

### NORWALK CHAMBER ANNUAL BUSINESS EXPO

The Norwalk Chamber held our Annual Business Expo on Wednesday, August 17th in conjunction with the last of the summer concerts at the City Hall Lawn. Our members were able to meet many different residents and other business and community leaders at this annual event. Out on the City Hall lawn were representatives from Congresswoman Linda Sánchez and from Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prangs office. We had the Norwalk La Mirada USD booth, Cerritos College, Trinity Christian School and LuTEC High School (a new high school here in Norwalk). Our business booths included Golf n' Stuff, Rose Hills Memorial Park, and Casa Artesenal. Representing the non-profit community were Soroptimist International SFS/Norwalk, Su Casa Ending Domestic Violence, SELACO Workforce Development Board, and 605 Kiwanis. Having an in-person expo again was such a great opportunity for both the business and residential community! Our event could not have been possible without the support of our Sponsors and the hard work done by our Event Committee during the planning process. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors:

PRESENTING SPONSOR Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, District 4

PLATINUM SPONSOR Primestor Development, Inc., Claudia Cardenas

GOLD SPONSORS: Alba Professional Services/H & R Block, John Alba  
Chick-fil-A Norwalk, Farid Khansarina  
Golden State Water, Albert Rivera  
Nationwide Environmental, Ani Kaprielian  
U.S. Bank, Yovani Flores  
Water Replenishment District, Vera Robles DeWitt  
YMCA of Greater Whittier, Curt Skotnicki

SILVER SPONSORS: City of Norwalk, Councilmember Margarita Rios  
Gordon Stefenhagen

We also recognize the Event Committee members that worked diligently on creating a successful Expo for both our businesses and our residents here in Norwalk. Thank you to Chair Amanda Blanton, and members Irma Macias, Sue Arthur, Gary Murphy, Dora Sandoval, Ric Ochoa, Joe Derthick, and Yovani Flores. While the next Business Expo is a year away, we encourage you to visit our website at [www.norwalkchamber.com](http://www.norwalkchamber.com) to find out about other upcoming events in the community. And special thanks to the City of Norwalk Recreation and Parks Services Department, led by Rosie Lozoya, for their ongoing partnership in our Annual Expo.



Getting ready for the Business Expo are Event Committee members: Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Amanda Blanton (Chair), Farmers & Merchants Bank, Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis and Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates.



Meeting up at the Norwalk Chamber Business Expo are (l to r) Darlene Puente, LuTEC High School, Ambassador Sue Arthur, Todd Moritz, Director, LuTEC High School and Norwalk City Council Member Jennifer Perez.



Enjoying the Business Expo and Summer Concert are (l to r) Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios, Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez and Chamber Board President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks.



At the Business Expo representing Cerritos College are Toni Grijalva, Community Outreach Coordinator and Zurich Lewis, Cerritos College Board of Trustees.



Norwalk Chamber Board Member and Gold Sponsor John Alba of H & R Block with Elizabeth Moreno.



Platinum Sponsor Primestor Development Inc. at the business expo. Pictured here (l to r) Claudia, Cardenas, Matt Owens, Norah Garboa and Shajira Hope.



Gold Sponsor Chick-fil-A Norwalk at the Chamber Business Expo. Pictured here are Vecente Morales and Heather Ramirez, Marketing Director.



Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez is with Norwalk La Mirada USD at the Business Expo! Pictured here also are Anthony Cobbs Work Based Learning Coordinator and Joanne Jung, Ed.D. Director, College and Career Pathways



Gold Sponsor YMCA of Greater Whittier attending the Norwalk Chamber Business Expo. Pictured here are (l to r) Luis Diaz, Juan Aceves, Amanda Kasimoff and Soretta Walker.



Water Replenishment District is a Gold Sponsor at the annual Business Expo. Pictured here are Angie Mancillas and Ally Hernandez.



Levina Rivera of Belly Dancing by Isis, getting ready to perform at the last summer concert on the City Hall Lawn.



U. S. Bank Gold Sponsor Yovani Flores at the Norwalk Chamber Business Expo.

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

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SEPTEMBER 2022

**Paint the Town Pink Kickoff**  
Coffee & Conversation

Friday, September 30th, 2022  
@ 10am

Starbucks Coffee  
11790 Firestone Blvd.  
Norwalk CA 90650

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

**Norwalk Chamber of Commerce**

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**Facebook:**

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

**PRESIDENT**

**RICH LEGASPI**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**EDITOR, NCBC**

**CAREN SPILSBURY**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Friday, September 9th**

Front Street Friday Night  
5pm-9pm @ Historic Front Street

**Saturday, September 17th**

Relay for Life, Norwalk, Bellflower,  
Downey & Paramount, Quad Cities  
@ Paramount Park

**Monday, September 19th**

Community Forum  
6pm @ The Barn

**Saturday, September 24th**

Ribbon Cutting  
10am @ LuTec High School

**Monday, September 26th**

Community Family Guidance Center  
Annual Golf Tournament

**Wednesday, September 28th**

After Hours Networking Mixer  
5pm to 7pm @ Outback Restaurant

**Friday, October 7th**

7th Annual Fall Festival  
5:30pm to 10pm @ So Cal Pizza

**Wednesday, October 12th**

Multi Chamber Mixer  
Rose Hills Memorial Park

**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.

**36 Years**

**Liberty Utilities**  
Brett Ommen  
562-926-7317  
[www.libertyutilities.com](http://www.libertyutilities.com)

**33 Years**

**TNT Fireworks**  
Rich LeGaspi  
800-585-9487  
[legaspi@tntfireworks.com](mailto:legaspi@tntfireworks.com)

**29 Years**

**Atkinson, Andelson, Loyo, Ruud and Romo**  
James Romo  
562-653-3200  
[www.aalr.com](http://www.aalr.com)

**23 Years**

**Norwalk Printing & Graphics**  
Steven Ives  
562-864-3216  
[norwalk.ive@verizon.net](mailto:norwalk.ive@verizon.net)

**12 Years**

**Swift Cargo Inc.**  
JB  
562-926-0509  
<https://www.swiftcargo.com/>

**9 Years**

**North Walk Villa Convalescent Home**  
Christian Urbina  
562-921-6624  
[www.lcca.com](http://www.lcca.com)

**3 Years**

**On The Mark Indoor Digital Network**  
Neil Hirsch  
562-386-2205  
[www.onthemarkad.com](http://www.onthemarkad.com)

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Besteas Boba**

**Sophia Chang**  
13041 Rosecrans Ave.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
562-219-7040  
[www.besteasbobashop.com](http://www.besteasbobashop.com)

**Casa Artesanal**

**Gabby Valenzuela**  
12031 Firestone Boulevard  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
562-991-2880  
[gabbyvalenzuela19@gmail.com](mailto:gabbyvalenzuela19@gmail.com)

**LuTec High School**

**Todd Moritz**  
11943 Rosecrans Ave.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
562-204-6538  
[www.LuTEC.org](http://www.LuTEC.org)

**Mitch Clemmons Plumbing**

**Charlene Clemmons**  
16127 Whittier Blvd. Suite A  
Whittier, CA 90603  
562-242-3218  
[www.mitchclemmonsplumbing.com](http://www.mitchclemmonsplumbing.com)

**COVID CORNER**

**Standards Board Moving to Adopt Non-Emergency COVID Regulation**

*I hear that the Cal/OSHA Standards Board will be presenting for public comment and future adoption a final version of the Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) regarding the hazards related to COVID-19 on September 15, 2022. How are these new requirements going to affect my operations?*

Unless the Standards Board adopts into Title 8 a regulation addressing COVID-19, all requirements contained in the ETS will fade into the twilight on December 31, 2022. After three iterations of the ETS, the emergency regulation process is no longer a viable option. The regulation must be formally adopted into Title 8. On November 19, 2020 the Standards Board adopted sections 3205 and 3205.1- 3205.4 of Title 8, the ETS, which went into effect on November 30, 2020. What is being presented for discussion and comment next month is a massive rewrite of sections 3205 through 3205.3. Section 3205.4 has been incorporated into the other sections where appropriate. To quote from the Standards Board memo: "The Board is proposing new sections 3205 through 3205.3 to provide clear and specific requirements to employers so that they may better protect employees from the harmful effects of COVID-19; avoid a potential increase in COVID-19- related fatalities, serious illnesses, and long-term disabilities; and reduce related financial costs to employees, employers, insurers, public benefit programs, and taxpayers. The proposed regulations will mitigate costs associated with COVID-19-related company shutdowns, employee absences, hospitalizations, death, responding to agency investigations, increased workers' compensation insurance rates, personnel replacement expenses, and lost production."

**Brief Summary**

The following is a brief summary of some of the revisions:

- The regulation will not be permanent as there is a two-year sunset provision. (This is based on the premise that COVID-19 is now endemic.)
- Exclusion pay is gone as related to COVID-19.
- The testing and notification after exposure remains in the requirements.
- Records will be maintained for three years.
- The proposed regulation will employee where no contact occurs; employees working from home; and employees teleworking from a location of the employee's choice, which is not under the control of the employer.

**Visit Website to Review**

This is just a small portion of the proposed revisions. I would highly recommend a visit to the Standards Board website to compare the proposal with the repealed ETS. The comparison draft can be found at [www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/documents/COVID-19-Prevention-Non-Emergency-txtcourtesy.pdf](http://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/documents/COVID-19-Prevention-Non-Emergency-txtcourtesy.pdf). There are 30-plus pages, a large percentage being deleted regulations. Many of the proposals are the existing ETS regulations, some with additional amendments that are being incorporated into the proposed new regulation. Some changes, such as the definition of "close contact," are the result of California Department of Public Health rewrites.

SPECIAL OKTOBERFEST BEER TASTINGS, APPETIZERS, GAMES, FUN, FUN, FUN AND MORE INCLUDED

INCLUDES SPECIAL OKTOBERFEST COLLECTORS GLASS

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Norwalk Chamber members,

I want to thank all of our sponsors for our Business Expo on August 17th. It was great to be out in person again meeting the businesses and residents face to face, while enjoying the summer concert. I was able to visit each of our booths and meet all of the participants that night and our Chamber really appreciates all of the support we received from our members who attended, volunteered or had a booth at the event. I also want to thank the Event Committee for putting in the hard work to make the Expo successful.

We just had our second Front Street Friday Night and it was a great event put on by the City of Norwalk, Recreation and Park Services Department. Rosie and her team really did an outstanding job bringing the many different pieces of this puzzle together! Our member Chick-fil-A, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, So-Cal Pizza and 605 Kiwanis all came out to have food booths for the event, while others volunteered at the Chamber Booth with our popular prize wheel. Thanks to all who helped promote and attend the event.

Our Ambassador Team has restarted the business visit program and they were able to see a number of our members this month and connect with them personally. These "surprise" visits always create good conversations and connections with our members and I really appreciate our Ambassadors spending time supporting this program.

The Chamber is looking forward to our upcoming events for September and October. We hope to see you at our After Hours Mixer on September 28th or at our 7th Annual Fall Festival on October 7th. Be sure and check out our Chamber calendar on our website for upcoming opportunities to get out and meet up with other business and community leaders at the Chamber function.

Respectfully,

**Rich LeGaspi**  
2022-2023 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
TNT Fireworks

## ANNUAL STATE OF THE NATION LUNCHEON

Norwalk Chamber and our partner Chambers hosted our Annual State of the Nation Luncheon featured Congresswoman Linda Sánchez on Friday, August 19th at the Doubletree Hotel in Norwalk. Scott Smith, Communications Officer for ABC Unified School District served as the MC for this annual event. John Allen, President of the Board for the Water Replenishment District introduced the Congresswoman, as the presenting Sponsor for the event. The Congresswoman shared information on recent legislature that was signed into law by the President, and also additional information on infrastructure, projects in her District that have been funded, immigration, helping our Veterans while they are serving overseas and the importance of safe communities. She also stated that this had been the most productive session for Congress in the history of our country. The Inflation Reduction Act was a victory for working class families and seniors stated the Congresswoman. It addresses climate change along with capping out of pocket Medicare costs for prescription drugs. She shared that the bill will be fully paid for by multinational corporations and billionaires who do not pay their fair share of taxes. Next the Congresswoman discussed the effect of the War in Ukraine on the cost of fuel here in the United States. The President released millions of barrels of oil from the strategic petroleum reserve to help with the shortage and to bring prices down for consumers. The Congresswoman has also been working with her colleagues to address the issues of supply chains by making investments in infrastructure. They have also been discussing the need to invest in manufacturing in the United States. One step in that direction was the recent "CHIPS" Act that was recently passed. Another bipartisan bill that was passed was the Infrastructure bill, which created the largest long-term investment in infrastructure in nearly a century here in America. Funds will be coming to California for local, county and state agencies to put into road repairs, bridge upgrades and notably the Whittier Narrows Dam. This has been the number one priority project for the Army Corp of Engineers and they were able to secure funding to finish the restoration of the Dam. If the Dam were to fail, all of the land below the Dam would potentially be under ten feet of water. She shared that flooding is the worst possible national disaster that can happen in California, not earthquakes or fires, so finishing the work on the Dam was a high priority. Next the Congresswoman spoke about the current labor shortage and the challenges for businesses to find and retain workers. Part of the solution to this is immigration reform. The need for workers is great and that the current birth rate in America is lower than the worker replacement rate. Our country will need immigrants to be able to sustain our workforce says Congresswoman Sánchez, which is why she introduce the US Citizenship Act in Congress in 2021.

Congresswoman Sánchez expressed that safe communities were one of her top priorities and she has been meeting with local law enforcement to work on common sense legislation on gun reform. She has also been involved with legislation that will help our military personal with credit score issues while serving our country overseas. She briefly touched on the COVID-19 endemic and the new monkey pox crisis, while in closing shared that all can reach out to her office for help with any federal issues including the IRS, Medicare and VA benefits.

We thank the Congresswoman for attending and speaking at our Annual State of the Nation Luncheon. We appreciate the work that she has done and continues to do for the residents and businesses of the 38th Congressional District. We also thank our Sponsors for supporting this very important event.

Our Presenting Sponsor, Water Replenishment District of Southern California, Platinum Sponsors: California Water Service, PIH Health, Global IT Communications and Ride Yellow, and our Silver Sponsor Kaiser Permanent. Without your support this event would not have been possible. And lastly our Chamber partners: Cerritos Regional Chamber, Greater Lakewood Chamber, Montebello Chamber, Pico Rivera Chamber, Santa Fe Springs Chamber the Whittier Area Chamber who help make this last luncheon with the current chamber group possible.



Pictured with Congresswoman Linda Sánchez at the State of the Nation Luncheon are (l to r) Catherine Lu and Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College, Ambassador Joe Derthick, Board Member Tracy Polley, Kelco Sales, Board President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Congresswoman Sánchez, Board Member Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis, Past President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios and Dr. Jose Fierro, President Cerritos College.



At the State of the Nation Luncheon are Little Lake City School Board Clerk Gina Ramirez, Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez, Lorenzo Mendoza, Armando Gonzalez and Mike Vasquez of Liberty Utilities.



Liberty Utilities attending the State of the Nation Luncheon. Pictured here (r to l) are Frank Heldman, Gabriel Gomez, Matt Contreras, and Jonathan Garcia.



Congresswoman Sánchez is pictured with our MC, Scott Smith, Communications Officer for ABC USD.



WRD Team at the State of the Nation Luncheon. Pictured here are (l to r) Stephen Tucker, Stephanie Cuevas, Ally Hernandez, Director Vera Robles-Dewitt and Angelina Mancillas.



Sitting with Congresswoman Linda Sánchez are (l to r) Shane Hardy, WRD, Chief of Staff Griselda Ortiz, Water Replenishment District Board Member Joy Langford and Water Replenishment District President John Allen.



Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios and NLMUSD School Board Member Jose Rios with Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.



Listening to the Congresswoman at the State of the Nation Luncheon. In this photo are Dr. Robert Cancio, NLMUSD Board Member, Catherine Wu and Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College, Ali Taj, Artesia City Council Member, Dr. Jose Fierro, President Cerritos College and Andrea Wittig, Cerritos College.



Attending the State of the Nation Luncheon are (l to r) Debbie Wade, SFS Board Member, Board Member Dora Sandoval, Santa Fe Springs City Council Member Juanita Martin, Board President Rich LeGaspi, Ambassador Joe Derthick, Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios, Board Members Tracy Polley and Jose Rios and Ambassador Lori Herrera.

## MEMBER EVENTS & RIBBON CUTTINGS

### COFFEE & CONVERSATION AT CHICK-FIL-A NORWALK

Norwalk Chamber held our bi monthly Coffee & Conversation at Chick-fil-A in the new Norwalk Fitness Village on August 25th. Attendees were able to meet current and new Chamber members along with other community members to find out more about their businesses and activities in the community. Thank you to our host Farid Khansarinia and marketing director Heather Ramirez for welcoming our members to the restaurant and for donating a door prize! Special thanks to Community Development Director John Ramirez for attending and answering questions from the group about the new developments coming into Norwalk. President Rich LeGaspi shared with all that the Chamber is here to help grow the business community and build relationships with our businesses. Our next Coffee & Conversation will be Thursday, October 27th at Chick-fil-A Norwalk at 9am. Come enjoy complimentary coffee and conversation. Visit our website at [www.norwalkchamber.com](http://www.norwalkchamber.com) and click on our event calendar for additional opportunities to network in Norwalk.



Networking over coffee at our Coffee & Conversation at Chick-fil-A are (l to r) Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Maria Mendez, Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence, Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis and Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College.



President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks with our door prize winners at Coffee & Conversation. (l to r) Todd Moritz, LuTEC High School, Zurich Lewis, Cerritos College Board of Trustees and Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis.

### BESTEAS BOBA RIBBON CUTTING

Norwalk Chamber welcomed new member Besteas Boba with a Ribbon Cutting event on Saturday, August 20th at 11am. This new restaurant held their Grand Opening with giveaways of 200 BTS Posters, free cups and bags to the first 50 visitors, a raffle for \$100 in Amazon gift cards and more. Sophia Chang, her son Young Seo and his best friend David Shin are the new owners of this store which is located at 13041 Rosecrans Ave, #204 in Norwalk. At the grand opening the line to get in was full of young residents who wanted to taste the new Boba drinks and hoped to get one of the BTS posters! The owners have great plans for the Norwalk location and down the road hope to be able to create franchise opportunities for Besteas Boba. You can visit their website at [www.besteasbobashop.com](http://www.besteasbobashop.com) or follow them on Facebook and Instagram at @besteasboba. Be sure and stop by to try out their amazing drinks.



Celebrating the opening of Besteas Boba are (l to r) Ambassador Joe Derthick, Norwalk Public Safety Commissioner Michael Rosoff, Board Member Dora Sandoval, Natalie LeGaspi, SI Norwalk/SFS, Board President Rich LeGaspi, Young Seo, David Shin, and Sophia Chang, business owners, Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez and Board Member Lucy Rodas.



Getting ready to cut the Ribbon to officially open Besteas Boba.



Presenting certificates to the owners of Besteas Boba are (l to r) David Shin, Board President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Board Member Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, Sophia Chang and Young Seo, Owners, and Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez.



Norwalk Chamber members with David Shin and Sophia Chang of Besteas Boba.



Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez pictured with business owner Sophia Chang.

### NOWALK COMMUNITY HOSPITAL WELCOMES NEW HEAD OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Norwalk Community Hospital welcomed a new head of emergency services at a dinner at the Doubletree Hotel on August 23rd. This position has been filled by Dr. Jim Seraj who has also served as an attending physician at Alhambra Hospital Medical Center and as the President of Poliso Medical, located in Irvine, CA. Dr. Seraj was educated at the University of Southern California, Harvard Medical School and Memorial University of Newfoundland. Attending the dinner were the many doctors that admit patients to Norwalk Community Hospital, Hospital Administrator Shana Crittenden, the CEO of Alta Hospitals, Hector Hernandez along with nursing and other support staff of the hospital. Dr. Seraj was provided feedback by the attendees on how to continue the positive communications with all doctors and what potential changes could be made to create a better experience for clients. CEO Hector Hernandez shared that the hospital has been ranked five stars in the areas of treatments of heart attacks, treatment of pneumonia, and a five-star Excellence Award in Patient Safety by Healthgrades. Visit their website at <https://www.lach-norwalk.com/> to find out more information about the services at Norwalk Community Hospital.



Board President Rich LeGaspi with Dr. Jim Seraj, Medical Director Emergency Department and Shana Crittenden, Administrator Norwalk Community Hospital.



Norwalk Community Hospital Administrator Shana Crittenden with Dr. Jim Seraj, Medical Director Emergency Department, Hector Hernandez, CEO Alta Hospitals (Norwalk, LA, Bellflower) and Keith Levy, Administrator LA Community Hospital.

### SU CASA – ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Maria Mendez of Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence

Maria Mendez Joins Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence Staff

Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence has selected Maria Mendez to join the nonprofit agency in the position of Outreach manager. Ms Mendez' role will be to lead the efforts to increase awareness of Su Casa's domestic violence services in the community and provide prevention education. "Maria will be focusing on outreach to the communities we serve," stated Dean Lockwood, Director of Development & Community Engagement. "She will increase our

presence in the community and implement programs directed toward teens."

Mendez will also bring her skills to increasing the reach of Su Casa's social media reach. One of the goals is to provide prevention and education to the social media channels on a regular basis.

Mendez received her Bachelor's of Science in Public Health from the University of California, San Diego where she was involved in the leadership of a number of volunteer community service projects. She brings international experience with community health background. Not only did she serve with projects in different regions in Southern California, but also to villages in Thailand and Honduras. She is very passionate about health and promoting holistic wellness to all.

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

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St. Lic. #271767

## NORWALK/LA MIRADA

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