

NorwalkNow

The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, CA
February 2021, Volume 42, #2



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.

These decisions supersede local authority in Norwalk, and unfortunately some of these decisions have had a direct impact on our community.

The City of Norwalk was informed by Los Angeles County officials that temporary interim housing for "Project Homekey" would commence on January 12th. The Project Homekey site in Norwalk is located at 10646 Rosecrans Avenue (Motel 6). Those taking up temporary residence there would be formerly homeless individuals from the region. County officials indicated that plans are to have all 55 rooms occupied by March 1st. The Salvation Army will be the service provider responsible for the program at this site. In addition to housing, there will be minor medical services and mental health counseling onsite. Norwalk City staff will maintain communication with both County and Salvation Army officials to ensure those in the program abide by the safety protocols in place.

The "Project Roomkey" site in Norwalk, located at 12500 Firestone Boulevard (Saddleback Hotel), will be operational until June 2021. However, in late December

Gov. Newsom announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will permanently fund California's Project Roomkey program for the duration of the pandemic.

There are no new updates on the annex, formerly known as the California Youth Authority facility on Bloomfield Avenue. There are currently forty-three female patients housed there who tested COVID-negative.

In other news, the California Department of Social Services (DSS) announced the use of six statewide Residential Alternate Care Sites, including one in Norwalk, which is located at 11515 Firestone Boulevard. The facilities are licensed as Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) or Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) and are being commissioned in an effort to relieve hospitals dealing with the surge in coronavirus patients.

Residents from Milpitas in Northern California have attempted to mitigate the effects of Gov. Newsom's "Emergency Powers" decisions. Their legal case was recently dismissed in court.

Meanwhile, the lawsuit against Gov. Newsom over his use of executive power continues. State Assembly members James Gallagher (Yuba City) and Kevin Kiley (Rocklin) are fighting back against a California appellate court's decision in November to grant a stay of a lower court's injunction against the Governor. A new court date is pending approval.



*Remembering
Former Mayor
& Councilman
Luigi Vernola*

The City of Norwalk mourns the passing of former Norwalk Mayor, City Councilmember, Planning Commissioner, businessman, and philanthropist, Luigi Vernola. Luigi passed away on New Year's Day at the age of 76 due to complications of COVID-19.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years Joan, his son Thomas J. Vernola, and his daughters Lisa M. Vernola-Salas and Kristina A. Vernola-Freesmeier, in addition to his 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Luigi received his education in the Norwalk School District, graduating from Norwalk High School in 1964. While a student at Norwalk High, Luigi met his future wife, Joan Yacobowich. They married in 1965 and remained residents in Norwalk, where they raised their children. At the age of 20, Luigi purchased his first service station, the first of many, including garages and a towing service.

Luigi began his public service in the 1980's when he was appointed to the Norwalk Planning Commission. In 1987, Luigi was appointed to fill the vacant seat left by Councilmember Cecil Green who had been elected to the California State Senate, leaving his council seat vacant. Luigi was proud to fill the temporary seat and eventually ran for, and won, the city council seat in the general election. He faithfully served the City from 1987-1994.

As a local businessman, he knew firsthand the responsibilities of running a successful company and city. He made fiscal accountability his top priority. As a councilmember, he was always committed to improving public safety and community engagement as crucial components to the health and success of Norwalk.

Luigi would later serve again on the Norwalk City Council from 2013-2020. He served as Mayor several times throughout his public service tenure and most recently served as Mayor from 2017-2018.

Time and again, Luigi demonstrated his dedication to the city he loved. He founded and cofounded several nonprofits to promote worthy causes, both in Norwalk and around Los Angeles County. One such nonprofit is the Santa Sleigh Foundation, which was exceedingly special to Luigi. As part of this program, Luigi would host a breakfast event wherein children could eat breakfast and visit with Santa Claus and they would also receive a gift. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Luigi would give out over 600 turkeys and other food items to senior citizens and families throughout the community.

Luigi also helped establish The Friends of the Norwalk Sheriff's Station, an organization that helped the families of our law enforcement community, who had loved ones injured or killed in the line of duty.

Shortly after 9/11, Luigi had a monument erected and dedicated to the first responders of Norwalk's area. He placed life-size statues of a firefighter, deputy sheriff, California Highway Patrol officer and one of Norwalk's own public safety officers. He also helped establish the Hometown Heroes Banners that line Norwalk's city streets to honor their local servicemen and women.

Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen Now Open!



We are thrilled to welcome Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen to Norwalk! The restaurant is located at 12623 Norwalk Boulevard and offers popular items such as their signature chicken, tenders, sandwiches and sides. The restaurant will also offer curbside pick-up and delivery services. Make a plan to check out our newest restaurant in town!

Norwalk City Council

Norwalk City Hall Modified Hours
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Open by appointment only.
COVID-19 Hotline 562-929-5700

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

City of Norwalk
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Norwalk, CA 90650

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Heart of Norwalk

Last month, we announced the “Heart of Norwalk Plan,” which invites our community to join together to create 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.

Some of the key questions the Plan will be asking are:

- How can we create attractive places for people to go out with family and friends? What kind of feel should these places have?
- Where can we put streets and plazas that encourage people to walk, bike and shop locally?
- At a time when online shopping and telecommuting has left many stores vacant, should we allow new housing to be built on commercial streets?

The City of Norwalk wants to hear from you as we consider these important questions for the future of the heart of our City. When the vision is complete, we anticipate making changes to zoning and taking other actions to implement the vision over the years to come.

To participate in shaping the vision of the Heart of Norwalk, we invite you to:

- Follow “HeartOfNorwalk” on Facebook and Instagram and join the discussion online
- Take our community survey at HeartOfNorwalk.com
- Join our community workshop on Thursday, February 18 at 6 p.m. where you will get the chance to help design the community yourself!

¡Ahora es el momento para que la comunidad de Norwalk planifique la revitalización del corazón de nuestra ciudad en un lugar único y atractivo! Para participar en crear una nueva visión para el futuro, sigue “HeartOfNorwalk” en Facebook y Instagram, tome nuestra encuesta comunitaria en CorazonDeNorwalk.com, y únase al taller virtual el miércoles 17 de febrero a las 6 p.m.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

WHEN?
Thursday, February 18th at 6 PM
 Zoom Meeting ID: 899 4542 653
 Passcode: 781505

TALLER VIRTUAL DE LA COMUNIDAD

¿CUÁNDO?
Miércoles 17 de febrero a las 6 PM
 Zoom Meeting ID: 899 4542 653
 Contraseña: 781505

Local Streets Rehabilitation Program

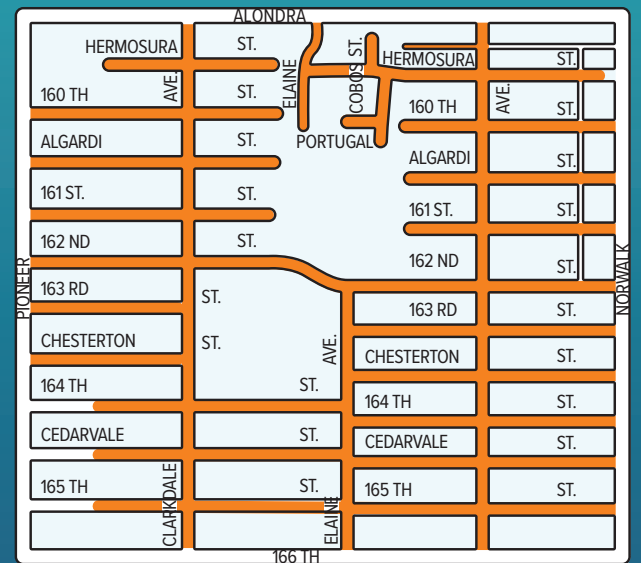
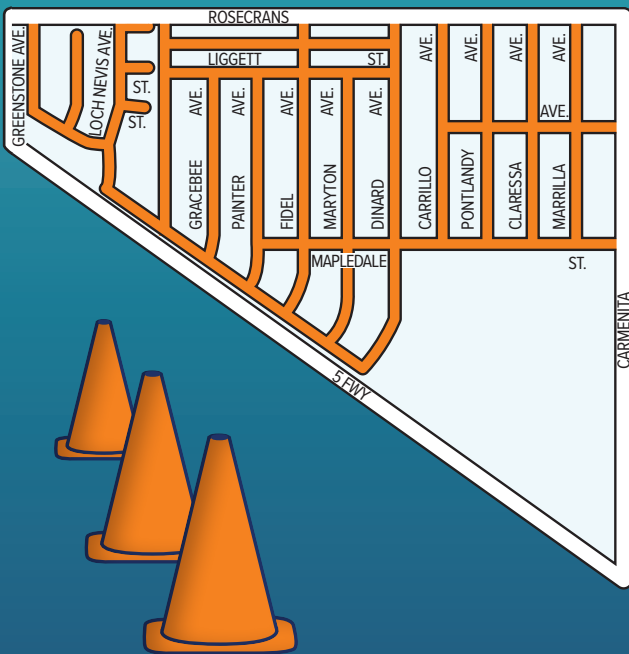
On November 17, 2020, City Council awarded the construction for the concrete improvements phase of the Local Streets Rehabilitation Program for Zones 24, 27 and 32.

The project boundaries for the zones are as follows:

Zone 24 - Rosecrans Avenue to the north, Carmenita Road to the east, and triangulated by the I-5 Freeway to the south

Zone 27 - Excelsior Drive to the north, Pioneer Boulevard to the east, Alondra Boulevard to the south, and Gridley Road to the west

Zone 32 - Alondra Boulevard to the north, Norwalk Boulevard to the east, 166th Street to the south, and Pioneer Boulevard to the west



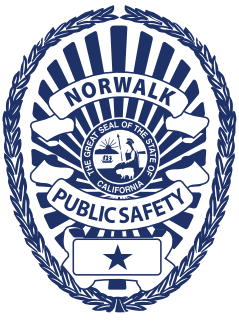
The City of Norwalk awarded construction contracts to CJ Concrete Construction for Zone 24 (\$610,627) & Zone 27 (\$1,585,300) respectively, and awarded a construction contract to Kalban Inc., for Zone 32 (\$663,170).

This project will include concrete improvements to address deteriorated or unpaved alleys; repair curb ramps to current ADA standards; replace slotted cross gutters, remove and replace displaced curbs, gutters and sidewalks to address uneven surfaces hazards and water ponding issues on the roadway. The project has 60 working days for each zone to complete the work. The Notice to Proceed was issued for the three projects mid-January 2021 and are estimated to be completed in mid-April 2021.

The paving phase of the Local Street Rehabilitation Program for all three zones was split due to the magnitude of the operations and most importantly, to reduce the inconvenience to the residents in the neighborhood.

Zone 24 is approximately 4.7 miles of paving; Zone 27 & Zone 32 have 4.9 miles and 5.5 miles. The first half of the pavement work is currently advertising bidding and with bids due early Feb 2021. Award of construction contract is scheduled for early March 2021. The second half of the pavement work is scheduled to advertise by the end of January 2021 and scheduled for award in early April 2021. Paving operations will be scheduled to start shortly after completion of the concrete improvements.





COMMUNITY SAFETYZONE

COVID-19 Vaccine Scam Awareness



We would like to warn residents of COVID-19 vaccination fraud. If someone attempts to contact you to sell you a COVID-19 vaccine or offer to get you vaccinated before you are eligible, this is a SCAM. Do not pay any money for such an offer. Currently, the vaccine is only being offered to healthcare workers, individuals who live in a long-term care facilities, and persons over the age of 65. The COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed to all members of the public in a transparent and organized manner. Below are some red flags to be aware of so that you or your

loved ones do not fall victims to these scammers:

- *Someone offers to move you into an earlier schedule to get the vaccine for a fee.*
- *Someone tries to sell you a place on a COVID vaccine waiting list.*
- *Someone you meet on the street, online, on social media, or knocking on your door tries to sell you the vaccine directly.*
- *You get calls, texts, or emails about the vaccine. The caller asks for your personal or financial information. It can be your Social Security, bank account or credit card number. NEVER share these numbers or other personal information with an unknown caller or in a text or email.*
- *You see ads for fake vaccines or "miracle cures" using vitamins or other dietary supplements. Scammers promote these even though they have not been proven to work. The FDA has issued warning letters to many companies for selling products that claim to prevent, treat, or cure COVID-19.*
- *If anyone that isn't a doctor, health care clinic, pharmacy, or County health program, offers you a vaccine – think twice and check with your doctor.*

To stay up to date with County vaccine information, sign up for the Vaccine Newsletter at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/>

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Job Well Done Officer Jauregui



On January 2, 2021, Officer Jauregui assisted the Norwalk Sheriff's Station in the arrest of a suspect who had stolen a vehicle. Officer Jauregui used her training, quick action and superb instincts when she observed a van acting suspiciously. She maintained her composure when providing the Sheriff's Station with the location of the suspect/vehicle and coordinated with responding Deputies until their arrival, ultimately leading to a successful arrest. Thank you Officer Jauregui for your valuable role in this caper!

Illegal Dumping is Unacceptable:

Call it in and Report it



Property owners, as well as tenants, are responsible for properly disposing of their trash and bulky items. Please be aware of your trash pickup day and make arrangements prior to moving out. We want to keep our community looking pristine and this requires everyone to do their part and take pride in their neighborhood.

To request a bulky item pick up, contact Athens Services at 888-336-6100 or online at athensservices.com/bulky-item-pickup/

You may also report illegally dumped bulky items by calling Athens at 855-864-1007.

To report illegal dumping in progress, please contact Public Safety at 562-929-5732.

Catalytic Converter Theft

Across the region, local law enforcement has seen an increase in reported catalytic converter thefts. Catalytic converters are on thieves' radars because they contain expensive precious metals like platinum, palladium, and rhodium. These recyclable materials can be easily "scrapped" for a quick profit.

Catalytic converter thieves generally target trucks or SUVs because the higher ground clearance allows for easier access underneath the vehicle. However, sports cars and sedans may also be targeted.

We do not want you or your loved ones to fall victim to these thieves. Here are some tips to assist in preventing thieves targeting your vehicles:

- *When possible, park in well-lit areas and close to building entrances.*
- *If you have a garage at your house, park your car inside and keep the garage door shut.*
- *Have the catalytic converter welded to your car's frame, which may make it harder to steal.*
- *Consider engraving your vehicle identification number (VIN) or license plate on the catalytic converter – this may help alert a scrap dealer that it was stolen and make it easier to identify the owner.*
- *Calibrate your car's alarm to set off when it detects vibration.*
- *Look into investing into a catalytic converter anti-theft device installed on your vehicle.*
- *When possible, park in the view of your home security cameras.*

Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Cadet of the Month

Cadet Miranda Sandoval has been a part of the Cadet Program since August of 2017 and has completed over 610 community service hours. Cadet Sandoval enjoys the program because it pushes her out of her comfort zone and it has shaped her into a more confident individual. Cadet Sandoval is interested in a career in politics, and enjoys drawing in her spare time.



Keeping Our Streets Clean

We would like to remind residents to be courteous and keep the street sections in front of their homes clean if they cannot move vehicles on their scheduled street sweeping day. The City has currently suspended street sweeping parking enforcement due to the current regional stay-at-home health order until further notice. We appreciate everyone's effort in helping keep our streets clean and free from accumulation of leaves, dirt and debris.



Nos gustaría recordarles a los residentes que sean corteses y mantengan limpias las secciones de la calle frente a sus casas si no pueden mover vehículos en el día programado de limpieza de calles. La Ciudad ha suspendido la aplicación de la ley de estacionamiento de barrido de calles hasta nuevo aviso. Apreciamos el esfuerzo de todos para ayudar a mantener nuestras calles limpias.

In observance of Presidents' Day, there will be no street sweeping on Monday, February 15. Street sweeping will not be made up. Trash will be collected as scheduled.

COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE

. Safer at Home .

Angel Tree Supporters

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

Dhami & Dhami Corp. 7-Eleven Inc.
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

General

AA Grupo Gratiud
Al & Luella Steele
Andrew & Alaina Potzler
Anthony & Celia Soto & Family
Artesia Transmission
CEA – HOW
Chick-Fil-A
Julian & Francisca Salazar
Lee Wei Tsao & Cacilia J. Kim
Marjorie O'Leary
Maria Ceballos
Norwalk/La Mirada Plumbing & HVAC
Norwalk Presbyterian Church
Norwalk Printing
Norwalk Records
Norwalk Superior Court Employees
Patricia L. Kessler
Patrick T. Myers
Rainbow Donuts
Rose Lynn Romero
Ron King
Sandra Arzate

Sherry Koehling & Jennifer Lopez Family
St. Linus Knights of Columbus #10623
Squeekers & Herb Originals
W.G. Zimmerman Engineering
William Crean

Elementary Schools

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

Angel Tree Sites

Alba Professional Services/H&R Block
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #359
Communication Workers of America
Corral Family Daycare
Edna Baldovinos
Faith Reform Church
John Glenn High School
Joyland Preschool
L.A. County Fire Department Station #20
L.A. County Sheriff's Department – Norwalk Station
Liberty Tax Service – Karina Miranda
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
TLC Learning Center
United Methodist Church

\$1 Supporter Sites

Dolland Elementary	Morrison Elementary
Douglas Burgers	New River Elementary
Edmondson Elementary	Nuffer Elementary
Glazier Elementary	Salas Daycare
John Glenn High	Tam's Burgers #33
Joyland Preschool	

Taliza Coffee Opens at Norwalk Entertainment Center



We are happy to announce that coffee has returned to the Norwalk Entertainment Center! Taliza Coffee recently opened on the corner of Civic Center Drive and Norwalk Boulevard! Taliza Coffee boasts of roasting their beans locally and offers a unique brunch-style menu including hot and iced coffee and tea beverages, soups, salads, sandwiches and baked goods. Taliza Coffee is located at 12200 Civic Center Drive. For more information, please call 562-929-2888, or visit www.talizacoffeetea.com

Valentine's Day Virtual Programs

Happy Valentine's Day from the Norwalk Recreation & Park Services Department! Celebrate with us by participating in holiday-themed, virtual programs. Register now: tiny.cc/norwalkrec.

Cupid's Craftivities

Celebrate the holiday as a family! Sign up to receive an activity kit that includes all supplies needed to participate in crafts, games and more. Staff will demonstrate all activities in pre-recorded videos that your family can enjoy from home. Let's celebrate together, from afar. Fee is \$20 per kit (for a family of four).

Mad Love Weekend

Calling all couples! Grab that special someone and join us for a date night at home. Enjoy pre-recorded videos of all activities, including canvas art, dance lessons and more. Participants will receive an activity kit that includes all necessary supplies. Registration deadline is February 8. Fee is \$20 per kit.

**Please check your registration receipt for kit pick-up information.* For more information, please call 562-929-5521.

Community Input Needed!

The City of Norwalk is looking to increase access to local parks and greenspaces within the City and we need your help! Norwalk received a grant from the National Recreation and Park Association to develop a plan to increase access to parks and green spaces within a 10 minute walk from home.

Please take a few moments to fill out this survey.

To access the survey, visit <https://forms.gle/ruUTgnxAbqrSgYad9>

La Ciudad de Norwalk busca aumentar el acceso a los parques locales y espacios verdes dentro de la ciudad y necesitamos su ayuda! Recibimos una subvención de la Asociación Nacional de Parques y Recreación para desarrollar un plan para aumentar el acceso a parques y espacios verdes a 10 minutos a pie de casa. Tome unos minutos breves para completar esta encuesta.

Para acceder a la encuesta, haga clic en: <https://forms.gle/Xvxs1DeyaisBor9RA>



AB 1826

Mandatory Organics Recycling

Sustainability CORNER

For businesses and multi-family residences with 5 or more units:

<p>JANUARY 1, 2016</p> <p>Mandatory organics recycling program* implemented.</p>	<p>APRIL 1, 2016</p> <p><i>If you generate:</i></p> <p>8 cubic yards of organics</p> <p>you are required to have an organics recycling program in place.</p>	<p>JANUARY 1, 2017</p> <p><i>If you generate:</i></p> <p>4 cubic yards of organics</p> <p>you are required to have an organics recycling program in place.</p>	<p>JANUARY 1, 2019</p> <p><i>If you generate:</i></p> <p>4 cubic yards of garbage</p> <p>you are required to have an organics recycling program in place.</p>	<p>SUMMER/FALL 2021</p> <p><i>If you generate:</i></p> <p>2 cubic yards of garbage</p> <p>you are required to have an organics recycling program in place.</p>
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**This law requires that on and after January 1, 2016, local jurisdictions across the state implement an organic waste recycling program to divert organic waste generated by businesses, including multi-family residential dwellings with five or more units.*

Athens Services has recently visited all Norwalk businesses that are subject to the requirements of AB 1826. Unfortunately, many local businesses are not yet in compliance with this law. If your business or multi-family is not recycling organics, please call Athens Services at 888-336-6100.