

# Norwalk<sup>e</sup>Now

The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, CA  
March 2022, Volume 43, #3 • @cityofnorwalkca



## First Community Forum of 2022



Save the date, the first Community Forum event of 2022 will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. and will take place at Paddison Elementary School's Cafeteria/MPR.

This event will be a hybrid event so that residents will be able to participate either in-person or via Zoom. The topics for this event will be Public Safety, Infrastructure, and SB 1383 (organics/food waste). The event will be followed by a Q&A session with the City Council and City staff.

**Zoom login information:**  
**Meeting ID: 891 4736 9778**  
**Dial In Number: 669 900 6833**

These events provide residents with an opportunity to obtain information on future city projects and also share any possible concerns with the City Council and City staff on issues that may impact the quality of life in Norwalk.



## Mayor Kicks Off Meet and Greet Events



Last month, Mayor Rick Ramirez held two meet and greet events as a chance for residents to come out and support a local business, while being able to chat with him and have their voices heard. There was a great turnout of residents at both events.

A special thank you to Panera Bread and Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant for allowing the City to utilize their outdoor spaces.

Stay tuned to the City's social media pages for future upcoming events.

## City Hosts Regional Job Fair



The City of Norwalk, in partnership with the Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board (SELACO WDB) and the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, hosted a Regional Job Fair at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex on February 14, 2022.

The event was attended by over 300 job seekers looking to interview with one or more of the 80 employers looking to hire employees.

There were three workshops available for job

seekers to learn how to write a resume, learn financial literacy, and interview techniques.

Top Line Automotive (11742 Imperial Hwy), a local Norwalk business, was awarded the first ever Southeast LA Employer Champion Award at the event.

Thank you to SELACO WDB, the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, and City staff for working together to make this event possible.

Businesses and job seekers can visit SELACO WDB's website for several helpful resources.

## Emergency Powers

The California Department of Public Health's statewide requirement that masks be worn in all indoor public settings ended on February 15, 2022.

In mid-February 2022, the L.A. County Health Department lifted its mask mandate for outdoor mega-events and outdoors at schools and children centers after having seven consecutive days of hospitalization numbers remaining below 2,500.

Effective February 25, 2022, the Los Angeles County Health Department made changes in its Health Officer Order that allowed establishments, businesses, or venues two options for removing masking requirements for fully vaccinated individuals.

	Customers		Employees	
	Fully Vaccinated	Not Fully Vaccinated*	Fully Vaccinated	Not Fully Vaccinated
<b>Option 1: Applies to Customers and Workers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide proof of full vaccination or negative test to enter</li> <li>May unmask indoors only if they provide proof of full vaccination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide proof of a recent negative test to enter</li> <li>Must wear a mask indoors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide proof of full vaccination or negative test to enter</li> <li>May unmask indoors only if they provide proof of full vaccination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide proof of a recent negative test to enter</li> <li>Must wear a mask indoors</li> </ul>
<b>Option 2: Applies to customers only</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide proof of full vaccination or negative test to enter</li> <li>May unmask indoors only if they provide proof of full vaccination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide proof of a recent negative test to enter</li> <li>Must wear a mask indoors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must continue to wear a mask indoors (no testing or proof of vaccination required to enter)</li> </ul>	

\*Or business is unable to verify that they are fully vaccinated.

\*Source: Los Angeles County Health Department

Governor Gavin Newsom's emergency proclamation is set to end on March 31, 2022, which would effectively end all COVID-19 related mandates statewide.

Metropolitan State Hospital's temporary use of the former California Youth Authority facility is set to

end this month. The Project Homekey site continues to operate.

The City of Norwalk is committed to the health and safety of our community and will continue to share information that impact our residents.

## Norwalk City Council

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

City of Norwalk  
12700 Norwalk Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA 90650

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### Norwalk City Hall Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Alternating Fridays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

562-929-5700



# Save the Date: Artastic 2022

It has been two years since Norwalk has held its popular Artastic event and we are happy to announce that the event will return on March 18, 2022. Join us as we celebrate all aspects of art. The event will be from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Professional artists have the chance to display their artwork for the community as part of an Art Box. To participate in this exhibit, please visit: [tinyurl.com/artbox22](http://tinyurl.com/artbox22)

If you are interested in being an art vendor at this event as part of the Art Walk, register at [tinyurl.com/artwalk22](http://tinyurl.com/artwalk22)

To participate in the Chalk Art Contest, please submit an application/information to [afranco@norwalkca.gov](mailto:afranco@norwalkca.gov)

For more information, please contact the Cultural Arts Center at (562) 929-5521



# Local Streets Rehabilitation Program

The Local Street Rehabilitation Program continues in 2022!

The larger portion of this year's Local Streets Rehabilitation Program has moved forward as of last month.

The larger zones that will be worked on this year are Zones 3, 8, and 19. The design contracts for these projects were awarded last month and work should begin around Summer of 2022. Funding for these zones will come from Measure R (2008) and Measure M (2016).

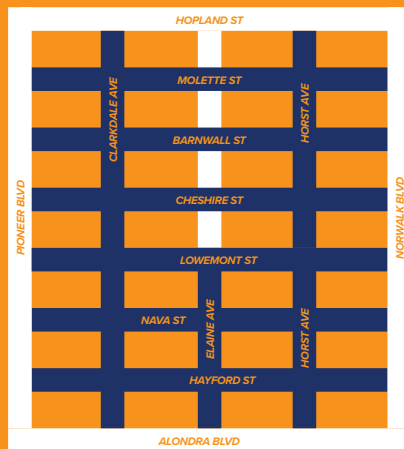
It was announced earlier this year that Zone 28 will be the first area worked on this year for the Local Streets Rehabilitation Program. Most of the funding for this project is coming from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Work was scheduled to begin in late February 2022 and should end

by April 2022.

Be sure to follow the City's social media pages for updates on these projects.



Zone 28



Zone 19



Zone 8



# Temporary Fixed-Route Service Adjustments to Routes 1, 4 & 7 And Resumption of Front Door Boarding and Fare Collection



On February 20, 2022, the Norwalk Transit Service (NTS) implemented fixed-route service adjustments, which were necessary to reduce/eliminate service disruptions/cancellations as well as restore service reliability.

The reason for the temporary adjustments is mainly due to a pandemic related bus operator shortage. The temporary adjustments to fixed-route service on bus routes 1, 4, and 7 are:

- **Route 1** – There will be a temporary reduction in the number of assigned buses from six to five resulting in a minor reduction in frequency of service from buses arriving every 30 minutes an estimated arrival time of every 37 minutes.
- **Route 4** – The temporary discontinuance of the Route 4 express bus service, which provides supplementary support to the regular Route 4 buses for commuter rail passengers to travel non-stop between the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink Commuter Rail Station and the Green Line Light Rail Station.
- **Route 7** – The temporary discontinuance of the Route 7 shuttle service, which provides supplementary support to the regular Route 7 buses for passengers traveling non-stop between the El Monte Bus Station and Rio Hondo College.
- **Route 7** – The temporary reduction of the frequency of service from buses arriving every 45 – 50 minutes to buses estimated arrival times of every 60 minutes.

Front door boarding and fare collection also resumed on February 20, 2022, which were temporarily on pause since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

# COVID-19 Testing Site Will Remain Open Through March 2022

The free COVID-19 testing site at the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink Station will remain open through the month of March 2022.

**Location:** 12800 Imperial Hwy,  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
**Days/Hours Open:** Monday-Saturday,  
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- Drive-thru testing only
- No appointments needed
- Health insurance not required to get tested
- Photo ID is required to get tested
- This site only administers PCR tests
- Children 1 year old and older can get tested
- Results may take up to 72 hours



Scan QR code to pre-register

# Pets For Troops



The City of Norwalk is honored to be home to over 3,000 veterans and would like to remind residents that are veterans and active-duty service members about the "Pets for Troops" adoption program.

Pet adoptions are coordinated through SEAACA and pet adoption fees are reduced by 50%.

Adopted pets (with some exceptions) come spayed or neutered, micro-chipped, and with the first set of vaccinations applied.

Pets provide companionship and may lower blood pressure and raise physical and mental well-being through enjoyment of the outdoors, socializing and natural bonding between animal and human.

For more information, please call SEAACA offices at (562) 803-3301







# COMMUNITY SAFETYZONE

## City of Norwalk Honors Retiring Sheriff's Deputy Steven Douma



LA County Sheriff's Deputy Steven Douma was recognized for his service to the Norwalk community at the City Council meeting on February 1, 2022.

Born and raised in Norwalk, Deputy Douma, also known as "Mr. Norwalk," was hired as a Deputy in 1988 and started his career at the Norwalk Sheriff's Station on July 25, 1992.

Deputy Douma spent 28 years working as the City of Norwalk School Traffic Enforcement Car, keeping all our local children safe from vehicular traffic.

He will be retiring on March 31, 2022, and in retirement, he plans on becoming a Reserve Deputy at the Norwalk Sheriff's Station so that he can continue to serve this community.

## Cadet Program

The City of Norwalk recently highlighted three individuals that were part of the Public Safety Department's Cadet program.

Amy Contreras, Melanie Carranza, and Luis Quintero all benefited from the Cadet program, which helped them reach recent milestones in their lives

Amy Contreras began the Public Safety Cadet Program in June 2018 and volunteered over 400 hours of community service. She graduated from Southeast Academy High School and currently attends the University of California, Irvine. Amy was recently hired as a Public Safety Officer to continue her civil service to help improve the safety and quality of life of Norwalk residents.

Melanie Carranza recently graduated from a 13-week Marine Corps recruit training. She started in the Public Safety Department's Cadet program in August 2016 and has volunteered over 1,270 hours of community service. After successfully graduating from the L.A. County Sheriff's STARS Explorer Academy, Melanie was invited back to serve as an Explorer Intern for Class 100 and then became the first Public Safety Cadet to serve

as an Explorer Drill Instructor for Class 102.

Luis Quintero started with the Public Safety Cadet Program in August of 2016 and completed over 770 hours of community service. Through his strong leadership and dedication in the Cadet program, Luis was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He is currently attending Cal State Long Beach working towards his undergraduate degree. Luis was recently hired as a Public Safety Officer to help improve the safety and quality of life of Norwalk residents.

Since 1995, the Cadet program has operated year-round to help Norwalk middle school and high school students acquire valuable real-world skills and experience.

The objective of the Public Safety Cadet program is to give cadets a sense of responsibility, increase their self-esteem through positive social interaction, leadership development and team building skills, provide hands-on experience and sharpen problem solving skills, and allow them to explore future careers.

For more information on the program, please call (562) 929-5732



**Amy Contreras**

Public Safety Officer I • Public Safety



**Luis Enrique**

Public Safety Officer I • Public Safety



**Melanie Carranza**

United States Marine Corps

## Upcoming Vehicle Theft Prevention Event



In the hopes to increase vehicle theft awareness, the City of Norwalk will be hosting an upcoming event to assist residents falling victim to thieves. The vehicle theft prevention event will take place in conjunction with the Farmers Market that occurs every Saturday in the City Hall parking lot. Be sure to keep a lookout on the City's social media pages for the event announcement in the upcoming weeks.

Residents who attend the vehicle theft awareness event will have the opportunity to receive a complimentary steering wheel lock for their vehicle. Remember, there is no guarantee that your car will not be stolen but taking precautionary measures can minimize your chances of becoming the victim of auto theft. As always, if you see anything suspicious or unusual in your neighborhood call the Norwalk Sheriff's Station to report the activity at (562) 863-8711.

## Collaborative Efforts to Safer Streets



Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities across Southern California have seen an increase in speeding. The City of Norwalk Public Safety Department is committed to keeping its streets safe for everyone. When residents report unsafe commuter conditions in their neighborhoods, City staff make every effort to follow up with the resident to gather additional details to best assist them.

Public Safety staff meet weekly with the Norwalk Sheriff's Department Traffic Deputies to review resident's complaints and discuss manners to resolve them. Depending on the concern, staff determines which resource to deploy, whether it be the speed radar trailer, Sheriff's decoy vehicle, or added random enforcement. Norwalk approaches speeding concerns in a multifaceted manner. If you have concerns or want to learn more on how to be involved in your community, please give us a call at (562) 929-5732. Together we can do our part in keeping our community safe by practicing safe driving.



## Illegal Dumping

Illegal Dumping is a Crime! Property owners are responsible for properly disposing of all of their waste. Leaving trash and discarded items in alleys, medians and other public spaces, not only reflects an unsightly appearance, but also creates community health and safety hazards. To report illegally dumped items, please call Athens Services at 1-888-336-6100



# Distinguished Operator of the Year 2021 Jose Moran



Norwalk Transit employee Jose Moran was recognized as the Distinguished Operator of the Year 2021 on February 15, 2022 for his commitment to excellence.

Jose has not been late to work or been absent from work on an unscheduled basis for any reason. He has not received any valid complaints from the public of passengers. Jose has not been involved in any preventable accidents. He has assisted Norwalk Transit System (NTS) with several special events including Career Days at local elementary schools and the Annual Stuff-A-Bus Toy Drive event.

Jose began his employment with NTS in 2016 as an On-Call Bus Operator and received his first award in 2017. He was previously won the Distinguished Operator of the Year award in 2018, 2019, and 2020.



## Senior Center

14040 San Antonio Dr • 562-929-5580

**Weekly Mental Health Support Group**  
Every Monday  
2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  
Call-In Number: 1 (978) 990-5176  
Conference ID: 695849#

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

**CalFresh**  
First and Third Tuesday of every month  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Norwalk Senior Center

A CalFresh Outreach worker, from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, is available on site to assist seniors with their CalFresh application. CalFresh Outreach worker is also available via phone to assist seniors throughout the week (323) 855-0496.

**Senior Center Scavenger Hunt**  
Thursday, March 3, 2022  
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. • Free  
Norwalk Senior Center

Join us for a Scavenger Hunt, there is no time to spare! There are so many clues to find, so you must play fair! Work alone, or work as a team, all who complete the hunt will have a chance to scream. All who complete the puzzle will be in the chance drawing for a big prize!  
*Registration now being taken.*

**Blood Pressure Seminar and Screening by Lakewood Regional Medical Center**  
Wednesday, March 9, 2022  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Norwalk Senior Center

Staff from Lakewood Regional Medical Center will be conducting an informative presentation on blood pressure. Seniors will be able to participate in a blood pressure screening after the presentation.

**“Pot of Gold” Succulent Planter**  
Thursday, March 10, 2022  
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
\$15.00 per person  
Norwalk Senior Center

Think you don't have a green thumb, well that's a bunch of blarney! Join us as we make our very own “Pot of Gold” planter. You will get to choose three succulents to place in your pot. You will even have your own leprechaun to guard your pot of gold!  
*Registration now being taken.*

**St. Patrick's Dance**  
Thursday, March 17, 2022  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00p.m. • Free  
Norwalk Senior Center

Come have a shamrockin' good time as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day! We will even have Shamrock Cookies for you!

*Norwalk \*residents can now register. Open registration begins Thursday, March 3, 2022. \*Photo identification with proof of residency required.*

**Coffee with a Cop**  
Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
Norwalk Senior Center

The Coffee with a Cop program provides community members the opportunity to meet with local law enforcement in an informal setting to help build partnerships. Complimentary coffee, light refreshments will be provided while supplies last.

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health- Promotoras COVID-19 Emotional Health and the Brain**  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 • 2:00 pm  
Norwalk Senior Center

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health staff will be presenting information on the impact of COVID-19 on our mental health. The presentation will cover the following:

- COVID-19 and the effect on Latinos
- How the brain functions
- How COVID-19 affects the brain
- The connection between mental health and COVID-19

# Athens Services Creates Recycling Guide Online Tool



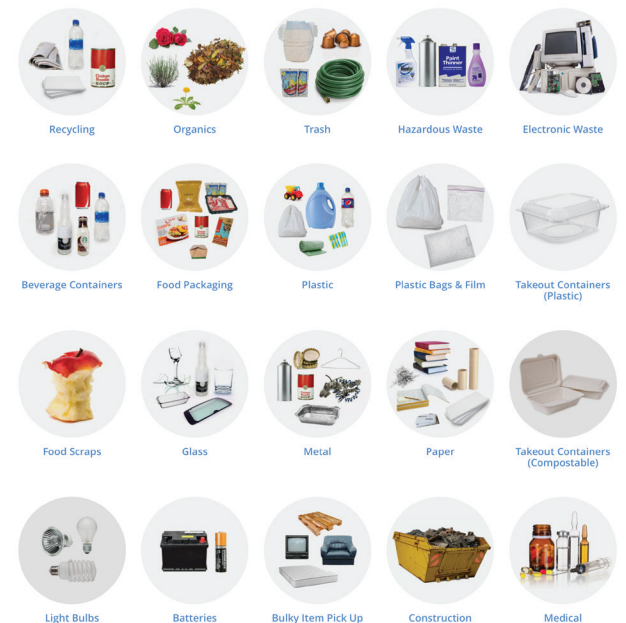
Athens Services has a new online tool to help find the answers to the SB 1383 question: “What Goes Where?” The What Goes Where Guide is a comprehensive, easy-to-use recycling resource that will help residents and businesses learn how to properly recycle or dispose of more than 350 items.

Under California's new SB 1383 regulation, organics waste collection now includes food scraps and food-soiled paper. Athens is the only disposal and recycling company in Southern California to offer a guide to help consumers sort their materials.

The What Goes Where Guide is a user-friendly, interactive zero waste resource for learning to put waste and recycling material in the right containers. It provides information on properly separating waste, recycling, and organics in an easy-to-search format.

To search the online guide, users select Residential or Business & Multi-Units 5+, then select their city to find lists of items and information on how to properly dispose of them. The guide also includes tips on how to reduce waste, reuse items, and consider more environmentally friendly options.

For more info, call Athens Service at (800) 333-0191



## 2022 Community Outreach Survey

Please take the 2022 Community Outreach Survey to let us know how you receive City news and how we can improve communication with residents.

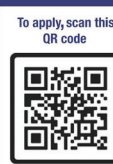
The survey is quick and lets us know what topics are most important to you. You can also sign-up today to stay informed about future City events.

Your feedback will be greatly appreciated and allows the City to better understand how residents receive their City related news. Follow the link or scan the QR code to take the survey today: [2cm.live/NCS22](https://2cm.live/NCS22)



Becoming a part-time bus operator comes with many perks and opportunities for providing essential services to the community.

- Sign-on bonus of \$1,000 (after 6 months of employment)
- Top wage of \$31.10\* per hour
- Starting wage (w/CDL) of \$25.59\* OR after training is completed
- Paid benefits (after 3,000 hours)



\* Effective January 9, 2022

APPLY NOW AT [WWW.NORWALK.ORG](http://WWW.NORWALK.ORG) OR CALL HUMAN RESOURCES AT 562-929-5721.