

# Norwalk

# Now



The official community publication of Norwalk, California

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## City in Good State but Challenges Remain, Leaders Say

The City of Norwalk is moving in the right direction, leaders say, but state budget issues and elimination of redevelopment funding mean continued challenges for the County's 15<sup>th</sup> largest city.

Hear the latest about upcoming and completed projects throughout Norwalk, along with a glimpse at what's ahead. City Manager Mike Egan will join the Mayor and members of the City Council, Chamber of Commerce and Norwalk Coordinating Council for the 2014 State of the City Address. The event will be held on Friday, February 21st at 11:30 a.m. at the Norwalk Doubletree Hotel, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Tickets cost \$40 per person and must be purchased in advance.

All guests will receive the City's "2020 Vision" Strategic Action Plan on a thumb-drive with the City's

logo. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. to view auction items. Your donation will be listed in the event program to recognize your support to the 300 guests.

A portion of the proceeds benefit the City's food pantry and the John Wesley Health Center Norwalk, where funding a new Dental unit opening later this year. The NCCC's combined donation of \$7,500 will help provide needed food items to Norwalk families and children in need, as well as medical supplies for dental care delivery to low-income patients ranging from children to adults. A total of \$5,000 collected at last year's event funded Norwalk libraries' literacy programs.

For tickets, or to make a donation, contact Gordon Stefenhagen at (562) 400-8188 or e-mail [nccc@usa.co](mailto:nccc@usa.co).



Everyone who attends the State of the City Address will receive a free 64 MB u-drive loaded with the "2020 Vision" Strategic Action Plan. The u-drive, complete with a formatted e-magazine of the plan, cost \$3 each, compared to printed copies, which cost more than \$10. Plus, with the plan using just 4MB, you'll have 58MB of free space to use.

### Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

## Father Greg Boyle to Share Amazing Story of Hope and Love

Father Gregory Boyle's amazing story draws from his experiences as a Jesuit priest, his work in Bolivia, Mexico, and Folsom Prison with those who "live at the margins." He is the founder and Executive Director of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the United States, now it's in 25th year. The nonprofit employs and trains more than 300 former gang-members every year in seven social enterprises. Father Greg is the author of the NY Times bestselling book, "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion."



Wednesday, February 12th, 6:30 a.m.  
Norwalk Double Tree Hotel  
Tickets: \$25 (Norwalk City Hall - Room 5)  
Information: (562) 896-1526

The City of Norwalk Proudly Observes

## Black History Month



Learn more at these sites:

- [www.surfnetkids.com](http://www.surfnetkids.com)
- [www.thekingcenter.com](http://www.thekingcenter.com)
- [www.blackhistory.com](http://www.blackhistory.com)

## City Adopts No-Smoking Ordinance

While voicing their respect for the rights of smokers, members of the City Council voted to limit smoking at public recreational areas in Norwalk.

An ordinance passed January 7th prohibits smoking in recreational areas and other public facilities operated by the city.

"It provides residents with smoke-free recreational areas that'll improve air quality and promote healthy living," said the Mayor.

The ordinance also prohibits the use of electronic cigarettes. The smoking ban is effective February 6th. Signs will be posted to alert the public that smoking is not permitted in certain areas. A violation of the smoking prohibition is an infraction subject

to a citation and a fine of \$100 for a first time offense. For more information, please contact the City of Norwalk, Department of Public Safety at (562) 929-5732.



## Norwalk Sees Double-Digit Drop in Crime



The overall crime rate in Norwalk fell 13% over last year, according to the latest data from the L.A. County Sheriff's Department. The report indicates a 67% drop in homicides; 11% drop in robberies; 23% drop in burglaries; and 19% drop in thefts. "We're seeing some of the results of our aggressive community policing programs and new technology," said Mike Egan, City Manager, who will detail crime stats at the upcoming State of the City Address on February 21.

## Norwalk City Council

Mayor Luigi Vernola Vice Mayor Marcel Rodarte  
Councilmember Cheri Kelley Councilmember Mike Mendez  
Councilmember Leonard Shryock

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# Looking Ahead



## Core Focus Areas for 2014 & Beyond:

- Provide exceptional Public Safety by using technology and community policing strategies
- Enact Sound Fiscal Management and Stewardship by adhering to the highest standards of ethics and accountability.
- Initiate Innovative Economic Development Plan to promote community revitalization and economic opportunity.
- Deliver Superior Customer Service Utilizing New Technology to foster positive interactions with residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Maximize Staff Collaboration, Communication & Professional Development by facilitating ongoing training, learning, and communication to employees.
- Modernize & Expand Operational Infrastructure to ensure reliable, efficient, and sustainable community resources.

Glimpse projects that are coming, and those currently underway. It's a vision of Norwalk now, and into the future.

In 2014, some of the more visible projects you can expect to see around town include:

- Rebuilding the Firestone bridge to include sidewalks and bike lanes
- Adopting an Economic Development Strategy
- Relocating Farmer's Market to Front Street
- Creating a Small Business Development Center for Counseling
- Building a CNG Vehicle Refueling Station
- Redesigning the website and refreshing the logo & branding materials
- Dedicating Glazier Park's "Art in Public Places" project



## Strategic Plan

Implementing components of the "2020 Vision" Strategic Action Plan

## Community Development

- Economic Development division aggressively seeking opportunities to promote community revitalization

## Finance

- Distributing Quarterly Financial Reports and posting to website for public access
- Financing the purchase of water rights and additional capital improvement projects
- Refinancing Lease Revenue bonds for a savings of \$1.16 million
- Improving City's credit rating to A+ and "Stable"



# 2014 in PreView

## Public Safety

- Continuing to implement innovative tactics and technology:  
**13% DROP in overall serious crimes**  
**67% DROP in homicides**  
**11% DROP in robberies**  
**23% DROP in burglaries**  
**19% DROP in thefts**
- Enhancing Intervention Academy, which graduated 71 at-risk youth and 80 parents
- Increasing participation in “I am Somebody” and “CHOICES” programs, which boasts 1,100 graduates



## Public Services

- Continuing energy efficiency programs in partnership with Edison
- Refreshing landscapes at nearly 100 locations throughout the City
- Continuing upgrades to Norwalk, Gerdes, and Ramona parks
- Reintroducing Mini Mr. Sun community cleanup programs
- Installing energy efficient safety lights at all city intersections



## Recreation & Parks

- Going live with the ActiveNet Computer Class Registration program
- Refurbishing the meeting room at Gerdes Park
- Expanding Kids and Cops Golf Tournament, winner of the 2013 California Parks and Recreation Society Award of Excellence
- Increasing staffing at City parks
- Using grant to install new playground equipment at Gerdes Park

## Transit

- Operating 14 new clean-burning-fuel buses
- Implementing \$71,000 grant to install security cameras on CNG buses



## Social Services

- Providing essential food items to 3,500 families
- Boosting volunteers over last year's level
- Developing solutions to address homelessness in Norwalk



## Art in Public Places

- Beautifying the City with art projects on Imperial Highway
- Refurbishing “Spirit of Progress” artwork at Firestone and Hoxie
- Continuing Glazier Park art project



## Community Outreach

- Issuing Norwalk Now community newsletter monthly
- Expanding Norwalk's YouTube Channel with original programming
- Revamping Facebook page and welcoming posted comments
- Adding Flickr and Yelp to social media portfolio to offer wider access
- Introducing new cable programs focused on residents and businesses
- Redesigning website to improve look and functionality
- Introducing citizen engagement programs and opportunities



## I-5 Widening Project

- Ongoing street projects
- Rehabilitating I-5 overpass at Norwalk Boulevard
- Installing artistic designs on retaining walls and underpass



## Work in Town



The City of Norwalk is recruiting for:

**Instructor Guard**  
\$12.85-\$15.62 per hour

**Lifeguard**  
\$11.58 - \$14.08 per hour

Report to the Norwalk Aquatic Pavilion on Saturday, March 8 at 8:30 am to participate in a swim/lifesaving skills test. Application and questionnaire due by March 17.

Details: (562) 929-5721 or [norwalkca.gov](http://norwalkca.gov)

**Job Hotline**  
**(562) 929-5771**

## Could Homeboy Work in Norwalk?

Homeboy Industries, started by Father Greg Boyle, is a nonprofit organization that employs and trains more than 300 former gang-members every year in seven social enterprises, from Homeboy Silkscreen & Embroidery to Homeboy Bakery and Homegirl Café. Now located in Downtown Los Angeles, Homeboy also provides a path to change and free, critical services to the 12,000 people who walk through the doors every year seeking a better life. Homeboy's unique and innovative approach of on-the-job training in conjunction with essential wrap-around services, including mental health therapy, tattoo removal, and case management, has become a model for other organizations around the world. Learn more at [www.homeboyindustries.org](http://www.homeboyindustries.org)



## Newsmakers

### Record-Breaking Collection

More than 700 vehicles circled through the City Hall parking lot to dispose of hazardous household materials at last month's E-Waste and Shredathon, the largest turnout so far.



### I Don't Mind Holding



You might want to stay on hold when calling the City. Mia Sanchez, age 7, is the new voice for the City's on-hold phone message. "I couldn't even stay mad after hearing that precious voice," said one caller.

### Explore Careers in Automotive Repair

Cerritos College's Technician Training Program is now accepting applications for the next session that begins in March 2015. To apply online, visit <http://cms.cerritos.edu/auto/ittp.htm>.



### Dollar Book Fair @ the Cultural Arts Center



Get some good reads for a good price as the Dollar Book Fair teams up with Relay for Life to raise proceeds to fight cancer.

Details: (562) 929-5521

### An 'Artastic' Opportunity

"Artastic" is offering Norwalk's aspiring artists a chance to showcase their talents. Saturday, March 15th. Details: (562) 929-5521



### Seeking 'Older American' Award Nominees

The City seeks nominations for an "Older American Volunteer" to recognize as its Outstanding Older American. Nominees must be 65 or older, reside in Norwalk, and submit an application by March 3rd. Details: [www.norwalkca.gov](http://www.norwalkca.gov)

### Dinner and Chance at \$300

Enjoy a meal at any Norwalk Chamber Restaurant on Tuesday, February 26th, bring your receipt to the Chamber and earn a chance to win a \$300 prize drawing. Details: [www.norwalkchamber.com](http://www.norwalkchamber.com)

### Let's Talk Business

Position your business for success with simple steps to manage more effectively in this free 3-day program at City Hall: February 19, 26 & March 6. Advance registration required. Details: (562) 866-493-4375 or [sbdcinfo@lbcc.edu](mailto:sbdcinfo@lbcc.edu).



### Thanks, Angel Tree Supporters

Special thanks to everyone involved in this year's Angel Tree Project. All sponsors listed at [norwalkca.gov](http://norwalkca.gov).

### Be My Valentine

Social Services will host a special evening for seniors with a Candlelight Dinner on Tuesday, February 11, starting at 5:15 p.m. Details: (562) 929-5544.

### Lobby Olympics

Get set for the Lobby Olympics' Opening Ceremony on Friday, February 7th at 9:30 a.m. Look for opportunities to compete. Details: (562) 929-5924.

### Read Across America

The Norwalk Library will host a special reading with local fighters on Wednesday, February 26 at 4:00 p.m. Details: (562) 868-0775.

### Become a Firefighter

The LA County Fire Department will offer seminars for anyone interested in a career as a Firefighter. Upcoming sessions will be held March 29 and May 31. Details: [www.fire.lacounty.gov](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov).



### Free Tax Prep

Now through April 9, get free help with your income tax forms offered at the Norwalk District Office, 12440 East Imperial Highway, Suite 200, in Norwalk, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., every Wednesday by appointment only. Details: (562) 466-1694.

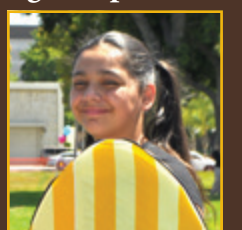
### No Street Sweeping on Presidents Day



In observance of Presidents Day on Monday, February 17, there will be no street sweeping. Trash pick-up, however, will take place as usual without interruption. Details: (562) 929-5964.

### Egg-normous Egg Hunt Searching for Sponsors

The City's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th is searching for sponsors to help with prizes. Sponsors are acknowledged at the event. Details: (562) 929-5763.



Submit someone you know to be included in future Movers, Shakers & Newsmakers by calling (562) 929-5753.