay for the cost of tuition (class fees), and depending upon the program, the amount of assistance ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,600. The student is responsible for the cost of books, uniforms, background checks, and/or exams. Funding for the program is limited.

### To qualify:

You must be a Norwalk resident. Proof of residency is required.

You must be 18 years of age or older.

You must submit a completed application and essay.

Your total combined household income cannot exceed the following income limits:

Number in Household	Income Limit	Number in Household	Income Limit
1	\$63,100	5	\$97,350
2	\$72,100	6	\$104,550
3	\$81,100	7	\$111,750
4	\$90,100	8	\$118,950

Application deadline has been extended until funds are exhausted. For more information, contact the Housing & Neighborhood Development Division at 562-929-5951.

*La ciudad de Norwalk reconoce la importancia de la educación y la capacitación para construir futuros exitosos. Para ayudar a nuestra comunidad a asegurar ingresos estables, ofrecemos becas para ayudar a los residentes de bajos ingresos con el costo de la matrícula en ciencias de la salud, tecnología médica o soldadura / fabricación de metales. La capacitación se ofrece a través de la Escuela de Adultos de Norwalk-La Mirada (NLMAS). Las becas ayudarán con el costo de la matrícula y, dependiendo en el programa, la cantidad de asistencia varía entre \$ \$1,000 y \$ 2,600. El estudiante es responsable del costo de los libros, uniformes y exámenes.*

*Para calificar, el solicitante debe ser residente de Norwalk, tener 18 años o más, presentar una aplicación y ensayo, y cumplir con los requisitos de ingresos.*

*Aplique ahora ya que los fondos son limitados. Para más información, llame al 562-929-5951.*



## Free Printing Services Available at Norwalk Library

Norwalk Library • 12350 Imperial Hwy • (562) 868-0775

Need to print copies of your resume? Head on over to the Norwalk Library! Printing Pickup is now available at 46 LA County Library locations alongside holds pickup. Print up to 10 pages daily (Monday – Friday) from your device to our printers using our wireless printing service, and pick up with no contact.

Please visit [LACountyLibrary.org/Express-Service](http://LACountyLibrary.org/Express-Service) or call your nearest Sidewalk Service library for more information on how to arrange pickup for printing, books, movies, and more!



*Libraries are closed to the public, but staff are available to answer questions by phone Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.*