City of Norwalk Appoints Jesus M. Gomez as New City Manager

Following a five-month recruitment process, the Norwalk City Council unanimously appointed Jesus M. Gomez as the new City Manager for the City of Norwalk on January 9. Mr. Gomez’ employment contract was finalized by City Council at the regular meeting of January 16. Mr. Gomez will assume the duties of City Manager on February 1, 2018.

I believe I bring value to the City in being both creative and innovative in my approach towards economic development, infrastructure and finance. I look forward to working with the Mayor and City Council in spearheading new and collaborative ways to improve public safety and provide the high quality services that Norwalk residents expect and deserve.”

Lap Robe Ladies Bring Warmth and Cheer to Local Patients

Each Tuesday, a group of ladies meet at the Norwalk Senior Center with one goal in mind…making a difference for others. The Lap Robe Volunteers begin their work in January and meet weekly through December to make uniquely crafted blankets from donated materials. The volunteers are dedicated and committed to ensure that enough lap robes are sewn to accommodate patients currently under care at local facilities. This year, 1,248 volunteer hours were dedicated to this project. Maria Butcher, Martha Castro, Helen Durenberger, Emelia Gonzalez, Maria Lopez, Carmen Montoya and Senior Volunteer Instructor Lupe Ginez are happy to devote this time in order to spread good cheer and holiday joy to special people in our community.

In December, the ladies donated 216 lap robes to the Norwalk Senior Center. These gifts are delivered to local convalescent homes, children’s hospitals and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Long Beach. The Lap Robe Ladies began this tradition of giving over 15 years ago to let patients know that seniors from the Center care about them and that they are not alone during the holidays.

Transit’s Three New CNG Buses

Norwalk Transit System (NTS) continues to emphasize its commitment to quality service, including replacement of equipment that has reached its useful life expectancy. In January 2018, NTS acquired three (3) brand new buses in its ongoing effort to update its current fleet. These 40-foot buses were manufactured by the Gillig Corporation and are powered by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). ADA ramps have been upgraded to allow for easier and safer boarding of wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

Additional buses help serve the many passengers who use NTS for public transportation to various destinations in Norwalk and surrounding communities. It is anticipated that these new buses will especially benefit our ability to facilitate the needs of commuters requiring connecting service to the Green Line Station in Norwalk, the Metrolink Station in Norwalk and the transit station in El Monte.

Also, furthering the City of Norwalk’s commitment to being environmentally friendly, these buses are equipped with technology that results in nearly zero emissions, as CNG burns cleaner than petroleum and contains significantly less pollutants than gasoline. NTS anticipates adding an additional six new buses by 2021, which may include all electric vehicles.

More information on Norwalk Transit System services can be obtained by contacting Customer Service at (562) 929-5550 or e-mailing transportation@norwalkca.gov.

City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

Norwalk City Council

Mayor Luigi Vernola
Vice Mayor Leonard Shryock
Councilmember Tony Ayala
Councilmember Jennifer Perez
Councilmember Margarita L. Rios

Norwalk City Hall Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Alternating Fridays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday & Sundays Closed
Neighborhood Watch Association Program

In partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the City of Norwalk will host the first Neighborhood Watch Association Meeting of 2018 on Thursday, February 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at John Glenn High School. The Neighborhood Watch Association Program organizes the community into twelve associations, with meetings scheduled twice throughout the year in each association. Meetings allow residents to get to know their neighbors, law enforcement officers and city personnel serving the community and learn more about crime trends, prevention tips and strategies that can help reduce criminal activity and keep neighborhoods safe.

Additionally, meetings provide an open forum for residents to discuss crime-related or quality of life issues impacting the community. Each meeting concludes with “coffee and conversation,” with community members having an opportunity to speak one-on-one with city staff, officials and law enforcement officers on hand.

For additional information, please contact Public Safety at (562) 929-5732.

Neighborhood Watch Association Meeting Schedule:

Association #6 & 7
Thursday, February 22 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
John Glenn High School
13520 Shoemaker Ave.

Association #8, 9, 10
Thursday, March 8 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Gerdes Park
14700 Gridley Rd.

Association #4 & 5
Thursday, May 10 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Morrison Elementary School
13510 Maidstone Ave.

Association #11 & 12
Thursday, April 12 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Edmondson Elementary School
15121 Grayland Ave.

Association #1, 2, 3
Thursday, April 26 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Lakeside Middle School
11000 Kenney St.

Start off the Day with “Coffee with a Cop”

The Department of Public Safety invites the community to join them for a morning of conversation and complimentary coffee. The next “Coffee with a Cop” will be held on Thursday, February 8 from 9 to 11 a.m. The event will take place at Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant located at 10640 Rosscarrs Avenue. This community outreach program aims to build partnerships among members of the community and law enforcement officers patrols Norwalk neighborhoods. Public Safety and Sheriff’s Department staff will be available to discuss any issues or concerns residents may have.

For more information, please contact the Public Safety Department at (562) 929-5732.

Holiday Trash & Street Sweeping Schedule

Observed Holidays       City Hall Closed       Sweeping          Trash
Presidents’ Day         Monday, February 19       No               Yes

Sweeping will not be made up as streets can only be swept on the posted day. Trash collection will occur as scheduled.

For questions about trash, contact CR&R Waste Services at (562) 944-4716 and Republic Services at (800) 299-4898.

For street sweeping questions, call Public Services at (562) 929-5511. For parking enforcement info, call our Public Safety office at (562) 929-5732.

E-Waste and Shred-a-Thon

Drop off old unwanted electronics for recycling and shred documents for FREE during the City of Norwalk’s E-Waste and Shred-A-Thon Event on Saturday, February 17.

Accepted items include: television sets, computers, monitors, cell phones, laptops, printers, fax machines, DVD players, VCR’s, video game systems, and radios. In addition, residents can bring up to five boxes/bags of documents for secure on-site shredding.

The event takes place at City Hall parking lot, 12700 Norwalk Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Questions? Please call (562) 929-5964 or email recycling@norwalkca.gov

Mother/Son Western Roundup Dance

Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, 13000 Clarkdale Ave.
Saturday, February 10 • 5 to 8 p.m.
Cost: $15/Couple, $7 per each additional child

For more information, please call (562) 929-5566.

Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast

The 48th Annual Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast comes to Norwalk’s DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel bright and early on Valentine’s Day, February 14 at 6:30 a.m. This special event, hosted by the Door of Hope Youth and Family Resource Center, gathers local officials, community members, and middle and high school students for a warm meal and an uplifting message of inspiration. This year’s keynote speaker, Kay Butterfield, will share how “Love Unites Community.” Pastor Kay is well known throughout the world for her teaching and ministry. Ordained in 1973, she graduated from Southern California Community Bible College with a Bachelor’s degree in Theology. She also achieved her Doctorate in the same subject. Kay teaches several classes at California Bible University and serves as Senior Pastor of Community Chapel World Outreach in Norwalk. Pastor Kay has traveled the globe giving seminars and completing missionary projects.

Tickets for the event are $25 each, and table and student sponsorships are available. For more information, contact Arthur McKibben at (310) 809-7679.

The DoubleTree is located at 13111 Sycamore Drive in Norwalk.

Optimize Energy Efficiency at Home or at Work

Did you know Southern California Edison offers help to make your home or business more energy efficient? The SCE website offers a home energy advisor where you can obtain information on home energy use and personalized ways to save energy. For more information visit www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/residential/home-energy-guide/home-energy-advisor.

The company also has a tool lending library which offers easy to use resources and useful knowledge to save energy at home or work. The tools are free to borrow and can help troubleshoot, test, diagnose problems and even analyze system performance. Log into www.sce.com/tools to learn more or fill out a tool lending request.
Las Posadas Celebration

On Saturday, January 6, the City hosted a Las Posadas Celebration at City Hall Lawn from 6 to 9 p.m. There were approximately 700 people in attendance. This traditional cultural celebration was free for all to enjoy and included a candle-lit procession, caroling of holiday songs, light refreshments, cultural activities for children, such as piñatas, and special performances by mariachis and ballet folklorico dancers.

On January 18, the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District and School Board officials, staff and students came together to break ground on a much anticipated synthetic turf sports field development at John Glenn High School. The project includes the installation of a synthetic track and play fields, concrete walkways, bleacher seating for 2,500 spectators, a press box, lighting, several accessory buildings, and a ticketing booth. The project budget is estimated at $25 million and is funded through Measure G. The district bond passed by voters in 2014 to address needed upgrades of school facilities, as well as provide safe and healthy learning environments to ensure a high quality education for every student. Southeast Academy provided the color guard, and the John Glenn High School band, flags, cheer and the Eagles baseball team were present to watch as officials shoveled the first dirt onsite, heralding the opening of construction. Principal Francisco J. Ramirez described the school as very family-oriented and says the project provides an opportunity to bring the community together. Moreover, the world-class facility is something students deserve and will validate all the hard work they put into their practice. Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian highlighted the significance of the event, calling it a special day for the entire community and a “dream come true.” Asking for the community’s patience during the year-long project, she added that when completed, the current field will be a sports venue to be proud of and will motivate students towards academic and athletic excellence.

The school’s athletics facilities had not been renovated since 1962, offering students and coaches limited options. The project is anticipated to be completed December 2018. Students are looking forward to project completion for many reasons; one of them being that they will now be able to host evening football games on their home turf.

Ready for the Rain? Winter is here and so is the rain. Make sure you are prepared.

The City, in collaboration with Los Angeles County Fire Department, offers sandbags and sand for Norwalk residents. These items are free and offered on a first come first served basis. Bags can be picked up at either fire station in the City. Fire Station 20 is located at 12110 Adoree Street off of Norwalk Boulevard and Station 115 is located at 11317 Alondra Boulevard.

Sand is available at self serve stations located at these City parks:

Norwalk Aquatic Pavilion
12301 Sprout Street

Gerdes Park
14700 Gridley Road

Hermosillo Park
11959 162nd Street

Bob White Park
12120 Hoxie Avenue

Holifield Park
12500 Excelsior Drive

This discounted rate includes:

- Spay/Neuter
- Microchip
- First set of vaccinations
- Flea treatment

Promotion does not include “Boutique Buddies.” Some animals may require a spay/neuter deposit. Offer cannot be combined with other promotions or programs. Additional fees may apply. This one-day only special adoption event takes place at SEACA, 9777 Seaca Street in Downey. Visit seaca.org or call (562) 803-3301 for more information.

Home Games on the Horizon

On January 18, the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District and School Board officials, staff and students came together to break ground on a much anticipated synthetic turf sports field development at John Glenn High School. The project includes the installation of a synthetic track and play fields, concrete walkways, bleacher seating for 2,500 spectators, a press box, lighting, several accessory buildings, and a ticketing booth. The project budget is estimated at $25 million and is funded through Measure G. The district bond passed by voters in 2014 to address needed upgrades of school facilities, as well as provide safe and healthy learning environments to ensure a high quality education for every student. Southeast Academy provided the color guard, and the John Glenn High School band, flags, cheer and the Eagles baseball team were present to watch as officials shoveled the first dirt onsite, heralding the opening of construction. Principal Francisco J. Ramirez described the school as very family-oriented and says the project provides an opportunity to bring the community together. Moreover, the world-class facility is something students deserve and will validate all the hard work they put into their practice. Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian highlighted the significance of the event, calling it a special day for the entire community and a “dream come true.” Asking for the community’s patience during the year-long project, she added that when completed, the current field will be a sports venue to be proud of and will motivate students towards academic and athletic excellence.

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Find True Love!

The Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEACA) offers low cost adoptions for Norwalk residents just in time for Valentine’s Day. On Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., pet adoption fees will be reduced to $14 for dogs one year old and above and cats eight weeks old and above.

This discounted rate includes:

- Spay/Neuter
- Microchip
- First set of vaccinations
- Flea treatment

Promotion does not include “Boutique Buddies.” Some animals may require a spay/neuter deposit. Offer cannot be combined with other promotions or programs. Additional fees may apply. This one-day only special adoption event takes place at SEACA, 9777 Seaca Street in Downey. Visit seaca.org or call (562) 803-3301 for more information.

Homeless Plan Community Meeting

In an effort to address our homeless challenges, the City of Norwalk is in the process of creating a plan to address homelessness. Please join us at the Norwalk Social Services Center to be part of the process. Your comments, concerns and solutions will be heard. Your Voice Counts.

Location: 11929 Alondra Blvd
Date: Thursday, February 1
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, February 6
Time: 2 to 4 p.m.

Holiday Décor Contest

Norwalk residents caught the holiday spirit, decorating their homes and yards with lights, familiar characters, moving sculptures, snow and other imaginative elements. Eleven residents entered their homes in the 2017 Holiday Home Décor Contest put on by the City of Norwalk’s Community Promotion Commission. This year’s winners are:

1st Place: William Stapley
2nd Place: Cliff Westerlin
3rd Place: Henry Fuentes
Honorable Mention: Kevin & Wendy Forsberg
City of Norwalk Angel Tree Supporters 2017

A special thanks to those involved in making the Holidays special for the many children selected to participate in the Angel Tree Project. The success of Angel Tree would not be possible without the support of each and every one of YOU! THANK YOU for caring enough to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our community!

Gold
- Goodman Dean, Inc.
- Norwalk Community Coordinating Council
- Norwalk Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
- Tom & Marie Jackson

Silver
- Gordon & Marilee Stefenhagen
- Kurt & Melissa Anderson
- Norwalk Golden Trowel
- Norwalk Lions Club
- Pawnmart Jewelry & Loan
- United Parents Club
- Wal-Mart #5164

Major
- 57th District Assemblymember Majority Leader Ian Calderon
- Alba Professional Services/H&R Block
- Alondra Senior Citizen Club
- Marilyn Escutia (Farmers Insurance)
- Norwalk Auto Auction
- Norwalk Motorcycle Club
- Norwalk Knights of Columbus #3678
- Norwalk Stringrays
- Norwalk Transit Stuff-A-Bus
- Richards, Watson & Gershon
- Studebaker Elementary School
- Tam's Burgers #33

General
- AA Group
- Al & Luella Steele
- Al-Anon
- Arise International Church
- Artesia Transmission & Woody's Muffler Shop
- Carol B. Price
- CEA – HOW #72
- Comedores Compulsivos/HOW
- Karen Bender
- In-N-Out Burgers
- Jana Stuard
- Metropolitan State Hospital
- Narcotics Anonimos
- Norm Reeves Honda Cerritos
- Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
- Norwalk/La Mirada Plumbing
- Norwalk Printing
- Norwalk Bank Records
- Norwalk Superior Court Employees
- OneMain Financial
- Paddison Elementary Student Council
- Soto Family
- St. Linus Knights of Columbus #10623
- Tak Hamabata
- United Methodist Church
- W.G. Zimmerman Engineering

Angel Tree Sites
- Alba Professional Services/H&R Block
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit #359
- Applebee's
- Arise International Church
- Collins Sunny Daycare
- Communication Workers of America
- Corral Family Daycare
- Doris Hair Design
- Faith Reform Church
- John Glenn High School
- Joyland Preschool
- L.A. County Fire Department Station #20
- Lowe's
- Northgate Gonzalez Market #24
- Norwalk Beverage Company
- Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
- Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex
- Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
- Norwalk Child Development Program
- Norwalk Community Hospital
- Norwalk City Hall
- Norwalk High School
- Norwalk Presbyterian Church
- Norwalk Regional Library
- Norwalk Senior Center
- Norwalk Sheriff Station
- Norwalk Social Services Center
- Norwalk Superior Court
- Ordway Family Child Care
- Pioneer Medical Group – Corporate
- Pioneer Medical Group – Long Beach
- Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
- Ruiz Family Daycare
- Salas Family Daycare
- Social Security Administration
- St. John of God Catholic Church
- T.J. Maxx
- TLC Learning Center
- United Methodist Church
- Verizon

$1 Supporter Sites
- American Legion Post #359
- Applebee's
- Senator Baja
- Corral Daycare
- Cerritos College Bookstore
- Douglas Burgers
- El Paraiso Juice Bar #2
- Familia Pawn
- Norwalk Toyota
- Salas Daycare
- So. Cal. Pizza
- TNT Tacos & Tortas
- AND MORE THAN 200 VOLUNTEERS!!!

Alondra Library
11949 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 868-7771 colapublib.org

Children’s Events

Toddler Storytime
Fridays • 11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Bring your toddlers for stories, songs, and fingerplays. They’ll be introduced to early literacy in a fun environment and will socialize with new friends at storytime. For ages 1–3.

Family Storytime
Thursday, February 15 • 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.
Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and art activities with the whole family. For ages 4 and up.

Children’s Book Club
Tuesday, February 20 • 5 to 6 p.m.
February’s selection is Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson. Copies of the book can be found at Alondra and other County of Los Angeles Public Libraries. For ages 8–12.

Fake Mustache Day
Thursday, February 24 • 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Do you have a mustache, wish that you had one, or even love to accessorize with fake ones? Come celebrate National Fake Mustache Day and share your love of mustaches at our event. For ages 4 and up.

Tibetan Sand Mandalas
Tuesday, February 27 • 4:30 to 6 p.m.
Create an amazing Tibetan sand mandala with the help of a professional artist. For ages 4 and up.

Teen Events

Teen/Adult Ukulele Strum Along
Wednesday, February 7 • 5 to 6 p.m.
Teens and adults, come rock out and learn a few simple songs with our librarian. Ukuleles will be made available during the programs on a first-come, first-played basis. Feel free to bring your ukulele if you have one. Beginners always welcome. For ages 12 and up.

Teen Book Club
Wednesday, February 21 • 5 to 6 p.m.
February’s selection is Neal Shusterman’s Unwind. Copies of the book can be found at Alondra and other County of Los Angeles Public Libraries. For ages 12–18.

Adult Events

“Classics I Always Said I Was Going to Read” Book Club
Tuesday, February 13 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Alondra Library’s classic book club will read And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie for February. Read or listen to the book and then join the light discussion. Refreshments are served. New members are welcomed.

Pet Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Saturday, February 17 • 2:30 to 4 p.m.
In this class, a certified instructor will talk about pet safety, pet obedience, travel, emergency preparedness, and more. Please leave pets at home; this class is for owners only. Program is for ages 18 years and up.