

The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, California February 2023, Volume 44, #2 • @cityofnorwalkca











New Laws for 2023

Are you familiar with new laws that went into effect in 2023?

Below are new laws that were implemented beginning January 1, 2023:

Jaywalking

· Assembly Bill 2147 allows pedestrians to jaywalk (or cross the street outside of an intersection) without being ticketed, however, pedestrians must cross when it is safe to do so.

Paid Family Leave

• Senate Bill 951 increases the share of paid family leave provided to lower-income Californians. This law extends what was a temporary increase in the benefit from 55% of wages to 60% or 70% depending on income.

Minimum Wage Increase

• Senate Bill 3 (passed in 2016) raised California's minimum wage to \$15.50, up from \$15 for large employers and \$14 for smaller employers compared to last year. Although this bill isn't new, it ties the minimum wage rate to inflation but is capped at 3.5%.

Feather Alert System

• Assembly Bill 1314 creates an alert system for law enforcement agencies investigating the suspicious or unexplainable disappearance of an indigenous woman or indigenous person. The Feather Alert will provide immediate information to the public to aid in the swift recovery of missing indigenous persons.

New Holidays

- · Genocide Remembrance Day (April 24)
- · Juneteenth (June 19)
- · Lunar New Year (2nd or 3rd new moon after Winter Solstice)
- Native American Day (fourth Friday of September)

More Safety for Bicyclists

· Assembly Bill 1909 makes some changes to laws affecting bicyclists, drivers, and pedestrians who share California roads.



§ The bill requires drivers to change lanes before passing a cyclist if a lane is available. The bill also prohibits cities from requiring bicycle licenses. A portion of the bill doesn't go into effect until 2024, which will allow bikers to cross the street at pedestrian signals instead of only at green traffic lights.

COVID-19 Exposure Alerts Until 2024

 Assembly Bill 2963 requires workplaces to continue providing employees with COVID-19 exposure notifications until 2024.

State Website to Report Retail Theft

 Assembly Bill 1700 sets up a section on the state Attorney General's office website to report stolen items.

Assembly Bill 2011 aims to boost housing production and

Pink Tax

 Assembly Bill 1287 prohibits gender-based pricing on products based on who they're marketed toward.

Unused Retail into Homes and Communities

affordability by turning unused retail spaces into homes and communities.

Natural Gas Price Increases

The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) is warning customers to expect an increase in their monthly gas bill in the upcoming weeks. Natural gas prices in the Western United States have doubled over

the last month due to below-normal temperatures, higher natural gas consumption, and reduced gas flows due to pipeline constraints.

SoCalGas does not set the regional and national markets. Below

gas usage.

commodity prices. They are set by A Sempra Energy utility are tips SoCalGas has shared to help reduce natural on how to reduce gas usage and information on bill

three to five degrees to save up to 10 percent on energy efficiency home improvements.

heating costs.

Install proper caulking and weather-stripping around doors and windows to save roughly 10 to 15 percent on heating and cooling bills.

Wash clothes in cold water to save up to 10 percent on water heating costs.

SocalGas

Limit the use of nonnatural gas appliances such as spas,
made heaters and fireplaces.

Visit SoCalGas.com or call (800) 427-2200 to learn more helpful tips

payment assistance programs that range from past due If health permits, lower the thermostat by bill forgiveness, CARE program (bill discount), and free

Hay un aumento en el precio de gas natural, pero hay varios recursos disponibles para ayudarle con su factura mensual. Visite SoCalGas.com o llame al (800) 427-2200 para información sobre programas de asistencia.

Get Your 2023 Recycling Calendar

Stop by the Norwalk City Hall Community Information Booth to pick up a free 2023 Community Recycling Awareness Calendar. The artwork featured on the calendar is from the winners of the Recycling and Litter Prevention Artwork Contest. Calendars are available while supplies last.

Pase por el puesto de información comunitaria del ayuntamiento de Norwalk para recoger un calendario de concientización sobre el reciclaje comunitario 2023. Los calendarios son gratis y están disponibles hasta agotar existencia.

Thank you Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez

On Friday, December 29, 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law H.R. 2617, also known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, which includes a \$976,962 earmark for the City of Norwalk.

The federal funding will be used to acquire and install emergency backup generators at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex and the Norwalk Senior Center. The two facilities function as temporary emergency shelters during emergency events, but do not currently have generators.

Thank you to Congresswoman Linda. T. Sánchez for helping secure funding for the City of Norwalk.



Gracias a la congresista Linda T. Sánchez por ayudar a obtener fondos para la ciudad de Norwalk para generadores de emergencia en el centro para personas mayores y el complejo artístico y deportivo de Norwalk.

Emergency Powers

California's COVID-19 State of Emergency declaration is scheduled to end on February 28. Going into the new year, California was one of nine states that still had a COVID-19 State of Emergency declaration. The end of the declaration will remove Governor Gavin Newsom's broad powers to issue mandates and temporary orders to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Los Angeles County Public Health Department recommends that residents wear masks at all indoor public places to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

As a reminder, masks are still required inside healthcare and congregate-care facilities, for anyone exposed to the virus in the past 10 days, and at businesses where they are required by the owner.

La declaración del estado de emergencia por COVID-19 de California finalizará el 28 de febrero. El final de la declaración eliminará los amplios poderes del gobernador Gavin Newsom para emitir mandatos y órdenes temporales para frenar la propagación del virus COVID-19.

Norwalk City Council

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

City of Norwalk 12700 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90650

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562-929-5700

Norwalk City Hall Hours of Operation



Artastic is Back!

Save the Date: Artastic Friday, March 17 • 6 – 9 p.m. Free to attend



Calling All Young Artists!

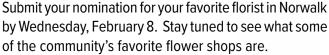
Norwalk's Cultural Arts Center invites local young artists to enter the 12th Annual Student Art Competition and Scholarship Program. Students are welcome to submit one piece of artwork between March 1-3. Media accepted for this competition is photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, prints, fashion, mixed media and computer generated art. The competition is open to any middle or high school student that lives and attends school within the City of Norwalk. Applications will be available at www.norwalk.org or at the Cultural Arts Center beginning February.

All artwork submitted for the competition will be exhibited at the Cultural Arts Center from March 14-17. Scholarship winners will be announced at the Artist Reception/Awards Night on Friday, March 17 at 6 p.m. For more information regarding the competition, call the Cultural Arts Center at (562) 929-5521.



El Centro de Artes Culturales de Norwalk invita a artistas jóvenes a participar en el Programa Anual de Becas y Competencia de Arte para Estudiantes. Los estudiantes pueden enviar una obra de arte entre el 1 y el 3 de marzo. Las obras de arte que se aceptarán para la competencia son fotografía, dibujo, pintura, escultura, grabados, moda, técnicas mixtas y arte generado por computadora. La competencia está abierta a estudiantes de secundaria o preparatoria que vivan y asistan a una escuela dentro de la Ciudad de Norwalk. Las aplicaciones estarán disponibles en www.norwalk.org o en el Cultural Arts Center en febrero. Los ganadores de las becas se anunciarán en la Recepción de Artistas/Noche de Premios el viernes 17 de marzo a las 6 p.m. Para más información (562) 929-5521.







Submit your vote by commenting on this post or visiting the Norwalk **Community Promotion page.**

Las Posadas Recap



On Saturday, January 7, the City hosted the Las Posadas Celebration at City Hall Lawn. This traditional cultural celebration was free for all to enjoy and included caroling of holiday songs, light refreshments, cultural activities for children, such as piñatas, and special performances by mariachis and ballet folclórico dancers. Thank you to the +700 community members who stopped by to support the event.



Gracias a todos los que atendieron a la posada en el jardín del ayuntamiento de Norwalk. Fue un gran evento con actividades culturales para niños, como piñatas, y actuaciones especiales de mariachis y bailarines de ballet folclórico.



Holiday Décor Contest Winners

The Community Promotion Commission would like to thank everyone who entered the 2022 Holiday Home and Business Decor Contest. The contest gave an opportunity to Norwalk residents and businesses to showcase their holiday decorating skills. This year, a total of 37 participants entered the contest. This year's winners are:

Residential Decor Winners



1st - 15308 Lefloss Ave.



2nd - 10818 Milano Ave.

Business Decor Winners



3rd - 13102 Markdale Ave.



1st - Pho Anvi 12200 Civic Center Dr. Suite F



2nd - Zen's Tea House 12848 Pioneer Blvd.



3rd - Dulce Canela 15012 Pioneer Blvd.

Presidents' Day Street Sweeping & Trash Schedule

In observance of Presidents Day on Monday, February 20, street sweeping will not take place. Sweeping will not be made up as streets can only be swept on posted date. However, trash collection will take place as regularly scheduled. For questions about trash collection, call Athens Services at 888-336-6100. For questions about street sweeping, call Public Services at 562-929-5511.

En conmemoración del Día de los Presidentes el lunes 20 de febrero, no se barrerán las calles. Pero, la recolección de basuro todavía se llevará a cabo.

2023 HOLIDAY

TRASH & STREET

SWEEPING SCHEDULE



made up for days missed due to the holidays street sweeping. Trash barrels MUST be placed up on the parkway for street sweeping to

Questions?

Street Sweeping

Public Services Department For more information call 562.929.5511 or email recycling@nor

562.929.5511

New Businesses in Town

The City of Norwalk would like to welcome Tentacion and Chick-fil-A to the community.

Tentacion offers authentic Mexican food with a variety of options ranging from tacos to chillaquiles.

Chick-fil-A is "home of the original chicken sandwich" but their menu also offers wraps and salads.

Make sure to stop by and support these new businesses in our city. Help keep tax dollars in the City of Norwalk.

La ciudad de Norwalk quisiera dar la bienvenida a Tentacion y Chick-fil-A a la comunidad. Por favor, ayuden a apoyar estos nuevos negocios en nuestra ciudad.





Coffee with a Cop Recap

On Tuesday, January 24 the Norwalk Public Safety Department, in partnership with the Norwalk Sheriff's Station hosted Coffee with a Cop at Coffee Code. Over 30 individuals attended and had the opportunity to meet and mingle with the officers who patrol their neighborhoods.

Thank you to Coffee Code for allowing us to host the event at their business. If you were unable to attend this event, stay tuned for the next one in March.

El martes 24 de enero, el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Norwalk, en asociación con la Estación del Sheriff de Norwalk, organizó Café con un policía en Coffee Code. Gracias a Coffee Code por permitirnos organizar el evento en su negocio.





Community Clean-Up

Thank you to the 40 volunteers who attended the first Community Clean-up Event of 2023. Volunteers focused their efforts on cleaning up the area of Pioneer Blvd. and Imperial Hwy. Two truck loads of trash were picked up from the side of the road, surrounding parking lots and businesses. Thank you to all the volunteers who stopped by to help beautify their community.

Gracias a todos los voluntarios que asistieron al primer evento de limpieza comunitaria de 2023 para ayudar a embellecer su comunidad. Los voluntarios centraron sus esfuerzos en limpiar el área de Pioneer Blvd. y la Carretera Imperial.

Thank You Dennis Kato



On Tuesday, January 17, former Interim Public Safety Director, Dennis Kato was recognized at the Norwalk City Council Meeting for his dynamic leadership. In May 2021, Mr. Kato accepted the interim Director of the Public Safety department position. He came from the Los Angeles Police Department with over 32 years of experience. Dennis helped implement a new financial allocation plan, the city-wide camera system, and license plate reader program, all while supervising a department of over 50 employees. Thank you Mr. Kato for your professionalism, knowledge, and the dynamic leadership you displayed upon yourself and the City of Norwalk.

El martes 17 de enero, el ex director interino de seguridad pública, Dennis Kato, fue reconocido en la reunión del Consejo Municipal de Norwalk. Gracias Sr. Kato por su profesionalismo, conocimiento, y el liderazgo dinámico que mostró en la ciudad de Norwalk.

Coyote Reporting Reminder

The Public Safety Department would like to remind residents to report coyote sightings through our online coyote reporting form located on the City website under, Public Safety - Coyote Reporting (https://tinyurl.com/nwkcoyote) or by calling the





Public Safety Office at 562-929-5732. Reporting

GRAFFITI ABATEMENT

GRAFFITI MAY BE REPORTED 24 HOURS A DAY TO THE GRAFFITI HOTLINE AT (562) 929-5555

The City of Norwalk offers graffiti removal on all city facilities and accessible street-facing buildings (exterior walls must be within 6 feet of public right of way), medians, light poles, signal poles, and traffic signs citywide, seven days a week. The City's policy is to remove graffiti within 48 hours after it is reported.

Graffiti is removed using:

PAINT

CHEMICAL CLEANER

When reporting graffiti,

PRESSURE WASHING

it is helpful in expediting

removal if the following information is provided:

- Specific location including address
- Intersection, or major cross streets
- Type of graffiti such as marker or paint
- Surface where graffiti is located such as block wall, fence, sign, or painted curb



coyote sightings/interactions will help the City document coyote behaviors, identify hotspots, and utilize data to generate maps for residents on a regular basis.



BE PREPARED FOR A **FLOOD**

Failing to evacuate flooded areas, entering flood waters, or remaining after a flood has passed can result in injury or death.



Know your neighborhoods type of flood risk. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at https://msc.fema.gov/portal for

Sign up for emergency alerts. Text NORWALK to 888-777 to sign up

for city alerts.

Visit alert.lacounty.gov to sign up for

If flash flooding is a risk in your location, monitor potential signs such as heavy rain.

ter plans, and flash flood response. Gather supplies in case you have to leave

immediately or if services are cut off. Keep without warning. in mind each person's needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

Obtain flood insurance. Homeowner's polinside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof. icies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance



Depending on where you are, and the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you have identi-

If told to evacuate, do so immediately

Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle Learn and practice evacuation routes, shel- away.

> Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away

If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay inside. If water is rising

If trapped in a building, go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater



Listen to authorities for information and

Avoid driving, except in emergencies

may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up

Avoid wading in floodwater, which can

contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery ONLY outdoors and away from

Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock.



Mammogram Event Recap

The City of Norwalk Social Services, in partnership with Alinea Medical Imaging, hosted its first mobile mammogram event of the year on Monday, January 9. Over 40 women from our community received services for early screening detection. Stay tuned for our next mammogram event.

2023 Homeless Count

Every January, staff and volunteers across Los Angeles County embark on a mission to count the unhoused population throughout the county. The event is organized by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and the results help provide a better understanding and assessment of the state of homelessness in our city and region.

On Wednesday, January 25, the City of Norwalk held its homeless count. Results will be released by LAHSA in 6-8 months. The results will help the City of Norwalk better direct resources where they are most needed. For more information on the homeless count initiative, visit lahsa.org

L.A.D.Y.

Leadership & Advocacy for the Direction of Young Women **Second & Fourth Thursday of every month** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

L.A.D.Y is a mentoring program for young women ages 15-23, who struggle with mental/physical health, financial stability, personal growth, relationships, and education due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will focus on proactive techniques to manage these issues. For more information on how to become a mentor or mentee, call 562-929-5544

Youth Intervention Services

Youth Intervention services are offered to Norwalk families whose youth are experiencing dysfunction in today's society. Intervention Workers are trained counselors who work with at-risk adolescents experiencing negative behaviors at school, home, or community. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Norwalk Social Services at 562-929-5544.

NAMI

National Alliance on Mental Illness First Tuesday of every month. • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

NAMI offers a free educational program designed for parents, family members, and caregivers of children and adolescents with emotional or behavioral difficulties. This support group is available in Spanish only. For more information or to register, contact Silvia at 562-448-4816.

Free Zumba Classes

First four Wednesdays of each month 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Free Zumba classes are available for all seniors at Norwalk Social Services. For more information, call 562-929-5544.

Loteria

Every Friday • 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Seniors are encouraged to join free loteria mornings at the Social Services Center. For more information call, 562-929-5544.

CEA-H.O.W.

Tuesday • 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

CEA-H.O.W. is a fellowship of men and women who meet to share their experience, strength, and hope. Our purpose is to help others and ourselves who suffer from the self-destruction of compulsive eating. Spanish Only.

Cal Fresh

Every Thursday, by appointment only 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

A CalFresh outreach worker from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank will be available to assist community members with their CalFresh Application. To schedule an appointment, call 562-929-5544.



¢ENERGY corner ≰

Need financial relief for your gas bill? You may qualify for 20% off your natural gas bill via Southern California Gas Company's California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program. https://tinyurl.com/SCGcare

Weekly VA benefit meeting for Veterans

Every Wednesday • 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

A Veteran Service Officer from Los Angeles County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs is available to meet (by appointment only) with Veterans on a weekly basis to provide individualized assistance with VA benefits. To schedule an appointment, call 562-929-5580.

AARP Driver Safety Classes

Monday, February 6 & Wednesday, February 8 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members

Are you interested in potentially qualifying for an auto insurance discount? Update your driving skills and road knowledge of rules and hazards by completing an 8-hour in-person course. The class is taught over two days and attendance is required. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call the Norwalk Senior Center at

(Check with your auto insurance agent for information on potential discount)

Doc Talk with Dr. Surekha Mishal

Thursday, February 9 • 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Surekha Misha from Optum medical group will be at the Senior Center to present on congestive heart failure. The doctor will provide tips on signs, symptoms and how to address the condition. For more information, call 562-929-5580.

Cupid's Crush Mixer

Thursday, February 9 • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Cost: Free**

Celebrate the season of love by signing up for an evening of dancing, raffle prizes, and light refreshments. Norwalk resident registration begins Thursday, January 19 at 9:00 a.m. Open registration begins Thursday, January 26 at 9:00 a.m. *Photo identification with proof of residency required. For more information, call 562-929-5580.

Valentine's Day Soiree Tuesday, February 14 • 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Cost: Free**

Need financial relief for your electricity bill? You may

qualify for 18% or 30% off your electricity bill through Southern California

Edison Company's Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program or

California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program.

Learn how to create origami flower bouquets and create V-Day treats. Norwalk resident registration begins Tuesday, January 31 at 9:00 a.m. Open registration begins Tuesday, February 7 at 9:00 a.m. For more information, call 562-929-5580.

Center for Health Care Rights Overview of Medicare:

Explore Medicare Eligibility, Benefits, Coverage Options, and Costs Wednesday, February 15 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Staff from the Center for Health Care Rights will conduct a presentation on Medicare. Stop by to learn about eligibility, benefits, coverage options and costs of Medicare. For more information, call 562-929-5580.

C-Meds Medication Safety Program by Scan Independence At Home Thursday, February 16 • 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Medications can help individuals feel better and live longer, but they can also be dangerous if taken the wrong way. Staff from Scan Independence at Home will conduct a presentation on the C-Meds Medication Safety Program. For more information on the presentation, call 562-929-5580.

Paint Night & Mocktails

Thursday, February 16 • 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Cost: Free**

Paint and sip as you follow instructions from an instructor. The image selected will be for all levels of painters. Norwalk resident registration begins Thursday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m. Open registration begins Thursday, February 9 at 9:00 a.m. *Photo identification with proof of residency is required. For more information, call 562-929-5580.

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 meets 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 Tuesday & Third Tuesday of every month 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

A CalFresh outreach worker from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank will be available to assist seniors with their CalFresh application on site. CalFresh Outreach workers are also available via phone throughout the week. For assistance filling out an application, call 323-855-0496.

HICAP

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

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will provide free counseling on Medicare and related health care coverage issues for patrons age 50 and older. This counseling is available by appointment only. Call 562-929-5580 to schedule an appointment. **Senior Center**