

# NorwalkNow



The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, California  
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## Emergency Powers Update

Last month, the Los Angeles County Public Health Department gave a warning about the rise of hospitalizations, positive COVID-19 cases, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infections among children.

Director Barbara Ferrer of the L.A. County Department of Public Health stated that indoor masking recommendations could return if the county reaches 100 cases per 100,000 residents.

The public health department currently recommends that all residents wear masks and comply with any masking mandates that become implemented. Masks are an effective tool to help slow the spread of COVID-19, especially in crowded spaces and indoor settings. Health officials are also encouraging individuals to schedule an appointment to receive their booster shots and flu vaccines to avoid straining local medical facilities.

For more information on RSV, visit <https://tinyurl.com/RSVLAC>

For more information on mask wearing rules and recommendations in L.A. County, visit <https://tinyurl.com/LACMRR>

## Introducing the New Director of Public Safety Osbaldo "Ozzie" Ramos

The City of Norwalk would like to welcome Mr. Osbaldo "Ozzie" Ramos as Director of Public Safety. Mr. Ramos brings over 28 years of experience with the Los Angeles Police Department. Mr. Ramos began his public safety career with Norwalk's Public Safety Department and helped organize a city-led effort to reduce graffiti and juvenile delinquency.



assignments, including patrol, investigations, gang enforcement, and other specialized units. With his expertise in enforcement and community policing, Mr. Ramos utilized a collaborative approach to reduce crime and build community support.

Mr. Ramos holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Management and a certificate from Pepperdine University. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Administration at USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy. In his spare time, Mr. Ramos enjoys watching football, reading, and spending time with his family.

Before joining the LAPD, he also served as the Community Liaison Officer with the City of Paramount's Department of Public Safety. Ramos helped expand the city's Neighborhood Watch program to reduce crime and improve the quality of life.

While at the LAPD, Mr. Ramos worked a variety of

Welcome to the City of Norwalk, Mr. Ramos!

## COVID-19 Memorial Dedication



On Monday, November 14 the Arts in Public Places Commission held its dedication of the COVID-19 Memorial at the Norwalk City Hall Courtyard. The COVID-19 Memorial honors the lives of Norwalk residents lost to the virus.

The artwork was inspired by Yellow Heart Memorial, an organization that walked 615,000 steps on April 7, 2021 in the City of Norwalk to bring awareness to COVID-19 related deaths. Each step walked represented a person who lost their life during the pandemic.

The memorial is open to the public and can be viewed at the Norwalk City Hall Courtyard during city hall business hours.

**FIRST STOP! HOLIDAY FESTIVAL DECEMBER 9, 2022 CITY HALL LAWN 6:30-8:30 P.M.**

# Santa's Sleigh

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SANTA SLEIGH FOUNDATION

<b>DECEMBER 8</b> 6:00 P.M. CRESSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 7:30 P.M. VISTA VERDE PARK	<b>DECEMBER 9</b> 6:00 P.M. 12941 KALNOR AVENUE 7:00 P.M. MOLETTE STREET & BECHARD AVENUE	<b>DECEMBER 10</b> 5:00 P.M. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 6:00 P.M. GLAZIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 7:30 P.M. EDMONDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
<b>DECEMBER 15</b> 6:00 P.M. PADDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 7:30 P.M. LAKELEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	<b>DECEMBER 16</b> 6:00 P.M. ORR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 7:30 P.M. STUBBAKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	<b>DECEMBER 17</b> 5:00 P.M. D.D. JOHNSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 6:00 P.M. 19314 CROSSDALE AVENUE 7:30 P.M. MOFFITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PHOTOS WITH SANTA \$2.00

## HOLIDAYFEST -AND- TREE LIGHTING

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 6-9 P.M. CITY HALL LAWN**

CITY OF NORWALK  
A Connected Community

### Santa and His Elves are Coming to Town!



Ring in the holiday season at the City of Norwalk's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 3 at the Norwalk City Hall Lawn at 6 p.m.

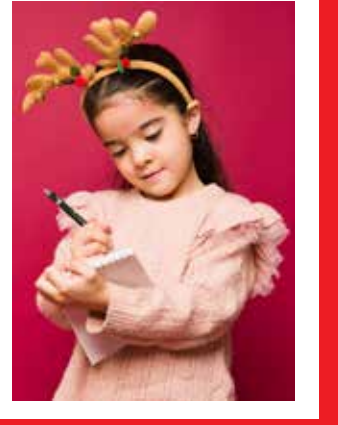
There will be live musical performances by local bands, arts and crafts area, game booths, snow slides, and a special visitor from the North Pole! For more information, call (562) 929-5702.

## Send your wish list to the North Pole!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Calling all children! You are invited to send a wish letter to Good Old Saint Nick at the North Pole from Monday, November 21 - Saturday, December 10. He has promised to answer all letters from every boy and girl who writes to him. Letters can be deposited in the holiday mailbox at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, or mailed to the address listed below. Be sure to include a return address. For more information, call (562) 929-5702.

**Mailing Address:**  
Santa Claus  
c/o City of Norwalk  
Recreation and Park  
Services Department,  
13000 Clarkdale Ave.  
Norwalk, CA 90650

**Drop off Location:**  
Norwalk Arts &  
Sports Complex,  
13000 Clarkdale Ave.  
Norwalk, CA 90650



## Norwalk City Council

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

**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

City of Norwalk  
12700 Norwalk Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA 90650

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1139  
Whittier, CA

To Postal Patron

# Stuff-A-Bus

Are you looking to give back this Holiday Season?



The City of Norwalk and Norwalk Transit System (NTS) will begin their annual Stuff-a-Bus Holiday Toy Drive this month. The annual holiday drive collects new unwrapped toys and new clothing items to support local underserved families during the holiday season.

Every year the City of Norwalk and NTS work with Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District to distribute the donated items. If you are interested in helping stuff-a-bus, bring a new toy or new clothing item to the Holidayfest on Saturday, December 3 at the Norwalk City Hall Lawn at 6 p.m!

If you are unable to attend, you can drop-off your donation to the NTS' customer service lobby at the Transportation/Public Service Facility located at 12650 Imperial Hwy, Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Norwalk organizations, community groups, and businesses can also request the Stuff-A-Bus visit at their site to donate toys and new clothing. For more information, contact NTS Customer Service at (562) 929-5550 or e-mail: [transportation@norwalkca.gov](mailto:transportation@norwalkca.gov).

## Honoring Local Heroes

On Tuesday, November 1, the Norwalk City Council recognized three City of Norwalk employees who assisted a water fitness participant who suffered a seizure while in the pool at the Norwalk Aquatics Pavilion.

Senior Lifeguard, Clarissa Juarez, Instructor Lifeguard, Caleb Goodlink, and Recreation Leader, Jan Franco jumped into action and provided a quick, heroic response to ensure the water fitness participant, Joe Benavente, was safe and out of harm's way.

Thank you Clarissa, Caleb, and Jan for keeping our aquatic participants safe!



## Street Sweeping and Trash Collection for Holidays

Street sweeping and trash & recycling collection will not be affected by Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.



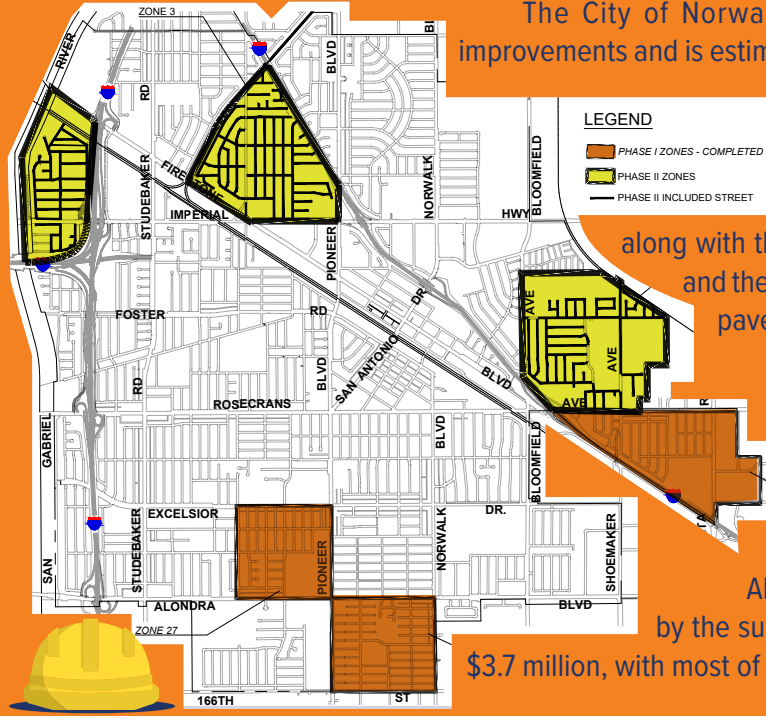
## Local Streets Rehabilitation Project Update

The City of Norwalk continues to invest in infrastructure improvements and is estimated to have paved approximately 29 lane-miles at an estimated cost of \$18 million, by the end of this year.

These zones will have slotted cross gutters replaced to meet current standards, along with the installation of corner access curb ramps and the replacement of asphalt to improve roadway pavement conditions.

Concrete work began in October 2022 in Zones 3 and 8 as part of the ongoing Local Streets Rehabilitation Program, but will not be completed until early 2023. Work in Zone 19 is pending the contractor's availability.

All three zones are estimated to be completed by the summer of 2023 at an estimated cost of over \$3.7 million, with most of the funding coming from Measure R and M.



## New Businesses in Town

The City of Norwalk would like to welcome Apple Tree, Sushi N Go, and Red House KBBQ to the community.

• **Apple Tree, 12375 Imperial Hwy.** - Offers Speech & Language Therapy, Social Communication Groups, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Sensory Motor Therapy, Adaptive Behavior Training, and so much more.

• **Sushi N Go, 12359 Imperial Hwy.** - Is the newest sushi spot in the town. They offer a variety of delicious rolls and even cater! Make sure to check them out for lunch or dinner.

• **Red House KBBQ, 15925 Pioneer Blvd.** - Offers a new dine-in experience for the community of Norwalk. Stop by for the All You Can Eat starting at \$19.99!

Thank you for selecting the City of Norwalk as the home for your new business!



## Keepin' It Norwalk Business Spotlight

Where is the best retail store in Norwalk?

The nomination period runs from Thursday, December 1 - Sunday, December 11

Scan the code to submit your nomination!



## Christmas Tree RECYCLING

### Who

Norwalk residents can have their Christmas trees picked up and recycled at no cost.

### How

Place tree by your trash containers the night before your collection day. Trees will be picked up by an Athens truck on your trash collection day.

If you forget to bring your tree out, wait until the following week to do so; trees will only be collected on your trash collection day.

### Reminders

- Decorations, metal, plastic, and wooden stands must be removed and disposed of as trash.
- Flocked trees are NOT acceptable and are considered trash.
- Do not place your tree in a bag.
- Trees over eight feet need to be cut in half.

### For More Info

Athens Services (888) 336-6100

City of Norwalk (562) 929-5964  
[recycling@norwalkca.gov](mailto:recycling@norwalkca.gov)

### When

December 26, 2022 through January 13, 2023

## RECICLAJE DE árboles navideños

### Quién

Los residentes de Norwalk pueden reciclar sus árboles de Navidad sin costo alguno.

### Cómo

Coloque su árbol junto a sus contenedores de basura la noche anterior al día de recolección. Los árboles serán recogidos por un camión de Athens el día de su recolección de basura.

Si olvida sacar su árbol, espere hasta la semana siguiente para hacerlo; los árboles solo se recolectarán el día de su recolección de basura.

### Cuando

26 de diciembre de 2022 al 13 de enero de 2023

### Recordatorios

- Las decoraciones, los soportes de metal, plástico y madera deben retirarse y desecharse como basura.
- Los árboles flocados NO son aceptables y se consideran basura.
- No coloque su árbol en una bolsa.
- Los árboles de más de ocho pies deben cortarse por la mitad.

### Para más información

Athens Services (888) 336-6100

Norwalk (562) 929-5964  
[recycling@norwalkca.gov](mailto:recycling@norwalkca.gov)

## Holiday HOME & BUSINESS Décor Contest

Help spread some cheer this holiday season and join the Norwalk Community Promotion Commission's Annual Holiday Home and Business Décor Contest.

The contest is an opportunity for residents and businesses to showcase their holiday decorating skills by installing lights, festive lawn displays, or painted windows around their homes or businesses.

Contest winners will be selected in two categories: Best Residential Display and Best Business Display. Entries can be self-nominated or nominated by other individuals. **Last day to nominate a home or business is Sunday, December 11.**

Winners will be selected by the Community Promotion Commissioners after they visit nominated properties from December 16 through December 26. Please note all decor must be visible from the public right of way. The winner will be announced and recognized at a future council meeting.

If you would like to enter the Holiday Home and Business Décor Contest or nominate another local resident or business, email [paffairs@norwalkca.gov](mailto:paffairs@norwalkca.gov) with the home or business address, or submit the nomination form at [norwalk.org/residents/community-promotions-commission](http://norwalk.org/residents/community-promotions-commission).





# COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE

## Holiday Shopping Has Begun!



With the holiday season starting, the Department of Public Safety encourages community members to remove valuable items from their vehicles. This includes shopping bags, purses, cell phones, and other electronics.

Crime cannot be prevented if it is not reported. Please be vigilant of your surroundings and report any unusual or suspicious activity to protect yourself and others. Call the Public Safety Department at (562) 929-5732 or the Sheriff's Station at (562) 863-8711.



## Cadet Promotion



On Wednesday, November 9, the Public Safety Department celebrated Cadet Joanna Velez's promotion to Corporal. Corporal Joanna Velez completed the 14-week LASD Explorer Academy, which builds self-esteem, resilience, and provides valuable life skills. Corporal Joanna Velez is committed to personal and professional achievement by maintaining above-average grades in school, developing leadership skills, and learning respect for others. Thank you, Corporal Joanna Velez, for your devotion to improving the community and making a positive impact.



On Tuesday, November 15, the City of Norwalk hosted Coffee with a Cop at Mr. Rosewood in Norwalk. The City of Norwalk hosts these events throughout the year at different venues to allow community members

to meet with local law enforcement, Public Safety Officers, and City leadership. Coffee with a Cop helps build partnerships among community members and offers a place to share thoughts and ideas with law enforcement.

The City of Norwalk looks forward to another successful Coffee with a Cop! Check out the Norwalk Now and the city's social media platforms for future events.



## Dia de los Muertos Celebration

On Tuesday, November 1, the Community Safety Partnership team attended the Dia de los Muertos Celebration at Los Alisos Middle School. "Dia de los Muertos" also known as Day of the Dead, is a tradition which allows individuals to honor their departed ancestors and loved ones. This holiday allows families to welcome back the souls of their relatives via celebration. Public Safety helped celebrate this tradition and was also able to connect with the community and share helpful resources.



**SEAACA**  
**Santa Paws**  
*Is Coming to Town!*



Support SEAACA's Animal Care Center and have your pet's photo taken with Santa Paws for a \$10.00 donation. Proceeds benefit homeless pets at SEAACA. Donation includes one digital photo sent by email of your pet with Santa.

**Saturday, December 17, 2022**  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Location: SEAACA Animal Care Center  
9777 Seaca St., Downey, CA 90241  
(562)603-3301 www.seaca.org

## Save the Date: Las Posadas



The Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Department will host the Las Posadas event on Saturday, January 7 at the Norwalk City Hall Lawn at 5:30 p.m. The event will have caroling of traditional holiday songs, activities, candy bags for children, and special performances by Mariachis and ballet folklorico dancers. For more information, call (562) 929-5702.



## BUSINESS TIPS Holiday Edition

-  **ENSURE CAMERAS ARE FUNCTIONING AND VISIBLE**  
ENSURE SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT IS VISIBLE TO HELP PREVENT AND DETER POTENTIAL CRIME.
-  **LIMIT ENTRY POINTS**  
LIMIT ENTRY POINTS TO HELP REDUCE BREAK-INS AND MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR CRIMINALS TO COMMIT THEFT AND VANDALISM.
-  **VISIBILITY**  
ENSURE THERE ARE NO "BLIND SPOTS" AROUND BUSINESS. INCREASE LIGHTING OUTSIDE OF BUSINESS AND IN PARKING LOT TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF BUSINESS.
-  **CONTROL ACTIVITY**  
IMPLEMENT RULES AND POLICIES TO AVOID SHOPPERS FROM ENTERING BUSINESS WITH BACKPACKS, LARGE BAGS, ETC.
-  **KEEP A PRESENCE**  
KEEP A PHYSICAL PRESENCE TO REDUCE THEFT AND PREVENT CRIMINALS FROM COMMITTING A CRIME.
-  **REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**  
REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO MAKE LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARE OF THE BUSINESS AREA AND COMMON PROBLEMS IN THE AREA.





## Social Services Center

11929 Alondra Blvd • 562-929-5544



### Thanksgiving Food Basket Program

In November, the Norwalk Social Services Department provided Thanksgiving food baskets to 130 under-served families in the community. Thank you to all the generous donors and social services staff who made this annual giveaway possible!

### Angel Tree

You Can Help Brighten the Life of a Child!



The City of Norwalk Angel Tree Project: "A Gift of Clothing" is an annual project that benefits less fortunate children (Grades K-5) in our community. We invite you to make a difference in a child's

life by becoming an Angel Tree contributor this coming holiday season. Simply select an Angel Tree tag, purchase an article of clothing, and return the wrapped gift with the Angel Tree tag to the Norwalk Social Services Center, Norwalk Senior Center, Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, or City Hall by Monday, December 5. Your gift, toys, and other goodies will be given to these children at a holiday celebration in December. You can also help by providing a monetary donation that directly benefits children. Please call the Norwalk Social Services Center at 929-5544 for more information.



## Veterans Day Tribute Recap

On Friday, November 11, the City of Norwalk held its annual Veterans Day Tribute at the Norwalk City Hall Freedom Memorial. The event honored veterans in our community and throughout the nation.

Thank you to the American Legion Post 359, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 359, Sons of the American Legion Post 359, Southeast Academy High School Colorguard team, Santa Fe High School Band, and keynote speaker LCpl Esperanza Zanabria for helping make this event possible. To view a recap of the event, please visit the city's YouTube channel.



## Senior Center

14040 San Antonio Dr • 562-929-5580

### Weekly Mental Health Support Group

Every Monday • 2:00 – 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 & Third Tuesday of every month  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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

### HICAP

First Wednesday of every month  
10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), sponsored by The Center for Healthcare Rights will provide free counseling and advocacy on Medicare and related health care coverage issues for patrons age 50 and older. Call the Norwalk Senior Center to schedule an appointment.

### FREE Snow Globe Making

Thursday, December 1 • 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Say it isn't snow! Join the Norwalk Senior Center to put together a snow globe for this holiday season. Space is limited to 20 participants and reservations are required.

### Department of Public Health West Nile Virus Presentation

Wednesday, December 7 • 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Staff from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will be conducting a presentation on the West Nile Virus. Information shared will be: how transmission occurs and resources to help the public stay protected.

### FREE Senior Smartphone iPhone Training (Spanish)

Wednesday, December 7 • 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

There will be a free senior smartphone training to help seniors learn basic functions on their phone such as: how to adjust their settings, send and receive text messages, and connect Bluetooth devices.

Please note: (Training will be conducted in Spanish, for iPhone models only.)

### FREE Movie Night

Tuesday, December 13 • 6:00 p.m.  
Norwalk Senior Center



Join us as we bring the theater experience to you with an evening showing of "The Santa Clause" in the Senior Center lobby. Seniors will be able to sit in their own chair to watch the movie and a snack pack will be provided to seniors in attendance. Space is limited and reservations are required.

### Stroke & Thyroid Screening by Scan Independence At Home

Wednesday, December 14 • 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Staff from Scan Independence At Home, will conduct a free stroke/thyroid screening for seniors. A technician will be checking both the Carotid Doppler (stroke) and Thyroid Gland during each ultrasound screening. Seniors will be able to meet with staff, receive vital information, and ask questions.

### Holiday Dance

Thursday, December 15 • 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
\$30.00 per person

Stop by to Mingle and Jingle at the Senior Center for an elegant evening as we celebrate the holidays. The evening will commence with a catered dinner, followed by a traditional apple cider toast to the holidays! Live entertainment will get you up and on the dance floor all night long! Formal attire is recommended and space is limited.

