

Deadline approaching for city's inaugural Poet Laureate program

By **KOREY WILSON**
HOUR STAFF WRITER

NORWALK — The application deadline for Norwalk's inaugural Poet Laureate program is quickly approaching.

Norwalkers interested in becoming the city's first Poet Laureate must apply by Friday, Jan. 1.

For a term of one year, the Poet Laureate will serve as an ambassador of the community's vibrant artistic and literary life, promoting the

literary community and celebrating the written word.

The Poet Laureate will hold several roles including developing an Introduction to Poetry program for members of the public, working with local schools to complement the teaching of poetry and reading poems at public events.

The goals of the Poet Laureate program is to promote poetry as a form of communication having value in the everyday life of Norwalk residents, to inspire an emerg-

ing generation of critical thinkers and writers, and to encourage the reading and writing of literature and poetry that has deep roots among people of all ages and cultures.

To be considered, a nominee must be a poet and a resident of Norwalk, and available and willing to collaborate with other town poets to develop and present poetry-related activities. All nominees must submit a

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completed application form by Jan. 1, 2016. Interested poets can self-nominate or be nominated by others.

The Poet Laureate of Norwalk is an honorary position and carries no stipend.

A Search & Review Committee, appointed by Mayor Harry Rilling, will review all nominations on or before March 1,

2016. The committee will represent the Norwalk Arts Commission, the Mayor's Office, Norwalk Public Library, Norwalk Public Schools, Norwalk Community College and public libraries of Rowayton and East Norwalk.

The mayor will introduce the Poet Laureate on or after April 1, 2016.

For more information or to download an application, visit the Norwalk Public Library website at www.norwalklib.org.