

# NorwalkNow

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## Emergency Powers

*The City of Norwalk continues to monitor developments regarding Governor Newsom's broad use of his "Emergency Powers." These actions initiated by the State and implemented by the County have had far reaching effects on our residents. The City Council has taken a proactive approach to ensuring residents are both informed and protected by these decisions.*



On December 6, 2020, representatives of the Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk informed City officials that due to a recent need for "surge space" in some of their other facilities, forty-three female patients who have recently tested COVID-negative would be transferred to the annex, formerly known as the California Youth Authority facility on Bloomfield Avenue. City officials were informed that inmates being transferred into the facility have passed a background check. Both the local Sheriff's Department and Metro Police will be responsible for monitoring the facility. City administration has been informed that the use of the facility is temporary, as the Metropolitan State Hospital has no plans to use the facility beyond September 30, 2021.

Residents interested in obtaining more information regarding the use of the former "California Youth Authority" facility may contact Dr. Michael W. Barsom, Executive Director at the Metropolitan State Hospital, at

562-651-2245 or email the Public Information Officer, Claudine Hanna for the Department of State Hospitals at [claudine.hanna@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:claudine.hanna@dsh.ca.gov).

In November, Governor Newsom announced that counties throughout the state would receive an additional \$62 million in emergency funding to allow homeless individuals to remain in temporary hotel rooms as part of Project Roomkey. Those sheltered were initially slated to be evicted by the end of the year. Due to this influx of resources, Los Angeles County has informed City officials that they plan to extend the Project Roomkey site in Norwalk located at the Saddleback Hotel until June 2021.

At this time, the use of "Emergency Powers" by Governor Newsom has resulted in limited options for cities throughout the state. Attempts to curtail the Governor's over-reach in hopes of maintaining cooperation between state and local government remains an issue before the courts.

A lawsuit currently before the courts filed by Assembly Members James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) and Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin) against Gov. Newsom continues. On November 13th, Sutter County Judge Sarah Heckman's ruling imposed an injunction on Gov. Newsom, preventing him from issuing executive orders that create new laws. This case is currently under appeal.

Lastly, in a lawsuit by Voices of Milpitas LLC, a group of residents in the Northern California city of Milpitas asked for a temporary restraining, arguing that the hotel conversion in their city into a Project Homekey site would be "devastating to nearby communities" and create problems with public safety and sanitation. A Santa Clara County judge struck down the temporary restraining order, however the case is scheduled for another hearing.

The City will continue to monitor any new developments regarding these issues and inform residents accordingly.

## 'Twas a Special Holiday Season in Norwalk



Due to COVID-19, our holidays looked different in Norwalk; however, our community continued to come together, just as in past years, to provide a true holiday experience to individuals facing difficulties, including social isolation, personal loss or financial hardships.

The week prior to Thanksgiving, the Social Services Center distributed Thanksgiving Baskets to local families in need. The baskets included a turkey and all the sides needed for a delicious holiday meal. Approximately, 170 were distributed at Social Services, and another 30 baskets at the Senior Center. Next up was our Third Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. Previously, Norwalk seniors enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal, prepared and served by staff, at the Senior Center. This year, warm lunches

which were prepared by SoCal Pizza, were safely delivered to the homes of 150 seniors.

Our own long-standing holiday tradition, the Angel Tree Project, certainly brought the magic of the season to children in our community. For over 30 years, the event has provided a holiday celebration to children that included games, crafts, brightly wrapped gifts and time with Santa Claus. This time around, City Council, staff and Sheriff's Deputies delivered gifts of clothing and toys to 800 children.

The City of Norwalk thanks our entire community for their ongoing support of these special programs that provide hope and joy to countless children and families in Norwalk.

(See list of sponsors on page 2.)

## SAVE THE DATE

### Virtual Community Forum

Thursday, January 28 at 6 p.m.

We're resuming our Community Forums to provide residents with vital information on our ongoing efforts to improve quality of life in Norwalk! The Community Forums also provide an opportunity for residents to provide feedback on issues of concern directly to City Council and staff.

Additional information on log in phone number and procedures will be shared via social media.

For more info, please call 562-929-5735.

*Nuestros foros comunitarios regresan en forma virtual; marque su calendario para el jueves 28 de enero a las 6 p.m. Habrá más información en nuestras redes sociales.*



Community Development

Public Safety

Social Services

## Norwalk City Council

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

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12700 Norwalk Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA 90650

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COVID-19 Hotline 562-929-5760



# City of Norwalk Angel Tree Supporters 2020

A special thanks to those involved in making the Holidays special for the many children selected to participate in the Angel Tree Project. The success of Angel Tree would not be possible without the support of each and every one of YOU!

## Diamond

Tom and Marie Jackson

## Silver

Golden State Water Co.  
Norwalk Community Coordinating Council  
Norwalk Lions Club  
Norwalk Senior Citizens Center, Inc.  
Precision Diagnostic Imaging Inc.

## Major

Alondra Senior Citizen Club  
Bajans & Friends For Health & Education, Inc.  
Gordon & Marilee Stefenhagen  
Lynne McIntosh  
Norwalk Auto Auction  
Norwalk Transit Stuff-A-Bus  
Shin IL Presbyterian Church

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## Elementary Schools

Chavez Morrison  
Cresson New River  
Dolland Nuffer  
Edmondson William Orr  
Glazier Paddison  
Johnston Ramona Preschool  
Lakeland Sanchez  
Lampton Studebaker  
Moffitt

## Angel Tree Sites

Alba Professional Services/H&R Block  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #359  
Communication Workers of America

Corral Family Daycare  
Dhami & Dhami Corp. 7-Eleven Inc.  
Edna Baldovinos  
Elizabeth Ramirez  
Faith Reform Church  
Gloria Diosdado  
Helen Diosdado  
Irene Boyce  
Irene Parra  
John Glenn High School  
Joyland Preschool  
Kathy Reed  
L.A. County Fire Department Station #20  
L.A. County Sheriff's Department – Norwalk Station  
Liberty Tax Service  
Marjorie O'Leary  
Mercedes Ceja  
Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District  
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
Norwalk Superior Court  
OFIR Orthodontics  
Ordiway Family Child Care  
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk  
Ruiz Family Daycare  
Salas Family Daycare  
Sue Fry  
Sunny Day Learning Center  
Sylvia Medina  
TLC Learning Center  
United Methodist Church  
Veronica Jaramillo

## \$1 Supporter Sites

Alba Professional Services/H&R Block  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 359  
Chavez Elementary  
Cresson Elementary  
Dolland Elementary  
Douglas Burgers  
Edmondson Elementary  
Norwalk Elks Lodge  
John Glenn High  
Joyland Preschool  
Lakeland Elementary  
Norwalk LA Sheriff Dept.  
Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex  
Norwalk Community Coordinating Council  
New River Elementary  
NLMUSD – Norwalk-La Mirada School District  
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
Norwalk High School  
Nuffer Elementary  
Norwalk Senior Center  
Norwalk Social Services Center  
Norwalk Transportation Dept.  
Orr Elementary  
Paddison Elementary  
Salas Daycare  
Sanchez Elementary  
So Cal Pizza  
Studebaker Elementary  
Tam's Burgers #33  
TNT Tacos&Tortas

# Financial Assistance Available For Our Business Community

The City of Norwalk offers financial assistance to businesses for lease/rent/mortgage payments, utilities, supplies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and/or costs associated with requirements under current health guidelines. The funding is made possible by the CARES Act through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Economic Recovery Stimulus Program offers up to \$35,000 as a forgivable loan, including a \$10,000 grant option to assist costs in meeting health department guidelines for outdoor business activities. Several businesses in the City have applied and received financial assistance through this program, and indicated the application process is simple and

review process relatively quick.

To date, the City has received a total of 97 applications for funding assistance, and 41 businesses have been awarded funding.

If you're a business owner and apprehensive about completing an application, please note that the application is cost effective when taking into consideration the amount of time needed to complete. Two businesses have received the maximum amount of \$35,000, with the average award amount just under \$8,000.

All information on the City of Norwalk's Economic Recovery Stimulus Program may be found on the city website at [www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development](http://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development).

## Heart of Norwalk

We're excited to announce an opportunity for Norwalk residents to help plan for the revitalization of the heart of our City and to take pride in the very unique and attractive place that it can become!

The Heart of Norwalk Plan invites our community to join together to share a clear and exciting, yet realistic vision for the future of San Antonio Village and the Firestone Corridor, two key neighborhoods in the center of our City. The study will help establish a vision for a series of comfortable, attractive and active places which will define and distinguish Norwalk among our neighboring communities, providing spaces for the community to gather and enjoy local amenities.

To find out how you can participate, stay tuned for website and social media launch.

## Ongoing Efforts to Keep Norwalk Clean

Caltrans owned vacant lots throughout the City had become overgrown with debris and weeds. To address this issue, the City partnered with the California Conservation Corps to remove litter, trim landscaping and remove weeds at these lots. Approximately 30 yards of material was removed from the following locations: Adoree Street/San Antonio Drive - south of the I-5 freeway, Firestone Boulevard frontage road between Bloomfield Avenue and Rosecrans Avenue, and two vacant parcels adjacent to the Cultural Arts Center/Norwalk Park on Sproul Street. Caltrans will be invoiced for staff time associated with the project.



## Thanksgiving Basket Program



With the help of our partners, a Thanksgiving dinner, including a turkey and essential sides and trimmings, were provided to Norwalk seniors and families in need. Every year during the holiday season, our community comes together to show their support for the Thanksgiving Basket program.

### Some of our partners include, but are not limited to:

former Majority Leader  
Ian C. Calderon's Office  
Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Golden State Water  
The Vogel Family & Friends  
Stefenhagen Family  
Soto Family  
Norwalk Grocery Outlet  
Chick-fil-A  
Combat Baseball  
Kaiser Permanente  
New Branch Ministries  
Metropolitan State Hospital  
Cerritos College Turkey Trot  
Norwalk Presbyterian Church  
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
Norwalk Women's Club  
John Glenn High School  
Alondra Senior Club  
Boy Scouts of America Troop 924  
Tzu Chi Foundation  
Joyland Pre-School  
and many more!

## Norwalk Supports Businesses!

In a 5-0 motion made by the City Council on December 1, 2020, Norwalk existing and future businesses will now be able to open and make improvements through a process that is described as "cheaper, faster, easier" by John Ramirez, Community Development Director. Through collaborative efforts between the City and Norwalk businesses, the newly adopted code update is aimed at helping businesses with economic recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Businesses will begin to benefit from the code update beginning January 16th, 2021, which will:

1. Enable businesses to open more quickly;
2. Initiate a streamlined process to encourage business investment/expansion;
3. Create a more user-friendly Code;
4. Reduce the need to provide excess parking and avoid costly parking studies;
5. Allow for a greater number of signs for businesses; and
6. Amend special event requirements to facilitate business events and reduce submittal requirements.

For more information on these exciting changes, please contact the Community Development Department, Planning Division at [planning@norwalkca.gov](mailto:planning@norwalkca.gov) or 562-929-5744.

Please be advised that street sweeping parking enforcement is suspended until further notice. We are asking residents to keep the area in front of their homes swept and clean if they are unable to move their vehicle.

# COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE



## Christmas Toy Distribution Event

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, Public Safety staff and Sheriff Deputies hosted the 3rd Annual First Responders' Christmas Toy Distribution. This year, the event was modified in order to abide by the current public health order and to keep all participants as safe as could be. The City distributed the gifts in a safe door-to-door manner at two residential locations. This project once again brought holiday cheer to many children and families.

Special thanks to Joe Kaprielian, Founder and President of Joe's Organization for Youth (JOY) for his generous donation of 500 toys that were distributed as part of this project.



## Driving Tips



The Public Safety Department and Norwalk Sheriff Station would like to remind everyone to please be attentive when driving. Please practice safe driving by following the below actions:

- Stay alert to pedestrians, drivers, and those around you
- Use turn signals to communicate your intentions to others
- Come to a complete stop at all intersections and red lights
- Do not text and drive
- Use headlights when necessary, especially at night and during inclement weather



## - Meet Norwalk's Traffic Enforcement Team -

Deputy Dave Vivona has been with the City's Traffic Enforcement team for over 19 years. With the recent addition of Sgt. Mike Foster, the City now has two motorcycle positions dedicated to speed and traffic enforcement citywide.

Other traffic team members include Deputy Steve Douma, who has been with the City for 28 years and focuses on school traffic enforcement and citywide traffic concerns. Deputy Chris Conger has been with the City for 5 years, and handles commercial traffic enforcement.

This team works very hard throughout the year to make our city's traffic conditions safer for all. They enforce traffic violations that are an issue as well as investigate and address concerns reported by our community.



## Cadet of the Month

Cadet Cindy Ortiz has been a part of the Public Safety Cadet program since January of 2018 and has completed over 620 community service hours. On her free time, Cadet Ortiz enjoys cooking, and spending time with her family. Cadet Ortiz also hopes to attend college when she graduates from Southeast Academy High School.



## Fraud Alert

Scammers are targeting utility customers with fraudulent COVID-19 relief post cards and letters. If you receive a suspicious letter or post card from a utility provider, please call your service provider directly for any additional information. Do not call any number on the letter or post card.

*Los estafadores están engañando a los clientes de servicios públicos con tarjetas postales fraudulentas de COVID-19. Si recibe una carta sospechosa, llame directamente a su proveedor de servicios.*

## Stop Porch Pirates



With people doing more online shopping, there are more opportunities for porch pirates to strike. Please follow the below tips so that you do not fall victim to these thieves.

- When possible, customize your delivery times that will be suitable to when you will be home.
- Request for packages to be delivered in discreet locations on your property.
- Invest in a front door camera system to monitor your packages.
- Make sure your home video-monitoring system is properly working; this may help serve as a deterrent as well as help identify the thieves.
- Have your package delivered to a storage locker.

# COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE

## . Safer at Home .

### Calls - with - Claus



Santa Claus said, "Ho, Ho, Hello!" to over 150 Norwalk families during the first week of December. Children logged in to Zoom and were able to video chat with Old St. Nick for approximately five minutes each. Santa discussed many topics with the little ones, including Christmas wishes, virtual schooling and more. Many kids were blown away when Santa Claus knew the name of their pets, teachers and friends. Of course he did, Santa Claus knows everything!

Following the Zoom calls, Santa received numerous emails and letters from parents expressing their gratitude and excitement. As one parent stated, "This was an amazing experience for the kids! Seeing my daughter smile so big was a great feeling."

### Night at the North Pole

Over five hundred families made their way to the Norwalk North Pole on Saturday, December 19. Our Recreation staff created a Winter Wonderland in the parking lot of Norwalk City Hall. As the families toured the North Pole via their vehicle, they were joined by elves Tinsel and Sugarplum through pre-recorded audio. Attendees received goody bags and were able to take a safe, socially distanced photo with Santa Claus!



### Sustainability Corner

Sustainability is a hot topic. You come across the subject in the news or on your social media. But what is it exactly? Sustainability is based on a simple principle: everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment, which includes all living species, our climate, weather and natural resources.

We'll be sharing info on sustainability topics, our recycling programs and simple changes you can make at home and in your daily lives to help protect our environment through our Sustainability Corner.

First up, let's talk about organics. Organics include both food scraps and yard debris. About 40% of the material that Californians send to landfills annually is organic waste, and much of that comes from businesses and multifamily complexes. Why should we care? As organics break down, they produce methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. To address the issue, Assembly Bill 1826 Mandatory Organics Recycling, which passed in 2014, requires that businesses and multi-family properties reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfills. Implementation began in 2016 via a phased approach with the largest generators affected first followed by smaller generators up through 2021. Find out how this impacts you in next month's issue!

For more info, visit [www.norwalk.org](http://www.norwalk.org) or CalRecycle at [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/)

## Christmas Tree Recycling

Norwalk residents can have their Christmas trees recycled up through January 16, 2021. Simply follow these easy guidelines to ensure your tree is collected and reused as compost.

#### Single-family residential customers:

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:

Place trees next to regular trash containers. A separate truck will pick them up.

#### Additional guidelines:

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

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](mailto:recycling@norwalkca.gov)

*El programa de reciclaje de árboles navideños se ofrece hasta el 16 de enero. Simplemente coloque su árbol cerca de sus contenedores de basura y se recogerá el día de basura.*

## Holiday Street Sweeping Schedule

Observed Holidays	City Hall Closed	Sweeping	Trash
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 18, 2021	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.

Questions?	Questions?	Questions?
Trash Collection	Athens Services	888-336-6100
Street Sweeping	Public Services Department	562-929-5511
Parking Enforcement	Public Safety Department	562-929-5732

## Upcoming Senior Center Workshops

**"A New Year a Healthier You" Telephone Presentation**  
 Thursday, January 14 • 10 - 11 a.m.  
 Call-In Number: 1 (877) 309-2073  
 Conference ID: 801-364-429#

Seniors will get tips on how they can start the New Year on the right foot by getting healthier, both physically and emotionally, and learning about good nutrition. Since the pandemic has forced many seniors to change their usual routines, the presentation will highlight ways seniors can pursue healthier lifestyles taking into consideration stay-at-home protocols.

*Sponsored by: Independence at Home*

**"Behaviors and Alzheimer's Disease" Telephone Presentation**  
 Date: Tuesday, January 26 • 1 - 2 p.m.  
 Call-In Number: Call Senior Center at (562) 929-5580 for information

Back by popular demand; Alzheimer's Los Angeles is sponsoring this informative phone presentation. Many behaviors arise with dementia that are difficult to understand, and using the IDEA strategy, this program aims to help individuals explore why behaviors happen, their meanings, and practical tips.

*Sponsored by: Alzheimer's Los Angeles*

## Make a Difference to Someone in Need



Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. Help ensure an adequate blood supply during COVID-19 by donating at our upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, January 12. The drive will take place from 12 to 6 p.m. in the Sproul Room at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex.

Donors may schedule their appointments online

at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) using the sponsor code: CityofNorwalk or calling 800-RED-CROSS. All donated blood will be checked for COVID antibodies and donors will have access to the information.

The Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex is located at 13000 Clarkdale Avenue.

*Ayuda a garantizar un suministro de sangre adecuado participando en nuestra campaña de donación el martes 12 de enero de 12 a 6 pm en el Complejo de Artes y Deportes.*

## Are You Work Ready?

We know COVID-19 has heavily impacted our LA County communities, including record-setting job losses. Are you currently looking for a new job, looking to build new job skills, or seeking out new career opportunities, but don't have a device or internet connection to make that happen? Work Ready is here to help!



### LA County Library's Work Ready program offers:

- A 6-week session (being offered 6 times through 2021).
- Participants borrow a laptop and wireless hotspot kit from one of 20 participating libraries, including Norwalk Library.
- Participants receive special support items to aid in the job search process, which they can keep.
- Weekly virtual programs will cover topics ranging from writing cover letters and interviewing to identifying high-growth careers and working from home.

To register and for more information, please visit: [LACountyLibrary.org/Work-Ready](http://LACountyLibrary.org/Work-Ready) or call Norwalk Library at 562-868-0775.