



Norwalk Welcomes New Mayor

On Tuesday, March 15, 2016, outgoing Mayor Leonard Shryock received commendations from elected officials, local agencies and service organizations showing their appreciation for his leadership and support during the last year.

A highlight video showcased achievements during Shryock's term, including the completion of several projects and implementation of various programs. The outgoing Mayor's main focus, "Working the Plan," and accomplishing objectives set out in the 2020 Vision included adding innovative public safety programs, addressing accessibility to higher education, and improving the quality of life for Norwalk residents. In addition, the newly formed Norwalk Education Alliance, ribbon cutting for the newly installed Glazier Park playground, and enacting sound fiscal management underscored Council's progress in 2015/2016.

City Council unanimously selected Mike Mendez as the new Mayor, with Cheri Kelley elected as Vice Mayor for the 2016/2017 term. Mayor Mendez shared his goals for Norwalk during the next year: continuing to "Work the Plan," taking further action on the Strategic Action Plan in areas including public safety, education and job training, joining forces with the community to help address homelessness, renovation of parks and working to improve transit opportunities for commuters and residents while creating opportunities for economic growth.



Don Knabe to give last "State of the County" in Norwalk on Friday, April 8

Hear the latest about the Supervisor's projects & programs

The City of Norwalk and the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce invite you to lunch with Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. Knabe, who retires at the end of this year, will provide an update on 4th District programs and activities and talk about special projects. The event takes place at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex's Sproul Room, located at 13200 Clarkdale Avenue in Norwalk. Tickets cost \$30 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members and are available through the Chamber office. Email, fax or mail reservation information, including name, address, phone and payment method to:

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
 12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650
 Phone (562) 864-7785 • Fax (562) 864-8539
 info@norwalkchamber.com

Or visit norwalkchamberofcommerce.org. Table sponsorships are available at a discounted price. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, April 6, 2016. No tickets will be sold at the door.

2016 Home & Business Beautification Contest



April marks the open of the City of Norwalk Community Promotion Commission's annual Home and Business Beautification Contest. The competition, open to all single and multiple family residences and businesses in Norwalk, celebrates the efforts of community members to keep their homes and office spaces attractive and fresh.

Application deadline is May 31, 2016, with the judging period beginning in early June and extending through the end of the month. Applications are available online at norwalk.org/i-want-to/enter-the-Home-and-Business-Beautification-Contest, or you may pick one up at any of our City facilities.



Community Promotion Commissioners will judge properties in four categories:

- Home Beautiful
- Home Improvement (Before & After Photos Required)
- Multi-Family Dwelling
- Business Appeal

Entrants may only enter in one category. Winners receive recognition at a City Council meeting, signage commemorating their win and a gift card to a local home improvement store. Call (562) 929-5735 for details.

Monumental Honor for the Military

The latest Art in Public Places project will change the way visitors enter City Hall. The current Freedom Square, located in the center of the City Hall parking lot, will be replaced with an interactive mall paying tribute to the servicemen and women of the United States Armed Forces. Five 11 foot high monoliths faced with black granite will represent each of the different branches of the military, displaying the history and personal stories of those who have served our country. The mall will also include flagpoles, lighting, landscaping, and seating

areas. The current ramp leading up to City Hall will also be replaced with stairs and a re-located ADA ramp, along with additional planter areas. The City is currently out to bid to hire a construction firm for the project. June is the anticipated time frame for crews to begin on the project. "This project, funded in part by developer fees and Community Development Block Grant monies will create a nice walkway that visitors can take the time to enjoy and learn from at the same time," says Theresa Devoy, City Clerk and liaison to the Art in Public Places Committee.



Norwalk City Hall Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
 Alternating Fridays 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Saturday & Sundays Closed

Norwalk City Council

Mayor
Mike Mendez



Vice Mayor
Cheri Kelley

Councilmembers
Marcel Rodarte Leonard Shryock Luigi Vernola

City of Norwalk
 12700 Norwalk Blvd.
 Norwalk, CA 90650

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Norwalk Native in the Spotlight

For students who think college isn't in their future or that it may be too difficult to get accepted to the university of their choice, Norwalk native Jason Acosta has a personal story of inspiration to share

Today Jason serves as the Hispanic Scholarship Fund's Senior Manager of Local and Small Business Giving, and he's proud to call himself a Yale University graduate.

Having grown up in Norwalk, Jason attended Paddison Elementary School, Lakeside Middle School, and Santa Fe High School. Jason says "The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) class at Lakeside inspired me. Art Valeriano, a history teacher and AVID coordinator gave me the motivation and skills to be intentional with my college pursuits."

Jason is the youngest of four brothers and tells us his eldest brother, Daniel, who is also a Yale graduate, motivated him and always told him to take chances and be bold. Despite excelling academically, Jason says he let self-doubt get in the way when applying to college. "I



convinced myself I did not 'belong' at top tier institutions," Jason explains, "so I avoided the application process altogether."

Spring semester senior year, Jason got back on track after signing up for the Ivy League Project. He was able to tour several Ivy League campuses. He tells us the experience restored his confidence. "Any student can pursue an Ivy League education, as long as he or she is willing to work hard enough."

Today he shares his experience and hopes to encourage students who doubt their own abilities. He says, "I stand as a living testimony as to what is possible, and success is the product of moments when preparation meets opportunity." Jason adds, "It is an honor to serve an organization that helps demystify the college application process for so many Latino families all across the country."



Swimming to Success



Norwalk resident Elizabeth Ramirez is a 13-year-old who was destined to be a swimmer from a very young age. She's been competing in Junior Olympics since she was eight years old. (At age two, she fearlessly learned how to swim on her own.) From the age of five it was apparent to

Elizabeth's parents, Jeannette and Dario, that their daughter had a special talent. On the swim team, Elizabeth was competing against ten year olds!

In December Elizabeth won two gold medals and a ranked fourth place at the Short Course Junior Olympics held in Palm Springs, swimming for Lakewood Aquatics. The next major swim challenge is the Long Course Junior Olympics in July. If last year serves as any indication — she broke four team records — Elizabeth is one to keep a close eye on.

What's next for this 13-year-old swimmer? She's ready to conquer her next goals, sectionals and nationals. Elizabeth is also an honors student and tells us how she has the ability to do so well in both academics and sports. "I consider myself a very determined person. I train hard and I believe perseverance helps me accomplish my goals. The support of my parents is also very important to me. I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for them."



Norwalk Older American of the Year – Joann McMurray

Each year, the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults recognizes local senior volunteers who make a difference in their community. The Norwalk Senior Commission has selected Joann McMurray as this year's Older American Nominee for the City of Norwalk. Joann is currently a front desk volunteer at the Senior Center and also serves as an Angel Tree volunteer. Joann has dedicated ten years as a Senior Services volunteer and will be recognized at the Annual Older American Recognition Award Luncheon.



2016 Woman of the Year Honorees Recognized by Senator Tony Mendoza



To celebrate Women's History Month in March, Senator Tony Mendoza recognized eight women from the 32nd Senate District at his 2016 Woman of the Year event held at the Cerritos Library. Pictured is Ani Samuelian of Nationwide Environmental Services in Norwalk, honored for her work in the business sector.

Ms. Samuelian began as a filing clerk, working her way up to Vice President. As the second generation at the helm of the family business, Ms. Samuelian continues to honor the legacy of her father, Joe Samuelian, who emigrated from Syria to fulfill the American Dream. Ani is dedicated to the company's mission of providing service with passion and determination to keep the environment clean.

Ms. Samuelian's charitable nature has also had an impact on the community. She is a Board Member of Joe's Organization for Youth (JOY), a nonprofit organization that assists thousands of underprivileged youth through building self-esteem and fostering individuality.

Said Senator Mendoza, "It is important to recognize women who have demonstrated dedication and commitment to improving our communities and making a positive impact. All of the women are role models and I am humbled and inspired by their personal stories."

To learn more about Ani and other Women of the Year, please visit Senator Mendoza's website: <http://sd32.senate.ca.gov/news/372016-2016-woman-year-honorees-recognized-senator-tony-mendoza>



Kids & Cops Miniature Golf Tournament

Children ages eight through 17 are encouraged to sign up to play with approximately 20 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies at this miniature golf tournament to be held at Golf n' Stuff, 10555 Firestone Boulevard, Saturday, June 4 at 11:00 a.m. Cost is only \$10, which includes golf, barbecue, awards & raffle. Please register by Saturday, May 7. The tournament is a fun way to introduce Norwalk youth to their local law enforcement team. The program shows our young people that local law enforcement officers are here to support and protect the Norwalk Community. For more information, please stop by or call the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex at (562) 929-5566.

Norwalk Designated "Tree City USA" for a second year

The National Arbor Day Foundation has once again named the City of Norwalk a "Tree City USA" for its continued dedication and commitment to urban forestry.

This is the second year that Norwalk has met the standards required for a Tree City USA community, including having a tree board or department in place to oversee forestry activity, having an established tree care ordinance, coordinating a forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita, planning and holding an Arbor Day observance, and signing a proclamation into record.



The Tree City USA program provides direction, assistance, and national recognition to communities by supporting the framework for a sustainable urban forest and creates a strong working relationship with our state forestry agency and other conservation groups. More importantly, the distinction provides an opportunity to educate the Norwalk community about our urban forestry program, to showcase the countless benefits of urban trees, and to demonstrate to visitors and residents that trees, conservation, and the environment are an important and vital part of life in our City.

Last year, the City planted over 800 trees throughout the community, including 50 trees during the annual Arbor Day event. Join us this year at the City's third annual Arbor Day event being held Saturday April 30 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at New River Park. The event will include: a Community tree planting, information booths, face painting, activities for children and light refreshments. Come out and help make Norwalk a "greener" City!



City of Norwalk
Public Services Department
Saturday, April 30 • 8:00-11:00 a.m.
13432 Halcourt Avenue

NEW RIVER PARK

Arbor Day

FACE PAINTING **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS **CRAFTS**

COME OUT AND HELP PLANT TREES AND BEAUTIFY NORWALK! ALL SUPPLIES AND TOOLS WILL BE PROVIDED!

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! TO SIGN UP, CONTACT PAM TORRES VIA E-MAIL PTORRES@NORWALKCA.GOV

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (562) 929-5511.



High School Students Gain Real World Skills

On February 24 the Norwalk Education Alliance welcomed over 100 local high school students in a project designed to teach them how to succeed when it comes to landing a job. A panel of Alliance partners conducted mock job interviews, giving students immediate feedback on their performance.



Lauren Bell, a junior from Norwalk High School says, "I've learned that it's important to have good eye contact and be open about the conversation because it shows them you're listening and that you're interested in what they have to say."



Christian Gonzalez, a senior at Santa Fe High School, feels this training is something that will stay with him. "I want to go to school for air mechanics so when I get a job for an airline, it's going to help me when it comes to the interview. These interview skills will help me pursue that career."

Bing Hyun, the City of Norwalk's Economic Development Manager, explains the goals of the Norwalk Education Alliance, "What the City hopes to see is when we connect our residents to better education and training they'll get connected to better jobs. If they get connected to better jobs, that will lead to better incomes providing the

ability to support businesses and providing greater stability for themselves. So the Norwalk Education Alliance is really put together to help push this message of education and training being a priority in this community."

The Alliance was formed in 2015. This exercise was the first of many programs set to take place. For more on this story, you can view a full report on the City of Norwalk's YouTube channel under "Now You Know - Education Alliance 2016".



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8f2zls-WXFM>

"Coffee with a Cop" Recap & Highlights



located at 10841 Imperial Highway to talk about issues on their minds.

On Wednesday, February 24, the City of Norwalk Public Safety Department, Sheriff's Department, and the local community came together for a morning of complimentary coffee, casual conversation and cordial camaraderie.

Norwalk residents dropped by for "Coffee with a Cop" at the McDonald's



Topics of conversation included community issues such as crime, resolving homelessness, parking enforcement, crime prevention strategies, neighborhood nuisances, and Municipal Code and California Vehicle violations. Residents received helpful information and, more important, became better acquainted with the men and women who patrol their community.

"Coffee with a Cop" enhances law enforcement partnerships between Public Safety staff, Sheriff's Deputies and the people they serve. Additionally, the program not only builds bonds outside of the standard law enforcement setting, it also serves as a communication tool for new policy or procedure. So far, Public Safety has received positive feedback from residents who support the effort.

See & Do

The City is Hiring!



Job Opportunities

Lifeguard (Hourly/At-will/Seasonal)
\$12.10 - \$14.71 per hour

Instructor Guard (Hourly/At-will/Seasonal)
\$13.43 - \$16.33 per hour

For the Instructor Guard and Lifeguard positions: Interested applicants must report to the Norwalk Aquatic Pavilion on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 8:30 am to participate in a qualifying swim/lifesaving skills test. Only applicants who successfully complete the American Red Cross Lifeguarding Pre-Test that day will be provided with a supplemental questionnaire and a City Employment



Celebrate Earth Day with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County on Saturday, April 9. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., visit over 50 exhibits displaying ways to conserve natural resources and keep our earth green. The FREE event includes arts and crafts, water reclamation plant and materials recovery facility tours, music and dance performances, face painting, and much more. Bring your old shoes to donate to soles4souls.org.

Event parking will be available at 13181 & 13191 Crossroads Parkway North, with shuttle service provided.

At Norwalk Library
12350 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 868-0775 • colapublib.org

Bag of Books Sale

Saturday, April 9 • 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Friends of the Norwalk Libraries will hold their semi-annual Bag-Of-Books Sale. Become a member of the Friends to get in one hour early at 8:00 a.m. (Memberships available at the door and are \$10 per person.) Put as many items as you can into one bag without tearing it for \$5. Bags supplied by the Friends. Cash and credit cards accepted.

Vision Board Party

Saturday, April 23 • 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Norwalk Library is hosting a Vision Board Party on Saturday, April 23 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Vision boards are a powerful tool to manifest one's dreams and desires. Create a vision board to help visualize and reach life goals using images from magazines. All materials will be provided.

Book Discussion: Neverhome

Monday, April 25 • 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Norwalk Library's book group selection for April is Laird Hunt's *Neverhome*, an extraordinary novel about a wife who disguises herself as a man and goes to fight in the Civil War. Copies are available for checkout at the Info Desk. Share your thoughts on the book at our discussion meeting on Monday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. New members always welcome.

Día de los Niños Free Book Giveaway

Tuesday, April 26 • 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

This national celebration of children, families, and books will be highlighted with a special guest performance by The Norwalk Youth Mariachi Group who will be performing traditional mariachi songs including their own rendition of "Viva Mexico" and "Yo No Fui." Each child in attendance will receive one free book from the Norwalk Library.

LA County HHW Round Up

Dispose of household hazardous waste safely and responsibly at a FREE Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Round Up. Round Up events are open to all LA County residents. Accepted items include: automotive fluid, cleaners and pesticides, pool chemicals, expired and unwanted medications or sharps, household batteries, and e-waste (computer monitors, keyboards, microwaves, televisions, and cell phones).

April 23 • 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

South Gate Park, Tweedy Boulevard at Hildreth Avenue,
South Gate 90280

Open to all Los Angeles County residents. Call (888) CLEAN-LA for more information. Events are sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in conjunction with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.



Friends of the Norwalk Libraries Fundraiser

Thursday, April 28 • 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

SoCal Pizza • 12253 Imperial Highway

\$5 ticket: 2 slices of pizza & salad, must purchase a beverage

Tickets may be purchased at Norwalk or Alondra Library. Proceeds will fund library reading programs for children.

Senior Center Activities & Events

14040 San Antonio Drive • (562) 929-5580

FREE Blood Pressure Screenings

Wednesday, April 6 • 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 19 • 9:30 a.m.

AppleCare Medical Group and Pioneer Medical Group provide this monthly blood pressure screening to seniors free of charge. Blood pressure is taken by a licensed/certified medical staff and the results are discussed with the senior afterward.

Cal MediConnect Program

Thursday, April 7 • 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

For those seniors who have both Medicare and MediCal, the new MediConnect program can sometimes be confusing to navigate. A staff member from Harbage Consulting will be on hand at the Senior Center to talk about this program and help seniors learn how to utilize this online resource. This service is free and presents the material in an unbiased way, allowing the senior patron to make their own choices of medical providers.

April Candlelight Dinner

Theme: Spring has Sprung

Tuesday, April 12 • 5:45 – 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$6 (before Saturday, April 9)

\$7.50 (after Saturday, April 9)

Stop by and enjoy a hot and hearty meal. Share an evening of warmth with friends and family. On the menu; Top Sirloin Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, Dinner Roll, Beverage and Coffee. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. and meal service ends at 6:00 p.m. Prizes awarded. Dine-in only. Tickets will not be sold on the day of the dinner.

Debt Management

Thursday, April 14 • 10:00– 11:00 a.m.

Staff from the Heartland Institute of Financial Education will discuss debt management. As seniors start to look at more healthcare costs and other issues such as long-term care, this can put a strain on their limited finances. This presentation will cover steps they can take to minimize the impact and help them plan ahead for these unexpected costs. Heartland Institute of Financial Education helps to empower people through financial education.

Join the Conversation

[de-fin-ing] NORWALK

For more information visit www.definingnorwalk.com

The City is engaging community members to identify the City's brand and identity. The brand will include a new logo, motto and color scheme. Below is a list of dates and times for public community meetings where residents and business owners are encouraged to attend and provide input.

Youth Meeting	3.30.16 @ 4:00 PM	Teen Center
Community Meeting	4.16.16 @ 10:00 AM	Social Services Center
Community Meeting	4.11.16 @ 7:00 PM	City Hall

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SAVE THE DATE
Memorial Day Ceremony
May 30 • 11 a.m. • City Hall
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MARCH 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

