The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, CA March 2021, Volume 42, #3



The City of Norwalk continues to monitor developments regarding Governor Newsom's broad use of his "Emergency Powers" due to the ongoing pandemic.

Many of these actions have been initiated by the State and implemented by the County. The Norwalk City Council has taken a proactive approach to ensure residents are both informed and protected.

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

Last month, city officials were notified that the forty-three female patients, housed at the annex formerly known as the California Youth Authority (CYA), had been transferred out as of February 11th, as their rates of infections are down. The facility will be utilized as a transitional facility for patients prior to being transferred to the Metro State Hospital, with a maximum stay of 14 days. Those that are transferred are screened in advance in conjunction with local sheriffs. There are no plans to extend its use beyond September 2021.

City officials were also informed that the staterun alternative care site in Norwalk, located at 11515 Firestone Blvd (Norwalk Retirement Villa), is being used as surge space to relieve hospitals dealing with the surge in coronavirus patients. Those housed there are assisted living elderly patients who no longer require hospital-level care but are not yet healthy enough to return home. This is a temporary site, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of February 25, 2021, the total number of rooms occupied at the Project Roomkey site in Norwalk, located at 12500 Firestone Boulevard (Saddleback Hotel), was 169, with a total number of 183 participants in the program.

City officials were informed that the Project Homekey site located at 10646 Rosecrans Avenue (Motel 6), would be at 100% capacity by March. The City Council has taken a proactive approach to negotiate with the county to transfer some of the homeless population in Norwalk off the streets and into the facility. City staff maintains communication with county officials to ensure this program abides by the safety protocols in place.

Prayer with the Mayor

On Friday, February 12, the City of Norwalk hosted the first Virtual Prayer with the Mayor. For 51 years, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast has brought the Norwalk community together to share in a message of inspiration. This year, the event went virtual, and as a reflection of how our community has faced the challenges brought on by COVID-19, the event theme was "Hope. Together. Brighter."

The event's keynote speaker was Dr. David Olea, Principal at Norwalk High with the invocation provided by April Reutter, an Educator and Founder of Pray Norwalk. The event also included a slide show highlighting local students, staff and community members.

Dr. Olea was born and raised in Norwalk and is a proud member of our community. As a testament to hope, he shares the adversities that his family endured as immigrants. Recognizing the hardships that students have faced, including personal loss and social isolation, he encourages students, as well as the community at large, to find anchor in hope during challenging times.







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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Local Streets Rehabilitation Program Continues

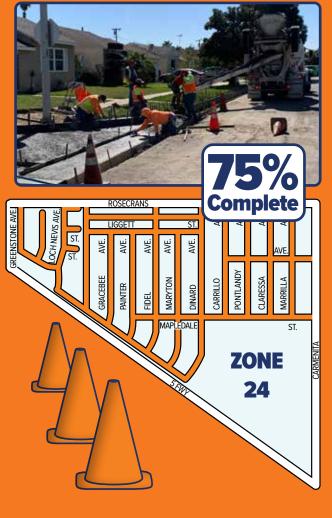
On November 17, 2020, City Council awarded the construction for the concrete improvements phase of the Local Streets Rehabilitation Program for Zones 24, 27 and 32.

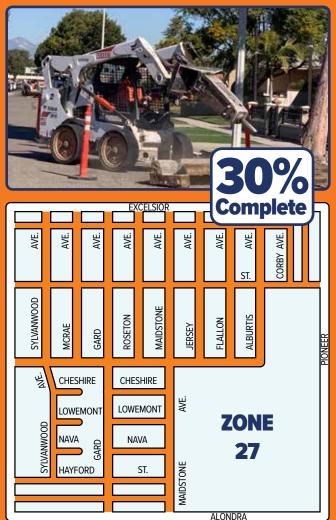
The project boundaries for the zones are as follows:

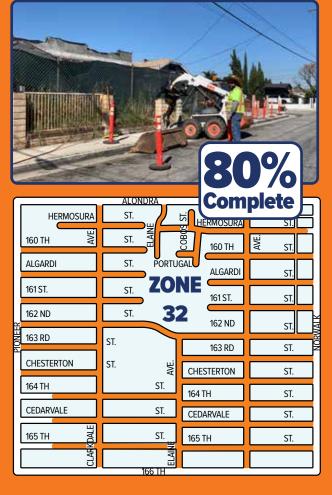
Zone 24 - Rosecrans Avenue to the north, Carmenita Road to the east, and triangulated by the I-5 Freeway to the south

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







Heart of Norwalk Plan





The City of Norwalk is happy to announce an additional round of virtual community workshops for the Heart of Norwalk Plan on Wednesday, March 10 (Spanish) and Thursday, March 11 (English). In these community workshops, you will have the chance to learn about the plan, express your

preferences, and design the community yourself!

Approximately 50 community members joined us on February 18th for the first community workshop, but we know some may not have had the opportunity to

participate. We apologize for the incorrect meeting ID in last month's Norwalk Now. These new meetings are additional opportunities for our residents to join us to help craft an exciting vision for the future of the Heart of Norwalk!

In addition, you can keep visiting HeartOfNorwalk.com and following "HeartOfNorwalk" on Instagram or Facebook to keep up with the plan.



La Ciudad de Norwalk se complace en anunciar otra ronda de talleres comunitarios virtuales para el Plan Corazón de Norwalk el miércoles 10 de marzo (español) y jueves 11 de marzo (inglés). Pedimos disculpas por la información incorrecta en la edición de febrero del Norwalk Now.

Norwalk to Develop New Local Hazard Mitigation Plan The City of Norwalk will develop a new Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) in

2021. An active LHMP is a requirement to maintain FEMA funding eligibility to support both pre-disaster and post-disaster mitigation activities. Through this process, the natural hazards faced by our City and residents will be documented. Additionally, risk reduction strategies to reduce the impact of future disaster will be identified. Once approved, the LHMP will guide the City and its partners to implement the confirmed strategies throughout Norwalk.

Norwalk's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will:

- identify the City of Norwalk's top hazards
- assess the risk to the City's residents, buildings and critical facilities
- develop a comprehensive mitigation strategy to reduce the risk of exposure and allow a swift and organized recovery should a disaster occur

Norwalk is vulnerable to several natural and man-made hazards. Some of these hazards include:

- Dam failure
- Extreme Heat
- Public Health Emergency

- Earthquake
- Flooding
- Climate Change

Public input opportunities will be available March through August 2021, including a resident survey, steering committee meetings (available to the public), other public meetings, and an open public comment period when the draft Plan is ready for review.

• Human-Caused Hazards (i.e. hazardous materials, terrorism, transportation accident, etc.)

A resident survey is available March 2 through April 30. You can access the survey using the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T8JVZH3

For more information about Norwalk's LHMP, please contact: Gabriela Garcia at: ggarcia@norwalkca.gov

Outdoor Business Operations Re-Opened!

On January 25, 2021, the State lifted the Regional Stay Home Order and Los Angeles County issued a revised Health Order allowing outdoor business operations to resume on January 29, 2021.

The City remains available to support Norwalk businesses and the continuation of outdoor business operations. With the recent changes, the City is resuming the Temporary Outdoor Business Program, which allows businesses to set up temporary outdoor business operations with tables, seating, tents, protective barriers and other equipment. To date, the City has issued approximately 16 Temporary Outdoor Business Permits.

The process for obtaining a Temporary Outdoor Business Permit is quick, easy and free!

Step 1: Submit your Temporary Outdoor Business Permit application, outdoor layout and photos.

Step 2: City reviews application submittal and approves location prior to installation.

Step 3: Business owner installs outdoor set-up and calls for City inspection to ensure safety. Final Step: City approves outdoor set-up and customers are welcome!

For more information, visit www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/communitydevelopment/planning or contact Community Development Department, Planning Division at: planning@norwalkca.gov or 562- 929-5744.





Join Sheriff Alex Villanueva and Captain James Tatreau to discuss public safety.

Tuesday March 23 from 2-4 pm

To join this meeting, visit: https://bit.ly/39YpKa2
To listen only: (213) 306-3065 or to Access code: 146-016-4894
If you have any questions please submit them in advance to: SIBEPT@lasd.org

Street Sweeping Parking Enforcement

Street sweeping parking enforcement will resume April 1, 2021. Until then, we ask that residents please maintain the street in front of their home clean if they are not able to move their vehicle on their street sweeping day. Citations for other parking related violations like preferential parking, red-curb violation, parking by a fire hydrant, illegal handicap parking, etc. will still be enforced.



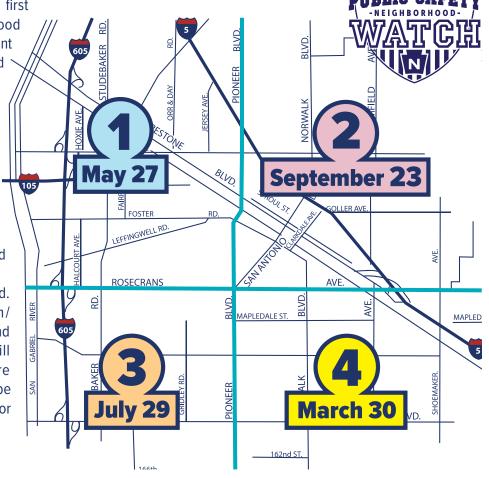
La aplicación de la ley de estacionamiento de barrido de calles reasumirá el 1 de abril de 2021. Hasta entonces, les pedimos a los residentes que mantengan limpia la calle frente a su casa si no pueden mover su vehículo el día de barrido de calles.

Virtual Neighborhood Watch Meeting

The City is kicking off its first meeting of virtual Neighborhood Watch! Meetings for each quadrant of the City will be scheduled throughout the year. See below map for your meeting date (May 27, 2021 meeting - quadrant 1; July 29, 2021 meeting - quadrant 3; and September 23, 2021 meeting - quadrant 2).

If you live in Quadrant 4, please join us on Tuesday, March 30, at 6 p.m. for a Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Pre-registration is required. Visit website tinyurl.com/ NorwalkQ4 to register to attend the meeting. Meeting link will be emailed to you day before the meeting. Questions must be submitted in writing via email or through meeting chat box only. Live questions may not be submitted.



Spotlight on Officer Jimenez



Since the start of 2021, Public Safety Officer Jesse Jimenez has already recovered 7 stolen vehicles found upon our City streets! Officer Jimenez has taken the initiative to patrol hot spot areas and has

used his keen observation to identify stolen vehicles based on their physical condition. Note these vehicles discovered were not associated with any calls reporting on the vehicle. We would like to thank Officer Jimenez for his proactive and diligent work ultimately helping victims recover their vehicles. Officer Jimenez upholds the Department's commitment to service and making a difference in the community.

Cadet of the Month



Cadet Marcos
Tavarez has been with
the Cadet Program since
January of 2018 and has
volunteered over 520
community service hours.
Cadet Tavarez enjoys
assisting his peers in the
program and hopes to
serve his community as a

Sheriff Deputy upon his completion of high school. On his free time Cadet Tavarez helps his family with their family-owned business.

Citywide On-street Parking Study

In response to growing concerns relating to shortages of residential on-street parking, in November 2020, the City released a request for proposals to hire a consultant to conduct a citywide on-street parking study with a consultant having been selected at the March 2nd Council meeting. Staff anticipates the study kick-off in March 2021 with completion of the study by August 2021. The study will evaluate current parking conditions and identify recommendations for best management practices and policies/guidelines that may help the City better manage on street parking. If you have any questions, please contact Miguel Lucero at 562-929-5732.



Fighting Pollution by Becoming the Solution



Please help keep the City of Norwalk clean by reporting illegally dumped items. The sight of illegally dumped bulky items attracts other individuals to do the same and continues the trend. When you see illegally dumped items, please report them immediately. Don't assume someone else has already reported the items. With everyone's help, we can focus our efforts in keeping our neighborhoods looking great and litter free.

Important Phone Numbers:

Athens Services: 855-557-1007

Public Safety Department: 562-929-5732

If you have a bulky item to dispose of, you can schedule a bulky item pick-up by calling Athens Services at 855-557-1007 or online at athensservices.com/bulky-item-pickup/. To report illegally dumped items, contact Athens or the Public Safety Department.

Por favor ayude a mantener limpia nuestra comunidad reportando los artículos arrojados ilegalmente. La vista de estos artículos arrojados atrae a otras personas a hacer lo mismo. Cuando vea artículos arrojados ilegalmente, repórtelos de inmediato. Con la ayuda de todos, podemos concentrar nuestros esfuerzos en mantener nuestro vecindarios con un aspecto excelente y sin basura.

COVID-19 SPECIAL COVERAGE · Safer at Home ·

Senior Center

Department Re-Cap of Quarterly Birthday



Drive-Thru Celebration

On February 18, Senior Center staff celebrated senior patrons with birthdays in January, February and March. Birthday seniors were invited to a Mardi Gras themed birthday drive thru at the Center, and were greeted with music, balloons, inflatables, their own personal poster, and a birthday gift. Staff received many compliments on the success of this event and participating seniors were grateful that staff is making efforts to stay connected to the senior community during this pandemic. All COVID-19 safety protocols and procedures are followed. This event is held on a quarterly basis and the popularity of the celebration is growing.

Weekly Mental Health Support Group Every Monday • 2 to 2:45 p.m. Call-In Number: 1 (978) 990-5176 Conference ID: 695849#

This support group, led by staff from Telecare Corporation, will meet by phone on a weekly basis, and cover a variety of topics, including depression, anxiety, stress management, self-care, grief and loss, mental well-being, and the aging process.

Cooking Demonstration Friday, March 12 • 1 to 2 p.m.

Chef Jared will show you how to prepare and cook a simple, healthy meal, consisting of a smoothie and an egg frittata! He'll also show you substitutions you can use for any dietary restrictions. Senior Center Virtual Programing airs on the following channels: Charter/Spectrum Channel 3 and Frontier Fios Channel 32

Self-Care for Seniors Tuesday, March 16 • 2 to 3 p.m. Call-In Number: 1 (978) 990-5176 Conference ID: 695849#

Staff from Telecare will provide educational information on the importance of self-care for seniors, and discuss practical steps to take to improve self-care. A self-care schedule will be shared with attendees that can be personalized to individual needs.

Sponsored by: Telecare

Depression and Anxiety Thursday, March 25 • 1 to 2 p.m. Call-In Number: 1 (323) 776-6996 Conference ID: 345 533 489#

Learn to recognize the symptoms of depression and anxiety in seniors. Find out what contributes to these problems and what needs to be done when you or someone you love suffers from depression or anxiety.

Spring Craft Kit

Nothing says "Spring is Here" like a colorful butterfly. The Norwalk Senior Center will have butterfly kits to create your very own butterfly magnet. Please call 562-929-5580 to reserve your butterfly, as supplies are limited.

NTS 2020 Distinguished Operators of the Year & Safe Driver Awards

norwalk

transit

In an effort to promote the safest and highest quality of service and personnel practices, the City of Norwalk's Transportation Department implemented the Distinguished Coach



Operator in September 2016 and became Full Time in November of 2019. Operator Hernandez is a firsttime recipient of the Distinguished Coach Operator of the Year.



Hector Hernandez was hired by Jose Moran joined Norwalk Transit in Alfonso Sanchez became part of the Norwalk Transit as an On-Call Coach 2016 as an On-Call Coach Operator. Operator Moran was also recipient of 1998 as an On-Call Coach Operator the Distinguished Coach Operator of and became Full Time in 2001. the Year for 2018.

Operator Award Program. This program is intended to provide Coach Operators the opportunity to be recognized and rewarded for quality performance throughout the year.



Norwalk Transit team in February of Operator Sanchez was the recipient of the Distinguished Coach Operator of the Year in 2000.

Safe Driver Awards For 5 Or More Years - For Drivers that have gone 5 years or more, accident free (preventable accidents), they will be given a special Safe Driver Pin to wear on their uniform. The pins are distributed in 5-year increments.

2019:

Liset Escalera, 5 years

2020:

Luis Martinez, 5 years

Tony Rivera, 5 years Matt Vibert, 5 years

Teresa Ramirez, 10 years John Ybarra, 15 years

Athens' Food Recovery Program



SB 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Law targets reduction of methane emissions from landfills by requiring a 50% reduction of statewide disposal of organics waste (from 2014 level) by 2020 **Mot Landfills* and a 75% reduction by 2025. It establishes an additional target that

20% of currently disposed edible food be recovered for human consumption by 2025. To help reach this goal, Athens has partnered with experienced food recovery organizations to assist your business with its food donation setup, needs, and concerns. Prior to donating, please be sure to arrange an initial meeting to discuss partnership logistics. Athens provides an extensive list of partners online at:www.AthensServices.com/ FoodDonation.

₹FRE Tax Filing Services

It's tax filing season; and once again, the Tzu Chi Foundation is providing free tax preparation services to qualifying residents in Norwalk. The services are made possible by the Volunteer Tax Income Assistance Program (VITA).

Qualifying criteria includes:

Total household income not to exceed \$56,000 No rental income

May not be married filing separately

This year, only virtual services will be provided: Call 562-929-5961 to schedule an appointment to pick up

your tax packet at the Social Services Center. Clearly leave your first, last name, and contact phone number. (English and Spanish speaking) Phone interviews will be conducted only if needed.

Drop off your completed packet with required documents in the designated mail box. You will be notified when to pick up your completed final tax return.

The Social Services Center is located at 11929 Alondra Boulevard. Appointments are limited and will be on a first-come, first served basis.

LENERGY COTHET



Energy Successes, Tips and Solutions to Operate Your Business **More Efficiently** Just a few small changes can help you improve

your heating, lighting, and cooling efficiency—so you're saving time, energy, and money! Explore industry success stories, energy tips and savings that can help you manage and control energy use.

https://www.sce.com/business/savingsincentives/for-business

iSolo unos pequeños cambios pueden mejorar la eficiencia de su calefacción, iluminación y enfriamiento - ayudando ahorrar tiempo, energía y dinero! Explore consejos de energía y ahorros que pueden ayudarlo a administrar y controlar el uso de energía.

Remodeling? Large clean-out?

Whatever you are planning. be sure to call Athens Services

Athens Services is the only authorized trash and recycling hauler in the City of Norwalk. Whether you are a resident or a business, if you have a construction, remodeling, or clean-out project planned, you must arrange for collection with Athens Services. Athens provides a range of container sizes and pickup schedules to meet the needs of your project. Athens will also assist you in complying with the recycling requirements for residential and commercial construction and demolition projects. To request a price quotation or schedule services, call Athens Services at 888-336-6100.

If your construction contractor provides their own bins, those bins may be used but must be clearly labeled with the contractor's business name and phone number.

RECREATION

AND PARK SERVICES DEPARTMENT SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- ONGOING PROGRAMS -

The Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Department offers a variety of virtual, ongoing programming for youth, teens and adults. **Register now: tiny.cc/norwalkrec.**



Creative Li'l Tots

We invite your little ones to join us for an exciting at-home learning experience. Prepare your child for Kindergarten and help them learn necessary skills in a fun and interactive environment. Your child will participate in a variety of learning activities, crafts, games and more through daily Zoom classes. With each registration, your child will receive an at-home Creative Li'l Tots kit that contains the necessary items for you and your child to participate in all activities.

DAY	DATES	TIME	AGE	FEE
M-Th	Mar 22-Apr 22	10-10:45a	3 yr	\$40
M-Th	Mar 22-Apr 22	11-11:45a	4-5 yr	\$40
M-Th *No class Spring E	Mar 22-Apr 22 Break week: Apr 5-9	12-12:45p	4-5 yr	\$40

Norwalk Kids Club

Spring into fun with Norwalk Kids Club! Join us after school via Zoom for a variety of games and activities, including games, science, art and exercise. Supplies and materials will be provided.



DAY	DATES	TIME	AGE	FEE
M-Th	Mar 22-Apr 22	4-5p	6-12 yr	\$50

HEART Club

Recreation Adapted for Teens & Adults with Disabilities! This program aims to maximize participants abilities through recreation activities with a social emphasis. Each week they will get to see friends through a weekly Zoom and follow along with weekly themed activities including game nights, arts and crafts, and much more! A box of supplies will also be provided for the entire session.

Once registered zoom and supplies pickup information will be provided via email

DAY	DATES	TIME	AGE	FEE
Wed	Mar 3, 10, 17, 24	5-6p	13+	\$25



Teen Talks

Get away from schoolwork and the fact that we are all stuck at home by joining your friends and staff for our virtual Teen Talks through Zoom. We discuss a number of topics including mental wellness, cooking recipes, health and fitness, sports and more. We are open to new topic ideas!

DAY	DATES	TIME	AGE	FEE
T/Th	Mar 2, 4, 16, 18, 30) 5p	13-18	FREE
Reaistrati	on Deadline: Reaistration	is onaoina	and accen	ted via

ZOOM meeting information will be posted on BAND and our social media platforms.

Teen Alliance Program TAP



Join TAP and learn valuable working skills, develop social skills, interpersonal skills, and gain a sense of accomplishment, all while giving back to your community. You will have opportunities to volunteer virtually with the City of Norwalk. This is a great way to earn volunteer hours for school or church.

The Teen Alliance Program General Membership meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month via Zoom. Meetings are MANDATORY and each TAP member receives volunteer hours.

DAY	DATES	TIME	AGE	FEE
W	Mar 3	5p	13-18	Free
W	Apr 7	5p	13-18	Free
ZOOM meeting in norwalkteencent	•	sted on BAND and our so	cial media platforms. (I	Instagram @

- MARCH PROGRAMS -

Join the Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Department for unique, onetime activities in the month of March. **Register now: tiny.cc/norwalkrec.**

Story Time

Listen along to pre-recorded videos as our staff read aloud some of your favorite books. Stream a story during the day for a quick break, or at bedtime for a cozy goodnight. New videos will be posted weekly.

DAY	DATE	AGE	FEE
М	Mar 1-29	3-5	\$5

Family Challenge Night

If you and your family enjoy a challenge, you won't want to miss out! Sign up and compete against other families via Zoom with timed challenges to competitions. The night is sure to be fun and full of laughs. Participants will receive a game kit, for a family of four, which will include all materials needed for a night of friendly competition. Kits will be available for pick up on Wednesday, March 24.

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	
F	Mar 26	6:30p	\$20	

March Madness Fitness Challenge



Pick your park and get active! Join your neighbors and friends in competitive challenges that can be completed at your own pace at a local park. Staff will post weekly challenges on the social media app, Band, that corresponds to each park's amenities, size, etc. Participants will post their scores and timings each week, and staff will share the participant rankings every

Friday. Prizes will be awarded to all participants based on final rankings in a youth category and teens category.

DATES	AGE	FEE
Mar 5-Apr 2	6-18 yr	\$10

Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex • 13000 Clarkdale Ave. • 562-929-5702

The Lucky Leprechaun Hunt Shamrock here, shamrock there, happy leprechauns everywhere! Find the lucky leprechaun hidden within the city and claim a prize. Uncover clues and giveaways at participating businesses starting March 12 and use your leprechaun hunting kit to find the lucky leprechaun on March 17. The Leprechaun hunting kit pickup will occur the week of March 8. Use of social media is required to enter the event raffles. DAY **AGE** F-W Mar 12-17 **All Ages** \$15 per kit

Family Paint Night Virtual Program

Enjoy an evening painting with the entire family. Families will receive an activity kit for a family of four, which will include snacks, games and all paint supplies. In addition, there will be a live instructor via Zoom who will provide step-by-step instruction on painting a beautiful masterpiece on canvas that you and your family can enjoy as an art piece for the home. *Once registered, Zoom and activity kit pickup information will be provided via email

provided via email.					
DAY	DATE	TIME	AGE	FEE	
F	Mar 19	6-8p	6+	\$20 per kit	

UPCOMING PROGRAMS -

SAVE THE DATE for future programming during the month of April.

Spring Into Rec

• Mon, March 29 – Sun, April 4 🗕

Spring into Rec is heading your way! Celebrate the season with us on social media for a variety of crafts, games and other activities that coincide with the day's theme:



Monday: Children's Crafts

Tuesday: Family Games

Wednesday: Home Décor Ideas

Thursday: Holiday Recipes

Friday: Easter Bunny Fun

Saturday: Easter Flashback

Sunday: Easter Photo Contest

Follow us on Facebook (Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex) and Instagram (@recnorwalk) so you don't miss out on the fun!



Easter Grams

Fee: \$20 L

Send an Easter surprise to your family and friends! Purchase an Easter Gram for \$20, which includes a goodie basket, yard sign and balloons. Recreation Staff will deliver grams to recipients from March 29-April 2. All recipients must be Norwalk residents.

Registration begins March 8: tiny.cc/norwalkrec.

Registration Deadline: M, Mar 22



Support Your Community on the Donor Tree!

The Norwalk Arts & Sports Foundation continues enriching our community in its support of programs, activities, and services offered at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex. Everyone who contributes \$100 or more will receive permanent recognition in the form of an engraved leaf on the Donor Tree located in the lobby of the Norwalk

Arts & Sports Complex. Leaves can be inscribed with your name, company, organization, or in memory of a loved one. To make a donation, please call 929-5665 for more information.



Egg-normous Egg Hunt

Begins Wed, Mar 31 —

Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt across the City! Staff will be hiding large foam board eggs throughout Norwalk starting on Wednesday, March 31. Grab your household to hit the streets and find an egg (while supplies last). Everyone who finds an egg will receive a prize! Information on how to redeem your prize is on the egg so make sure to keep it! You must bring the egg with you in order to receive your prize.





