

FALL FESTIVAL IN OKTOBER

Norwalk Chamber was back at So-Cal Pizza on Friday, October 22nd for our Annual Fall Festival in Oktober. This fun filled event features networking, great food and drinks and the opportunity to win raffle prizes. Each attendee also received a one of kind Fall Festival souvenir glass to take home. The evening started with a welcome from our Norwalk Chamber Board President, Jose Rios of Rios & Garcia Team. Next we heard from Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez and California State Senator, Bob Archuleta. Also in attendance were Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios and Norwalk La Mirada School Board members Dr. Robert Cancio, Jorge Tirado and Jose Rios.

The evening kicked off with games including the fun Moving the Cups game and ended with our fantastic Yodeling Competition! The winner of the Cups game was none other than Christine Roberto and our Yodeling winner was a two peat win by Marilee Stefenhagen. This event would not have been possible without our Event Committee, led by Chair Amanda Blanton. Thank you to the Team: Irma Macias, Sue Arthur, Dora Sandoval, Joe Derthick, Gary Murphy, Ric Ochoa, Cynthia Lizarraga, Yovani Flores and Lynda Fisher. Thank you also to our generous sponsor for this event.

Platinum Sponsor	Farmers & Merchants Bank, Amanda Blanton
Gold Sponsor	US Bank, Yovani Flores
Gold Sponsor	Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance
Entertainment Sponsor	City of Norwalk, Council Member Ana Valencia
Food & Beverage Sponsor	Athens Services

Be sure and check our Chamber calendar next October for the 7th Annual Fall Festival and come out and join in the festivities!



Gold Sponsor Lucy Rodas of State Farm Insurance pictured with Erik Rodas, Araceli Ruvalcaba and Michelle Mendez, all of State Farm Insurance.



Attending the Fall Festival are Cynthia Lizarraga, Grocery Outlet and George and April Lizarraga.



Playing the Moving the Cups game are (l to r) Irma Macias, Rich LeGaspi, Dora Sandoval, Cynthia Ontiveros and Christine Roberto.



Checking in folks as they arrive at the event are Ambassadors Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center and Sue Arthur.



Attending the event are Marilee Stefenhagen, Soroptimist International and Board Member Gary Murphy, Norwalk Florist.



DJ Oscar Cairo is spinning the vinyl for the Fall Festival.



Gold Sponsor US Bank, Yovani Flores and her husband José Flores.



Platinum Sponsor Farmers & Merchants Bank. Pictured here are Past President Amanda Blanton of Farmers & Merchants Bank and Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez.



Denise Urriaga of Norwalk Money Mart and Essen Menjivar of Kustom Made Graphics showcasing the Sponsor Banners printed by KMG.



Amanda and Cynthia Ontiveros of Norwalk Grocery Outlet getting ready to compete in water pong.



Vicki McCalman of Thompson & Associates wins the gift card raffle basket, which was donated by Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance.



Winner of the 50/50 Squares is Lori Williams, pictured here with President Jose Rios and Past President Amanda Blanton.



Soroptimist members, Afaf El-Annan, Marilee Stefenhagen and Natalie LeGaspi at the Fall Festival.



Time to wind down after a busy night at So-Cal Pizza.



Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios with California Senator Bob Archuleta.



Winners of the Moving the Cups game showing off their prizes.



Winners of the yodeling contest pictured with President Jose Rios.



Enjoying the refreshments at Fall Festival are Hector and Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club, Dr. Robert Cancio, NLMUSD School Board, Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood, and State Senator Bob Archuleta.



California State Senator Bob Archuleta presents the Norwalk Chamber with a Certificate of Recognition for the Fall Festival Event. In this photo are (l to r) President Elect Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, State Senator Bob Archuleta, Council Member Margarita Rios and Board Member Ric Ochoa, our host for Fall Festival.



Event Committee Team getting set up for the Fall Festival. (l to r) Board Member Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club, Ambassador Joe Derthick, AFLAC, Past President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank and Ambassador Sue Arthur.

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

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Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

14783 Carmenita Road
Norwalk, CA 90650
Phone: 562.404.0909
FAX: 562.404.0911

Monday - Friday 9:30am - 5:30pm
www.norwalkchamber.com
info@norwalkchamber.com

Facebook:

<http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM>

**PRESIDENT
JOSE RIOS**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY**

**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

THESE DATES AND LOCATIONS COULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Tuesday, November 10th

Annual State of the Nation Address
Featuring Congresswoman
Linda Sánchez
9am via ZOOM

Saturday, November 13th

E-Waste Drop Off
Norwalk Chamber Office
9am to 2pm

Wednesday, November 17th

Board of Directors Meeting
9am via ZOOM

Saturday, November 27th

Small Business Saturday
9:30am to 10am
Norwalk Chamber Office

Tuesday, November 30th

Gateway Chambers Alliance
12 Noon via ZOOM

Wednesday, December 1st

Coffee & Conversation
9am to 10am
Chick-fil-A

Wednesday, December 8th

Annual Holiday Mixer
5:30pm to 7:30pm
Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant

Wednesday, December 15th

Board of Directors Meeting
9am via ZOOM

Tuesday, December 21st

Holiday Creating Connections
Luncheon
12 Noon @ Outback Restaurant



RENEWING MEMBERS

Renewing Members

The following companies and individuals renewed their membership with the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the services we provide are made possible by their support.

32 Years

Norwalk Family Optometry Center
Dr. John Larcabal
562-868-8233
jlarcabal@aol.com

29 Years

Su Casa, Ending Domestic Violence
Anna Conti
562-519-8597
anna@sucasadv.org

24 Years

Coast Plaza Hospital
Patrick Rafferty
562-868-3751

12 Years

St. Linus Catholic Church
Ana Engquist
562-921-6649
<http://stlinus-church.org/>

11 Years

The Downey Patriot
Jennifer DeKay
562-904-3668
www.thedowneypatriot.com

5 Years

Norwalk Goal Car Wash
Marc Najjar
310-404-1838
najjar.marc@gmail.com

YMCA of Greater Whittier

Curt Skotnicki
562-309-4849
www.ymcawhittier.org

4 Years

Loftus Land Company
John Loftus
626-229-9482
loftuslandco@msn.com

U-Haul International Inc.

Robert Kelley
626-859-4500
www.uhaul.com

New Members

VELAVI Heating and Cooling, Inc.

Karen Avila
13821 San Antonio Dr.
Norwalk, CA 90650
562-474-8333
www.velavihvac.com

NORWALK STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

With the change in the election cycle in Norwalk, the Annual State of the City event will now be held in the fall, so this was the first of the new cycle to be held. Presentations were made by Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Norwalk Sheriff Captain James Tatreau and Norwalk Chamber Executive Director Caren Spilsbury. Mayor Perez shared updates about the infrastructure work that has been done around the City, Economic Development that has happened and is ongoing, the Cities Hazard Mitigation Plan and about the many different activities that provide a great quality of life for the residents and businesses here in Norwalk. Sheriff Captain Tatreau shared statistics regarding the drop in crime rate here in Norwalk and the success that they have seen with the addition of a new traffic control officer. Caren Spilsbury shared information about business roadblocks and the overall economic landscape over the past 20 months. The event was informative and well attended by the community.



Attending the State of the City Luncheon are (l to r) Board President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Board Member Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club, Pamela Sepulveda, Irma Gorrocino, Cerritos College, Ambassadors Sue Arthur and Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, VP Finance Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates, Board Member Cynthia Lizarraga, Grocery Outlet, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Board President Elect Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Ambassador Joe Derthick, AFLAC, Amanda and Cynthia Ontiveros, Norwalk Grocery Outlet.



At the State of the City luncheon with Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez is Los Angeles County 4th District Supervisor Janice Hahn.



At the State of the City Address are Lt. Noe Garcia, Mayor Jennifer Perez, Captain James Tatreau and Fr. Erasmus Soriano, St. Linus Church.



Mayor Jennifer Perez with her parents Sue and Bob Arthur at the State of the City luncheon.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Norwalk Chamber Members,

I want to thank all of you who supported, sponsored and attended our 2021 Fall Festival Event on October 22nd at So-Cal Pizza. Bringing this event back as an in person event was very exciting for the Norwalk Chamber. We look forward to continued progress on the business restrictions that have been in place during the pandemic and how they will allow all of us to start getting back to some normal activities. Thank you to our Sponsors, Farmers & Merchants Bank, US Bank, Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, City of Norwalk and Athens Services. We appreciate your support for the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. And I want to thank the Event Committee for all of their hard work that brought this event together!

Moving into November and December our Chamber has a number of events that we are inviting you to participate in. We have started a new morning Coffee and Conversation, hosted by Chick-fil-A, Norwalk. Meeting up for networking face to face is an important aspect of maintaining and growing your business. Thank you to Farid Khansarinia for providing complimentary coffee at our first meet up! Thank you to all who attended to bring the conversation. Our next Coffee and Conversation will be on Wednesday, December 1st at Chick-fil-A from 9am to 10am and we hope that you will join us.

November also brings Small Business Saturday. So join us on November 27th for a coffee and refreshment kick off, and then head out into Norwalk to "Shop Small" on this date. Shopping local brings support to our community. In December you are invited to network with us at our Annual Holiday Mixer. This will be on Wednesday, December 8th at from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant. Light refreshments will be provided. Wear your "ugly" holiday attire to compete in our contest and bring a donation for the Norwalk Food Pantry to be entered into a special drawing. And we will have our famous "Ice Chest O'Cheer" drawing that night. Next we will have our Holiday Creating Connections Lunch back at Outback Restaurant on Tuesday, December 21st at noon. Bring a wrapped gift (\$20 value) to participate in the fun steal the present game.

Lots of opportunities to get out and meet up with your fellow Chamber members and with other members of the community and build on your network. If you have any questions about our upcoming events, look on our website at www.norwalkchamber.com and click on our event calendar. Or follow us on Social Media to see what is coming up for the Norwalk Chamber.

Reach out with any questions about these activities and more to our Norwalk Chamber at 562-404-0909.

Sincerely,

Jose Rios
2021-2022 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
TNG Realty, Rios & Garcia Team

POWER OF PINK

October was recognized by the City of Norwalk as Breast Cancer Awareness month at their October 5th City Council Meeting. Pink ribbons were seen all around the City while fundraising to support Making Strides Against Breast Cancer/Power of Pink were held at different local restaurant throughout the month. Don's Teriyaki Grill, Kung Pau Bowl, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant and So-Cal Pizza all hosted fund raisers during the month. Information about screenings and how to reach out for support was provided to attendees at the Kick Off event which was hosted by Starbucks Coffee at Pioneer and Firestone and by the American Cancer Society. Community leaders competed in the Real Men Wear Pink campaign to raise funds also. Thank you to City Manager Jesus Gomez, Little Lake City School District Superintendent Dr. William Crean, and to community leader Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant for your participation and fundraising efforts. We also thank Sergio Gonzalez of Starbucks for providing refreshments and a place to kick off the month long efforts. We know that cancer never sleeps, so we can't either. Reach out to Lynda Fisher at lmfisher714@gmail.com or Larry Sandoval at Lawrence.sandoval@cancer.org to see how you can continue to participate in the battle against not just breast cancer, but all cancers.



Kicking off the Power of Pink (POP) Norwalk Campaign, hosted by Starbucks Coffee. In this photo are representatives on the American Cancer Society, Norwalk Sheriff Station, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and community members.



City of Norwalk names October as National Breast Cancer Awareness month in Norwalk. Pictured here are Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Larry Sandoval, American Cancer Society and City Council Member Margarita Rios.



Ambassador Sue Arthur and her granddaughter Mila are helping kick off the Power of Pink.



Getting information about the POP campaign from Chair Lynda Fisher is Martha Esquivel de Zamora of Mujeres Extraordinaries Foundation Inc.



Welcoming all to the POP Kick Off are Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez, Chair Lynda Fisher and Larry Sandoval, American Cancer Society.



Learning all about National Breast Cancer Awareness Month are Curt Skotnicki, YMCA of Greater Whittier and Chamber President Jose Rios, TNG Realty.



Our Starbucks host, Sergio Gonzalez with Norwalk Sheriff Lt. Noe Garcia at the POP Kick Off.



Getting ready for POP are Board President Elect Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Natalie LeGaspi, Norwalk Soroptimist and Larry Sandoval, ACS.

RIBBON CUTTING FOR NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELD

Norwalk High School cut the ribbon on their new Athletic Field on Thursday, October 7th. School Board members, NLMUSD Staff, students and community members were on hand to help celebrate with the exciting event. Now Norwalk High School can play their fall football games and many other sports activities at their home field and not at another school. Visit the school grounds to view the new field during a football game this fall!



Norwalk La Mirada USD School Board Members and District Leaders at the Ribbon Cutting for the new Norwalk High School Athletic Field.



Norwalk Public Safety Cadets are recognized by the US Navy TAOC for providing the Color Guard services for the Ribbon Cutting at the new US Navy Talent Acquisition & Onboarding Center here in Norwalk. In this photo are Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, US Navy Lt. Ryna Thlang and Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios with the Public Safety Cadets.



Celebrating the opening of the Norwalk High School Football Field are NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison, Board Member Narcis Brasov, Esq., Vice President Norma Amescua, and Board Members Dr. Robert Cancio and Chris Staples.



Ken Cook of Norwalk High School Skills USA leads the student team that provided refreshments to the guests at the Norwalk High School Ribbon Cutting event.

LABOR LAW CORNER

As employers are again hiring, a number of questions have arisen concerning the Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification Form). The following questions and answers may help to address questions you may have.

• **Can an employer require that a new hire complete the I-9 Form before their first day of employment?**

Yes. An employer may provide the I-9 Form to an applicant once they have accepted the offer of employment. The I-9 Form itself gives that permission by stating the employee must complete Section 1 no later than the first day of employment but not before accepting an offer of employment.

• **Do all employees have to complete an I-9 Form? What about owners and part-time or seasonal employees? What about employees who have a work visa? Can I accept a copy of a document if the employee tells me they cannot find the original?**

Yes. All employees must complete an I-9 Form if they were hired on or after November 6, 1986, the date that the I-9 law went into effect. If a business is a partnership or a sole proprietorship, the owners of those businesses are not employees and no I-9 Form should be completed. If on the other hand, the business is a corporation, then the owners are employees of the corporation and an I-9 Form is required. There is no exemption, distinction or status that would exempt an employee from completing an I-9 Form. It does not matter that they are hired for temporary, seasonal, part-time or full-time work. Whether an employee is a U.S. citizen or has a temporary work visa, they are treated the same for I-9 purposes. All documents must be current at the time of hire and be the original document. Copies of documents are not acceptable.

• **I have an employee who started work last Monday and he still has not provided me with I-9 documents. How much more time should I give him to bring in documents?**

The I-9 Form must be completed (by the employee and the employer) within three business days of the employee starting work. If documents have not been provided, you will not be able to certify the I-9 Form and there is no grace period in the law. If documents are not provided, then the employer could be cited for not having an I-9 Form for that employee as required by law.

• **Is there anything wrong with asking employees to provide us with their driver license and Social Security card for the I-9 Form review of documents?**

Yes, there is. An employer cannot specify which documents an employee must provide to establish their identity and work authorization status. If you look at the list of acceptable documents, there are a number of documents that could be used. While asking for a driver license from someone who is going to drive for you may be required to ensure that they have a current valid unrestricted driver license in their possession in order to drive a vehicle, it is not required for I-9 purposes. In fact, by requiring that document, you may be excluding a person with a disability from employment because they may not be able to obtain a license. You also may be excluding individuals who do not have a car or haven't gotten a driver license. Each employee may choose from the list of acceptable documents which documents they wish to provide.

• **To save time, can an employer complete Page 2 of the I-9 Form before the employee's first day of employment?**

No. Section 2 must be completed within three business days of the date that they start work. For example, if an employee begins employment on Monday, you must review the employee's documentation and complete Section 2 on or before Wednesday of that week. If an employee is hired to work for one day, then the I-9 Form must be completed on their first day of employment.

• **Can I store I-9 Forms electronically?**

If you are going to use some form of electronic storage, then you must conform to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requirements for Using an Electronic Storage System for Form I-9. Merely putting the form in the cloud or on a computer is not sufficient. The USCIS has developed an I-9 employer guide that is available on their website. Consult the Table of Contents for the section on Retaining Form I-9. The guide is a useful employer resource and can be found at: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central/handbook-for-employers-m-274>. For more information, consult the above I-9 Handbook for Employers or submit a question to the CalChamber Labor Law Helpline.



FREE E-WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Saturday, November 13th
9am to 2pm



RECYCLE ALL YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS IN ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION

NORWALK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
14783 CARMENITA RD.
NORWALK CA

ITEMS ACCEPTED:

✓ Computers	✓ monitors	✓ TV's
✓ rechargeable batteries	✓ car batteries	✓ modems
✓ routers	✓ wires	✓ power cord
✓ cable strips	✓ battery backups	✓ cell phones
✓ cable boxes	✓ satellite TV equipment	✓ mice
✓ keyboards	✓ iPods	✓ printers
✓ VCRs or DVD players	✓ video game	✓ scanners
✓ office or home phones		

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED!!!
Microwaves | household batteries | light bulbs | medical equipment | speakers | L appliances including washers and dryers | water heaters | vacuum cleaners | paint or any toxic waste or non electronic waste.

Corporate E-Waste Solutions (CEWS) is a Proud Member of the State of California E-Waste Program since 2008
Open to California Residents and Businesses Only.
For additional information contact the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce at 562-404-0909 or You can contact the E-Waste Recycler's Coordinator Pat Warner at 626-689-6014.





COVID CORNER

How to Handle Paystub Listing for COVID Supplemental Paid Sick Leave

I read that the California COVID Supplemental Paid Sick Leave expired on September 30, but I haven't seen anything about the requirement to list the hours on the employee's paystub. Do I still need to list the hours of the supplemental paid sick leave after September 30, 2021?

You are correct that California's 2021 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave expired on September 30, 2021. However, if an employee was on the leave on or before September 30, you must continue to pay that employee under the government's mandate until either the employee is able to return to work, or he/she has exhausted his/her available hours of the supplemental sick leave. If you had an employee who used the supplemental sick leave after September 30, then those hours paid under the law would be listed on the paystub (wage statement).

'Available Hours'

If your question pertains to the requirement that an employer list the "available" hours of supplemental sick leave on the wage statement, then the answer is different. In that the government mandate expired on September 30, for all employees who were not actually using the supplemental paid sick leave as of that date, there were no available hours remaining. Consequently, unless an employee was on the leave on or after September 30, you no longer have to list the available hours because there were no hours available to the employees to use.

David Leporiere, HR Adviser



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- and -
Promoting the Community*

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce urges you to spend your money locally to support the business community and protect jobs.

Local sales tax dollars support basic city services When you shop in Norwalk, you are paying for...

**Public Safety Services
Recreation Programs
Street Repairs & Much More**