

### RIBBON CUTTING AND GRAND OPENING AT LA JARA BREWERY

Norwalk Chamber welcomed a new business to the community at a Ribbon Cutting event for La Jara Brewing Co. La Jara is located at 13423 Excelsior Dr. in Norwalk and officially opened their doors to the public on April 30th. The brewery serves a number of different beers from recipes that have been developed over the years by master brewers Derek Johnstone and Jason Sullivan. This is a family run business and has been in the works for three years, before opening their doors to the Norwalk community. Attending the Ribbon Cutting were: Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez, Norwalk Council Member Margarita Rios, Santa Fe Springs Council Members Juanita Martin and John Mora, Cerritos College Trustee Zurich Lewis, La Mirada Council Member John Lewis, Bellflower Council Member Victor Sanchez, Norwalk La Mirada School Board Member Jose Rios, Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez, Santa Fe Spring City Manager Ray Cruz, Norwalk Deputy City Manager Richard Rojas, representatives from our many elected officials that serve the Norwalk community and members of both the Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs Chambers Board of Directors and Ambassadors. We look forward to the success of this local business here in Norwalk and be sure and visit them Wednesday through Friday, 3pm to 9pm and Saturday to Sunday, 12pm to 9pm.



Cutting the Ribbon at the new La Jara Brewing Co.



Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez presents a plaque to the new business welcoming them to Norwalk. Pictured here (l to r) Norwalk Chamber President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez, La Jara Brewing Co. Derek, Randy, Ligia Johnstone and Jason Sullivan, and Santa Fe Springs Board Chair Randall Courtney.



Fred Zermeno, representing State Senator Bob Archuleta, presents a grand opening certificate to the Johnstone family.



Presenting a certificate of congratulations to the Johnstone family is Alberto Ruiz, of 57th Assembly Member Lisa Calderon.



Vincent Morales, representing 4th District Supervisor Janice Hahn, presents a scroll to the La Jara Brewing Co. at the Grand Opening event.



Presenting a Ribbon Cutting Certificate and their new member plaque. Pictured here (l to r) Norwalk Chamber President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, La Jara Brewing Co. Derek, Randy, Ligia Johnstone and Jason Sullivan, Chamber President Elect Rich LeGaspi, TNT Realty and Randall Courtney, Chair of the SFS Chamber.



Pictured in front of the new La Jara Brewing Co. sign are (l to r) Board Members and Ambassadors Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club, Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center and Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance.



Aldo Arellano of LA County Assessor Jeffrey Prangs office attends the Ribbon Cutting and presents La Jara Brewing Co. with a certificate of congratulations.



At the La Jara Brewing Co. Ribbon Cutting are (l to r) Cerritos College Trustee Zurich Lewis, President Elect Norwalk Chamber, Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks and Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios.



Showing off the new La Jara Brewing Co. shirts!



Pictured here are all of our presenters of certificates with the La Jara Brewing Co. members.

Visit our website at [norwalkchamber.com](http://norwalkchamber.com)

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

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Enjoying the new brewery are (l to r) Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Natalie LeGaspi, Soroptimist Norwalk/SFS, Past President Norwalk Chamber Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank and Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios.

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

**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**

**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.

**59 Years**  
**Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Heating & HVAC**  
Don Skala  
562-868-7777  
<http://www.laplumber.com/>

**47 Years**  
**Southern California Edison**  
Adrian Garcia  
323-720-5223  
[www.sce.com/](http://www.sce.com/)

**39 Years**  
**Norwalk Town Square**  
Edie Trott  
818-710-6100  
[etrott@newmarkmerrill.com](mailto:etrott@newmarkmerrill.com)

**33 Years**  
**ABC Unified School District**  
Dr. Mary Sieu  
562-926-5566  
[www.abcusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.abcusd.k12.ca.us)

**23 Years**  
**El Taco Locco**  
Delia Castro  
562-929-0071

**21 Years**  
**Thompson & Associates**  
Mia Chung  
562-868-2231  
[mia@frontstreettax.com](mailto:mia@frontstreettax.com)

**7 Years**  
**Coast Plaza Eye Clinic/Good Eye**  
Dr. Lawrence T. Goodwin  
562-863-7000  
[jd@goodwineyes.com](mailto:jd@goodwineyes.com)

**4 Years**  
**Arturo Sanchez Senior Halloween Parade Foundation**  
Art Sanchez  
562-794-4628  
[sanchezcatering162@gmail.com](mailto:sanchezcatering162@gmail.com)

**Faith Electric**  
**Shawn Freeman**  
10861 Colima Rd.  
Whittier, CA 90640  
562-777-1353  
[faithelectric@yahoo.com](mailto:faithelectric@yahoo.com)

**La Jara Brewery**  
**Randy Johnstone**  
13423 Excelsior Dr.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
[www.lajarabrewing.com](http://www.lajarabrewing.com)

**Laulira Creations & Decorations**  
**Laura Lira**  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
562-219-8022  
[laulira22@gmail.com](mailto:laulira22@gmail.com)

**McDonalds - Sonshines Enterprises**  
12510 Norwalk Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
10841 Imperial Hwy.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
**Patricia Yoon**  
5930 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90035  
310-433-4569

**NEW MEMBERS**

**American Legion Post 359**  
**Commander Melissa R. Briscov**  
11986 Front St.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
562-474-1977  
<https://nalp359f.org/>

**CenterPoint Properties**  
**Ryan Kelleher**  
725 S. Figueroa St. Suite 3005  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
213-488-8700  
[www.centerpoint.com](http://www.centerpoint.com)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Friday, May 6th**

Bingo de Mayo  
7pm to 9pm

Hybrid Event: Diana's Restaurant & ZOOM

Bingo cards for Purchase

**Thursday, May 12th**

Helpline Youth Counseling  
Heroes of HYC

3pm @ Liberty Community Plaza

Tickets for Purchase

**Saturday, May 14th**

Annual Letter Carriers Food Drive

**Wednesday, May 18th**

Ribbon Cutting Event

Ambros Construction Inc. @ 10:30am

64th Assembly District

Candidates Forum

Norwalk City Council Chambers

6pm to 8pm

Doors open at 5:30pm

**Thursday, May 19th**

Children's Benefit Dinner

Community Family Guidance Center

5:30pm @ Sheraton Cerritos

Tickets for Purchase

**Saturday, June 4th**

Pray Norwalk

Norwalk City Hall

10am to 12:30pm

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Thursday, June 23rd**

99th Annual Installation &

Awards Luncheon

12noon @ NASC

**MEET THE MAYOR AT THE CIVIC CENTER FOOD COURT**

Wednesday, April 13th, Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez held a "Meet the Mayor" event at the Norwalk Civic Center Food Court. Residents and businesses were able to speak with the Mayor directly about questions or concerns that they had about different events or issues they had here in the community. Thank you to Taliza Coffee & Brunch and Pho Anvi Vietnamese restaurant for providing the refreshments for this event.



Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez at the Meet the Mayor event with the owners of Pho Anvi Vietnamese.



At the Meet the Mayor event are (l to r) Norha Osorio, Senior Citizens Commission Chair Esperanza Serrano, Chamber President Jose Rios and 605 Kiwanis President Dora Sandoval.



Norwalk Chamber Board President Jose Rios with City of Norwalk Staff Miguel Lucero and Dennis Kato.



Jade Jung of Taliza Coffee & Brunch pictured with Mayor Rick Ramirez.



Jasmin Ramas of Athens Services pictured with Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez at the Meet the Mayor event.

**2022 Golf Tournament Sponsors**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Norwalk Chamber members,

Our Chamber is growing and I want to introduce you to our newest Chamber Members. I am very excited to welcome Gallatin Dental Group, The Spot Barbershop & Beauty Salon, C & E Upholstery, Trinity Christian School, La Jara Brewery, American Legion Post 359, McDonalds – Sonshine Enterprises, Lailura Creations & Decorations, CenterPoint Properties and Faith Electric. I encourage you to visit these new members and welcome them to the Norwalk Chamber.

One of the most important things that the Chamber brings to you is the ability to network with like minded business owners that want to see our community thrive. Taking advantage of your Chamber membership by attending the networking events or Ribbon Cuttings can provide you with more connections and help to build your business. As we are moving into the endemic stage of COVID-19, you will begin to see more opportunities to connect. We want to hear from you about which type of events would be more beneficial to you in growing your network. Email [info@norwalkchamber.com](mailto:info@norwalkchamber.com) to let us know what you are looking for to help grow your business and increase your visibility in Norwalk. Is it morning workshops, coffee meet ups, luncheon networking or evening mixers that you feel would work better for your schedule. We are carefully reviewing our future events to make sure that our members are interested and able to attend!

Speaking of events, there are a number of them coming up in the next few months. Take a look at our calendar on page two to see what the Chamber and our members have coming up! You can join us at Diana's Restaurant tonight for our Bingo de Mayo, attend a Ribbon Cutting for Ambros Construction or support a nonprofit member at one of their events. There are many ways to get involved and make good use of your member connections. And if you are interested in hosting a workshop over breakfast, networking at lunch or an afterhour's mixer, reach out to Chamber staff at 562-404-0909 to set one of these up.

Respectfully,

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

## RIBBON CUTTING AT EL CORTEZ PRIME TACO RESTAURANT

Norwalk Chamber welcomed El Cortez Restaurant to the community with a Ribbon Cutting event on Tuesday, April 19th. This is a family owned business and an extension of the two meat markets that are already owned by the family. Attending this event were representatives from Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, State Senator Bob Archuleta, Assembly Member Cristina Garcia, Assembly Member Lisa Calderon and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn. After the presentation of certificates from the various representatives, the Norwalk Chamber welcomed the business with a ribbon cutting plaque. With music from a mariachi band and Chamber members and guests, the ribbon was officially cut for the new restaurant. We congratulate the Ruiz family on the opening of their new restaurant!



Cutting the Ribbon at El Cortez Restaurant are the Reyes Family (restaurant owners), friends and Norwalk Chamber Board Members and Ambassadors.



Jacob Wolak of Congresswoman Linda Sánchez presents a certificate of congratulations to the Reyes Family at the Ribbon Cutting of El Cortez Prime Tacos.



Fred Zermeno, representing State Senator Bob Archuleta congratulates the Reyes Family on the opening of the new restaurant.



Nadya Bahena of Assembly Member Cristina Garcia's office provides a certificate of recognition on the opening of the new restaurant to the Reyes family.



Enjoying the tacos at the Ribbon Cutting are (l to r) City of Norwalk Recreation & Park Services Recreation Coordinator Allison Franco, Jacob Wolak, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez and City of Norwalk Recreation & Park Services Recreation Coordinator Santino Lopez.



Alberto Ruiz of Assembly Member Lisa Calderon presents a congratulations certificate on the Ribbon Cutting to the Reyes family.



Uriel Reyes is sharing prime tacos with (l to r) Chamber Board Member Dora Sandoval, Board President Jose Rios and Alberto Ruiz, Communications Director for Assembly Member Lisa Calderon.



Vincent Morales, Assistant Field Deputy for LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn presenting a Ribbon Cutting Certificate to the Reyes Family.



Norwalk Chamber presents a Ribbon Cutting plaque. Pictured here (l to r) Immediate Past President, Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Giselle Reyes, Ruben Reyes, Nelida Reyes, Uriel Reyes, Ruben Reyes Jr. and Board President, Jose Rios, TNG Realty.

## Mental Stress Leave: Time with Employer Among Eligibility Factors

*During the past two years, we've had several employees claiming they are dealing with depression and anxiety/stress. Can they file for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for these claims?*

Although it isn't automatic, employees can file for leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and/or California Family Rights Act (CFRA) under certain circumstances.

### Medical Certification

Not all claims of mental stress are eligible for these leaves, but if a doctor examines the individual and completes and signs a medical certification that the individual is incapacitated by mental stress, the employee may be eligible for the leave. Indeed, FMLA (mirrored in this respect by CFRA) states that "a serious health condition entitling an employee to FMLA leave means an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care... or continuing treatment by a health care provider..." The

COVID-19-related pandemic has exacerbated claims of people suffering feelings of uncertainty, anxiety, irritation, anger, and denial. It is not uncommon to lack motivation, have trouble sleeping or concentrating and to feel tired, overwhelmed, burned out, sad, and even depressed. Consequently, these requests for time off are escalating.

### Short-Term Employees

Calls to the CalChamber Labor Law Helpline in recent months more often than not involve situations with very short-term employees. Therefore, remember that to qualify for both of these leaves, employees have to have worked for the employer for a year or more, and to have worked at least 1,250 hours in the immediately preceding year. Accordingly, these short-term employees will not be entitled to either leave. FMLA covers employers with 50 or more employees within 75 miles, but CFRA covers employers with five or more employees, so the employee count may be an easy requirement to satisfy.

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Norwalk Chamber held a Coffee & Conversation event on Thursday, April 28th at Chick-fil-A Norwalk. These networking coffee events are designed to bring together members of the business community to meet up and discuss items of interest to the business community. Visit our Norwalk Chamber website and click on the event calendar to see other upcoming events.



Attending Coffee & Conversation are (l to r) Patty Contreras, The Sterling Financial Group, Dora Sandoval, Kiwanis 605 and Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College.



Enjoying the conversation over coffee are Ambassador Joe Derthick and Board Member Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance.



New Member Bertha Chavez of Ambros Construction Inc. networking with Ambassador Sue Arthur.



Norwalk Chamber President Jose Rios, TNG Realty meeting Aly of PopUpsRazzi.



Welcoming new member Commander Melissa Braicov of the American Legion with a thank you gift are (l to r) President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Board Member Farid Khansarinia, owner Chick-fil-A Norwalk and Heather Ramirez, Marketing Director Chick-fil-A Norwalk.



Welcoming new member Bertha Chavez of Ambros Construction, Inc. with a thank you gift are (l to r) President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Board Member Farid Khansarinia, owner Chick-fil-A Norwalk and Heather Ramirez, Marketing Director Chick-fil-A Norwalk.



Networking over coffee are (l to r) Ambassador Chante Smith, Thinkers 4 Autism, guest Al Archuleta and Board Member Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant.



Building their connections are Board Members Patty Contreras, Dora Sandoval, Past Presidents Toni Grijalva, Joe Derthick, Board Member Lucy Rodas, Beatriz Cornejo and member Commander Melissa Braicov.

## MEETING THE MEMBERS

Norwalk Chamber Board Members and Ambassadors have begun to visit our members again in person, as the COVID protocols have relaxed and allowed for in person connections. As we make our way around the community to meet our new members in person and introduce ourselves to the current members, we bring them their membership plaques and information about their member benefits. Whether you are a new member or a 40 year member, we want to connect with you. If you have any changes in staff or updates about the business, please let us know so that we can promote your business in the Norwalk community. Our Board and Ambassadors recently visited with our new member, Samuel Aguilar of Spot Barber and Beauty Salon. We were able to see the facilities and start planning our Ribbon Cutting to welcome them to the Norwalk Chamber. If you would like to have our Ambassadors plan a visit to your business, just reach out to [info@norwalkchamber.com](mailto:info@norwalkchamber.com) to schedule this.



Presenting their new member plaque to Spot Barber & Beauty Salon. Pictured here (l to r) Past Chamber President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank. Board Member Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Lions Club, Ambassador Lori Herrera, Doubletree Hotel, Samuel Aguilar, owner, Board Finance VP Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates, and Ambassador Joe Derthick, AFLAC.

### 64th State Assembly District Candidate Forum

Wednesday, May 18, 2022  
6pm-8pm  
(Doors open at 5:30pm)



**Meet the Candidates:**  
 Elizabeth Alcantar (D) - Cudahy, CA  
 Robert "Rob" Cancio (D) - Norwalk, CA  
 Rose Espinosa (D) - La Habra, CA  
 Raul Ortiz, Jr. (R) - La Mirada, CA  
 Blanca Pacheco (D) - Downey, CA  
 Ana M. Valencia (D) - Norwalk, CA

**Location:**  
 Norwalk City Hall  
 12700 Norwalk Blvd.  
 Norwalk, 90650  
 Parking is located behind City Hall off of Manuel Salinas Ave.

**Be Informed. All are welcome!**




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