

Norwalk Now

The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, California
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Council Reorganization

On Tuesday, December 12, Norwalk's City Council held the reorganization ceremony which recognized the accomplishments of outgoing Mayor Ana Valencia. At the meeting, by a unanimous vote, Vice Mayor Rios was appointed as the new Mayor and Councilmember Ayala was selected as the Vice Mayor. They will both serve in their roles for one year. Congratulations to the new Mayor and Vice Mayor.



ParkConnect to Launch Wi-Fi Across Twelve Parks

This past month marks a significant milestone for Norwalk residents as our City collaborates with Congresswoman Linda Sánchez and local leaders to bridge the digital divide. The ParkConnect Wi-Fi project, fueled by \$1.7 million in federal funding secured by Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez, tackles the main



will bring no-cost Wi-Fi to all twelve Norwalk parks during park hours. The project is more than just internet access; it's about creating inclusive, safe, and accessible spaces for our community.

This initiative perfectly aligns with our City's goal of building safe and livable neighborhoods. Together, we can ensure a digitally

inclusive community that benefits us all. Cheers to a

What does this mean for you? In 2024, ParkConnect

brighter, more connected Norwalk!

Santa's Sleigh Magical Return!

A Huge Thank You to the Santa's Sleigh Foundation for a Sweet Return!

Throughout the month of December, the Public Safety Department collaborated with the Norwalk Recreation and Parks Services Department and the Santa Sleigh Foundation for the Santa's Sleigh events. Thank you to all the Public Safety Officers who helped keep Santa and his elves safe as they visited the City of Norwalk!



Angel Tree Thanks You



The Norwalk Social Services Department would like to thank all the donors and volunteers who helped make the Angel Tree Project possible. The generous donations and time contributed by volunteers in our community helped spread holiday cheer to underserved children and families throughout the community. Thank you to all who donated and to our sponsors.

- Diamond -

Norwalk Senior Citizens Center, Inc.

- Gold -

Golden State Water Co.

- Silver -

United Parents Club

- Major -

International Seniors Club

Norwalk Superior Court

Shin IL Presbyterian Church

Water Replenishment District

- General -

Al-Anon Family Group

Al & Luella Steele

Costco #410 Norwalk

Helen Diosdado

Norm Reeves Honda Cerritos Employees

Norwalk Printing

Norwalk Stingrays/MVP Hustle

Rose Lynn Romero

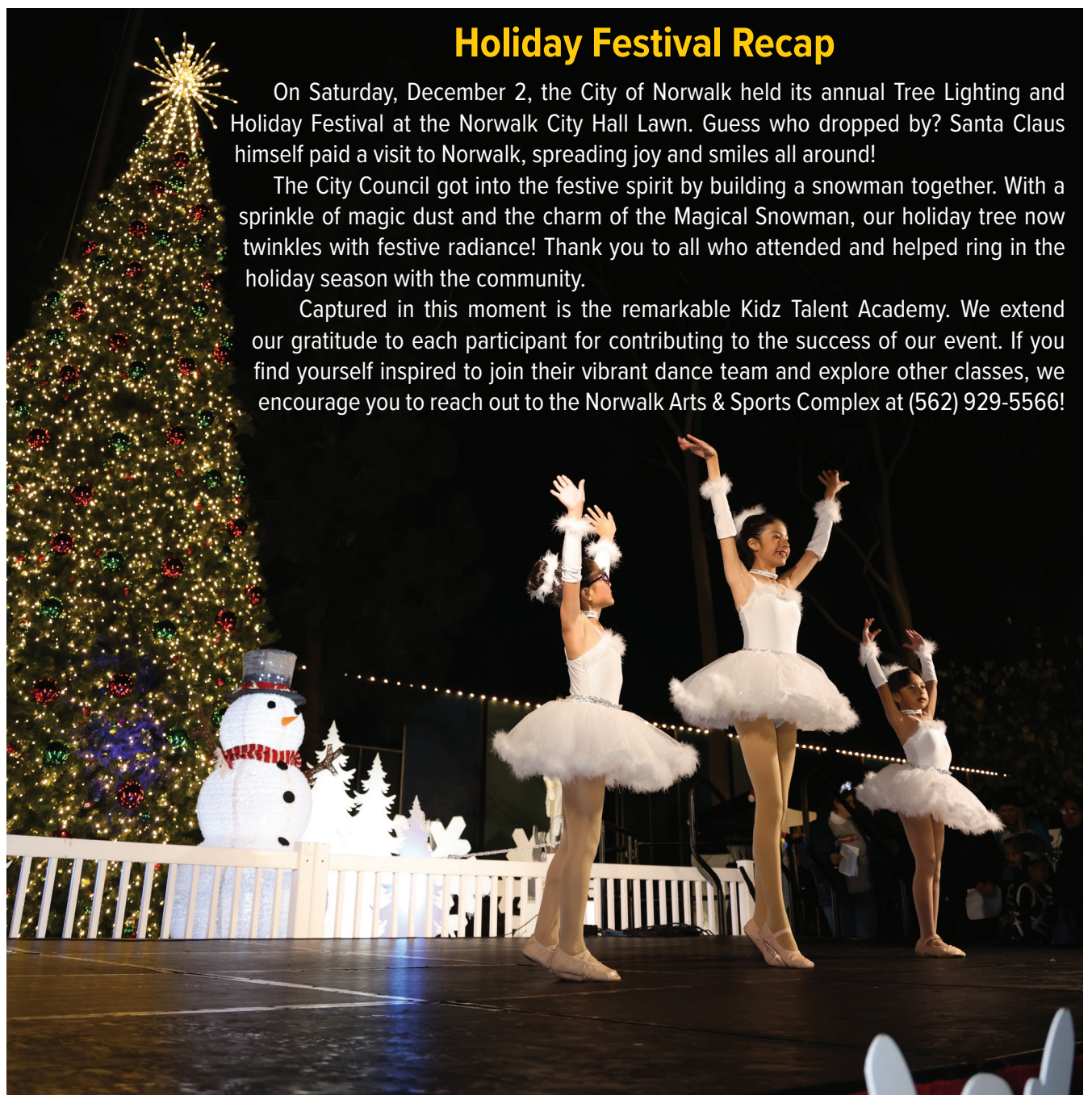
Retroforce Toy Store

Holiday Festival Recap

On Saturday, December 2, the City of Norwalk held its annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Festival at the Norwalk City Hall Lawn. Guess who dropped by? Santa Claus himself paid a visit to Norwalk, spreading joy and smiles all around!

The City Council got into the festive spirit by building a snowman together. With a sprinkle of magic dust and the charm of the Magical Snowman, our holiday tree now twinkles with festive radiance! Thank you to all who attended and helped ring in the holiday season with the community.

Captured in this moment is the remarkable Kidz Talent Academy. We extend our gratitude to each participant for contributing to the success of our event. If you find yourself inspired to join their vibrant dance team and explore other classes, we encourage you to reach out to the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex at (562) 929-5566!



Norwalk City Council

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

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

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Blood Drive

Did you know every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood?

The City of Norwalk in partnership with the American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, January 9 at Norwalk City Hall from 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. To schedule an appointment and donate blood, visit www.redcrossblood.org.

For more information, call 562.929.5720 or scan the QR code to find your nearest location and appointments.



January 2024 Holiday Trash & Street Sweeping Schedule



In observance of New Year's Day, there will be no street sweeping and no trash pick-up on Monday, January 1st. Trash pick-up will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

On Martin Luther King Day, there will be no street sweeping on Monday, January 15th. Trash collection will take place as regularly



January City Council Meeting Schedule



In observance of New Year's Day, there will be no Council meeting on January 2nd. City Council will resume their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 16.

Reminder: The Norwalk City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Closed sessions start at 5 p.m. and the open session starts at 6 p.m. Meetings are held at the Norwalk City Council Chambers at City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Blvd. and can also be viewed live through our City's website, YouTube Channel, and Facebook page. Recordings are also posted on these platforms. We encourage community members to learn what is happening in their community, or simply share ideas and concerns. For more information about our City Council meetings, call 562-929-5720.

Construction Corner

Be sure to follow us on social media (@cityofnorwalkca) to see regular updates about improvements in progress or completed in your community!



Paving the Way to Progress

The Local Street Rehabilitation Project continues in Zones 3, 8, and 19. Damaged curb-gutters and sidewalks have been repaired. Residents will also experience upgraded ADA compliant ramps. Many Norwalk neighborhoods will see new asphalt completed by Fall 2023.

Excuse our Dust: New Playgrounds

New playgrounds are coming to town! The following parks will be getting their playgrounds replaced: Bob White Park, New River Park, Holifield Park, Vista Verde Park and Norwalk Park. Existing playground areas will be closed for approximately six weeks during renovations. In addition, dog park construction will occur at Bob White Park.

Serving Those Who Served

Veterans Villas at San Antonio is the new construction of 60 affordable rental homes for veterans who have experienced homelessness and families with a veteran head of household. For more information, including leasing applications, please visit www.norwalkveteranshousing.org.



Keepin' It Norwalk Business Spotlight 2023 Roundup



Every month, we asked for your top Norwalk business recommendations. The Norwalk Community Promotions Commission is proud to present Business Spotlight 2023 Roundup. Follow us on social media (@cityofnorwalkca) to vote on 2024's lineup.

January: Top Gyms

1. Esporta Fitness (12545 Imperial Hwy)
2. Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex (13000 Clarkdale Ave)
3. Healthy Connection (11646 Rosecrans Ave)

February: Top Flower Shops

1. Cielo's Flowers (14341 Pioneer Blvd)
2. Ana's Flowers (11818 Rosecrans Ave)
3. Imperial Florist (14100 Studebaker Rd)

March: Women-owned Businesses

1. And Dance Studio (13417 Pumice St)
2. El Taco Locco (12341 Imperial Hwy)
3. Something Good LA (12227 Norwalk Blvd)

April: Family-friendly Restaurants

1. Angie's (14346 Pioneer Blvd)
2. El Taco Rico (12017 Firestone Blvd)
3. So Cal Pizza (12253 Imperial Hwy)

May: Happy Hour Spots

1. Los Compadres (11600 Rosecrans Ave)
2. Blazin' Claw (13919 Pioneer Blvd)
3. Applebee's (12129 Imperial Hwy)

June: Norwalk Chamber of Commerce Longest-serving Member

1. Chapel of Memories (12626 Woods Ave)
2. Norwalk Business Service, Inc. (11924 Firestone Blvd)
3. Golf N Stuff (10555 Firestone Blvd)

October: Boba Spots

1. Besteas Boba (13041 Rosecrans Ave)
2. Krak Boba (11005 Firestone Blvd)
3. It's Boba Time (11780 Firestone Blvd)
3. R&B Tea (10923 Alondra Blvd)

November: Nail Salons

1. QQ Hair-Nails & Spa (10947 Alondra Blvd)
2. Trendy Nails (11772 Firestone Blvd)
3. Tip2Toe Nail Spa (11005 Firestone Blvd)

December: Bakeries

1. La Corona Bakery (15708 Pioneer Blvd)
2. Dulce Canella (15012 Pioneer Blvd)
3. Mariachi Bakery (11042 Rosecrans Ave)

January 2024 Spotlight

Where is your favorite spot for menudo?

The nomination period runs from January 1 - 10



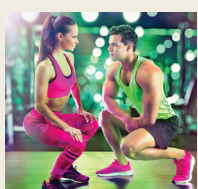
Upcoming Recreation Events & Activities

Save the Date: Las Posadas



Las Posadas will be held on Saturday, January 6, 6-9 p.m., at the Norwalk City Hall Lawn. The event will feature treats, crafts, food trucks, music, and a photo booth. This free event includes holiday songs, a ballet folklórico performance, and more! For more information, call (562) 929-5702 or visit www.norwalk.org/fun.

Start Your Path to a Healthier You!



Considering a healthier lifestyle? Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex provides diverse facilities, including a weight room, basketball gym, and racquetball/handball courts. Choose from Senior, Adult, Youth, Corporate, or Family membership options, available annually or quarterly. Visit the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex for a tour and membership purchase assistance. Call (562) 929-5566 for details.

ARTASTIC: Call for Artists!



Cultural Arts Center.

Participate in the Community Art Competition & Scholarship Program! Norwalk students (high/middle school) can showcase art for scholarship opportunities.

If you're a Norwalk-La Mirada School District student or a Norwalk resident, submit your best art on the listed dates:

Art Submittal Dates:

February 28-March 1
(Drop-off hours are 3-7p)

Art Exhibit Dates:

March 13-15

Artist Reception/Awards Day:

March 15 • 6-9p

Youth Sports & Fitness Expo



The Youth Sports and Fitness Expo at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex (NASC) on Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will include local youth and professional sport organizations, vendor booths, raffles, food trucks, games, and more. If you would like to reserve a booth to promote your league or business to Norwalk residents, please contact the NASC at (562) 929-5566.





COMMUNITY SAFETYZONE

Norwalk Traffic Enforcement Update



In response to sustained concerns about speeding within our city, the Norwalk Public Safety Department, along with the Norwalk Sheriff's Station's Traffic Enforcement team, have continued traffic enforcement efforts in strategic places throughout the City, including Studebaker Road.

Strict enforcement of speed limits is crucial not only for the safety of motorists but also for pedestrians and cyclists who share the road.

The Norwalk Public Safety Department has been deploying digital message trailers and radar trailers in key locations to remind drivers to slow down. The

goal is to create an environment where everyone can travel safely without the heightened risk of accidents associated with speeding.

Drivers are urged to be vigilant, adhere to posted speed limits, and contribute to the collective effort to make our city streets safer for all.

By emphasizing responsible driving habits and enforcing traffic regulations, the Norwalk Public Safety Department aims to foster a culture of safety and awareness throughout our community. Let's work together to keep our streets safe for everyone.

Vehicle Maintenance Safety Tips

We are in the middle of what is typically the rainy season in Southern California and the Norwalk Public Safety Department would like to share some safety tips to ensure your vehicle is safe for driving in inclement weather.

✓ **Routine Maintenance:** Keep up with manufacturer-recommended inspections to ensure your vehicle is in proper working order.

✓ **Tire Care:** Check tire tread depth (at least 4/32 inch) and maintain proper pressure. Monitor automatic tire pressure alerts and conduct monthly pressure checks. Follow manufacturer recommendations for filling and consider changes due to weather.

✓ **Windshield Wipers:** Ensure clear visibility by testing and replacing windshield wipers regularly. Check for warping in regions with prolonged sun exposure.

✓ **Light Inspection:** Regularly examine and replace cloudy or malfunctioning headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals to ensure optimal visibility and safety.



Public Safety Officers Caught Doing Good Deeds!



The Norwalk Public Safety Department closed out the year on a very generous note assisting at various toy give-away events throughout the Holiday Season. "I love to get involved in our community as much as possible, especially during the Holiday Season. Seeing the smiles on the children's faces is priceless," says Sergeant Daniel Muñoz.



Follow these portable heater tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season.

Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface.

Keep them at least three feet from items that can burn.

Check your space heater for cracked or damaged cords and plugs.

Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets, don't use an extension cord or power strip.

Tips to Safeguard Against Burglary

As we usher in the New Year, let's prioritize the safety and well-being of our community. Stay vigilant and consider the following safety tips:

Discreet Package Disposal: Break down and conceal packaging for valuables before disposing of them. Wait until trash/recycling collection day to avoid leaving clues for potential burglars.

Minimize Visibility: Keep expensive items out of sight from the street view. Close curtains or blinds at night and strategically position items to prevent easy observation.

Adequate Lighting: Install outdoor motion detector lights to deter burglars. Use timers for indoor lights when away for an extended period to create the illusion of an occupied home.

Social Media Advice: Avoid revealing too much information on social media, especially about being away from home. Limit posts that indicate your absence to reduce the risk of burglary.

Document Valuables: Take pictures of high-value items and save them digitally. Record serial numbers for traceability. This documentation can aid law enforcement in recovering stolen items in case of a break-in.

If you see something, say something! To report a crime or suspicious activity, call the Norwalk Sheriff's Station at (562) 863-8711. In the event of an emergency, always call 9-1-1. For quality-of-life issues, call Norwalk Public Safety at (562) 929-5732.



Find Your Next Furry Friend at SEAACA

Are you looking for a new furry companion to bring joy and warmth into your home? Consider adopting a pet from the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA).

Norwalk's Public Safety Department is partnering with SEAACA to find loving homes for animals in need. In November, the city hosted a Veterans Day pet adoption extravaganza, where residents poured out in support — to embrace adorable and well-deserving pets into their homes. SEAACA has a wide array of dogs, cats, rabbits, and other animals available for adoption, there's a perfect match waiting for your family.

Adopting from SEAACA comes with several benefits. All adopted dogs and cats come spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped, ensuring they start their new journey with good health and care. Additionally, rabbits are also spayed or neutered for their well-being and best behavior.

The adoption fees at SEAACA are reasonable and vary based on the age of the animal. Whether you're considering a playful puppy, a cuddly kitten, or a more mature companion, there's an adoption fee structure suitable for every stage of life.

Animal Browsing Hours
In-Person Adoptions & Adoption Holds:
Tuesday – Saturday:
12:00 – 4:00pm

Location:
SEAACA
9777 Seaca Street
Downey, CA 90241
(562) 803-3301

Seaaca.org



Senior Center

14040 San Antonio Dr • 562-929-5580

Peer Support Group

Hope & Well-Being

Mondays Weekly (No session on Monday, January 1)

10 - 11 a.m.

Call-In Number: 1 (323) 776-6996

Conference ID: 283 956 208#

The Service Area 7 Peer Resource Center is proud to bring services to the Norwalk Senior Center. Participants are invited to join in discussing topics intended to support community growth and well-being through peer support, art, and personal experiences. This group is bilingual in English and Spanish. You may participate in-person at the Norwalk Senior Center or on phone by dialing the number above and Conference ID #. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

CalFresh

First & Third Tuesday Monthly • 9 - 11 a.m.

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

Veteran Service Officer (VSO)

Weekly meeting with Veterans

Wednesdays Monthly • 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Veterans are able to make an appointment to meet with a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), from the Los Angeles County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (MVA) every Wednesday. The VSO's one-on-one meetings will allow veterans the ability to get individualized assistance with their VA benefits. To schedule an appointment, call the Norwalk Senior Center (562) 929-5580.

Movie Night

Tuesday, January 9 • 6 - 8 p.m.

You are invited to join us for an evening showing of "Dog Gone" in the Senior Center lobby. All seniors in attendance will be able to sit in their own chair to watch the movie while enjoying a light snack. Reservations are required. Call (562) 929-5580 to reserve your spot or for more information.

A New Year, A Healthier You!

Wednesday, January 10 • 10 - 11 a.m.

Thinking about your New Year's Resolutions? Coming up with them is easy enough, but keeping them is sometimes harder to do. Join us for a presentation conducted by Scan Independence at Home to learn how to make and keep New Year's Resolutions for a healthier you! Call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

Keeping It Crafty

Winter Wonder Crafts

Thursday, January 11 • 3 - 5 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00

Sweaters, cold weather, and being all-together! In this workshop, you will create a variety of winter-themed crafts that you will be able to display in your home for the winter season. Light refreshments are provided. Register Now. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

Spirit Week

Tuesday, January 16 to Friday, January 19

Show us your Norwalk Senior Center spirit! Each day will have a different theme, and it is up to you to show us your spirit. From crazy sock day to crazy hat day, there will be something for everyone. Make sure you join in on the fun!

Insurance Scam Prevention Presentation

Wednesday, January 17 • 10 - 11 a.m.

As you may know, seniors are the largest population targeted for insurance scams. Join us for a presentation by the California Department of Insurance who will educate our most vulnerable populations on how to protect themselves from becoming victims of fraud. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

Mammogram Screening

Wednesday, January 17 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Alinea Medical Imaging will be onsite to perform mammograms to insured and uninsured women that are 50 years and older. Mammography is typically covered for asymptomatic women over 40 by most insurance plans including Medi-Cal and for uninsured women through the Every Woman Counts Program. Please call (909) 622-3166 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment.

La Mirada Theatre - "Mystic Pizza"

Friday, January 19 • Departure at 6:30 p.m.

Return: Approximately 10 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 (Dinner not included)

Location: La Mirada, CA

Walking required: Moderate

A new musical you will love at first slice! Based on the classic 1988 Julia Roberts rom-com movie, "MYSTIC PIZZA." The infectious score features mega-hits of the 80s and 90s. Register Now. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information and ticket availability.



Social Services Center

11929 Alondra Blvd • 562-929-5544

Family Zumba Night

Second & Fourth Wednesday Monthly

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

A fun and easy way to keep your family active with Zumba. To register, please call (562) 929-5544.

Neurotics Anonymous

Tuesdays Weekly • 12 - 2 p.m.

Cost: Free

If you suffer from fear, anxiety, loneliness, anger, depression, or other emotions that may make life unbearable, you are encouraged to seek help from Neurotics Anonymous. Spanish only. For more information, please call (562) 929-5544.

AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Every Monday & Tuesday • 6 - 8 p.m.

Cost: Free

Peer support group intended to guide and encourage individuals trying to recover from alcoholism. Spanish Only. For more information, please call (562) 929-5544.

L.A.D.Y.

(Leadership and Advocacy for the Direction of Young Women)

Second & Fourth Thursday Monthly • 6 - 8 p.m.

Cost: Free

Mentoring program for young women ages 15-23, who have struggled with any of the following, due to the COVID-19 pandemic: Mental/physical health, financial stability, personal growth, relationships, and education. L.A.D.Y. will focus on proactive techniques to manage these issues. For more information please call, (562) 929-5544.

Youth Intervention Services

Youth Intervention services are available 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, please call Norwalk Social Services at (562) 929-5544.

National Alliance on Mental Illness

(NAMI)

Second & Fourth Wednesday Monthly • 6 - 8 p.m.

Cost: Free

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. To make an inquiry or to schedule an appointment, please contact Silvia at (562) 448-4816.

Senior Zumba Classes

First & Third Wednesday Monthly • 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Cost: Free

Free Zumba classes are available for all seniors at Norwalk Social Services. Seniors are encouraged to come and enjoy an active morning. For more information, please call (562) 929-5544.

Loteria

Every Friday • 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Cost: Free

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

Cocoa & Crafting Movie Night

Thursday, January 18 • 5 - 7 p.m.

Cost: Free

Winter is here, and what better way to celebrate than with a Hot Cocoa Bar! Stop by the Social Services Center to enjoy a warm beverage while decorating winter crafts and watching the Disney movie, "Elemental." Snacks and refreshments will be provided to those in attendance. To register, please call (562) 929-5544.

Cal Fresh

Thursdays Monthly

9 - 11 a.m. by appointment only

Cost: Free

A Cal Fresh Outreach worker, from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, will be available to assist community members with their application. To schedule an appointment, please call (562) 929-5544.

Community Legal Aid

Second & Fourth Wednesday Monthly

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. by appointment only

Cost: Free

Free legal services will be available for Norwalk residents who meet income eligibility guidelines. To schedule an appointment, please call (562) 929-5544.

Promotores

Monday and Friday • 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Free

Promotores will be presenting on topics related to mental health, to bring awareness to our community. To register or for more information, please call (562) 929-5544.

Senior Movie Matinee

First & Third Tuesday Monthly • 9 - 11 a.m.

Cost: Free

Free movie matinee days at the Social Services Center for seniors. Popcorn will be served. For movie showing information, please call (562) 929-5544. Family Programming:

Vision Board Craft & Journal

Thursday, January 4 • 5 - 7 p.m.

Cost: Free

Happy New Year! What are your goals for the New Year? Do you want to learn how to cook a dish? Do you want to travel around the world? Stop by the Social Services Center to create a vision board and construct a journal to help you accomplish these goals. To register, please call (562) 929-5544.