

HOLIDAY NETWORKING IN NORWALK

ANNUAL HOLIDAY MIXER

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce was able to host two in person Holiday Networking events during the month of December. Having the opportunity to meet up safely in person this year made our holiday season much brighter. We kicked off the month with our traditional Holiday Mixer that was held at Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant on the outside patio. Guests were able to enjoy refreshments from Mr. Rosewood and desserts from Costco. Holiday music was provided by DJ Oscar Cairo. While all were able to enjoy the festive holiday atmosphere they also supported the Norwalk Chamber by participating in our Ice Chest O'Cheer and raffle baskets. Over 50 members and guests attended this fun event and many of the won prizes from our raffle baskets. But the biggest winner was Ana Laura Huerta of Alba Professional Services/ H & R Block who went home with the Ice Chest O'Cheer.

This event would not have been possible without the support of our Sponsors and we would like to thank them all:

Gold Sponsors

U.S. Bank, Yovani Flores
Farmers & Merchants Bank, Amanda Blanton
Liberty Utilities, Brett Ommen
Norwalk Realty, Gordon Stefenhagen

Silver Sponsors

Thinkers 4 Autism, Chante Wise

Our event committee worked tirelessly to provide a great opportunity for both networking and holiday fun at this event. Special thanks to Chair Amanda Blanton, Irma Macias, Sue Arthur, Joe Derthick, Aubrey Spilsbury and Melissa Ramirez for coming early to set up the event. And we could not have had such a fun event without our Santa Claus and his Elf. Thank you to Art Sanchez and the entire Sanchez family for attending and participating in the Holiday Mixer. For future networking events be sure and visit our website calendar at www.norwalkchamber.com.



Pictured here for a Santa Photo is Zurich Lewis, Cerritos College Board of Trustees.



Enjoying the networking at the Holiday Mixer are Ana Laura Huerta, Alba Professional Services, Irma Macias, CFGC, Akash Sorathia, SELACO WDB, Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank and Dean Lockwood, Su Casa, Ending Domestic Violence.



(l to r) Back Row: Ana Laura Huerta, Grant Alba, John Alba, Miguel De Leon, Rocio Corza Front Row: Yvette Carreon, Yury Aguilar, and Elizabeth Moreno of Alba Professional Svcs with Santa Claus.



Getting ready to join the Holiday Mixer are Board Member Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance and Alberto Ruiz, Communications Director for Assembly Member Lisa Calderon.



Celebrating at the Holiday Mixer are Board Member Gary Murphy, Norwalk Florist and Dean Lockwood, Su Casa, Ending Domestic Violence.



Visiting with Santa are Lynda Fisher and Larry Sandoval, American Cancer Society.



Finalists for the Ugly Holiday Attire contest!



Getting her Santa photo is Toni Grijalva of Cerritos College.



Taking a Santa photo are Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios and Chamber President Jose Rios.



Sue and Bob Arthur getting their photo with Santa and his Elf.



Enjoying the evening's festivities are (l to r) Art Sanchez, Sanchez Restaurant, Chamber President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Inc. Board Member Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood and Yovani Flores, US Bank.



Waiting for the raffles to begin are (l to r) Board Members Yovani Flores and Gary Murphy and 605 Kiwanis Member Edie Gonzalez.



Gordon Stefenhagen of Norwalk Realty is taking his picture with Santa and his Elf.



Board Member Jason Perez of Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant with Santa and his Elf.



Getting their photo with Santa Claus are Ambassador Irma Macias, CFGC and Past President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank.



Learning more about each other's business at the Holiday Mixer are Michael VanTassell, Primerica and Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood.



Here with Santa are (l to r) Norwalk Lions Club Member John Layton Jr, Craig Wicks and David Gallardo of Budget Car Sales & Rentals.



Getting their photo with Santa are Lucy Barcelos and Michael Van Tassell of Primerica.



California Conservation Corps Staff with Santa Claus. Pictured here are (l to r) Charlene L. Calac, Juan Mercado and Amelia Valencia.



Meeting up at the Holiday Mixer are Melissa Ramirez, Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College and Norwalk Chamber Intern Aubrey Spilsbury.



Board Member Gary Murphy of Norwalk Florist with Santa Claus.



Getting ready for photos are Santa Claus and his Elf.



Akash Sorathia and Beningo Sandoval of SELACO WDB with Santa Claus.



Board Member Yovani Flores, US Bank and her husband Jose pictured here with Santa and his Elf.



Alberto Ruiz of Assembly Member Lisa Calderon's office is sharing that he has been good this year with Santa.

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

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**PRESIDENT
JOSE RIOS**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY**

SPONSORS



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.

47 Years
PDQ Rentals
Dennis Turner
562-944-3206
www.pdqrentals.com

31 Years
Cerritos College
Toni Grijalva
562-860-2451 x 2798
grijalva@cerritos.edu

26 Years
PIH Health
Debra Legan
562-698-0811
https://www.pihhealth.org/

13 Years
St. Linus Catholic School
Greg Climaco
562-921-0336
www.linuslions.org

8 Years
Southern California Pizza
Ric Ochoa
562-868-3252
https://socialpizza.net

Rose Hills Memorial Park
Perla Garcia Plascencia
562-205-4633
www.rosehills.com

7 Years
Thinkers 4 Autism
Chante Wise
562-706-2128
https://thinkers4autism.org/

6 Years
State Farm Insurance
Valente Quintero
562-474-1818
www.valquintero.com

NEW MEMBERS

605 Kiwanas Club
President, Dora Sandoval
562-843-3055
Kiwanis605@gmail.com

CREATING CONNECTIONS HOLIDAY LUNCH

Our next networking event took place on Tuesday, December 21st at Outback Restaurant in Norwalk. This annual event was cancelled last year due to COVID-19 restrictions so we were happy that we were able to have it again this year. Having a holiday lunch, networking and supporting our member are all valuable aspects of this event. The group enjoyed complimentary appetizers provided by our host JJ Mastopietro of Outback Restaurant, then after lunch we had our always fun "steal the present" game. All who attended were able to enjoy a great lunch to get us all into the holiday spirit! Look for information on our next Creating Connections lunch in 2022 by visiting our Chamber calendar or follow us on social media.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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PLEASE NOTE:

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

Saturday, January 8th

City of Norwalk
Las Posadas
5pm to 9pm
Civic Center Lawn

Wednesday, January 19th

Board of Directors Meeting
9am via ZOOM

Tuesday, January 25th

Gateway Chambers Alliance
12noon via ZOOM

Wednesday, January 26th

Annual Homeless Count
Sign up online at
Theycountwillyou.org
To volunteer.

Thursday, January 27th

Coffee & Conversation
Norwalk & Santa Fe Springs Chambers
9am @ Chick-fil-A

Friday, January 28th

Ambassadors Business Visits
10am @ Chamber Office

Monday, February 14th

SELACO Job Fair
9am to 1pm
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex
Open to all.

Wednesday, February 23rd

Norwalk Education Alliance
Annual Mock Interviews

March 24th

7th Annual Spring Swing
9-Hole Golf Tournament
Don Knabe Golf Center



Networking at lunch are Lucy Rodas and Irma Macias.



Getting ready for a great networking event are (l to r) Chamber President Elect, Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Immediate Past President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Board Member Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Past Chamber President, Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College and Board Member Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club.



Showing off her "Golden Girls" gift is Toni Grijalva of Cerritos College.



Everyone at the Holiday Creating Connections holding up their gifts!



Mia Chung of Thompson and Associates shares the gift she has opened in the game.



Charlene Calac of CCC shares her fun back scratcher and toilet golf game.



Opening a gift in the "steal the present" game is President Elect Rich LeGaspi.



Sue Arthur shares the gift she has opened at the Creating Connections Luncheon.



Marilee Stefenhagen, Norwalk Soroptimist, shows off her new Yeti, but does she manage to go home with that gift as her gifts were being "stolen" during the game.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy New Year! Welcome to the 2022 year, which we all hope will be a year of great recovery and growth for our Norwalk Chamber Members. I want to thank our Event Committee and the Chair, Amanda Blanton, for the great job they did coordinating our Annual Holiday Mixer at Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant. I would also like to thank Jason Perez, owner of Mr. Rosewood for having our Chamber celebrate at his restaurant. It was great to see so many familiar and new faces at this holiday event. Thank you also to Art Sanchez of Sanchez Restaurant and Catering for attending the event as Santa Claus and taking photos with all of the guests.

I also want to thank JJ Mastopietro, managing partner of Outback Restaurant for welcoming our members for the Creating Connections luncheon on December 21st. We appreciate your hospitality!

Our Chamber members continue to support economic development here in Norwalk by participating in ribbon cuttings for new businesses. One of these was for Pick Up Stix, at the Norwalk Fitness Village. We were excited to welcome them to Norwalk along with the other businesses at that center. Additionally we attended a ground breaking at Coast Plaza Hospital and a Ribbon Cutting for the new Battery Electric Buses and Charging Station at the Norwalk Transportation Center.

Along with celebrating these successes, we look forward to what 2022 will bring to Norwalk. We are going to restart our business visits program at the end of January and will continue with our Coffee & Conversation networking events at Chick-fil-A. Join us on January 27th as we network with both the Norwalk and the Santa Fe Springs Chamber over coffee and conversation at 9am. If you are aware of a new business here in Norwalk that you would like to nominate as a Chamber member, reach out to our staff at the Chamber office so they can set up a visit to that business. You can email info@norwalkchamber.com or call 562-404-0909 to share the information. Our visitation team will schedule a visit and welcome that new business to the Norwalk community.

And lastly, save the date for our upcoming Annual 9-Hole Golf Tournament scheduled for March 24th at the Don Knabe Golf Center here in Norwalk. We are excited to be able to once again have this event in person and encourage you to bring your best golf team out to participate! Details for this event are available on our Norwalk Chamber website, under the calendar. Looking forward to a fresh start for all of our business community in 2022!

Respectfully,

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

CITY OF NORWALK REORGANIZATION

City of Norwalk held their reorganization meeting on Tuesday December 21st. at Norwalk City Hall. This meeting is to honor the outgoing Mayor and elect a new Mayor and Vice Mayor who will serve the City of Norwalk for the next year. After the business part of the City Council meeting, outgoing Mayor Jennifer Perez was recognized by her colleagues on the Norwalk City Council and by Council member from our neighboring cities. She was also recognized by many clubs and organizations here in Norwalk including the Chamber of Commerce with donations made in her name to the Norwalk Teen Alliance Program and the Norwalk Food Pantry. Once the recognition was complete, the city clerk held the elections for the next Mayor and Vice Mayor. Council Member Rick Rodriguez was elected as Mayor and Council Member Ana Valencia was elected as Vice Mayor. A dinner to celebrate both the term of Jennifer Perez as Mayor and the newly elected positions was held after the City Council meeting was adjourned. We congratulation Jennifer for all of her hard work over the last 18 months, and look forward to Mayor Ramirez and Vice Mayor Valencia and continued accomplishments for the City of Norwalk over the next year.



Presenting a donation to the Teen Alliance Program to outgoing Mayor Jennifer Perez are Norwalk Board Members and Ambassadors. Pictured here (l to r) are Ric Ochoa, Gordon Stefenhagen, Rich LeGaspi, Dora Sandoval, Executive Director Caren Spilsbury, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Sue Arthur, Amanda Blanton and Joe Derthick.

SU CASA - ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

Each year, Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence asks the community to show the holiday spirit and contribute to Su Casa's Holiday Gift program. This program is a way that the community can show their holiday spirit by donations for the holidays to the families who will be calling Su Casa their home for the holidays.

Each year, Su Casa provides domestic violence services, counseling, and shelter to over 200 victims and their families. Most come to Su Casa to escape a crisis situation and usually with only the clothes on their backs. It's at this time of the year, that we ask the community to assist these families as they begin to rebuild their lives. "We are still in COVID protocol in our shelters," stated Dean Lockwood, director of development and community outreach. "We are asking donors to go to our website and go to the Holiday Gift Drive page to donate gift cards, items from our Amazon Wish List, or make a cash donation."

"It is the hope that there are so many Shelter the Spirit donations that Su Casa can spread them across the entire year so that families who come to us in May feel the same spirit as those with us during the holidays," said executive director Anna Conti. "The look on a child's face when they receive an unexpected gift is heartwarming, whether it is in December or July."

Donations can be mailed to Su Casa's Walk In Resource Center located at 3750 E. Anaheim Street in Long Beach. Please call Su Casa for more details at 562-421-6537.

Visit our website at
norwalkchamber.com

MEMBER EVENTS

Greater Whittier YMCA held their 42nd Annual Christmas Prayer Breakfast on Friday, December 3rd at the Uptown Whittier Family YMCA. This inspirational breakfast included a welcome from President & CEO Curt Skotnicki, music by Theresa Nedry-Molinara and an invocation from Msgr. Tim Nichols of St. John Vianney Church. After a welcome from the City of Whittier, California State Senator Bob Archuleta shared a Mission Moment about youth development. Following Senator Archuleta the audience heard from Sieanna Rubio and David Ferlin about healthy living. The keynote address was given by Bill Shumard, President Emeritus Special Olympics Southern California. Bill spoke about his time as a sports coach and his time with the Special Olympics organization. At the end of the breakfast the Preschool children took to the stage and led the crowd in a rendition of "Jingle Bells." The Mission of the YMCA is to put Judeo-Christian values into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. If you would like to find out more information about this organization you can visit their website at www.ymcawhittier.org.



California Senator Bob Archuleta was a Mission Moment speaker at the 42nd Annual YMCA Christmas Prayer Breakfast. Pictured here with him are Dora Sandoval, Petra Pena, YMCA Board Member Regina Ayala, Gabriella Regalado and Toni Grijalva.



At the breakfast are (l to r) Toni Grijalva, Dora Sandoval, Gabriella Regalado Director of Social Services City of Norwalk and Petra Pena, Social Services Dept City of Norwalk.



Attending the Christmas Prayer Breakfast are Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez pictured with Toni Grijalva of Cerritos College.



Getting ready to hear inspiring words at the YMCA Christmas Prayer Breakfast are (l to r) Past President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College, VP Finance Karla Butler, Thompson & Association, Scott Smith, Communications Officer, ABCUSD, Ruby Duenas and Alberto Ruiz of Assembly Member Lisa Calderon's office, Board Member Dora Sandoval and Sandra Arana, Director Center for Career and Professional Development Whittier College.

RIBBON CUTTINGS AND GROUND BREAKINGS

December was a busy month for the Chamber with Ribbon Cuttings and Ground Breakings. We started with a ground breaking at Coast Plaza Hospital for the new Behavioral Health Care Center. This new center is going to be a much needed addition to the residents of Norwalk and the surrounding communities. Coast Plaza CEO Patrick Rafferty welcomed the attendees to the event and provided an overview of the work that has taken place and what will be needed to finish the center. Mayor Jennifer Perez was on hand to assist in the Ribbon Cutting and ceremonial breaking of the ground for the new center. Also in attendance were Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro and Norwalk Chamber President Jose Rios.

Then on Monday, December 13th, the City of Norwalk held a Ribbon Cutting for the new Battery Electric Buses and Charging Station at the Norwalk Transportation Center. Norwalk Transit System began operations originally in 1974 and it serves the of City of Norwalk and surrounding communities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, El Monte, South El Monte, La Mirada, La Habra, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles. Currently Norwalk Transit System operates a fleet of 34 buses, which include 21 CNG buses, 9 Gasoline/Electric Hybrid buses and four Battery Electric Buses. These four Battery Electric Buses will soon be placed into service in the current system. The Ribbon Cutting was held to celebrate the installation of bus charging stations in the transportation yard for these new buses. Speaking at the event were Mayor Jennifer Perez, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano and Executive Director of Regional Transportation, James C. Parker.

On Friday, December 17th, the City of Norwalk and the Norwalk Chamber welcomed Pick Up Stix to the Norwalk Fitness Village with a Ribbon Cutting event. The program began with Mayor Perez who welcomed everyone and shared some words about how important the business was to Norwalk. Then Steve Gratz, Senior Vice President of Pick Up Stix spoke on behalf of the restaurant. He introduced a number of key individuals for Pick Up Stix and how they came to open this store in Norwalk. Landlord representative Jim Auther also spoke about the process of bringing Pick Up Stix here to the Fitness Village. He was sure to remind everyone that there is still a restaurant space available next door to Pick Up Stix, if anyone might be interested in looking at that space. Certificates of congratulations were then presented to Steve Gratz of Pick up Stix by Fred Zermeno, representing State Senator Bob Archuleta, Dora Sandoval on behalf of Assembly Member Lisa Calderon and Rich LeGaspi on behalf of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez. After these presentations the Ribbon was officially cut and all who attended were treated to samples of different menu items.



Getting ready to cut the ribbon on the new Behavioral Health Care Center at Coast Plaza Hospital. Pictured here (l to r) to read: Kevin Akrey, Joseph Badalian, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, CEO Coast Plaza Patricy Rafferty, Joel Bergenfeld and Downapha Britton, COO, CNO Coast Plaza.



Getting ready for a tour of the new Behavioral Health Care Center are (l to r) to read Chamber President Jose Rios, Joel Bergenfeld, Corporate CEO, Dr. Jose Fierro, President Cerritos College, Joseph Badalian, COO Pipeline Health Systems, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Patrick Rafferty, CEO Coast Plaza and Reggie Berry, Goals for Life.



At the Ribbon Cutting for the new Battery Electric Buses & Charging Station are (l to r) Former Norwalk Mayor Bob Arthur, Mayor Jennifer Perez, Executive Director of Regional Transportation James C. Parker and US Congresswoman Grace Napolitano.



Attending the Ribbon Cutting for the Battery Electric Buses & Charging Station are Board Member Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club and Ambassador Lori Herrera, Norwalk Doubletree Hotel.



Attending the Ribbon Cutting for Pick Up Stix are (l to r) Norwalk Commissioner Michael Rosoff, Board Members Amanda Blanton, Dora Sandoval and Rich LeGaspi, Ambassador Joe Derthick and Joe Leyva of Horizon Pacific.



The new Battery Electric Buses on display.



Getting ready to cut the ribbon for the new Battery Electric Buses & Charging Station.



Presenting certificates of congratulations to Pick Up Stix for their Ribbon Cutting Event. Pictured here (l to r) Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Board President Elect Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Steve Gratz, Senior Vice President Pick UP Stix and Board Member Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club.



Fred Zermeno of State Senator Bob Archuleta presents a certificate of recognition to Steve Gratz, Senior Vice President. Also in this photo is Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez.



Vincent Morales, Assistant Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn presents a certificate of congratulations to Steve Gratz, Senior Vice President, also pictured with Mayor Jennifer Perez.



Cutting the Ribbon at the new Pick Up Stix at the Norwalk Fitness Village.



Enjoying the food at Pick Up Stix are (l to r) Mayor Jennifer Perez, Toni Grijalva, Sue Arthur, Rich Legaspi, Dora Sandoval, City Manager Jesus Gomez and Michael Rosoff.

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

Public Safety Services
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