

# Norwalk<sup>e</sup>Now

The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, California  
February 2024, Volume 45, #1 • @cityofnorwalkca



## New Laws for 2024



Below are a few of the new California laws that will be implemented in 2024

### State Minimum Wage Increase

The state minimum wage will increase to \$16 per hour starting on Jan. 1. California's minimum wage previously stood at \$15.50.

### Minimum Wage Increase for Healthcare Workers: SB 252

This law raises the minimum wage for health care workers to \$23. Workers must be employed under covered health care facilities in California. This bill goes into effect starting June 1.

### Paid Sick Leave: SB 616

This law would apply to employees who have been working in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within their starting year. The bill will require an employee to have no less than 40 hours or five days of accrued sick leave or paid time off by the 200th calendar day of employment, or in each 12-month period. The bill will go into effect starting on Jan. 1.

### Reproductive Leave: SB 848

This law would require employers to offer reproductive leave. The California Fair Employment and Housing Act makes it unlawful to refuse or grant a request by an employee to take up to five days upon the death of a family member. This bill would allow reproductive leave within three months of the event and will use other leave balances otherwise available to the employee. An employer may deny leave for more than one reproductive loss within 12 months. The bill will go into effect starting Jan. 1.

### Work From Home: SB 731

This law requires an employer to provide a 30-day advance written notice before requiring remote employees to return to an in-person setting. The notice would also explain the employee's right to remain remote as an accommodation, if applicable, to their disabilities. This bill will go into effect starting Jan. 1.

Visit [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) for details.



## 2024 HOLIDAY TRASH & STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE

When trash is not picked up on a holiday, service is delayed one day for the remainder of that week. If a holiday occurs on Monday, trash pick-up is a day later for the entire week.

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS	DATE	WILL TRASH BE PICKED UP?
NEW YEARS DAY	MONDAY, JANUARY 1	NO
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	MONDAY, JANUARY 15	YES
PRESIDENTS' DAY	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19	YES
MEMORIAL DAY	MONDAY, MAY 27	NO
INDEPENDENCE DAY	THURSDAY, JULY 4	NO
LABOR DAY	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2	NO
VETERANS DAY	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11	YES
THANKSGIVING DAY	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28	NO
DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29	YES
CHRISTMAS DAY	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25	NO

**Street Sweeping**  
On all holidays noted above, there will be no street sweeping. Street sweeping will not be made up for days missed due to the holidays.

**Important**  
On a few of the holidays above, the schedule causes trash collection to be on the same day as street sweeping. Trash barrels MUST be placed up on the parkway for street sweeping to occur.

Questions?		
Trash Collection	Athens Services	888.336.6100
Street Sweeping	Public Services Department	562.929.5511
Parking Enforcement	Public Safety Department	562.929.5732

For more information call 562.929.5511 or email [recycling@norwalkca.gov](mailto:recycling@norwalkca.gov)

## Promote Home & Business Beautification Contest

Are you proud of your home or business looking clean, well-kept, and attractive? If so, enter the Community Promotion Commission's Annual Home and Business Beautification Contest!

The submission period is March 1 - 22

To submit your property, head to [www.Norwalk.org/communitycontest](http://www.Norwalk.org/communitycontest), scroll down to the Home & Business Beautification Contest section, and submit the form.

The contest is an opportunity for residents and businesses to showcase the time and hard work they invest in maintaining their home or business.

Contest winners are chosen in four categories:

- Curb Appeal
- Home Improvements
- Multi-family Dwelling
- Interior Business Appeal



Entries can be self-nominated or nominated by other individuals as long as the City can contact the property owner. The Community Promotion Commission selects the winners, who are then recognized at a City Council Meeting.

Some things to know:

- Nominations are accepted at [www.Norwalk.org/communitycontest](http://www.Norwalk.org/communitycontest).
- If the submission is a business, the property must have a valid, current business license in the City of Norwalk.
- Homes and business properties to be judged must be in good standing per City of Norwalk's municipal code.
- Beautification elements must be visible from a public right-of-way (such as a sidewalk). Judges will not enter locked/blocked private property, including those behind gates or other barriers.



Submit a property for the contest by visiting: [www.Norwalk.org/communitycontest](http://www.Norwalk.org/communitycontest) or scan this QR code



## Las Posadas: A Great Start to 2024



On January 6, the Norwalk community kicked off the New Year with the City's first big event: Las Posadas. This annual tradition brought hundreds of families out to enjoy music, arts and crafts, a night market, and delicious treats.

Visit [www.Norwalk.org/fun](http://www.Norwalk.org/fun) for upcoming community events.



## Norwalk City Council

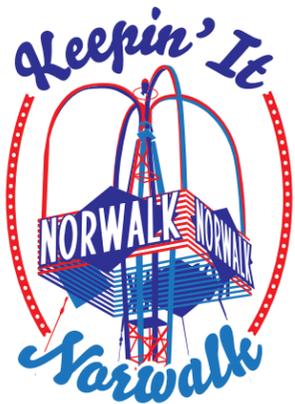
Mayor Margarita L. Rios Vice Mayor Tony Ayala  
Councilmember Jennifer Perez  
Councilmember Rick Ramirez  
Councilmember Ana Valencia

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

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

To Postal Patron



## Business Spotlight

**What is your favorite dentist office?**

The nomination period runs from  
February 1 - February 10



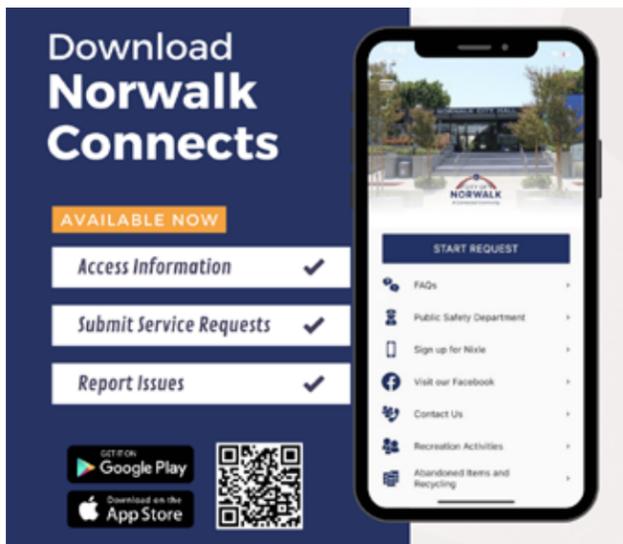
## Stay Connected with Norwalk Connects App

Are you looking for an easier way to report concerns in your community? With the Norwalk Connects mobile app, you can submit service requests with just a few taps on your phone.

To get started, simply download the Norwalk Connects app from the App Store or Google Play. Once you've opened the app, select the "Submit a Service Request" button. From there, you can choose the type of request you want to submit, whether it's a pothole, a broken streetlight, or graffiti.

You'll then be prompted to take a photo of the issue and provide a brief description. You can also use the app to track the status of your request. Submissions can remain anonymous.

Download the Norwalk Connects app today!



## 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. Repairs are expected for damaged curb-gutters, sidewalks and streets. Residents will also experience upgraded ADA compliant ramps.



### Playground Improvements

New playgrounds are coming to town! The following parks will be getting its playgrounds replaced: Bob White Park, New River Park, Hollifield 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.

## Building into the Future



Extra Space Self-Storage anticipated opening: Winter 2024

The self-storage building is located at 14879 Carmenita Road.



Civic Center Plaza Multi-tenant Building: Construction has commenced on the new 9,600 square foot multi-tenant commercial building at 12241 Imperial Highway, located north of City Hall.

## City Council Meetings Schedule



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 on YouTube, Facebook and on the City's website. We encourage community members to learn about what is happening in their community, or simply share ideas and concerns. For more information about City Council Meetings, call (562) 929-5720.

## WASTE COLLECTION

E-waste, Shred-a-Thon & Medication Disposal



Saturday, February 24, 2024  
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Norwalk City Hall  
12700 Norwalk Blvd.

Dispose of unwanted electronics (e-waste) and shred important documents for FREE!

(Only residential waste accepted. Shredding is limited to 5 boxes per vehicle.)

- |                 |          |                   |                      |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Television Sets | Laptops  | VCR & DVD Players | Cables & Cords       |
| Computer Sets   | Printers | Stereo Equipment  | Fax Machines         |
| Cell Phones     | Radios   | Gaming Systems    | Office & Home Phones |

No paint, light bulbs or batteries will be accepted.

### Medication Disposal

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal.

No liquid medication or needles will be accepted. No clinics or business prescription drop offs accepted.



Do not get out of your vehicle. Place items in the trunk for minimum contact and faster service.

For more information, please call 562-929-5511 or email [recycling@norwalkca.gov](mailto:recycling@norwalkca.gov).

(Event ends at 1 p.m. or when trucks are at capacity.)

## Upcoming Recreation Events & Activities

### Artistic Announcement: Calling for Artists!



The City of Norwalk's 13th annual ARTASTIC Program will be held on Friday, March 15 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Cultural Art Center, located at 13200 Clarkdale Avenue. ARTASTIC is a FREE special event that celebrates the arts and highlights the programs and classes at the Cultural Arts Center. An integral part of the program is the Community Art Competition & Scholarship Program where Norwalk students in high school and middle school have the opportunity to display their work of art and compete for scholarships! If you are a student of Norwalk-La Mirada School District or

a Norwalk resident, and you would like to submit your best piece of art, the art submittal dates are listed below:

**Art Submittal Dates:** February 28 - March 1 (Drop-off hours are 3-7 p.m.)

**Art Exhibit Dates:** March 13 - 15

**Artist Reception/Awards Day:** March 15 • 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### Norwalk Recreation & Park Services Unveils Exciting Lineup of Classes

The Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Department provides a variety engaging classes in dance, fitness and leisure activities such as:

- |                   |                 |               |                |                 |          |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|
| • Aztec Dance     | • Hip Hop Dance | • Jazz        | • Gymnastics   | • Tae Kwon Do   | • Guitar |
| • Folkloric Dance | • Ballet        | • Salsa Dance | • Cheerleading | • Zumba Fitness | • Piano  |

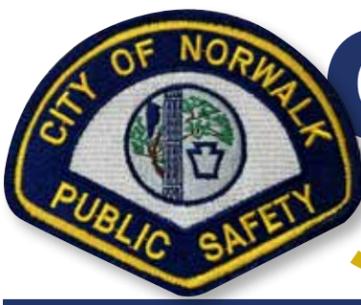
Classes are held at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex (NASC) and are offered for both children and adults. If you are interested in registering for an upcoming class, visit [www.Norwalk.org/Classes](http://www.Norwalk.org/Classes) or call (562) 929-5566 for more information.



### Calling All Athletes & Volunteer Coaches to Join Us for Spring Basketball!

Open to children ages 5-13, the season will run from April 8 - June 7, 2024. Practices take place on weekday evenings, and games occur on Saturdays at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex (NASC). Save the date for a parent/coaches meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Registration begins Saturday, February 17. To register, visit [www.Norwalk.org/Classes](http://www.Norwalk.org/Classes) or call (562) 929-5566 for more information.



# COMMUNITY SAFETYZONE



## Guard Against Post-Festive Identity Theft



As we bid farewell to the holidays, let's not forget to protect ourselves from potential "Grinches" seeking to steal more than just our post-holiday joy.

Here are some tips to safeguard your identity:

### Secure Your Mailbox

Ensure that your mailbox is secure to prevent theft. Collect your mail promptly and consider using a locked mailbox or redirecting packages to a secure location if you are out of town.

### Shred Unwanted Documents

As you tidy up after the holidays, don't forget to shred sensitive documents like receipts, credit card statements, and old holiday cards. Dispose of them properly to thwart identity thieves who might be looking through your trash.

### Monitor Your Accounts

Frequently check your bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized transactions. If you spot anything suspicious, report it to your financial institution immediately.

### Update Passwords

A New Year calls for new passwords. Refresh your online account passwords, ensuring they are strong, unique, and not easily guessable. Use a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols for maximum security.

### Be Wary of Phishing Attempts

Stay vigilant against phishing emails and messages that may mimic trusted sources. Avoid clicking on suspicious links or providing personal information online. Legitimate organizations won't ask for sensitive details via email.

### Check Your Credit Report

Request a free credit report and review it for any irregularities. Look out for accounts you didn't open or inquiries you didn't initiate. Reporting discrepancies promptly can prevent further damage to your credit.

### Safeguard Personal Documents

Store important documents, such as passports, social security cards, and birth certificates, in a secure location at home. If these items are lost or stolen, it could lead to severe identity theft.

By taking these precautions, you can continue the New Year with peace of mind.

If you are the victim of Identity Theft, please call Norwalk Sheriff's Station at (562) 863-8711.

## SAVE A LIFE: Celebrate Responsibly

Whether you're hosting a party or attending one, it's important to prioritize safety.



Here are some safety tips to ensure everyone has a great time:

### Drink Responsibly

- If you're serving alcohol, encourage responsible drinking. Consider providing a variety of non-alcoholic beverage options.
- Arrange for designated drivers or alternative transportation options for guests who may have consumed alcohol.

### Food Safety

- Practice proper food handling to avoid foodborne illnesses. Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold.
- Avoid cross-contamination by using separate cutting boards and utensils for raw meats and other ingredients.
- If you're ordering food, ensure it comes from a reputable and licensed establishment.

### Fire Safety

- If you're using a grill, ensure it is in a well-ventilated area, away from flammable materials.
- Double-check that smoke detectors are working.

### Home Safety

- Clear walkways to prevent tripping hazards.
- Ensure that your home is well lit, both inside and outside.
- Keep valuables secure when hosting a larger gathering.

### Child Safety

- If children are present, create a designated and supervised play area away from potential hazards.
- Keep small objects and choking hazards out of reach.

### Electrical Safety

- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with multiple devices.
- Check that any extension cords and electrical equipment are in good condition.

### Personal Safety

- Remind guests to be mindful of their personal belongings.

### Noise Levels

- Be mindful of noise levels and the impact on neighbors. Inform them in advance and invite them to join the festivities.

## Prevent Home Fires



There was a significant number of fires last year in our City that could have been preventable. As such, the Norwalk Public Safety Department would like to share some simple steps that each of us can take to prevent a tragedy.

### Cooking

- Always stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you need to leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, then turn off the stove.
- Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking to avoid your clothes potentially catching on fire.
- Position barbecue grills at least 10 feet away from siding and deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Always keep a fire extinguisher available.

### Electrical & Appliance Safety

- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately and do not run cords under rugs or furniture.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.

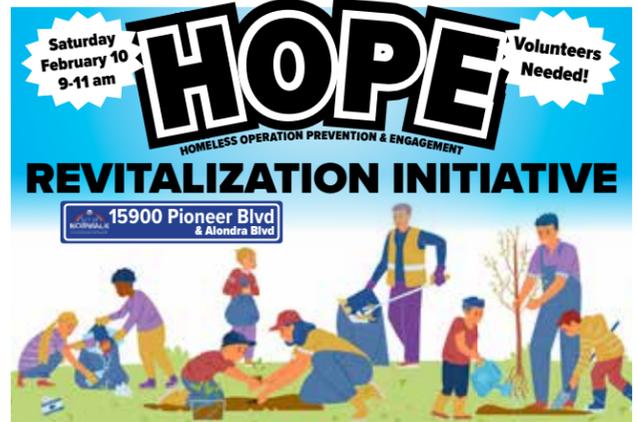
### Portable Space Heaters

- Before buying a portable heater, check to make sure the portable heater has a thermostat control mechanism and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over.
- Keep combustible objects at least three feet away from portable heating devices.

### Additional Tips

- Never use a stove range or oven to heat your home.
- Keep combustible and flammable liquids away from heat sources.
- Portable generators should NEVER be used indoors and should only be refueled outdoors and in well-ventilated areas.

\*Source: Ready.gov



Join the City of Norwalk and your neighbors as we spruce up Pioneer Blvd from Alondra Blvd to 164th St. We'll be cleaning and picking up debris throughout the area.

### What You'll Need:

A good attitude is all you need! Also show up ready to work. We will supply the bags, gloves and pickers! Dress to get a bit dirty.

### Volunteers Needed

Take pride in your community and help clean up litter in your neighborhoods. Bring a Team! Ask your friends and co-workers! This is a great community service opportunity!



If you have any questions call (562) 929-5732 or e-mail [PublicSafety@norwalkca.gov](mailto:PublicSafety@norwalkca.gov). Scan this QR code to sign up.



## Be Mindful of Weather Conditions

### Rainy Day Safety



Rainfall in California happens often in February. Please remember to exercise caution while driving on wet roads and maintain a safe following distance. Check your vehicle's tires, brakes, and windshield wipers to ensure they are in good working condition.

### Snow Safety



February may bring snowfall to the mountains. If you're heading to the mountains, be prepared for winter conditions. Carry tire chains, dress warmly, and inform someone of your travel plans. Check weather and road conditions before embarking on a snow adventure.

### Beach Safety



While it might not be the peak beach season, some areas in California have mild weather year-round. If you're visiting the coast, be aware of rip currents, check beach advisories, and never turn your back on the ocean. Always supervise children near the water.



# Senior Center

14040 San Antonio Dr • 562-929-5580

## Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Weekly Meeting with Veterans

Wednesdays Weekly • 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.

## AARP Driver Safety Classes

Monday, February 5 & Wednesday, February 7  
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Join us for an in-person course to update your driving skills and your knowledge of the rules and hazards of the road. Upon completion of this course, you may qualify for an auto insurance discount\*. This 8-hour class is taught over two days, and attendance at both classes is required. Pre-registration is required, call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

\*Check with your auto insurance agent for possible discount.



# Social Services Center

11929 Alondra Blvd • 562-929-5544

## Family Zumba Night

Second & Fourth Wednesday Monthly  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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.

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.

## AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Every Monday & Tuesday • 6 - 8 p.m.

Peer support group intended to guide and encourage individuals trying to recover from alcoholism. Spanish Only.

## L.A.D.Y.

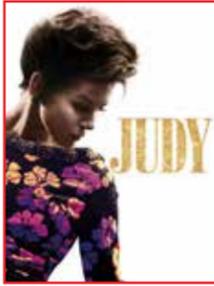
(Leadership and Advocacy for the Direction of Young Women)

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

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

## Movie Night

Tuesday, February 6 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



You are invited to join us for an evening showing of "Judy" 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.

## Fair Housing Presentation

Wednesday, February 7 • 10 - 11:00 a.m.

Join us for a presentation hosted by the Fair Housing Foundation. They will be discussing the services they offer as well as addressing the topics of rent increases, accommodation & modifications and notices to end tenancy.

## Keeping It Crafty

Valentine's Day Soiree

Thursday, February 8 • 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00

Paint, color, cut and glue, join us to make Valentines special for you! In this three-part workshop, you will be completing a series of Valentine's Day crafts. With some edible and some to display, the crafts will absolutely blow you away! Registration Required.

## Ronald Reagan Museum Excursion

Tuesday, February 13 • Departure at 10:00 a.m.

Return: Approximately 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 (Lunch not included)

Location: Simi Valley, CA

Walking required: High

The Ronald Reagan museum experience integrates hundreds of artifacts and dozens of interactive displays for visitors of all ages to explore. Join us as we navigate this wonderful gem located in Simi Valley, California. Registration Required.

## 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.

## National Alliance on Mental Illness

(NAMI)

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

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.

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

Date: Every Friday • 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Seniors are encouraged to join our free loteria mornings at the Social Services Center.

## CEA-H.O.W.

Every Tuesday • 10 - 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

Thursdays Monthly • 9 - 11 a.m.  
by appointment only

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.

## Lunar New Year Mixer

Thursday, February 15 • 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Cost: \$5.00

It is the year of the Dragon, and the Senior Center is hosting a Lunar New Year Mixer. Join us on the dance floor as we move to the groove of our very own recreation staff. We will provide some traditional decor, light oriental bites and guaranteed fun! Registration Required (One ticket per person).

## Depression:

Common, Disabling, Unrecognized. Treatable Presentation

Wednesday, February 21 • 2:00 - 3:00 P.M.

How do you know when it is more than just the blues? How do you know when it is depression? Depression is common and happens to about 1 out of 20 adults every year, but you do not have to suffer with it. Treatments are available to help you feel better. Spend some time with us, as staff from Scan Independence at home teaches you how to determine if it is more than just the blues and what you can do about it. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

## Murder Mystery - Totally Rad 80's Prom Gone Bad

Thursday, February 29 • 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Cost: \$5.00

With their high school career coming to an end, the students of Mayhem High find themselves battling it out over grades, popularity, affection, class rankings and what they all have been focused on for years, who will win the prom king and queen? However, as the night unfolds, an innocent life is claimed. Can you find the culprit? Join us for a day of mystery and clues. Norwalk resident\* registration begins Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Open registration begins Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

\*Photo identification with proof of residency required. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

## Community Legal Aid

Second & Fourth Wednesday Monthly

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

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.

Thursdays • 6 - 8 p.m.

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.

## Los Angeles County Mental Health

First & Third Wednesday Monthly • 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Free Zumba classes are available for all seniors at Norwalk Social Services. Seniors are encouraged to come and enjoy an active morning.

## Senior Movie Matinee

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

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 Love Notes & Totes

Thursday, February 1 • 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Valentine's Day is a holiday known for greetings and gifts. Show your appreciation for one another through the creation of Valentine's cards and heart themed Tote Bags. All ages are encouraged to participate. Snacks and light refreshments will be provided to those in attendance. To register please call (562) 929-5544.

## Sweetheart Serenade Karaoke

Thursday, February 15 • 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Can you feel the love tonight? All residents are encouraged to participate and sing their hearts out in this judgment free environment. Snacks and light refreshments will be provided.