10 New Laws for Californians in 2017

With the New Year there are new laws. Nearly 900 new laws went into effect, ranging from cellphone use while driving to children's safety.

**Cell Phone Usage:** Drivers are no longer allowed to hold a wireless phone or electronic device while driving. It must be mounted on the windshield or the dashboard.

**Driver Penalties:** Transportation Network Companies (TNC), or ridesharing companies like Uber and Lyft, will now be required to perform a comprehensive criminal background check on all of their drivers.

**Minimum wage:** California's minimum wage increase from $10 per hour to $10.50 per hour for businesses with 26 or more employees.

**Motorcycle Lane Splitting:** The current law does not change. Lane splitting is allowed by a motorcyclist if done safely. The bill permits the CHP to develop educational guidelines focused on motorcycle safety.

**Vehicle Registration Fee:** Vehicle registration fees on every vehicle or trailer coach is increased from $43 to $53 starting on April 1, 2017.

**Child Safety Seats:** Children under the age of two must ride in a rear-facing child passenger safety seat. (If a child weighs more than 40 pounds or stands at least 40 inches tall, they are exempt).

**Local Athlete Signs with LA Galaxy!**

A rising soccer star is moving up in the ranks with the LA Galaxy at the age of 18.

Norwalk resident Hugo Arellano is one of 24 players named to the U.S. U-20 January camp. The training camp serves as preparation for the upcoming 2017 CONCACAF U-20 championship next month. The best teams will qualify for the U-20 World Cup.

“Hugo is a young, talented defender who we have seen develop as a member of our academy and LA Galaxy II,” said LA Galaxy head coach Curt Onalfo in a statement released by the club. “In addition to his time with Los Dos, he is highly regarded at the youth international level and we look forward to seeing him continue to grow both on and off the field as a member of the Galaxy.”

“Love Never Fails”

2017 Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast

Join Norwalk Mayor Mike Mendez and start Valentine’s Day off with a message of inspiration at this annual community event. Special keynote speakers are Pastors Philip and Holly Wagner, the founders of the Oasis Church in Los Angeles. Philip and Holly are authors of several books on love and marriage, focusing on the importance of communication and support in a relationship. Their heartfelt message crosses over to community, friendships, and family.

The event, hosted by the Door of Hope Youth and Family Resource Center, will be held on February 14, 2017 from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Norwalk DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel located at 13111 Sycamore Dr. Tickets are available for a $20 donation.

For tickets and information contact Pastor Arthur McKibben at (510) 899-7679.

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
Leonard Shryock
Luigi Vernola

City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

To Postal Patron
**Holiday Home Décor Contest Winners Announced!**

The holiday spirit was alive and well in Norwalk this year. Eye-catching decorations and bright festive lighting adorned nearly every street in the city. Many homeowners surpassed last year’s efforts, adding new LED lighting and popular characters like Belle, Snoopy and of course, Santa.

Fourteen residents entered their homes to see if they could outshine their neighbors in a friendly Holiday Home Décor Contest put on by the City of Norwalk’s Community Promotion Commission. Congratulations to all winners and to all who shared their holiday joy.

1st Place: Cliff Westerlin

2nd Place: Mr. and Mrs. Jose Platero

3rd Place: Thomas Preciado

4th Place: Mr. & Mrs. Marko Bojorquez

**Nomination for Older American Award**

The City of Norwalk is seeking a Norwalk resident to recognize as its Outstanding Older American. The nominee must be at least 65 years of age and perform outstanding volunteer services within the City of Norwalk. Volunteer services performed at locations such as a hospital, school, library, municipal program, or any non-profit organization all qualify for this honor. This is a distinct opportunity to acknowledge an older American who has enhanced the lives of others or the community at large in an exceptional way. Applications can be obtained at the following Norwalk locations or by visiting our website at www.norwalk.org:

- **Norwalk Senior Center**
  14040 San Antonio Drive

- **Norwalk City Hall**
  Community Information
  12700 Norwalk Boulevard

- **Norwalk Social Services**
  11929 Alondra Boulevard

Please call (562) 929-5580 for application requests and deadline dates.

**New Executive Director for Norwalk Chamber of Commerce**

Caren Spilsbury came to the Norwalk Chamber in 2009 as the Membership Services Director and Administrative Assistant. Some of her accomplishments include creating the Business Visitation Program, helping to develop project and event management guidelines, streamlining the Chamber’s ribbon cutting procedures, and incorporating multi-chamber events for Norwalk Chamber members.

When asked about her proudest accomplishment during her time with the Chamber, Caren says, “It would be the development of the Business Visitation Program. It allows for that one on one interaction. It’s nice to get out in the community and meet current members, as well as see new businesses. I believe the face to face interaction has been significant in creating positive relationships.”

As Executive Director, Caren says she will continue this program. Recently the Chamber added social media links to member pages. Find them by visiting www.norwalkchamber.com. Also in store is a comprehensive phone survey of all Chamber members. The information obtained will be used to help create positive changes in the business community.

In addition to her new role as Norwalk Chamber’s Executive Director, Caren has held leadership positions with other nonprofit organizations, including Past President of the California Junior Chamber. Caren is a lifelong resident of California and a Cerritos College alumni. She is married to Dan and they have a daughter, Aubrey, who is also currently attending Cerritos College.

**Don’t Let Your Pup Pollute**

Pick Up After Your Pet to Prevent Bacteria in Our Waterways

What’s the scoop on poop? Did you know an average-sized dog’s dropping produces 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria? Rainwater can wash those presents your pooch leaves behind into streams and rivers leading to the ocean. Just like human waste, dog droppings pose a threat to both public health and water quality. Plus, it’s against the law! Those that do not comply will be subject to a fine. So please, don’t let your pup pollute and pick up after your pet.

For more information on ways to prevent stormwater pollution, please visit the City of Norwalk’s Environmental Programs website page at norwalk.org/residents/community-resources/environmental-and-recycling-services.
Recycle Used Oil & Filters!

Did you know that motor oil is recyclable? This valuable natural resource can be cleaned and used again. Recycling your used motor oil and filters prevent contamination in our rivers, lakes, and streams, protects public and marine health, and conserves natural resources. If you regularly maintain your vehicle, you can take your old used oil and filters for recycling year-round to the nearest recycling center. For more information, please contact the nearest recycling center.

Get a jump start by participating in our upcoming used oil filter exchange event – Bring in a used oil filter and receive a new replacement oil filter for free! Residents may also bring in used motor oil in a clean, uncontaminated container for recycling. Participating residents may be eligible for free recycling items.

**New Dial-A-Ride Vans on Tap for 2017**

Norwalk Transit System (NTS) received a grant to acquire three new Dial-A-Ride vans. The vehicles will help NTS to better serve seniors and disabled customers. Costing slightly more than $200,000, the federal grant picked up approximately $160,000 with a match of local L.A. County funds of approximately $40,000.

NTS Director Jim Parker said the new vehicles will replace older vans that have met their useful life. Typically, vans have a useful life of seven (7) years. The new vehicles join the rest of Norwalk Transit’s Dial-A-Ride fleet, a total of ten (10) vehicles.

The new vans will come in handy given the number of rides taken by residents each year. During the 2015/2016 fiscal year, NTS provided over 22,000 Dial-A-Ride trips. The NTS Dial-A-Ride program is offered to Norwalk residents aged 60 and older and residents with a disability. For more information on Dial-A-Ride, call NTS Customer Service at (562) 929-5550 or e-mail: transportation@norwalkca.gov

**Notice of Nominees for Public Offi**

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**SHARE THIS**

**Making a Difference**

**Norwalk Earns Green City Honor**

The Gateway Cities Energy Leader Partnership, a collaboration of cities in southeast Los Angeles County and Southern California Edison, works to help make California more sustainable and energy efficient. Recently, the City of Norwalk was awarded the designation of Green City for its efforts to save energy and preserve valuable natural resources. In the last year, Norwalk has converted safety lighting throughout city streets to LED, has replaced over 3,000 bulbs with LED tube lighting in facilities, established a benchmarking policy and completed an energy strategic plan, among several other objectives. All of the work was completed using a $185,000 grant from Southern California Edison.
Save Water & Protect Against Stormwater Pollution with Proper Landscaping

The City of Norwalk appreciates the community’s conservation of our precious water resources. In response to California’s drought conditions, we established several landscape regulations for homeowners, allowing for a portion of front lawns to be removed and replaced with drought tolerant landscaping or artificial turf. While the City recognizes that this type of landscaping is an efficient water conservation component, the end result should be aesthetically appealing while reducing pollution and sediment from washing down storm drains and into the ocean.

On the City’s website, water efficient landscape designs are available to use as a guide to assist you in planning your own drought tolerant landscaping. If you choose to use the information, the designs will need to be adapted to fit your property’s size and unique characteristics. Two concepts are available for each of the following property lot types: mid-block lot, corner lot, and cul de sac lot. Plans are available under Water Conservation in www.norwalk.org/landscape-designs.

At this time, the City does not offer rebates or incentive programs for installation of drought tolerant landscaping or artificial turf. From time to time, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California offers assistance to make saving water more affordable but due to overwhelming participation, available funds have been exhausted. Visit bewaterwise.com for other rebate information. Residents and businesses with landscaping questions can visit the Community Development Department in Room 12 at City Hall, call (562) 929-5744 or e-mail the Planning Division at planning@norwalkca.gov.

Senior Center Events
14040 San Antonio Drive • (562) 929-5580

**HICAP**
Wednesday, February 1 & 15
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
At this time, the City of Norwalk offers support to participants who have lost a spouse, family member or friend and want to share their experience in a safe and supportive environment.

**Fitness & Health** Seminar
Thursday, February 2 • 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Care More staff talks about staying fit, focusing on specific types of exercises that are most helpful (and fun) for seniors.

**Lunar New Year Dance**
Saturday, February 4 • 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
Enjoy an afternoon of music and dancing as we celebrate the “Year of the Rooster.” “Yesterday’s Band” provides musical entertainment, and snacks will be available for purchase. Bring your own picnic and be admitted for free. Food donated will support the Norwalk Emergency Food Cupboard.

**“Healthy Eating” Seminar and Preparation Demonstration**
Tuesday, February 7 • 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
HealthCare Partners conducts a seminar, food preparation demonstration showing simple home prepared and eat healthier meals. The presentation focuses on types of food with the most health and nutrient benefits for seniors.

**CalFresh Outreach Assistance**
Monday, February 13 • 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Under new eligibility criteria, those age 65 and older can now qualify to receive CalFresh services, which help to put healthy food on the table each month.

Upcoming Library Events & Activities

**Valentine’s Day Heart Shaped Boxes**
Wednesday, February 8 • 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
The day of friendship and love is almost here! What better way to celebrate than with a creative heart-shaped DIY box. Kids can decorate their own to fill with sweets as a special gift.

**Toddler Storytime**
Every Thursday • 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Young children and their caregivers will enjoy learning together with stories, fingerplays, songs, and parachute games. For ages 1 to 3 years old.

**Preschool Storytime**
Every Tuesday • 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.
Preschool Storytime is a fun early literacy program for kids ages 3-5 and their caregivers. Join us for an hour of interactive stories, songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and art activities perfect for preschoolers.

**BARK Reading Program**
February 8 • 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Open to all, BARK is a volunteer program that encourages children to increase their reading skills and self-confidence by reading aloud to certified therapy dogs. Students may find it intimidating to read in front of classmates, but love to read to non-judgmental, calming dogs.

**Citizenship Clinic**
Saturday, February 25 • 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
In partnership with South Asian Network, Norwalk Library hosts a free event where participants can receive assistance with the naturalization process, from filling out forms to applying for fee waivers and studying for the test. Please note: Registration is required and spaces are limited. Call or make an appointment in person.