

U.S. NAVY TALENT ACQUISITION ONBOARDING CENTER COMES TO NORWALK

On Thursday, July 22nd, the Norwalk Chamber helped welcome the U.S. Navy TAOC to our community. Located at 12440 Imperial Hwy, Suite 150 here in Norwalk the TAOC serves 13 local communities for onboarding new US Navy recruits. Master of Ceremonies for the day was former Norwalk Mayor, Robert "Bob" Arthur. The ceremony began with an invocation by Deacon Mario Guerra of St. Linus Catholic Church, the presentation of color by the Norwalk Public Safety Cadets. The Public Safety Cadets that participated were Amy Contreras, Melanie Carranza, Betsy Carranza, and Miranda Sandoval. The Flag Salute was led by Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez and that was followed by the National Anthem sung by US Navy Lieutenant Jessica Wayne. The dignitaries that attended were introduced by Caren Spilsbury, Norwalk Chamber Executive Director. Master of Ceremonies, Bob Arthur next introduced the US Navy officers in attendance.

Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez then presented a plaque to the US Navy for opening their new facilities here in Norwalk. Following the Mayor, California State Senator Robert "Bob" Archuleta presented the US Navy with a certificate of congratulations on the opening of the new center. Certificates were then presented by Anabel Cuevas, representing Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, Martin Calderon, representing Assembly Member Lisa Calderon, and Jose Rios, President Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

After the presentation of certificates, the US Navy then conducted an enlisted swearing in ceremony that was conducted by Lt. Ryna Thlang. Over 25 young men and women took the oath of the US Navy that day and will be serving our country. In addition to taking the oath, nine of these young recruits were presented with bonus checks for choosing a specific field of service such as the Naval Nuclear Power Program or the U.S Navy Special Warfare Aviation Rescue Swimmer Program

Commanding Officer Justin Ward and Lt Ryna Thlang then presented certificates of appreciation to all of the committee that provided support in organizing and setting up the event. CO Ward then shared closing comments with all the attendees. Last on the agenda was the cutting of the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the new center.



The official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new U.S. Navy TAOC in Norwalk.



Commanding Officer Justin Ward presents a thank you certificate to Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Rosie Lozoya and Elizabeth Rock for their support of the event.



Norwalk Public Safety Cadets present the colors at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictured here are Amy Contreras, Melanie Carranza, Betsy Carranza, Miranda Sandoval.



Attending the Ribbon Cutting are (l to r) Ambassadors Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Joe Derthick AFLAC, Board President, Jose Rios TNG Realty, Cerritos College Trustee Zurich Lewis, Board Members Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club and Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance and City Manager Jesus Gomez.



Enjoying the event are Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez and Norwalk Chamber Board Member Cynthia Lizarraga.



At the Ribbon Cutting are former Norwalk Mayor and MC of the event Bob Arthur, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Board Member Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club, Ambassador Joe Derthick, AFLAC, Board Member Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, President Elect Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, President Jose Rios, TNG Realty and Board Member Cynthia Lizarraga, Grocery Outlet.



Representing Congresswoman Linda Sánchez is Anabel Cuevas who presents a congratulatory certificate to CO Justin Ward and Lt Ryna Thlang of the US Navy.



California State Senator Robert "Bob" Archuleta presents a certificate to CO Justin Ward and Lt Ryna Thlang of the US Navy.



Mayor Perez helps present bonus checks to the new US Navy recruits.



Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez presents a Business Spotlight Plaque to CO Justin Ward and Lt Ryna Thlang of the US Navy.



Martin Calderon presents a certificate on behalf of Assembly Member Lisa Calderon to CO Justin Ward and Lt Ryna Thlang of the US Navy.

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

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Kylee Vera, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn provides a certificate celebrating the Ribbon Cutting to CO Justin Ward and Lt Ryna Thlang of the US Navy.



Chamber Board President Jose Rios presents the new member plaque and Ribbon Cutting certificate from the Norwalk Chamber to CO Justin Ward and Lt Ryna Thlang of the US Navy.

NORWALK CHAMBER BUSINESS CONNECTIONS (NCBC) is the Official Publication of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

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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

Wednesday, September 15th

Board of Directors Meeting
9am via ZOOM

Wednesday, September 15th

Support Local
El Taco Locco

Friday, September 24th

Bingo Night Fundraiser
7pm to 9pm via ZOOM

Sunday, September 26th

Ribbon Cutting Event
Norwalk ADHC
1pm to 2pm

Monday, September 27th

Community Family Guidance Center
Annual Golf Tournament

Tuesday, September 28th

Gateway Chambers Alliance
12 noon via ZOOM
Speaker: Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 16th

E-Waste Event
Norwalk Chamber

Friday, October 22nd

Norwalk Chamber Fall Festival

Saturday, October 23rd

9am to 10pm
Norwalk, Bellflower, Paramount
Relay for Life Reunion
Location: Norwalk City Hall Lawn



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.

46 Years

Golf n' Stuff

Ken Garcia
562-868-9956
www.golfnstuff.com

Golden State Water

Albert Rivera
562-863-2607
www.gswater.com

44 Years

Norwalk Realty
Gordon Stefenhagen
562-868-3201
bluecamino85@yahoo.com

42 Years

Norwalk Auto Auction

Louis Rudich
562-864-7464
www.norwalkautoauction.com

35 Years

Little Lake City School District

Dr. William Crean
562-868-8241
www.littlelake.k12.ca.us

35 Years

Liberty Utilities

Brett Ommen
562-926-7317

34 Years

Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District

John Lopez, Superintendent
562-868-0431
www.nlmusd.k12.ca.us

33 Years

Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles

Orlando Salazar
562-863-5555
www.losangelesnorwalk.doubletree.com

32 Years

TNT Fireworks

Rich LeGaspi
800-585-9487
www.tntfireworks.com

21 Years

Outback Steakhouse Restaurant

JJ Mastopietro
562-863-8908
jmasto322@gmail.com

14 Years

Norwalk Community Coordinating Council

Gordon Stefenhagen, President
562-400-8188
www.nccconline.us

10 Years

Personal Care Medical

Robert Salatinjants
562-406-7070
robjants@yahoo.com

7 Years

I.P.C.O Global Services

Shim Santos
714-690-3000
www.paramountglobalservices.com

KELCO SALES RECEIVES SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM STATE SENATOR ROBERT "BOB" ARCHULETA

On August 12th, 2021, State Senator Bob Archuleta visited Kelco Sales to present them with his 32nd Senate District Small Business of the Year Award. Tracy Polley was on hand to receive this award and share some of the history of Kelco Sales. He is the third generation of the Polley family to run this business which was started by his grandparents in the 1930's. Here is the history of Kelco Sales as shared by Tracy:

Kelco was founded in Norwalk in the late 1930's by husband and wife C.A. and Opal Polley. The original name was Pioneer Manufacturing. The company did job shop machine and welding work. Also produced were propane tanks and molasses sprayers among many other products. During the 1950's C.A. and Opal's sons Don, Dale and Jerry started working for and participating in the management of Kelco. Kelco started producing abrasive blast equipment in the 1950's. This was inspired by C.A. Polley's experience in the Little Rock, AR, railroad repair yards. Railroad steam boilers were filled with sand, tilted up on end, pressurized and used as blast tanks. In the 1990's management was passed to Don's sons Tracy and Nyals. Dale Polley continued to be active working on engineering and manufacturing. In 2008 Dale passed away and Nyals became unable to work. Tracy managed Kelco since then. Kelco continues to manufacture a broad line of blast cleaning equipment here in Norwalk.

Mayor Jennifer Perez was also on hand to present a plaque to Kelco Sales celebrating their achievement as the Small Business of the Year for the 32nd Senate District. She recognized Tracy and his family as great partners and supporters of the Norwalk Community. Tracy is currently on the Board of Directors for the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and also represents the City of Norwalk on the SELACO Workforce Development Board. We congratulate Tracy, his family and staff on this well deserved recognition!



Senator Bob Archuleta viewing the piece that he sanded in the Kelco sand blasting equipment with owner Tracy Polley.



Getting a tour of the plant from Tracy Polley are Board Member Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance and Senator Bob Archuleta.



On hand to celebrate the winner of the Small Business of the Year for the 32nd Senate District are (l to r) Chamber Board Member Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, Chamber Board President Jose Rios, TNG Realty. Board Member Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club, owner and Chamber Board Member Tracy Polley and Norwalk Mayor, Jennifer Perez



Tracy Polley of Kelco Sales accepts plaques from Senator Archuleta and Mayor Perez. Pictured here are (l to r) Norwalk President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Board Member Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, California Senator Bob Archuleta, Board Member and recipient Tracy Polley, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez and Board Member Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Norwalk Chamber Members,

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Norwalk Businesses. We were able to visit IHOP Restaurant on August 18th for our Support Local promotion! Our next Support Local restaurant is El Taco Locco. We encourage you to visit them on Wednesday, September 15th and buy a meal to sit down and enjoy or take home for dinner! When you support businesses in our local community you support much more than just that business. Your dollars spent support the staff, the city and the business.

We invite you to participate in our next ZOOM event which will be on Friday, September 24th from 7pm to 9pm. This will be our second online BINGO Fundraiser. You can purchase tickets to this event by visiting our online store at www.norwalkchamber.com/shop. Winners of games will receive gift cards to local businesses! It is a lot of fun and we hope you can attend.

Just a reminder that if your business is in need of N95 masks, the Chamber has those on hand to provide to you at no cost through our partnership with CAL OES. Just reach out to the Chamber office at 562-404-0909 or by email to info@norwalkchamber.com to make an appointment to pick up some masks.

As we once again move through the different rules and regulations with regard to the pandemic, we will continue to keep you informed with up to date information on our Chamber website. There are links on the main page that you can access for the different government entities and their guidelines. Visit our calendar page for upcoming events and SAVE THE DATE for Saturday, October 16th for an E-Waste pick up event at the Norwalk Chamber.

Sincerely,

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

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS CELEBRATED IN NORWALK.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first week of August. In Norwalk National Night Out was held on Wednesday, August 4th on the Norwalk City Hall Lawn in conjunction with a summer concert. Various public safety agencies were on hand to meet the Norwalk community and build stronger relationships with residents and businesses. That evening entertainment was provided by the band Soto, which is a local Norwalk musical group that has a long history of entertaining the community. Also attending were representatives from Cerritos College, the Norwalk Chamber, US Navy and more. Mark your calendars for next August when this great community event will take place again!



Mayor Jennifer Perez with the US Navy at National Night Out.



Norwalk Chamber Board President Jose Rios at the Chamber booth at National Night Out.



Toni Grijalva, Community Relations Coordinator for Cerritos College at the National Night Out.



Meeting the community at National Night Out are (l to r) Gabriela Regalado, Director of Social Services, NLMUSD School Board Member Jose Rios, Norwalk Council Member Margarita Rios and Petra Pena of the Norwalk Social Services Department.

NORWALK CHAMBER WELCOMES CHIPOTLE TO THE NORWALK FITNESS VILLAGE

On Wednesday, August 25th the Norwalk Chamber, City of Norwalk and the community welcomed the new Chipotle to the Norwalk Fitness Village. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held that morning where our Mayor, Jennifer Perez was on hand to extend her welcome to the new business. Next the attendees heard from Jim Auther about the development of the entire Norwalk Fitness Village and then from the Chipotle manager Steven Maravilla. Certificates were presented to the new business by Anabel Cuevas on behalf of Congresswoman Sánchez and Fred Zermeno on behalf of State Senator Bob Archuleta. Norwalk Chamber Board President Jose Rios then presented a plaque on behalf of the Norwalk Chamber welcoming Chipotle to the city. Norwalk Chipotle is the first in Los Angeles County to have a "Chipotlane" which is an app based ordering process that has your order ready at the drive through window when you arrive. Visit the new location where you can order both inside or through the app for drive through pick up. They are located at 12539 Imperial Hwy in the Norwalk Fitness Village.



Cutting the Ribbon for the new Chipotle here in Norwalk.



Preparing for the Ribbon Cutting are Jose Pacheco, Field Leader Chipotle, Steven Maravilla, Store Manager, Chipotle, Chamber President Jose Rios, TNG Realty and Fred Zermeno of State Senator Bob Archuleta.



PO Joel Belen, PO Kevin Douglas and PO Richard Alvarez of the Navy Talent Acquisition Group enjoying a meal at Chipotle.



Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez presents a Business Spotlight Plaque to Jose Pacheco and Steven Maravilla of Chipotle.



Fred Zermeno of State Senator Bob Archuleta presents a certificate to Jose Pacheco and Steven Maravilla of Chipotle.



Board President Jose Rios presents a certificate to Jose Pacheco and Steven Maravilla of Chipotle.



Anabel Cuevas of Congresswoman Linda Sánchez presents a certificate to Jose Pacheco and Steven Maravilla of Chipotle.



Norwalk Chamber Board and Ambassadors ready for the celebration. Pictured here (l to r) are Board Member Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Board Members Brett Ommen, Liberty Utilities, Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates, Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Ambassador Joseph Derthick, AFLAC, and Board Members Cynthia Lizarraga, Grocery Outlet, John Alba, Alba Professional Services/H & R Block and Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance.

COVID CORNER

Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant: New Funding Round to Open in September

New applicants for California's Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program will be able to apply in the funding round opening on September 9 and continuing through September 30. The program provides grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 to small businesses hurt by the pandemic. Businesses are eligible based on annual revenue as documented in their most recent tax return. New funding rounds were made possible by an additional \$1.5 billion in funding authorized in a relief package signed by the Governor. Total funding for the program to date comes to \$4 billion. Until September 8, the program is processing waitlisted applicants from some previous rounds. Waitlisted applicants do not need to reapply. Nonprofit cultural institutions of any revenue size may apply between August 27 and September 8. Eligible nonprofit cultural institutions that already applied in certain rounds must reapply. Grants will be available only to nonprofit cultural institutions that did not receive funding in any previous rounds. The California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA), part of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), is administering the program through a competitive bid award to its intermediary, Lendistry, and a statewide network of community-based lenders and partners. Many state-supported small business centers, which prioritize expanding technical assistance to underserved business groups, also are available to help small businesses with the application process in multiple languages and formats. More information on grant requirements and eligibility, along with links to application tips and webinars, is available at CAReliefGrant.com. The page also includes links to find loans.

Free Resources to Help Raise Awareness on Importance of COVID-19 Vaccines

California is urging business and community partners to help raise awareness on COVID-19 vaccines and inform others on how they can get vaccinated. Vaccines are key to helping Californians return to work safely, reunite with friends and family, and travel with confidence. To support these efforts, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has developed free tools to help promote vaccines and address misinformation. These ready-to-use promotional materials include:

- **Small business toolkit:** Help businesses in your community quickly learn how to promote getting vaccinated with this toolkit, which is available in English and Spanish.

- **Vaccination toolkit:** Use the toolkit to help those in your network engage on social media, review vaccine talking points and FAQs, and access copy to share on websites, emails, etc.

- **Business posters:** Access posters for display and make them available for download on your website or through social media. Additional posters are available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

- **Half-sheet flyers:** Half sheet flyers that can be used for outreach and educational activities. Flyers are available in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, East Armenian, English, Farsi, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and West Armenian.

- **Infographics:** Instructional graphics can be made available for download, displayed on webpages, or used for other educational outreach and are available in English and Spanish.

- **CDC Stickers:** Print stickers for community members who have been vaccinated to wear.

- **CDPH COVID-19 Response page:** Access additional materials and resources on the CDPH resource site. Use the available information for virtual town halls or other informational meetings within your communities.

All state employees and all workers at hospitals and health care facilities across California are now required to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or be tested at least once a week under a state policy announced July 26, 2021. On July 27, the CDC recommended a return to mask wearing indoors, regardless of vaccination status in areas with high COVID-19 transmission rates. Since then, the state and many California counties have returned to requiring that masks be worn indoors by everyone over the age of 2 years with some exceptions (such as persons with a medical/mental health condition or disability, communicating with the hearing impaired, and where wearing a mask would create a risk related to work).

LABOR LAW CORNER

Interactive Process Key to Accommodating Employee with Disability

We have a new hire who, after being hired, disclosed a physical disability. She indicated that we need to accommodate her, and I have since read a little about how to handle this, but I'm not sure how to proceed.

Both state and federal laws protect individuals with disabilities. Employers are required to make a reasonable accommodation when an employee discloses they have a disability, and not all disabilities are obvious.

Interactive Process

A key part of the reasonable accommodation is the "interactive process." This process requires both parties, employer and employee, to sit down and discuss ways to adjust the job duties so as to allow the disabled individual to do their job. Interactive means the employee is equally responsible for coming up with ideas and solutions to enable them to perform the job duties. This conversation enables the employer to gather information and work with the employee to explore accommodations and alternative ways for the individual to perform the job. The disabled employee typically has unique knowledge of their limitations, and can provide ideas. In addition, the employee's doctor often can provide helpful input. The HR California website, presented by CalChamber, offers a "Reasonable Accommodation and Interactive Process" checklist and a form titled "Reasonable Accommodation Request." This form (also available in Spanish) can guide the employer through collecting the information needed for the reasonable accommodation, including the medical information. It is critical to keep the medical information private, and it should be kept in the employee's medical file, not the personnel file.

Good Records

Key to the accommodation process is having good records, and taking notes of any conversations and ideas proposed by both sides. There are times, however, that regardless of any efforts, there will be no way to accommodate the disabled employee. This is why the records need to reflect the efforts made by the employer as a defense against any claim of disability discrimination.



NORWALK CHAMBER VIRTUAL BINGO FUNDRAISER

Join the Norwalk Chamber for a Virtual Bingo fundraiser on Friday, September 24th starting at 6:30pm on ZOOM.

Cost is \$20.00 for 5 Bingo cards to play 5 different Bingo Games. You can purchase additional Bingo cards for \$5.00

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each game. There will be additional opportunities to win prizes at the event.

To purchase your Bingo cards visit <https://norwalkchamber.com/shop/>

Sponsor Opportunities Available

Gold Sponsor \$500.00

Sponsorship includes 4 sets of Bingo Cards, Logo prominently displayed on all event literature, Sponsor recognition at event and in Chamber newspaper, Logo on Chamber website for 3 months and Social Media recognition.

Silver Sponsor \$300.00

Sponsorship includes 2 sets of Bingo Cards, Logo displayed on all event literature, Sponsor recognition at event and in Chamber newspaper, Logo on Chamber website for 1 month, and Social Media recognition.



Creating a Strong Local Economy - 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**


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