

NorwalkNow

norwalk.org The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, California December 2020, Volume 41, #12



COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE • Safer at Home

Emergency Powers Update

On October 27, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the purchase of eight area motels for the purpose of converting them to supportive housing units for formerly homeless residents.



One of the motels was the Motel 6, located at 10646 East Rosecrans Avenue in Norwalk. This is part of the State of California's Project Homekey effort to protect the state's homeless residents who are at high risk due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Norwalk City Council had authorized city administration to object to the County of Los Angeles regarding the state's takeover of local government authority. On September 23rd, the City of Norwalk raised important issues regarding the loss of city revenue and the violation of local land use and zoning. Unfortunately, the county's response was that the project (which can legally extend for 55 years) outweighed any negative effects this may have on the city and its residents.

Norwalk is not the only city being targeted

by the state and county. There are other municipalities that are facing similar issues regarding the state overstepping their authority. In Northern California, the City of Milpitas and Novato both objected on similar grounds. In response to concerns raised by the residents of Novato, the County of Marin is no longer purchasing the proposed hotel in their city. Residents in Milpitas filed a legal complaint against county housing officials and a nonprofit developer, who are behind the project, as well as the state's Housing and Community Development Department. The complaint includes claims that the project wastes taxpayer money, increases danger to residents, skips overdue process, and violates the California Environmental Quality Act.

There have been other attempts to

curtail Governor Newsom's exercising of his "emergency powers" due to the pandemic. Recently, in Sutter County, a Superior Court Judge tentatively ruled that one of the dozens of executive orders Newsom has issued overstepped his authority and was "an unconstitutional exercise of legislative power." She more broadly barred him "from exercising any power under the California Emergency Services Act which amends, alters, or changes existing statutory law or makes new statutory law or legislative policy."

The City of Norwalk is closely monitoring these judicial decisions in hopes that any response by the court regarding the state and county's action may shed light on how the city may hold them legally accountable to ensure Norwalk residents are both informed and protected.

Veteran Recognized with Parade



On Friday, October 23, long time resident Jack Sheehan was recognized by the City of Norwalk with his very own parade for his service to our nation and our community.

Mr. Sheehan proudly served in the United States Navy from 1952-1955. He served aboard the USS Frank E. Evans, which saw multiple deployments during the Korean War, providing rescue and patrol missions that coincided with the Korean armistice. The dedication and

commitment he displayed during his service led to his recognition by the Korean Government with a Peace Medal.

Mr. Sheehan has deep roots in Norwalk. He attended Excelsior High School, purchased his current home in 1956 and with his wife, Peggy, raised three children: Robert, Jack, and Thomas. He was an active community member and served as Cub Master for the Boy Scouts of America, League President for the Norwalk Little League, and Band Booster for the Norwalk High School. He tells us, "He wouldn't want to live anywhere but Norwalk".

Mr. Sheehan serves as an inspiration to his sons, who have praised his unconditional, love, wisdom and positive influence. These sentiments are also echoed by his neighbors, many of whom came out to join the parade.

Footage of the parade was highlighted in the City's Virtual Veterans Day Ceremony. You can see the ceremony, as well as video of the parade, on the City's YouTube page.

Celebrate the Holidays Safely

As new COVID-19 cases remain at alarming levels and the number of people hospitalized continue to increase, a temporary Los Angeles County Health Officer Order was issued that placed additional safety measures across sectors. The temporary order took effect Monday, November 30 and will remain in effect through December 20, 2020.

Additional safety modifications in the Order include:

- **Gatherings:** All public and private gatherings with individuals not in your household are prohibited, except for faith based services and protests, which are constitutionally protected rights.
- **Occupancy limits instituted at various businesses.**
- **Playgrounds at public parks are closed.**

With Christmas and the New Year approaching, we urge our community to celebrate safely. People are at the greatest risk of contracting COVID-19 not from strangers but from extended family members and friends, including those who have the illness and do not know it. The safest way to celebrate the holidays is at home with the people you live with.

Likewise, travel may increase your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Postponing travel and staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others this year. The State of California has instituted Travel Restrictions which recommend a 14-day quarantine for people coming into California after any non-essential travel out of the state or country.

Ideas for virtual and socially distanced gatherings

- **Have a video conference or phone call with family and friends.**
- **Play an online game with family or friends.**
- **Drive by a friend or family member's house. Leave a safely-prepared food item on their front porch. Have a conversation from a safe distance away.**

For current information on the State Stay at Home Order and the County Health Order, please visit covid19.ca.gov and publichealth.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

City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

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To Postal Patron

Lee's Sandwiches Opens in Town!



There's a new spot in town for sandwich fans. Lee's Sandwiches, a chain founded in San Jose in 1980, has opened their doors at 12209 Norwalk Boulevard. The restaurant was met with an enthusiastic line of customers on their grand opening, reflecting our residents excitement over a new dining option.

Lee's is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 8 pm. Stop by for delicious Asian and European sandwiches, coffee and desserts.



Soroptimist Village Apartments Opens Section 8 Waiting List!

Soroptimist Village is a Section 8 building for seniors age 62 and older, located at 12657 Foster Road in Norwalk.

The rent amount is based on 30 percent of the household's monthly income. The maximum household size is two people. To qualify, an applicant's total annual income cannot exceed the following amounts:

1 person (studio apartment)	\$23,700
2 people (1 bedroom apartment)	\$27,050

Applications will be accepted online beginning December 7, 2020 at www.norwalk.org

If you do not have access to a computer and/or require assistance completing the application, please contact:

**Norwalk Housing Authority, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.,
Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.,
562-929-5588, by appointment only.**

**Norwalk Senior Center*
562-929-5580**

**Social Services Center*
562-929-5544**

**Case workers available to provide assistance over the telephone Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.*

Applications for the waiting list must be received no later than 5 p.m. on December 14, 2020.

Assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Selection criteria from the waiting list includes the following preferences:

- Veterans - Norwalk Residents • Families of Deceased Veterans
- Veterans of Norwalk and employed in the City of Norwalk
- Veterans who are not residents of Norwalk

For details, contact the Norwalk Housing Authority at 562-929-5588.

Federal and State laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, familial status, national origin, disability & handicap in the sale of rental or most housing. Tenants are urged to report any instances.

Norwalk Transit's Stuff-A-Bus 2020

The 2020 Stuff-A-Bus is here! This year, Norwalk Transit System has decorated three of its buses with a holiday-themed, festive wrap. Although the buses won't be making visits to schools and other sites, they will be on route and on display at various events until the end of the year.

Toys collected through Stuff-A-Bus will be distributed to local children through the City of Norwalk Social Services Department Angel Tree Project. NTS also welcomes new toy donations at their Customer Service Center located at 12650 E. Imperial Highway. The hours of operation are Monday – Friday 8 am to 5 pm. For more info, please call 562-929-5550.



More Street Projects in the Works

The City of Norwalk is committed to improving our infrastructure and ensuring safe streets for our residents. After independent road engineers rated almost one-third of Norwalk's streets, roads and alleys as either fair, poor, very poor or failed, the City developed the Local Streets Rehabilitation Program, which identifies areas for road repairs to be performed using Measure M & Measure R funds.

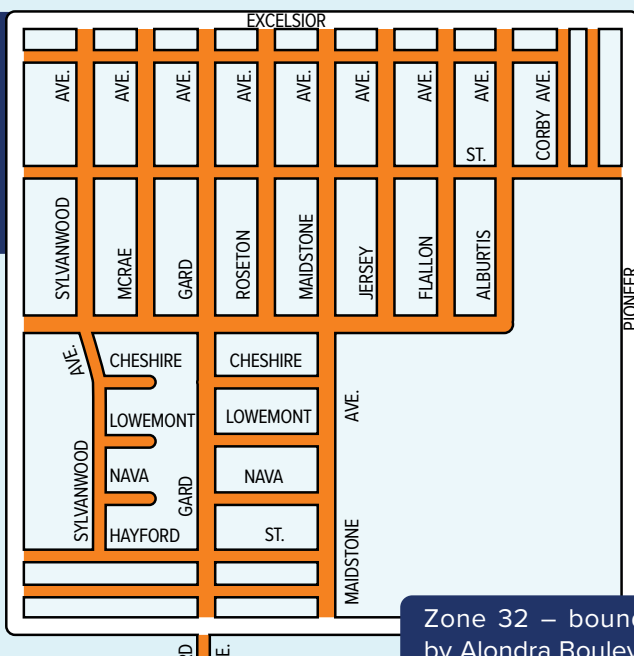
City Council recently approved the necessary construction contracts and construction management/inspection services for this program. The local roadways that will be street rehabilitation project are Pavement Management Zones 24, 27, and 32. Work includes

to repair any street drainage issues; removal and replacement of damaged sidewalks; upgrade of any existing ADA ramps to meet current standards; and pavement restoration so they'll last for 20 years without reconstruction.

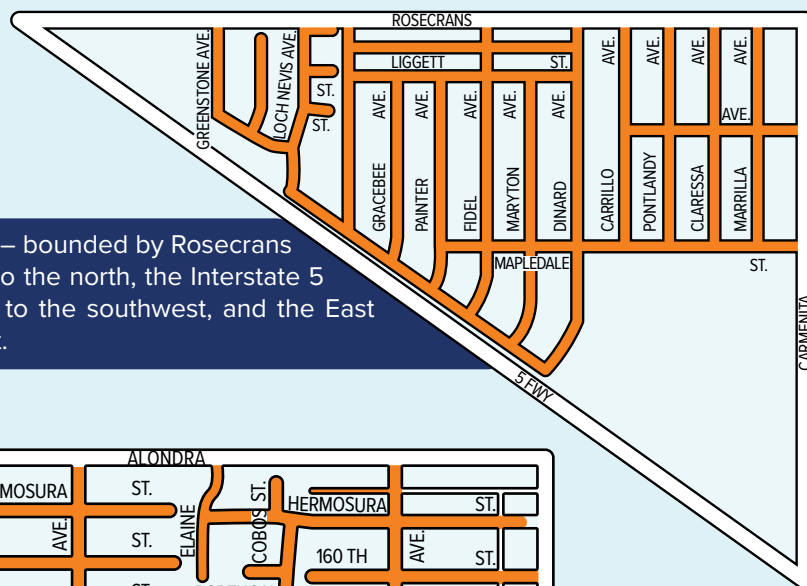
Residents can anticipate to see the construction work start early 2021. This is done to reduce the construction conflict and inconvenience for our residents and to lessen the impact during the holidays.

For more information, please contact Engineering at 562-929-5723.

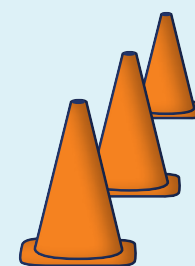
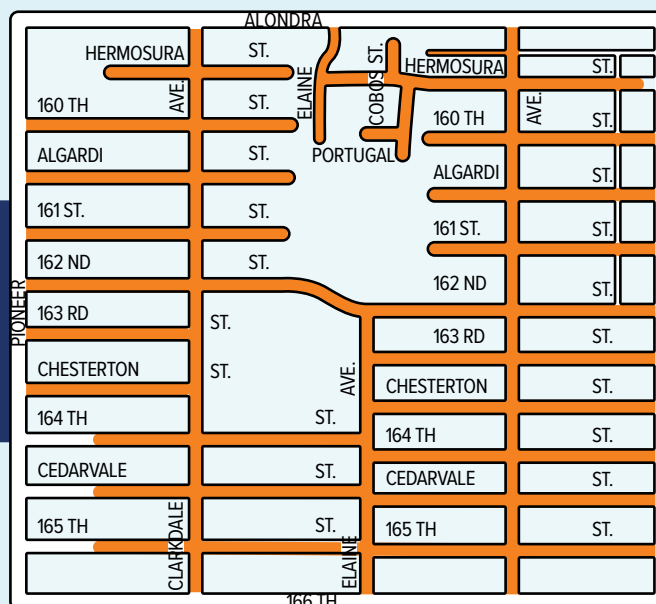
Zone 27 – bounded by Gridley Road to the west, Excelsior Drive to the north, Pioneer Boulevard to the east, and Alondra Boulevard to the south.



Zone 24 – bounded by Rosecrans Avenue to the north, the Interstate 5 Freeway to the southwest, and the East City Limit.



Zone 32 – bounded by Alondra Boulevard on the north, Norwalk Boulevard on the east, 166th Street and the south, and Pioneer Boulevard on the west.



**Public Safety
Holiday Hours
of Operation**

Christmas Eve
December 24
7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Christmas Day
Closed

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE

Did You Know...

The City of Norwalk Public Safety Department Dispatch Office receives an average of 3,000 phone calls a month and dispatches an average of 900-1,000 calls for service to our Public Safety Officers. If you need assistance regarding anything related to parking enforcement, nuisance abatement or neighborhood/business quality of life issues, please contact us at 562-929-5732.



Job Well Done Officer Solis!

We would like to show our appreciation to our Public Safety Officer Misty Solis. On Friday, November 6, 2020, Officer Solis was patrolling when she came upon a house fire. Officer Solis observed a resident pulling someone out of the fire. Without hesitation, Officer Solis jumped into action and helped the neighbor and other Good Samaritans pull the resident from the burning home, established a perimeter to ensure everyone's safety, and secured the scene until the Fire and Sheriff's Department arrived. Thank you Officer Solis for your brave and heroic efforts. The community is lucky to have you!

Parking Enforcement Suspension During Holiday Season

The Department of Public Safety will suspend street sweeping parking enforcement from December 21 through January 1, 2021. Enforcement will resume January 4, 2021.

El Departamento de Seguridad Pública suspenderá la aplicación de estacionamiento desde el 21 de diciembre hasta el 1 de enero 2021.



SPEEDERS BEWARE!

Please join the City in welcoming our new Sheriff Traffic Enforcement, Sgt. Mike Foster. He joined our Norwalk Enforcement Team in November and looks forward to serving our community. The City of Norwalk has also obtained two new radar trailers to assist with traffic enforcement efforts. You will see the radar trailers deployed citywide to monitor vehicles' speed limits. Both of these efforts have been funded through Measure P.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, speeding activity has been on the rise and continues.

Let's keep our community safe by driving cautiously. Buckle up and drive safe!



Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

The City of Norwalk Public Safety Department wants to make sure that you and your loved ones have a safe holiday season. Public Safety Officers and Sheriff Deputies will be conducting additional patrols citywide at all of our shopping centers for added visibility.

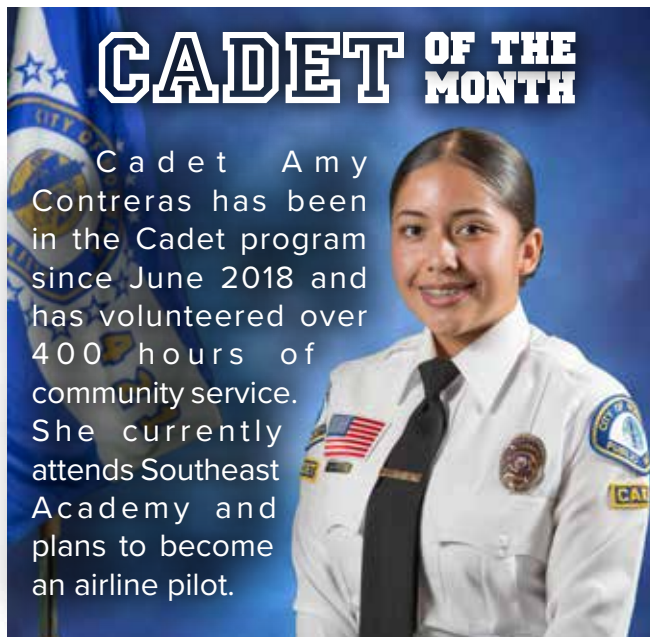
We would also like to share some helpful tips to keep in mind when you're out shopping this holiday season:

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves.
- Be aware of your surroundings when approaching or leaving your vehicle.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your California Driver License or Identification Card along with the necessary cash, checks, and/or credit cards that you expect to use.
- Stay alert of your surroundings, even when in a rush or focused on other things.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.



Preventing Vandalism/Graffiti

City resources and funds are used to fix broken street lights, replace stolen signs, and clean vandalized parks. Vandalism/Graffiti hurts the community in many ways. A community's first step to stop vandals is to get rid of any graffiti immediately. Consistently reporting graffiti ensures that vandals are halted in their efforts to gain notoriety. Please report graffiti, both on private and public property, to the Public Safety Department at 562-929-5732, for documentation and investigation. For the removal of graffiti, on public and private property (visible to the public), contact the Graffiti Removal Hotline at 562-929-5555.



CADET OF THE MONTH

Cadet Amy Contreras has been in the Cadet program since June 2018 and has volunteered over 400 hours of community service. She currently attends Southeast Academy and plans to become an airline pilot.

School Loading Zones

We would like to remind residents to be mindful when parking in Loading Zones (painted white curbs) in front of schools. These zones are intended for loading and unloading only. Although students may not be physically attending some schools, parents still utilize the loading zones to drop off their child's school work and documents. Any observed or reported vehicles parked in loading zones in violation are subject to citation. Thank you for your support and adherence.

Winter Holiday Decoration Safety

The holiday season is a joyous time to display holiday cheer. From decorated Christmas trees to homes draped in festive lights, these are just a couple of examples of ways in which residents love to spread the spirit of the holidays. The Public Safety Department would like to make sure you and your loved ones have a safe holiday season by exercising a few safety practices when decorating your home:

- Place Christmas trees away from sources of heat. Roughly one in four Christmas tree fires are caused by proximity to heat sources.
- Only use non-flammable decorations.
- Always be sure to inspect lights for frayed wires or defects before use. Before hanging your lights every year, check for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear.
- Please do not leave lights on unattended.
- If you decide to buy a natural tree, always keep the stand filled with water at all times.
- Place trees away from fireplaces, radiators, and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry out trees quickly, producing a fire hazard.
- When the Christmas tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- Do not use multiple extension cords strung together and do not run them under carpets or furniture.
- More than a third of home decoration fires are started by candles. Monitor candles when lit and extinguish when not in-use.
- Keep decorations away from all heat sources.
- More than one of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems. Inspect electrical outlets and connections before use.

Source: LA County Fire Department

COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE

. Safer at Home .

Angel Tree Project 2020



The holidays look different this year in Norwalk; however, one thing remains the same. Our commitment to ensure that children in our community have a joyous holiday through the Angel Tree Project. This year, 800 children will attend a safe, socially distanced holiday celebration where they can greet Santa and receive gifts of clothing and a toy.

You can support this Norwalk tradition by making a monetary contribution or donating a new toy. For more information or make a donation, please call the Norwalk Social Services Center at 562-929-5544.

Holiday Fun Letters to Santa



Ho! Ho! Ho! Calling all children! You are invited to send a wish letter to Good Old Saint Nick at the North Pole. He has promised to answer all letters from every boy and girl who writes to him.

The Recreation and Park Services Department will be collecting all letters to forward to Santa Claus. Drop off your letter in Santa's mailbox that will be located in front of the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex (13000 Clarkdale Ave) from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. from December 7-11, 2020. Be sure to include a return address!

Cookies & Crafts with Mrs. Claus



Enjoy an afternoon of festive fun with Mrs. Claus! She has been busy creating activity kits for the little ones here in Norwalk, including gingerbread house supplies, crafts and desserts. Bonus: Mrs. Claus herself will demonstrate all activities via pre-recorded videos so you'll feel like she's right with you.

Activities may be completed at your convenience. Kits are \$20 with pick up to take place the week of December 14. More information to come via email after registration. Register at www.norwalk.org.

ENERGY corner SoCalGas® CAREs

If you are seeking financial relief, you may qualify for 20% off your natural gas bill with Southern California Gas Company's California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program. This program is for customers whose income may have recently changed due to the coronavirus outbreak. It only takes a few minutes to apply and no additional documentation is required.

www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy/assistance-programs/california-alternate-rates-for-energy

Let's Light up Norwalk this Holiday!

This year, we need a little extra cheer, so we are taking holiday décor to the next level and inviting you to help us Light Up Norwalk!



Residents are encouraged to decorate their homes and become a stop on the Light Up Norwalk Holiday Parade route.

Participating residents can register at tiny.cc/lightupnorwalk by Wednesday, December 9 to be included in the route. Winners will be selected and awarded in the following categories: Best Use of Lights and Most Unique Design. We also encourage businesses and schools to get in on the fun, with winners being chosen for Best Business and Best School

Display.

For those that simply want to enjoy as a spectator, grab your family, hop in the car and travel around town for some festive

fun! Addresses will be added to a map that you can access directly from your phone from December 12-27. We'll also invite you to select the "Fan Favorite" via an online survey to be released via social media.

Instructions to the interactive map to guide you from house to house will be posted on social media on December 12; @recnorwalk on Instagram and Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex on Facebook.

Winners will be announced in early January.

Holiday Schedule and Enforcement for Trash & Street Sweeping

Observed Holidays

Christmas Day
New Year's Day

City Hall Closed

Friday, December 25, 2020
Friday, January 1, 2021

Sweeping

No
No

Trash

No
No



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, Friday's trash will be collected on Saturday.

Questions?

Trash Collection

Street Sweeping

Parking Enforcement

Athens Services

Public Services Department

Public Safety Department

888-336-6100

562-929-5511

562-929-5732

Christmas Tree Recycling



Don't forget to put your trees out for recycling on your trash day! From December 26, 2020 through January 16, 2021, Norwalk residents can have their Christmas trees picked up and recycled.

Single-family residential customers:

Please place trees by the curb, along with your regular trash containers, the night before your trash collection. A separate truck will collect the Christmas trees at a different time than the rest of your trash. If you forget to place your tree on the curb on your regular collection day, please hold off until the following week to do so; trees will only be collected on your trash collection day.

Multi-family dwelling (apartment) customers:

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

Guidelines for having your tree picked up for recycling:

- Remove decorations (ornaments, tinsel, lights, etc.).
- Do not place your tree in a bag.
- Remove metal, plastic and wooden stands.
- Trees over eight feet need to be cut in half.
- Flocked trees are not acceptable and should be disposed as trash.

For more details, please call Athens Services at 888-336-6100. You may also contact the City at 562-929-5964 or recycling@norwalkca.gov

Comenzando el 26 de diciembre del 2020 hasta el 16 de enero del 2021, los residentes de Norwalk podrán tener su árbol navideños reciclados. Simplemente deje su árbol, sin decoraciones y soporte, cerca de la banqueta la noche anterior al día habitual de colección de basura. Si se le olvida colocar el árbol en la banqueta, por favor espere hasta la próxima semana tal que el árbol solo será colectado en su día designado de colección de basura.

Special Edition Library Cards: Celebrating 100 Years

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification and adoption of the 19th Amendment in August 1920. To honor this centennial and the ongoing work toward achieving equity, LA County



Library is offering three special edition library cards, commissioned from local artists through the collaboration of the Department of Arts

and Culture and Women and Girls Initiative. Call Norwalk Library for information on how you can register for or replace your current library card.

Norwalk Library is now offering Tuesday evening hours. Our new hours are Monday, Wednesday – Friday: 10 am – 5 pm (Phone Service: 9 am – 6 pm) and Tuesday: 12 – 7 pm (Phone Service: 11 am – 8 pm).

Contact Norwalk Library at 562-868-0775 for Sidewalk Service holds, free wireless printing service, and obtaining a library card.