# NorvalkNow









www.norwalk.org

The official community publication of Norwalk, California

May 2016, Volume 34, #5



## Only Safe and Sane Fireworks in Norwalk

You can make a difference in your community this summer.

The City hosts an Independence Day Pageant on July 3 each year, which includes activities, entertainment and a spectacular fireworks show. For families who choose to celebrate the holiday at home, it is important that all residents and visitors in the City adhere to regulations regarding firework use.

Only Safe and Sane, legally purchased fireworks are permitted in the City of Norwalk's residential areas. Fireworks that have an aerial effect or explode are NOT Safe and Sane.

Safe and Sane fireworks can only be used beginning Friday, July 1 through Monday, July 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the City. Use outside of this time period is not permitted.

Illegal or misused fireworks can have a detrimental impact on people's health and safety. Injuries to handlers or even worse, innocent bystanders, such as children, have a lasting impact on families. Fireworks can also adversely impact veterans of the armed forces suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Fireworks may also affect neighborhood pets, as they can cause many animals to run from the offensive noise, often resulting in injury or death of the fleeing pet.



The City asks for residents' cooperation and help in cracking down on illegal fireworks and the use of fireworks outside of the permitted time frame. Often illegal fireworks hit the black market long before the 4th of July. If you witness or know about illegal fireworks transactions, please report it! Reports can be made anonymously to Public Safety or the Sheriff's Department.

Illegal fireworks can be reported at any time to Norwalk Public Safety at (562) 929-5732 or the Sheriffs Department at (562) 863-8711.

## Four Drivers Distinguished for 2015 Performance

Norwalk Transit System's Coach Operator of the Year recognition program honors top bus drivers for their excellent driving records, customer relation skills and for making positive contributions to our community.

Operators must demonstrate safe driving skills, courteous and helpful attitudes toward customers, and pay conscientious attention to job requirements such as attendance, appearance and discipline.

Typically, one operator is selected for this honor. But in 2015, there were four who set themselves apart:

Tony Brander joined the Norwalk Transit team in March 1984. This is Tony's third Coach Operator of the Year award. He has also been the recipient of fourteen Coach Operator of the Quarter distinctions. Tony has been a

consecutive Operator of the Quarter

Norwalk resident for over 27 years, along with his wife and three children, and he credits his love of helping people for making his job enjoyable and meaningful.

Joseph Ho came to Norwalk Transit as an On-Call Coach Operator in December of 2008, and was promoted to full-time status this past February. This is Joseph's first Coach Operator of the Year award, but he has received three

honors, for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter in 2014.

Fernando Lopez is an On-Call Coach Operator who has been with Norwalk for two years.

He received Operator of the Quarter soon after he joined the team, demonstrating his quality commitment to service early on. Fernando has been

married for 35 years and has four children and two grandchildren. He appreciates the support, training and appreciation the City provides to drivers for the work that they do.

Adam Martinez, our fourth honoree, joined Norwalk Transit as an On-Call Coach Operator in July 2003. He was selected Operator of the Year in 2013 and Operator of the Quarter for the 4th quarter of 2014.

The program, which began in 1995, not only enhances employee morale, it maintains a high level of department performance and safety awareness.

Congratulations to all of our honorees, who get hundreds of passengers to where they need to go safely, on time and with a smile!

## Congresswoman Sanchez Recognizes Affordable Housing Program

Congresswomen Linda Sanchez recently recognized the City of Norwalk for making affordable housing a reality for twelve new residents. On April 5, the City, along with partners Home Ownership for Personal Empowerment (HOPE) and Harbor Regional Center, accepted the 38th District's commendation for creating affordable housing for residents with developmental challenges like autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy. Kristen Martin, Director of HOPE, along with Nancy Spiegel of Harbor Regional, emphasized that the program's effects go beyond helping occupants, it also benefits their families, friends and the community as well. Four properties have gone through the process of acquisition, rehabilitation and inhabitation through the program, which helps participants realize independent living, find jobs, foster relationships and grow self-esteem.

Congresswoman Sanchez thanked partners for "making positive change for a vulnerable and under served population in our community."



#### 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

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

To Postal Patron

#### A Student and Parent's Dream!

Norwalk High School Senior Jennifer Sanchez will be attending the University of California at Berkeley in the fall. She is one of only 200 students who earned University of California at Berkeley's Regent's and Chancellor's Scholarship.

Norwalk High principal Dr. Ryan Smith says, "We are extremely proud of Jennifer's accomplishment and are excited for her to continue her education at UC Berkeley on a full scholarship. Jennifer represents what being a Norwalk High School Lancer is all about, and we wish her well as she continues her education."

Jennifer tells us, "As the daughter of two hardworking parents who emigrated from Mexico to provide a better life for my sister and I, I'm incredibly grateful to continue my education at my dream school,

UC Berkeley. Being a first-generation student has been difficult, but also empowering.

My experiences have shaped me to be tenacious and resilient, and I know these traits will carry on and help me be successful at UC Berkeley. Receiving this scholarship has been incredibly humbling and I'm excited to make my family and city proud. I plan to major in computer science and hope to work towards bridging the gender gap in STEM fields."

Jennifer, who also received the highly

selective SoCal Edison Scholarship, plans to minor in Music. Way to go Jennifer!

## Holiday Trash & Street Sweeping Schedule

In observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 30, there will be no street sweeping or trash collection. When no street sweeping takes place, it will NOT be made up. Streets can only be swept on the posted day. However, trash collection WILL be made up. Trash will be collected the day after the normal collection day for the remainder of the week. For example, Monday's trash will be collected on Tuesday.

#### Important:

The altered schedule may cause trash collection to be on the same day as street sweeping in some areas. During these times, please place trash barrels up on the parkway (grass between sidewalk and street) to allow the sweeper to properly clean the street. We appreciate your efforts in keeping the streets safe and clean by ensuring trash cans do not interfere with sweeping.

## **Questions?**Trash Collection

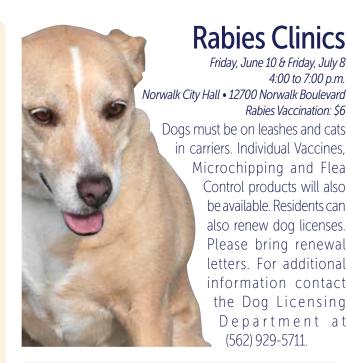
CR&R Waste Services (562) 944-4716 Republic Services (800) 299-4898

Street Sweeping

Public Services Department (562) 929-5511

**Parking Enforcement** 

Public Safety Department (562) 929-5732



### **Blood Drive**

Metropolitan State Hospital is partnering with the American Red Cross for their Annual Blood Drive on Thursday, May 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Parking will be free at James Hall, 11401 Bloomfield Avenue. And, as a thank you, donors will receive goodies including free T-shirts from the Red Cross, discount tickets to the Laugh Factory in Long Beach, discount tickets to LA Galaxy games and discount coupons to participating Quiznos. Plenty of snacks and refreshments will be available as well.

Anyone who is in good general health, at least 17 years-old, and weighing at least 110 pounds can donate blood. It's recommended to hydrate, wear comfortable clothing, and maintain a healthy level of iron in your diet before donating. Please bring your ID, and enjoy the process!

Walk ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged. You can schedule your donation time by emailing Bin.Plume@dsh.ca.gov or by calling (562) 651-5461.

## Helping Others through the Transplant Journey



In 2000, Gloria Rodriguez was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a chronic and ultimately fatal disease characterized by a progressive decline in lung function. After nearly five years of being on oxygen therapy, Gloria received a lifesaving double lung transplant at

Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

Gloria's experience inspired her to establish the One Breath Foundation and Support Group, to help others through the organ transplant process. One Breath provides pre- and post-operative support to patients who have been placed on transplant wait lists. Gloria's mission is to educate and help families during this challenging time.

The Foundation and Support Group meets every third Sunday of the month at the Norwalk Social Services Center, 11929 Alondra Boulevard from noon to 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact Gloria at (562) 447-4785.

# Coordinating Council to hold 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet



The Norwalk Community Coordinating Council will recognize outstanding individuals making a difference in the community on Sunday, June 5 at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex. Doors open at 12:45 p.m., with the banquet scheduled to take place from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The event, which includes

a sitdown lunch, honors Citizen of the Year, Youth of the Year, and Keystone Award Winners. Scholarship applications and nomination forms are available now. Get your tickets and sponsorship information by (562) 400-8188 or emailing gs3day@yahoo.com.

## **Fun-tastic Artastic!**

Artastic recently celebrated its seventh year showcasing Norwalk's brightest creative talent. This event, featuring art, music and dance, also invited local middle and high school students to enter their works in a community art competition and scholarship program.

These students' designs filled the Mary Paxon Cultural Arts Center with original photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, print, fashion, mixed media, and computer generated art.

The free family event also included a book fair, ferris wheel, face painting, ceramics, art booths, and open mic sessions. Make sure to mark your calendar when Artastic returns next year to the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex.

Share in the festivities in our latest "Now You Know." For the full story go to https://youtu.be/jBXAVx-wPnY or subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/norwalk television.



#### There's Still Time to Enter...

The Community Promotion Commission invites Norwalk residents and business owners to enter the 2016 Home and Business Beautification Contest. Winners will be chosen in several categories, including Home Beautiful, Home Improvement, and Business Appeal, and will receive yard signs displaying their achievement, recognition at a City Council meeting and a gift card to a local home improvement store.

Deadline for entries is May 31, 2016. Applications are available at all City facilities and online at Norwalk. org. Contact us at (562) 929-5735 for more information.



## Attention: Norwalk Landlords

Free Property Management Workshop & Dinner Wednesday, May 18 • 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The Norwalk Housing Authority is hosting a free property management workshop for all Norwalk landlords and property managers. A representative from the Fair Housing Foundation will provide information on resident issues, notices, and related topics.

In addition, the City of Norwalk's Public Safety Department will be on hand to discuss neighborhood safety and address your questions and concerns.

Dinner will be served and all in attendance will be entered into a raffle for an opportunity to win fun and exciting prizes.

For location and registration, please contact the Norwalk Housing Authority by May 12 at (562) 929-5588. Seating is limited and registration for this event is required.





works in their daily lives and call attention to the value and importance of public works projects. This year it will be celebrated May 15-21, with the theme, "Public Works Always There", which highlights that communities depend on the public works professionals who are always there and always ready at the heart of local communities to improve everyday quality of life.

The City of Norwalk's Public Services Department works hard every day to remove graffiti, repair streets and sidewalks, maintain parks, medians and facilities, maintain sewers, water services and infrastructure projects that improve city services. This year local elementary school students will be invited to visit the City of Norwalk's Public Services Department and learn firsthand about the different divisions that make up the department. At the May 17, 2016 City Council meeting, the Public Services Department will receive a proclamation in recognition of National Public Works Week for the services they provide to the community on a daily basis.





## **Egg-Stravagant Egg Hunt Photo Highlights!**













## Kids & Cops Miniature Golf Tournament

(Ages 8-17 years) Saturday, June 4 • 11:00 a.m. Golf n' Stuff • 10555 Firestone Blvd. \$10 per player

exciting event. Join area youth and L.A. County Sheriff's Deputies for miniature golf, a BBQ lunch and giveaway prizes and raffles for all.

prizes and raffles for all. The program is open to youth of all skill levels....no golf experience necessary!

The goal of the program is to introduce youth to local law enforcement and build healthy interaction. Register today at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue. Registration deadline is Saturday, May 7. For more information call (562) 929-5566.

**PROTECT** NORWALK



## Pets and War Vets can be impacted by fireworks

Only safe and sane, legally purchased fireworks permitted in the City.

Report illegal fireworks to:

Public Safety

Sheriff's Department

(562) 929-5732 (562) 863-8711



## 93<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mini Golf Tournament

Join the Chamber at Golf n' Stuff, 10555 Firestone Boulevard, on Thursday, May 19 for a 5:00 p.m. shotgun start. Golfing fees are \$100 per foursome or \$30 per individual player. Fee includes golf clubs and ball rental, dinner and 10 game tokens per person. Registration deadline is Friday, May 13. For more information, contact the Chamber at (562) 864-7785 or go to NorwalkChamberofCommerce.org.

## "Stamp Out Hunger" Letter **Carriers Food Drive**

Saturday, May 14

Letter Carriers across the Unites States will be collecting non-perishable food items as part of the annual Stamp

Out Hunger Food Drive. Simply leave your nonperishable food items next to your mailbox on Saturday, May 14, and your letter carrier will pick up items when delivering your mail. Donation received help to support the Norwalk Food Pantry.



## Conservation & Smart Gardening

Water conservation doesn't have to be boring. It can also be fun! By planting drought-tolerant or native plants, using good water management techniques and efficient irrigation systems, you can use less water and fewer resources. Find out how you can design the sustainable garden that's right for you.

The Smart Gardening Program, sponsored by Los Angeles County, provides FREE beginner and advanced level workshops that provide tips and techniques to help create and maintain healthy and beautiful lawns.



#### Advanced **Smart Gardening** Workshop

Saturday, May 7 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Norwalk Library 12350 Imperial Highway



Topics covered at the advanced workshop will include: organic gardening, drought tolerant landscaping and integrated pest management. No reservations are required. Attendees receive a free garden starter kit provided by Central Basin Municipal Water District. Compost bins will be available for purchase at a reduced price (\$40 for a backyard compost bin and \$65 for a worm compost bin) after the workshop.

## At Norwalk Library



#### Mother's Day Tea Party

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 • 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the special woman in your life. Refreshments will be served, along with plenty of fun activities. Wear tea party attire: hats, dresses, bow ties, or gloves. Registration is required. Please let library staff know if you'd like to read a poem or say something special to your mother or caregiver. For ages preschool and up.

#### For Teens:

Wednesdays, May 4 and 18 • 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Join the Otaku Club for an afternoon watching anime, talking about manga and Asian culture.

Wednesday, May 11 • 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cerritos College will present the benefits of attending a community college.

Saturday, May 21 • 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It's College Prep Time! A FREE Mock ACT Test will be given by C2 Education. Registration is required, sign-up by phone or in-person today.

Wednesday, May 11 • 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Independent College Counselor Jamie Wallace will present Financial Aid BaSics for teens and their parents.

#### May Book Discussion:

Everything I Never Told You Monday, May 30, 2016 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



May's selection is Celeste Na's best-selling debut novel. The Lees, a middle-class mixed-race family, falls apart after their daughter's body is found in the local lake. Copies for checkout are available at the Info Desk. New members are always welcome.

## FREE Bulky Item Pick-Up

The season for spring cleaning is here, and residents can help keep Norwalk clean by properly disposing of large or bulky items. Items that do not fit in your curbside trash bins may be picked up for FREE. Simply contact your trash company at least one day prior to your regular trash collection day.

Single family households can schedule a free pick-up FOUR times per year with up to FIVE items per pick-up. Apartments are considered commercial accounts, so residents living in multi-family complexes should contact the property manager about bulky item disposal. Fees may apply.

#### Common bulky items include:

**Mattresses Microwaves** Chairs **Box Springs Appliances Televisions** Couches Tables/Desks **Computers** 

Leaving bulky items and trash on sidewalks, alleys and other public spaces not only looks messy but also creates a safety hazard. Residents can assist with the beautification of the city by not dumping items in the public right of way. A quick phone call will help get rid of unwanted waste while also benefiting the community.

> To schedule a bulky item pick-up, please contact your trash company: Republic Services, (800) 299-4898 CR&R, (562) 944 4716

If you have any questions regarding our recycling programs, call us at (562) 929-5964 or email recycling@norwalkca.gov



#### **\*SENIOR CENTER**

\*Senior Center events are for those individuals 50 years of age and older, and take place at 14040 San Antonio Drive.

#### FREE Blood Pressure Screenings

Monday, May 9 /Tuesday, May 17 • 9:30 a.m. AppleCare and Pioneer Medical Groups provide monthly blood pressure screenings to seniors free of charge. Pressure is taken by licensed/certified medical staff, with results discussed with the senior afterward.

#### Candlelight Dinner - Western Theme

Tuesday, May 10 • 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$6 (before 5/07), \$7.50 (after 5/07)

Enjoy a hot and hearty barbecue meal and share a fun evening with friends. 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.

#### CalFresh Outreach Assistance

Wednesday, May 11 • 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

CalFresh is the new name for Food Stamps. Seniors age 65 and older can now qualify to receive CalFresh services, which help to put healthy food on the table each month. Sponsored by Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

#### Neighborhood Watch "Travel Safely on **Public Transportation**"

Wednesday, May 11 • 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Public transportation is a great way for seniors to get around. A Public Safety Officer from the City of Norwalk will discuss precautions to take to stay safe while commuting.

#### "Managing Long Term Care and Medical Expenses" Presentation

Thursday, May 12 • 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

A staff member from Heartland Institute of Financial Education will discuss issues of long-term care and medical expenses, and how to best prepare for and meet these challenges.

#### "Stroke Awareness Prevention" Seminar

Tuesday, May 17 • 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Strokes can be a devastating occurrence for seniors. This seminar, presented by Coast Plaza Hospital, will teach seniors symptoms to look for, steps they can take to prevent strokes and healthy habits that can decrease stroke risk.

#### "Bullying is Not Just For Kids" **Presentation**

Thursday, May 19 • 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Bullying typically conjures up images of mean kids on the playground. Yet this behavior can occur at any age. Senior-to-Senior bullying can happen in senior centers, nursing homes or any place where seniors spend a lot of time. A staff member from Pacific Clinics will help identify just what this type of bullying is.

#### Class Reunion



Class of 75, 76, 77

Saturday, September 24, 2016

5:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn La Mirada

14299 Firestone Blvd. La Mirada (Adults Only)

Early Bird: \$60.00 per person by June 1, 2016 Regular Bird: \$70.00 per person until August 1, 2016

Get your tickets here: http://norwalkhighschoolreunion.com/ No tickets will be sold at the door, so please get yours early!

Please note that there are no refunds.

Questions email: brookemelhorn@sbcglobal.net

# APRIL 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS



























