Energy Saving Upgrades Earn Rebates for Norwalk

In October, the City of Norwalk received an $8,000 rebate check from SoCal Edison for energy saving upgrades made to two HVAC units at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex (NASC). In fiscal year 2014/15 energy efficient installations, including LED light replacements at several City facilities and upgrades to Norwalk Aquatic Pavilion’s pool pump, added up to a total 199,500 kilowatt hour savings—enough to power 20 homes for an entire year, microwave 2.6 million meals or charge more than 55 million cell phones, one for every resident of California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Utah combined.

These projects, worth $20,511 in additional Edison rebates, are part of the City’s strategic action plan goal to support and invest in new and environmentally friendly technologies and lower long-term costs.

A park lighting study, park lighting upgrades, additional HVAC replacements, and other facility LED installations are among projects slated for this year, with the City anticipating elevation to Gold Tier status for reaching the highest energy conservation standards by 2016.

Waste Contract Up

On October 15, the City of Norwalk released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Solid Waste Services, seeking a single contractor for Norwalk trash collection and recycling beginning in 2018. City Council’s goal, to “reduce rates for residents and businesses, while obtaining high quality service that achieves the City’s recycling goals,” led them to bring a 1996 agreement with Republic Services and CR&R to a close. Potential changes include: a rate freeze for the first two years of the contract, new carts at start of service and cleaner fuel collection equipment, low-income discounts for qualifying seniors, sharps mail-back program, varying rates for residents choosing smaller cart sizes, mulch giveaway events, backyard compost program, two free additional residential pickups per year and free bulky item collection for single and multi-family dwellings.

Final proposals are due to the City by February 11, 2016, with contract awarded for September 2016. New service begins in March 2018, giving both the City and the contractor sufficient time to plan and communicate the transition process to residents and businesses, and put the transition into place. To view the RFP, go to http://www.norwalk.org/businesses/rfp-posts-list.

Help Transit Fill the Bus and Cupboard

On Tuesday and Wednesday, November 17 and 18, Norwalk Transit passengers will be given a free ride in exchange for one canned food item. Throughout the year, the drive has been a great success, bringing in a plethora of different edibles. The Transportation Department will provide these donated goods to the City of Norwalk’s Social Services Department - Community Emergency Food Cupboard for distribution to families in need.

The City of Norwalk’s Transportation Department is also getting ready for the 14th Annual Stuff-A-Bus Holiday Toy Drive. Between November 30 and December 18, Norwalk Transit’s decorated, holiday-themed 40 foot bus will be traveling on various routes and visiting other locations, including local schools, to collect unwrapped toys for children in need. Items collected will be donated to the City of Norwalk’s Social Services Department’s Angel Tree Program for distribution to families in our community.

The goal is to have this holiday bus “stuffed” full of gifts by the end of the event. For more details regarding canned food drive or to find out about having the Stuff-A-Bus appear at your location, please contact Customer Service at (562) 929-5550 or e-mail transportation@norwalkca.gov.
County Sheriff’s Department’s squad car and motorcycle. Next, Public Safety Officer Raul Perez explained how the City’s mobile unit serves as a first aid and lost and found station for children during special events.

When the kids arrived at the Public Services area, they saw the signal aerial truck in action and learned how graffiti is removed. Fire Department personnel also demonstrated the functions of their vehicle and equipment.

The students took a tour of the Norwalk City TV studio. With help from staff, students learned to control and operate the professional cameras and video equipment. An interactive, talking robot, provided by Republic Services, reinforced the importance of recycling. MRFy (Materials Recovery Facility) pronounced Murphy, danced, sang and talked to the six- and seven-year-olds. The message, “Recycle Today”, stressed the significance and long term benefits of caring for the environment. One of the lessons learned: There are more than 5,000 tons of material a month recycled throughout the nation.

Seven-year-old Samantha Rosales says, “If you recycle, it helps you clean the earth.” Her schoolmate, Liam Renteria was excited after seeing MRFy in action saying, “He is really cool and I learned to recycle. I’m going to go home and tell my mom and dad about recycling.”

Mrs. Lucia Andrade, who teaches 1st/2nd grade combo class says, “This is a great experience for the students. It bridges the gap we’re learning about community and leadership. We actually just finished our unit on this so it applies the classroom learning exercised to the real world.”

The children began their tour in the City Council Chambers with a special question and answer session. After an introduction to city government, the students were off to another station, exploring Los Angeles.
New to Norwalk?

Meet fine artist and designer, Joseph Yakovetic, a Norwalk resident and award winning talent who has appeared on the Hallmark Channel’s Home and Family show and Access Hollywood, as well as on Telemundo and Unvision. He’s also been the subject of one of Norwalk’s “Now You Know” television programs, talking about his caricature exhibit on display at the Mary Paxon Gallery. Joseph has another talent—grabbing national attention, especially this time of year—Master Pumpkin Carver! Joseph and his teammates were featured on Food Network’s “Halloween Wars” series, where teams of three created Halloween-themed food art for a panel of judges. Team Spell Binders included Joseph as pumpkin carver; Kristen Lousville, cake artist; and sugar artist Charity George. This trio’s extraordinary efforts helped them to make it through to the finals, surviving three difficult team eliminations.

Joseph enjoyed the collaborative process of “Halloween Wars.” “I have been privileged to work side-by-side with several tremendously talented people and make new friends along the way. I have been able to challenge myself to try new things, accomplish better work, raising my own bar and hitting the mark. It has presented me with possibilities to do things that I might not otherwise experience. And the added bonus, it’s great fun!” Although the Scream Team took the win on the final show, the public has expressed tremendous support and appreciation for Spell Binders’ creations. Joseph has been carving award winning pumpkins for ten years. His creations have been a huge attraction at Disneyland’s Big Thunder Ranch Jamboree, featuring everything from Alice in Wonderland to Iron Man carvings. This year his chiseled sculptures brought him to Roger’s Gardens, and he appears at Santa Anita Park Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 30 through November 1 for “Rise of the Jack O’ Lanterns.”

Go to norwalk.org/residents/community-resources/new-resident-guide to find out about schools and churches in your area, who to contact for services, and how the City of Norwalk can help you.

Master Carver!

Benefits of Trees:

Cool Streets, Cool City

Trees can help keep you cool by shading homes and streets. Trees deflect sunlight which reduces the heat island effect caused by pavement and buildings. The leaves on trees absorb and filter the sun’s radiant energy, keeping things cool. So if you want to beat the heat, look no further than a tree. Plant a tree, water your trees appropriately, keep them healthy and reap the cool rewards.

OUTDOOR WATER USE

20% REDUCTION in water use look like?

For more tips on reducing water use, visit saveourwater.com!
Norwalk City Television Schedule for November 2015
Charter Cable Channel 3
Verizon FiOS TV Channel 32

Mondays
12:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (rebroadcast)
3:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting (rebroadcast)
5:00 p.m. The Best of “Now You Know”
6:00 p.m. Summer Concert 2015: Mariachi Divas
7:00 p.m. Halloween Parade 2015

Tuesdays
12:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (rebroadcast)
3:00 p.m. The Best of “Now You Know”
4:00 p.m. Halloween Parade 2015
5:00 p.m. Summer Concert 2015: Mariachi Divas
6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (Live on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays)

Wednesdays
12:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting (rebroadcast)
3:00 p.m. Summer Concert 2015: Mariachi Divas
5:00 p.m. Summer Concert 2015: The Rising
7:00 p.m. The Best of “Now You Know”
7:30 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting (Live on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays)

Thursdays
12:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting (rebroadcast)
3:00 p.m. City Council meeting (rebroadcast)
5:00 p.m. The Best of “Now You Know”
6:00 p.m. Halloween Parade 2015
7:00 p.m. Summer Concert 2015: The Rising
8:00 p.m. Summer Concert 2015: Mariachi Divas

Saturdays
11:00 a.m. Curiosity Quest
12:00 a.m. Curiosity Quest

Sundays
11:00 a.m. City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m. The Best of “Now You Know”
3:00 p.m. Summer Concert 2015: Mariachi Divas
4:00 p.m. Halloween Parade 2015

Upcoming Events & Activities at Norwalk Alondra Library

Teen College Talk: Start Your Future
Tuesday, November 17 • 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
A presentation for teens who have thought about starting at a community college instead of a four-year university will be given by a Cerritos College Student Ambassador.
From a higher salary to a fulfilling career, this presentation will cover all the facts, including everything needed to make an informed decision about an academic future beyond high school.
Registration is not required, and this informative presentation is free. For teenagers, grades 8 – 12.

Teen Video Game Pixel Art
Saturday, November 21 • 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Create fun designs every month of 8-bit pop culture and video game characters using Fuse Beads. All materials will be provided. Some design patterns will be available for reference, but feel free to bring your own ideas. For TEENS, grades 6 - 12.

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

Upcoming Events & Activities at Norwalk Regional Library

Teen Video Game Pixel Art
Saturday, November 21 • 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Create fun designs every month of 8-bit pop culture and video game characters using Fuse Beads. All materials will be provided. Some design patterns will be available for reference, but feel free to bring your own ideas. For TEENS, grades 6 - 12.

Norwalk Regional Library
12350 Imperial Hwy., Norwalk, CA, 90650
(562) 868-0775

Used Oil Filter Exchange
Saturday, November 14 • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
O’Reilly Auto Parts
12233 Norwalk Blvd.
For more info: (562) 944-4766
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 also be eligible for free recycling items.
*This event is brought to you by a CalRecycle grant