



CITY HALL

705 North Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
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Open 8:00 am – 4:30pm, Monday – Friday

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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EMS SERVICES

1100 Chatham Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Emergencies, call 911
Phone: 515-981-4316
Fax: 515-981-4779

Fire Chief

Dustin Huston
dhuston@norwalkpublicsafety.org

Firefighters/Paramedics

Doug Richardson
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POLICE DEPARTMENT

1100 Chatham Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Emergencies, call 911
Phone: 515-981-0666
Fax: 515-981-5839

Police Chief

Ed Kuhl
norwalkpolice@mchsi.com

PUBLIC WORKS

2626 North Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Phone: 515-981-0228

Public Works Director

Tim Hoskins
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PARKS AND RECREATION

1100 Chatham Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Phone: 515-981-9206

Parks and Recreation Director

Nancy Kuehl
nancykuehl@ci.norwalk.ia.us

PUBLIC LIBRARY

1051 North Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Phone: 515-981-0217
Fax: 515-981-4346



MAYOR'S MOMENT

August is here, the temperatures are in the 90s and air conditioning has been a blessing. Spring was so wet/windy/cool and then we rapidly transitioned into “State Fair” weather patterns... a typical Iowa summer where the average temps look good, but the extremes as to how we get that average sure are the basis for a lot of conversations. RAGBRAI has been completed, the State Fair is in a few days and school starts another year in a couple weeks; suffice it to say that time flies when you are having fun?!

Due to a smaller than usual turnout for Norwalk's Bike Safety event in June, we have several bicycle helmets left over that are available for those youth who need or would like one. We have sizes small, medium and large. They are very good looking helmets, so stop by the Parks and Recreation Department to get one if you so desire. We intend to have next year's Bike Safety event earlier so that we can get the word out before the school year is completed and, hopefully, boost attendance. Although belated, I want to thank the Fire, Police and Parks/Rec Departments for orchestrating such a superb event that teaches/emphasizes bicycle safety techniques and the “rules of the road”!

We have been operating out of the remodeled City Hall for a few weeks now and the facility really makes a “professional” statement about Norwalk. We will already have had our Open House by the time you read this article, so if you didn't make it to that event, please stop by to see the result of your “tax dollars at work”. I know that you will agree that City Hall now looks great both inside and out. We all can, and should, be proud of it!

Since I will not be writing an article before the Labor Day weekend, I want to wish you all a fun and safe holiday which, for the most part, defines the end of summer and the transition to fall. However, that means that the humidity goes away and that football starts, so... happy Labor Day!



PARKS AND RECREATION

Upcoming registrations:

- Art in the Park – August 1 to August 12
- Men's Flag Football – August 8 to August 19
- Adult Coed Volleyball – August 8 to August 19
- Fitness: Step, Early Bird, Yoga, Circuit, Zumba – August 8 to August 19
- Norwalk Family Taekwondo – August 15 to August 26
- End of the Summer Family Splash Bash – August 21
- We Have Gone to the Dogs – August 27
- IPRA Placekick, Punt and Throw Competition – August 29 to Sept 9

AMUSEMENT PARK TICKETS

We still have various amusement park tickets available for sale!

	Parks & Rec Price	Gate Price
Blank Park Zoo	\$9.00/\$4.50	\$10.95/\$5.95
Adventureland Tickets	\$27.00 Adult/Youth	\$35.00/\$30.00
Lost Island Water Park	\$23.00	\$25.00
Oceans of Fun	\$25.00	\$31.00 (1 day/single park) (Child 2 – Under are Free)
Ride & Slide	\$46.00	\$55.99 (2 parks/one day)

END OF THE SUMMER FAMILY SPLASH BASH

Celebrate one of the last days of summer before school begins, with a splash at the 19th Annual Summer Family Splash Bash. The day will offer lots of fun games for the whole family.

Date: Sunday, August 21 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm • Cost: \$4.00 (free with pool pass)

WE HAVE GONE TO THE DOGS

This is a special time for dogs to swim and play in the water. Try jumping off the diving board, going down the slide or just having a “dog gone good time”! Dogs will follow their owner's rules, but are free to do as they please. Be sure to bring their favorite ball or toy to play with. Owners must be with their dog at all times.

Date: Saturday, August 27 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm • Location: Norwalk Aquatic Center • Fee: \$4.00 per dog

ART IN THE PARK

Kids meet once a month on a Friday at Wildflower Park and create a different project each time. This program is for students who just completed K-6th grade. Instructor: Nancy Kuehl

Registration Dates: August 1 to August 12 • Program Dates: Friday, August 19 from 2:00 to 3:15pm

Cost: \$10 res/\$11.50 non-resident (Minimum/Maximum: 5/20)

TRAFFIC CAMERA MEETING

I want to share with you the results of our community meeting held July 14 on the possible use of traffic cameras in Norwalk. The meeting was well attended with about 45 residents present. Various points of view were heard and their comments recorded. Lt. Broderson from the Clive Police Department presented how that City's traffic camera system worked. Some residents were concerned that the cameras would invade their privacy by filming their vehicle while they were driving on a public street. Others were concerned that the City was simply motivated to secure more revenue. Still others believed that it was a reasonable action to make our streets safer by reducing speeding and red light violations through continuous monitoring. Some simply came to listen.

The question isn't whether the cameras can work; we now know that they do. The question is whether or not they can be used in a way that would be right for our community.

While this was a good turn out, we will need a larger sampling to know where the community sits on this issue. We will shortly be conducting a telephone survey of 450 residents across our community to learn their opinions and thoughts on the matter. You do need to know the facts and not the rumors on this issue:

- No decision has yet been made – The final decision will rest with your elected officials.
- No additional expense – The cost of the system is paid for by the violator.
- Fines – The fines from camera enforcement would be just like the fines now and go into the general fund. That would be the same no matter how the violation was caught.
- Photograph and Videos – Photos and videos are taken only of the vehicles and not the drivers. The cameras only come on when a violation occurs.
- Traffic signal violations – Vehicles that drive through an already red stop signal at a fair speed are photographed, filmed and a citation forwarded to our Police Department for review.
- Speeding Violations – The threshold for speed violations can be set based on the authorized zone and the nature of the area. That setting would determine when the cameras come on.
- Citation Issuance – A Norwalk Police Officer would independently review each violation and determine if a citation should be issued. That decision would be made using the same judgment that they use now on the street.
- Appeals – The City could appoint a board to review those cases that are appealed. That Board would have the authority to void any such citation.
- Civil Citation – These citations would be civil in nature and would not be reported to the Department of Transportation. No points would be assessed against the license.
- Safety – Accidents go down, citations go down and safety goes up. These are the documented facts from the Traffic Safety Institute and from the Institute of Traffic Engineers.

In the November issue of the Journal for Traffic Engineers, Richard A Retting published a 20-year study of camera enforcement in the United States. He found that there was an average reduction of 40 to 60% of collisions at intersections with camera enforcement. He also found that the instances of speeding 10+ miles per hour were normally reduced by 70%.

The following locations are being considered for use:

- Speed enforcement on the Highway 5 Bypass – There have been 11 accidents in 24 months and in one day, in one lane, 1,100 speeders were identified traveling 11 or more miles per hour over the posted speed limit. This is not a safe area to conduct traditional traffic enforcement but it could be safely enforced by the use of cameras.
- Speed enforcement and signal enforcement on Highway 28 at Beardsley – Since 2006, there have been 17 accidents, with 13 injuries, 2 fatalities and \$133,000.00 in damage at this intersection. That is an average of \$7,835.00 in damage for each accident. The one-day survey only looked at one lane and found 50 red light violations there and 247 drivers exceeding the posted speed limit by 11 or more miles per hour and all in that same lane. In 2010 there were about 14,000 vehicles passing through that intersection each day. Each year I ask DOT for a survey of the area to reduce that speed zone; this year the Mayor signed my request with me.

We are considering a roving mobile speed enforcement trailer with a camera, to be temporarily placed in residential neighborhoods and school zones as needed. In that same one day study, on Cherry Street near our Middle School, where 1,328 vehicles were tracked, of those 106 were traveling at least 11 mph or more over the posted speed limit. We simply don't have enough officers to respond to all of the requests we have for speed enforcement in our neighborhoods. This device could allow us an effective way to address that throughout our community.

Whatever the final decision will be, we want to know your thoughts and we hope our survey will document them for the Council to consider.

Thank you again for your support!

Eddie H. Kuhl, Chief of Police

CALENDAR

August 17 – Trash and Compost pick up 7:00am	August 29 – Water Service disconnects	meeting 6:30pm, Norwalk Police Station	Sept 15 – City Council meeting 6:30pm, City Hall
August 18 – City Council meeting 6:30pm, City Hall	August 31 – Trash and Compost pick up 7:00am	Sept 8 – Trash, Recycling and Compost pick up 7:00am (delayed)	Sept 21 – Trash, Recycling and Compost pick up 7:00am
August 24 – Trash, Recycling and Compost pick up 7:00am	September 1 - City Council meeting 6:30pm, City Hall	Sept 12 – Library Board of Trustees 6:30pm, Norwalk Easter Library	Sept 26 – Water notice due date
August 24 – First day of school	Sept 5 – Labor Day CITY OFFICES CLOSED	Sept 14 – Trash and Compost pick up 7:00am	Sept 27 – Water Service disconnects
August 24 – Tentative Planning and Zoning meeting 5:30pm, City Hall	Sept 6 – Water bill payment due date	Sept 14 – Planning and Zoning meeting 5:30pm, City Hall	Sept 28 – Trash and Compost pick up 7:00am
August 25 – Water notice due date	Sept 7 – Parks and Rec Commission		Sept 28 – Tentative Planning and Zoning meeting 5:30pm, City Hall

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