The Norwalk Transit System (NTS) is committed to providing safe and quality transportation services to the community, getting them to and from work, school and other important destinations. The Distinguished Coach Operator of the Year recognition program honors top bus drivers for their excellent driving records and customer service. Implemented in 1995, the program, enhances employee morale, maintains a high level of department performance and safety awareness.

The 2018 Distinguished Coach Operators were recognized at the March 5th City Council meeting.

Jose Moran has quickly demonstrated his commitment to providing outstanding services to the community having already received several quarterly service awards. 2018 represents the first Coach Operator of the Year honors, with other distinctions sure to follow!

Hoang Le joined NTS in 2003 and was promoted to Full Time Coach Operator in 2005. He has fourteen quarterly service awards and this year represents the second time he has been recognized as a Distinguished Coach Operator of the Year, having first been honored in 2013. Hoang shares that he appreciates his co-workers and the amazing support system in place at NTS.

Michael McCall is an On Call Coach Operator who has been with Norwalk since 2003. He was recognized as a Coach Operator of the Year in 2013, in addition to many quarterly operator service awards. One of the things he most enjoys about his job is collaborating with other transit staff to enhance services to the public.

Exemplifying her dedicated work ethic and continued delivery of excellent customer service, this marks the fifth time Kindria McLemore has received the recognition as a Coach Operator of the Year. Kindria was hired in 2004 and promoted to full time in 2013. She also serves as a Department Line Instructor, working with coach operator trainees.

Gus Cordova has almost twenty eight years of service, having joined NTS in June 1991. This is his first Distinguished Coach Operator of the Year honor; however, he has been the recipient of eleven quarterly service awards.

Congratulations to all the Distinguished Coach Operators!
Citywide Egg-Normous Egg Hunt
Week of April 14

For the second year in a row, residents can get a jump start on Easter by looking for giant eggs that have been strategically hidden throughout the City! Find an egg and turn it in at our Egg-stravagant Egg Hunt event for a wonderful prize.

* Please see below for egg hunt rules:
  * Must be Norwalk Resident
  * Only one egg may be redeemed per family/household (ID Required).
  * Must be redeemed during the Egg-Stravagant Egg Hunt on April 20 at 12pm at the Norwalk Civic Center Lawn.
  * City Employees and their family members may not participate.

For more information, please call Recreation at 562-929-5702.

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Safety Tips for Parents and their Children on Recent Social Media Trends

Recently, various social media and web-based challenges have emerged that promote self-harm, and other dangerous activities to our young and impressionable youth. The best way to protect our children is by being involved and teaching them about online safety on a daily basis.

* Be Involved! Talk to your kids and monitor what they are watching on the internet and social media.
* Develop a strong relationship with your children and communicate with them.
* Talk to your children about online predators and what to do if they are contacted by one.
* Have access to, and inspect your child’s phone, tablets or computers on a regular basis.
* Have access to your children’s social media passwords.
* Ensure your child’s social media privacy settings are set to the appropriate levels.
* If your child has a certain social media account, you should also have an account.
* Limit the information your children post online: including birth dates, home addresses, and phone numbers. These can lure predators and identity thieves.
* Make sure your children know it is not safe to share passwords and accounts with others outside of the family.

Below are some internet and social networking tips for parents to use:

1. **Online Safety Guidelines**
   - Set rules for internet and social media usage with your children.
   - Monitor their online activities through social media applications or parental control software.
   - Teach your children to report any suspicious behavior or content to you.
2. **Password Protection**
   - Encourage your children to create strong, unique passwords for each account.
   - Remind them to never share their passwords with anyone.
   - Regularly update passwords as needed.
3. **Privacy Settings**
   - Adjust privacy settings on social media accounts to limit who can view their posts.
   - Use two-factor authentication for added security.
4. **Online Friends**
   - Be cautious about accepting friend requests from strangers.
   - Teach your children to verify the identity of online friends before accepting them.
5. **Online Bullying**
   - Educate your children about online bullying and its consequences.
   - Encourage them to report any bullying they witness or experience.
6. **Secure Payment Information**
   - Teach your children not to share payment information online.
   - Use credit card protection tools and services.

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Tea at the D.D. Johnston-Hargitt House Museum
Saturday, April 6 - 4pm
12426 Mapledale Street

Please join us for a special tea party. An assortment of teas, good old fashioned lemonade and pastries will be served. Stop by and take a tour of our nationally-registered landmark, built by one of Norwalk’s founding families. The Victorian Eastlake home was built in 1891 and at one time held up to 200 acres of grape, avocado and citrus trees.

For more info, please call 562-929-5521.

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Calsense Controllers
City staff have begun installing Calsense controllers at eight (8) City Parks through a grant the City received. Calsense controllers allow staff to monitor irrigation remotely and the flow meter will provide additional controls for the overall irrigation of the parks. This efficient technology senses watering requirements and volume of water necessary as well, which will reduce the amount of water used. Calsense technology will not only help the City conserve water, but also lower our water bills.

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ARBOR Day

Arbor Day is an annual observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care. On Saturday, April 27 from 8 to 10am, the City will be hosting its sixth annual Arbor Day event at Holfield Park, located at 12500 Excelsior Drive.

Make plans to join us for this great family event. You will be able to visit information booths and take part in a community planting event to help make Norwalk a “greener” City! All tools will be provided. For more information please contact Pamela Jones at 562-929-5514 or pjones@norwalkca.gov.

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Coffee with a Cop

Join law enforcement officers for a cup of coffee. Converse over community topics and concerns.

Tuesday, April 9
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Chick-fil-A
Norwalk Fitness Village
12555 Imperial Hwy

Thursday, May 9
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sanchez Elementary
11960 162nd Street

Comparta una taza de café con nuestra policía local y proporcione comentarios sobre las formas en que podemos trabajar juntos para mejorar la calidad de vida.

For additional information, please call 562-929-5732.
Earthquake Preparedness Month
It’s not a matter of if, but when the next big earthquake will strike.

The reality of these words is what makes it so vital that we take this opportunity to prepare for the next big earthquake ahead of time. Help us recognize April as Earthquake Preparedness Month and create a more disaster-resilient community by following some simple safety tips:

**What to do before an earthquake – Prepare:**
- Create a Disaster Supply Kit for your home filled with at least three days of supplies: include non-perishable food, water (one gallon per person per day), a first aid kit, flashlights, a radio, and batteries.
- Make a Go-bag filled with portable necessities in case you have to leave in a hurry: include cash, important documents, clothes/shoes, personal hygiene items, family photos, and baby/pet/special needs items.
- Create a Family Communication Plan: Choose a safe place for everyone to meet in case you’re separated or your home must be evacuated. Maintain an emergency contact list including someone from out of town that everyone can check in with.

**What to do during an earthquake – Protect Yourself:**
- Drop, Cover, and Hold-On
- Most injuries in earthquakes occur from falling or flying objects, so the best way to protect yourself is: Drop to the ground, Cover your head and neck with one arm, and Hold On to a sturdy table, desk or piece of furniture nearby. Don’t get in a doorway! Don’t run outside!
- Plan ahead: look around your home, school or office to identify safe places that you can Drop, Cover and Hold-On in the event of an earthquake. Look for any hazards or overhead items that could potentially cause injury as well.

**How to reach out – Community Support:**
- Make connections with your local community to form personal support networks.
- Identify two neighbors and agree to watch out for each other.
- Contact your local Neighborhood Watch Block captains and places of worship to help engage others and prepare together.
- Public Safety has begun recruiting Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers as it develops a program to train community members on how to practice basic disaster medical aid, perform victim search and rescue, put out small fires and manage utilities in the event of a disaster. Please consider becoming a CERT volunteer and sign up now! For more information on Norwalk’s CERT Program, please contact Lt. Eric Wosick at 562-929-5919.
- For more information on Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Readiness, please visit www.ready.gov

**NEW: Boards, Brushes and Beverages**
(Ages 21+)
Friday, April 5 • 7 – 9:30 p.m.
Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex
Rich Rehearsal Hall, 13000 Clarkdale Ave.

Transform unfinished wood into beautiful, personalized works of art. We will offer a variety of designs to choose from. You will leave with a décor item ready to install in your home or office, or provide as a gift for Mother’s Day, wedding or any special occasion. The cost is $25 per person and includes materials, appetizers and soft drinks.

Register at the NASC or online at www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/recreation-park-services. For more info, please call the Cultural Arts Center at 562-929-5521.

**Breakfast with Mom**
(Ages 3-12)
Saturday, April 27 • 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Saturday, April 20
Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue

Mothers can spend a fun morning bonding with their child, and enjoy a pancake breakfast, crafts and games. Fee is $15 per couple and $7 per additional person. Adult participation is required and may include any female guardian. Register at the NASC or online at www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/recreation-park-services. Tickets will be sold until supplies last or Saturday, April 20. For more information, please call the Sports Complex at 562-929-5516.

**Kids Adventure Camp Registration**
Begins: Saturday, April 13
Location: Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue
Weekly Fee: $155 Residents $205 Non-Residents

Coming this summer is our Kids Adventure Camp providing youth an opportunity to enjoy arts & crafts, games, swimming, cooking lessons, and so much more! The program takes place Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 10 through August 9 and is open to youth ages 6 to 12. Register early because space is limited. Extended hours are available. For more information please call the Cultural Arts Center at 562-929-5521.

**Smoke Alarms**
A smoke alarm is critical for the detection of a fire in your home. The earlier a fire is discovered, the more time that is available for escape. These items are fairly inexpensive and easy to install and should be a basic component of your emergency preparedness efforts at home. Disease or fire and prepare the necessary steps to ensure the safety of yourself and your family members.

- Make sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Always save and follow the alarm manufacturer’s instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep at least 10 feet away from a cooking appliance.
- Install alarms in every bedroom and outside each sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of house.
- Consider using interconnected smoke alarms. When one alarm sounds, they all sound.

**For more information, please visit www.fire.lacounty.gov**
Source: National Fire Protection Association
Senior Center 14040 San Antonio Drive 562-929-5580 Arts & Crafts Monday, April 8 - 10 - 11 a.m. Come and join in on the fun and have an opportunity to explore your artistic side. Sponsored by: AppleCare Medical Group

April Candlelight Dinner Theme: Shanghai Nights Tuesday, April 9 - 5:45 - 6:30 p.m. Cost: $7.00 (before Saturday, April 6) $8.50 (after Saturday, April 6) Stop by and enjoy a hot and hearty meal and share an evening of warmth with friends and family. Meal service will consist of Chicken Stir Fry, Rice, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert, Beverage, and Coffee. Doors open at 5 p.m. and meal service ends at 6 p.m. Dine-in only. Opportunity raffle will be held at the end of the event. Tickets will not be sold on the day of the dinner.

HICAP Wednesday, April 17 - 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. HICAP stands for Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program and is provided by trained/certified counselors through the Center for Health Care Rights. A HICAP Counselor will provide seniors with free education, counseling and advocacy regarding their Medicare and related health insurance issues. An Appointment is required.

Body Fat Analysis Screening Thursday, April 18 - 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Being overweight can impact a senior’s health in many ways. This screening will help seniors know if they are overweight, what their target weight should be and if they need to make important changes to their diet. Sponsored by: Regal Medical Group

FREE Thyroid Screening Tuesday, April 23 - 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. HealthCare Partners will be providing seniors with a free thyroid screening. Symptoms of thyroid problems can easily be missed. This very important screening is the first step in being able to detect if an individual has an existing thyroid problem. The screening is on a first come, first served basis to the first 55 participants to sign up the day of the screening. Sponsored by: HealthCare Partners

Santa Barbara Land and Sea Tour Wednesday, April 24 Depart: 8:30 a.m. Return: Approximately 5 p.m. Cost: $20.00/person (Lunch not included) Location: Santa Barbara, CA Walking required: High View one of the most historical beachside cities on a boat with wheels designed for both land and sea cruising! This 90-minute, narrated adventure first begins on ground as you see all the historic landmarks and attractions in town. Then for the second portion of the tour, we will splash into the beautiful Santa Barbara harbor and cruise the magnificent coastline. We may encounter sea lions, dolphins, and maybe even whales! After the tour, you will have time to walk the streets of Santa Barbara for lunch on your own and shopping.

Norwalk Library 12350 Imperial Hwy 562-868-0775 Children’s Events

MâkMô Tuesday: Bee Hotel Tuesday, April 16 - 4 – 5 p.m. Unlike honey bees that live in large hives, mason bees live alone, and need places to shelter and lay their eggs. They pollinate more plants than honey bees do, and are less likely to sting you! So become a friend to these helpful bees, and learn to build a bee hotel for your garden. For ages 5 – 12.

The Bubble Chef Tuesday, April 23 - 4 - 5 p.m. Join Chef Rebecca Martin as she shares her recipe of household ingredients like water and soap can bake up beautiful bubbles. The sweet hook of the bubble theme song incorporated with a side dish of stories has everyone asking for seconds! For ages 5-12.

Adult Events

Veterans Resource Center Every Wednesday - 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Every Friday - 3 – 5 p.m. Did you or a family member serve in the military? Visit our Veterans Resource Center and meet with a benefits coach. Our trained volunteer will help you and your family locate benefits you may qualify for. No appointment necessary. Please call ahead for volunteer availability.

Slip-a-Stickers Every Wednesday - 12:30 – 3 p.m. Do you like to knit or crochet? Join the Slip-a-Stickers every Wednesday and share your ideas, patterns, tricks, and techniques! All levels of experience are welcome. Bring your own needles, hooks, and yarn.

Citizenship Class Saturday, April 6 - 2 - 4 p.m. Would you like to learn more about the naturalization process? During our Citizenship Class, you will learn about the application process, interview, citizenship test, and swearing-in ceremony. This program will be conducted in Spanish.

MâkMô: Intro to Machine Sewing Wednesday, April 10 - 2 – 3:30 p.m. Join us for our Introduction to Machine Sewing workshop to learn the basics of using a sewing machine. We will provide all the materials needed to create your own sewing project! Pre-registration is required as materials are limited. Visit the Information Desk or call the library to sign up.

Lit Wits Book Club: The Broken Girls Monday, April 29 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. In April, our monthly book club the Lit Wits will read and discuss The Broken Girls by Alexis Simone St. James. The Broken Girls tells a story of a place for the girls whom no one wants—the troublemakers, the illegitimate, and the too smart for their own good.

Alondra Library 11949 Alondra Blvd 562-868-7771 Children and Teen Events

Adult 101: Stress Management Tuesday, April 16 - 4 - 5 p.m. Tired of being stressed out? Take a break and join us as we learn healthy ways to effectively reduce stress. You will also create your own stress ball that can help you relax when you find yourself in a tense situation. Ages 12-18.

Dr. Electric Takes Over the World Tuesday, April 30 - 4 - 5 p.m. Join author Annie Banannie, Balloon Storyteller, in a live “Balloon Theater” retelling of this silly mad scientist adventure. Ages 3-12. Teen Events

WIC Assistance at the Social Services Center The WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is once again assisting the Norwalk Community at the Social Services Center, 11929 Alondra Blvd. This service provided through the local WIC office, is available on the second Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local families can receive assistance applying for this beneficial program that gives access to healthy foods, family resources, nutrition information and breastfeeding support. Please call 562-929-5544 for more information.

Parking and Storing of Vehicles on Private Property

The Norwalk Department of Public Safety actively enforces all parking rules and regulations to ensure safe and parking throughout the City. We ask that you please be mindful of your neighbors when parking your vehicles along residential streets. Help alleviate on-street congestion by parking your vehicle in available garage and/or driveway spaces. Reserving parking spaces on the street in front of your home by use of cones, trash receptacles, or similar items is not allowed; it is also a violation of Norwalk Municipal Code section 8.12.160. Under the Municipal Code, vehicles parked on residential properties must be fully operable, completely assembled, supported by inflated tires and legally parked on an approved driveway (residential parking space). They must also be currently registered for operation on public street. NOTE: registration with the DMV as a PNO (planned non-operation) is not acceptable by law to show compliance for abandoned vehicle violations.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Public Safety at 562-929-5732.