www.norwalkchamber.com

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FALL FESTIVAL AT SO CAL PIZZA

On Friday, October 13th, the Norwalk Chamber once again held their Annual Fall Festival event at So-Cal Pizza. Both veteran and novice members and guests attended this fun filled evening. The night included a great buffet and drinks provided by So Cal Pizza owner Ric Ochoa and his staff. Guests also went home with a souvenir glass that had the Norwalk Chambers 100th Anniversary Logo on it. Attendees participated in many different fun games including our infamous Yodeling Competition, which was won this year by our very own Essen Menjivar of Kustom Made Graphics. Taking second place was Marilee Stefenhagen of the Norwalk Soroptimist Club. Other game winners this year were Damon Graham (1st) and Jacob Hughes (2nd) for the men's stein holding competition and Liz Fajardo (1st) and Caitlin Roberto (2nd) for the women's competition. Additional game winners included Victor Medina, Ely Fajardo, Eric Rodas and Jason Perez. All who attended had a great time and we look forward to our next Fall Festival in 2024!

Special thanks go out to our Event Sponsors. Without their support this event would not have been such a success. Thank you to Athens Services, US Bank, IBE Digital and City of Norwalk City Council members. Thank you also to our Event Committee for all of their hard work: Chair Amanda Blanton, Irma Macias, Gary Murphy, Sue Arthur, Ric Ochoa, Yovani Flores, Jose Rios, Dora Sandova, and Rich LeGaspi. We also thank our DJ, Board Member Jose Rios, for providing the entertainment for the evening.



Getting ready for our guests to arrive at Fall Festival are (I to r) Volunteer Melissa Ramirez, Board Member Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, **Board Member & DJ Jose Rios, TNG** Realty, Inc., Board Members Danika Mendoza, IBE Digital, Yovani Flores, **US Bank, Amanda Blanton, Farmers** & Merchants Bank and Ric Ochoa, So Cal Pizza.



Winners of the Yodeling Contest pictured with Event Committee Chair Amanda Blanton are Marilee Stefenhagen and Essen Meniivar.



At the Fall Festival are Norwalk City **Council Members Jennifer Perez** and Rick Ramirez, pictured with **Chamber Board Member and So Cal** Pizza owner Ric Ochoa.



Enjoying the Fall Festival are Desiree Hernandez, Steve Loredo and Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios.

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650



Attending the Fall Festival at So Cal Pizza are (I to r) Norwalk City Council Member Jennifer Perez, Mayor Ana Valencia, Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, and So Cal Pizza owner Ric Ochoa.



Pictured here with Board Member Amanda Blanton are the winners of the Men's Stein Holding competition, Jacob Hughes and Damon Graham.



Getting ready to play "Move the Cups" are (I to r) Caitlin Roberto, Denise Urtiaga, Essen Menjivar and **Christine Roberto.**



And the winners of Moving the Cups accept their awards from **Event Chair Amanda Blanton.**

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Participating in the Stein Holding The ladies take a turn in the Stein competition are (I to r) Victor Holding competition. Pictured here Medina, Jacob Hughes, Damon are Caitlin Roberto, Ashley Brown, Graham, Erik Rodas, Eli Fajardo, Vicky Sanchez, Marivel Sanchez, Gary Murphy, Chubbs Pena and Rosalba Sanchez, Sara Sanchez and Essen Menjivar.



Winners of the Women's Stein Holding Competition are Caitlin Roberto and Liz Fajardo with Event Chair Amanda Blanton.



Next team for the "Move the Cups" competition are (I to r) Roxy Medina, Victor Medina, Lori Williams and Marilee Stefenhagen.



The finale of the Moving the Cups Game takes place! In this photo are (I to r) Victor Medina, Ely Fajardo, **Board Members Jason Perez and** Amanda Blanton, and Erik Rodas.



Liz Fajardo.



Ring Toss winners Eli Fajardo and **Chubbs Pena with Amanda Blanton** showing off their prizes.



State Farm Insurance Team goes for the win in moving the cups. Pictured here are (I to r) Ashley Brown, State Farm Insurance members, Araceli, Owner Lucy Rodas and Erik Rodas.



Another group having competing in the games. Pictured here (I to r) are Gaile Kuhns, Chubbs Pena, Ely and Liz Fajardo.

MEET THE MAYOR

Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia held a "Meet the Mayor" event at Tamaleman House Restaurant, located at 12547 Alondra Blvd. in the Stater Bros Complex on Thursday, October 12th. Attendees were treated to a variety of tamales from the restaurant along with other refreshments. Many community members attended so that they could ask questions and/or share concerns with the Mayor and City Staff. Also on hand was Vice Mayor Margarita Rios. Visit City of Norwalk Social Media pages for information on upcoming events and to see where the next "Meet the Mayor" event will be held. Get connected with your community, get information and visit a local small business all in one event!



Meeting Mayor Ana Valencia are Vickie Jo Aguirre and her daughter.



At the Meet the Mayor at Tamaleman House Restaurant are (I to r) NLMUSD School **Board Vice President Jose Rios, Chamber** Ambassador Denise Urtiaga, Kustom Made Graphics, Mayor Ana Valencia, Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and Ambassador Essen Menjivar, Kustom Made Graphics.

NOVEMBER 2023

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

Monday, November 6th

Website Development Workshop Norwalk Chamber Office English Version - 6pm to 8pm

Wednesday, November 8th

Website Development Workshop Norwalk Chamber Office Spanish Version - 6pm to 8pm

Thursday, November 9th

Website Development Workshop ZOOM English - 6pm to 8pm

Monday, November 13th

Paint the Town Pink Wrap Up Event Starbucks Coffee @ 10am 11790 Firestone Blvd.

FB, IG, Google Ads Workshop Norwalk Chamber Office English Version - 6pm to 8pm

Wednesday, November 15th

Board of Directors Norwalk Chamber Office @ 9am

FB, IG, Google Ads Workshop Norwalk Chamber Office Spanish Version - 6pm to 8pm

Thursday, November 16th

Multi Chamber Mixer Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant 4:30pm to 6pm

Saturday, November 25th

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

Wednesday, December 6th

Annual Holiday Mixer Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex 5pm to 7pm

Tuesday, December 19th

Creating Connections Luncheon Outback Restaurant @ 12 noon

<u>SPONSORS</u>



















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.

34 Years **Norwalk Family Optometry**

Dr. John Larcabal 12138 Firestone Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90650 562-868-8233

26 Years Friends of the Norwalk Library

President 12350 Imperial Hwy. Norwalk, CA 90650 562-868-0775

16 Years **Water Replenishment District**

Angie Mancillas 4040 Paramount Blvd. Lakewood, CA 90712 562-275-4233 amancillas@wrd.org

10 Years

Rose Hills Memorial Park 3888 Workman Mill Rd. Whittier, CA 90601 562-205-4656

9 Years **Kustom Made Graphics**

Essen Menjivar 626-348-4060 info@kmghd.com

NEW MEMBERS

Brows Design Studio Sita & Daniel Timsina 11719 Petticoat Lane Norwalk, CA 90650 562-210-8007 timsina.daniel@gmail.com

RIBBON CUTTINGS WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES TO NORWALK

Norwalk Chamber welcomed new member Brows Design Studios to Norwalk with a Ribbon Cutting on Monday, October 23rd. They are located in Norwalk Town Square at 11719 Petticoat Lane. Owners Sita and Daniel Timsina welcomed their family, Chamber members and local dignitaries with refreshments and a view of the services that they offer. From threading and brow design to skin care, waxing and eyelashes, they provide many services for all kinds of faces. Be sure and visit them and take advantage of all that they do to help support a new small business here in Norwalk.



Presenting a Business Spotlight Award at the Brows Design Ribbon Cutting are (I to r) Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, Business Owners **Daniel and Sita Timsina and Council** Member Rick Ramriez.



After the Ribbon is Cut, owners Sita and Daniel Timsina get ready to celebrate.



Norwalk Vice Mayor Timsina.



Attending the Ribbon Cutting and presenting certificates on behalf of their elected officials are (I to r) Aldo Arellano, LA County Assessor Margarita Rios with Jeffrey Prang, Catalina Valera, Assembly business owner Sita Member Blanca Pacheco, Nandy Santana, State Senator Bob Archuleta and Vincent Morales, LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn.



At The Views Apartment Homes Ribbon Cutting are (I to r) Ambassador Denise Urtiaga, Board President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Director Community Development John Ramirez, Manraj Bhatia, Community Development Department, Board Member Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis, Council Member Jennifer Perez, Mayor Ana Valencia, Tony Abboud, Florence Homes, Catalina Valera, Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco, Nandy Santana, State Senator Bob Archuleta, City Manager Jesus Gomez, Ivan Sulic, LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, and Ambassador Essen Menjivar, Kustom Made Graphics.



Presenting a City Business Spotlight Plaque to Florence Homes at the Ribbon Cutting. Pictured here are (I to r) Council Member Jennifer Perez, Owner Tony Abboud and Mayor Ana Valencia. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk

NETWORKING AT ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK

Rose Hills Memorial Park was the host of our October Multi Chamber networking event. Ten local Chambers of Commerce came together to enjoy music, refreshments and mixing it up with members from these Chambers. In addition to the Norwalk Chamber, there were members from the Downey, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Commerce, Whittier, Montebelle, El Monte/South El Monte, Regional San Gabriel and Cerritos Chambers of Commerce. Guest speak State Senator Bob Archuleta attended and shared words of encouragement to the business community members that were in attendance. Antoinette Lou and Luisa Sorce of Rose Hills were the coordinators of this wonderful event and we thank them for always supporting our local Chambers of Commerce.



attendees at the Rose Hills Memorial Park (I to r) Carmen Gonzales, LA CADA,



Enjoying the hospitality of Rose Hills at the Mixer are (I to r) Denise Urtiaga and **Essen Menjivar of Kustom Made Graphics,** Maxwell Drakeford, Sloan Varing and Danika Mendoza of IBE Digital and Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis.



Senator Bob Archuleta with Attending the Rose Hills Mixer are Board Member Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis and Aldo Arellano, LA County Assessor's Office.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Norwalk Chamber Members

This year has really flown by, and now we are at the beginning of the holiday season. Please join the Norwalk Chamber as we celebrate our small businesses with "Small Business Season" and "Small Business Saturday." Look for information coming in our email blasts on ways that you can continue to support small businesses during the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall Festival and helped make the event a success. Special thanks to our Sponsors: Athens Services, IBE Digital, US Bank, and Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia and Council Member Jennifer Perez. Without your support for this event, it would not have been such a great night. As we head into November and December, be sure and spend time with your loved ones and enjoy your celebrations.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for our Holiday Mixer on Wednesday, December 6th at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex. All are invited and of course we will have a special guest as always. We would like to welcome our new Chamber members Quick Quack Car Wash and Brows Design Studio. As we get into the next season, please don't forget to set your clocks back one hour November 5th and get ready to put up those Christmas Lights.

Best wishes to you and your family over the Holidays.

Be safe and have a great month.

Respectfully,

Rich LeGaspi 2023-2024 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce TNT Fireworks

ARTURO SANCHEZ SR. ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE

Every year in Norwalk the Arturo Sanchez Sr Family and the City of Norwalk come together to produce the Annual Halloween Parade. This year was the 38th year of this celebration. Residents lined the streets of the parade route, bringing their families out for this grand tradition. They were treated to a variety of different participants in the parade, including bands, floats, vehicles and more. The Grand Marshall this year was Actor and Comedian Momo Rodriguez. Our Norwalk Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council members rode in the parade along with our State Senator and State Assembly Member. Many different community groups including clubs and sports teams also participated in the parade. Each year the parade starts at the corner of Norwalk Blvd and Mapledale Ave, where participants travel sound down Norwalk Blvd to Alondra, where they make a right turn and go to Horst where they make a left turn, then travel down the street to end at Hermosillo Park. Look for information on next year's Halloween Parade so that you can plan to attend and cheer on the entries.



The Arturo Sanchez Sr. Family at the Annual Halloween Parade received a proclamation from State Senator Bob Archuleta.



Getting ready for the Parade to start are Chamber Board Member Danika Mendoza, Some of the children of Arturo IBE Digital, State Senator Bob Archuleta, Sanchez Sr. with State Senator and Board Member Shana Crittenden with Bob Archuleta at the beginning her children Lena and Chase.



of the parade.



Council Member Jennifer Perez and family are having a ghostly reunion for the Halloween Parade. Pictured with her are (I to r) Ambassador Susan Arthur, niece Mila and husband Mike.



Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco waiting for



Vice Mayor Margarita Rios as Winifred in Hocus Pocus for Halloween.



Council Member Tony Ayala with his wife Karen and daughter Gina getting ready for the parade and bringing the magic.



605 Kiwanis Club will be riding in the parade for the 2nd year.



Council Member Rick Ramirez.



Norwalk La Mirada USD all ready to ride in the parade. Pictured here (I to r) Asst. Superintendent HR Michael Gotto, Board Grand Marshall for the parade Momo President Chris Staples, Superintendent Rodriguez pictured with Ben Sandoval Dr. John Lopez, Board Members Norma of SELACO WDB and Norwalk City Amezcua, Vice President Jose Rios, Karen Morrison and Dr. Robert Cancio.



Little Lake City School District preparing for the parade to start. Pictured here are (I to r) Board Vice President Gina Ramirez, Board Member Jasmine Sanchez, **Board President Manuel Cantu and** Superintendent Jonathan Vasquez.



and Shana Crittenden wear pink for our Paint the Town Pink campaign at the Halloween Parade.



Athens Services staff are excited and ready for the parade.



Norwalk Lions Club members waiting for the parade to begin.



Norwalk Recreation & Park Services staff getting the parade ready to start. Pictured here are Pati Garcia, Director Allen Perdomo and Sonia Batres.



Chick-fil-A, Norwalk Fitness Village, with the Chick-fil-A cow will be participating in the Annual Halloween Parade.

YMCA of Greater Whittier & Norwalk

YMCA of Greater Whittier & Norwalk has been busy with activities for the youth in our communities. They recently held their Annual Pumpkin Plunge which gave members and guests the opportunity to both swim and get a pumpkin out of the pool to take home for the Halloween holiday. They were also provided with refreshments, games and fun photos sent to their emails. YMCA staff were on hand to share information with attendees about joining the Y and the services that are provided. If you would like to know more about membership in the YMCA visit https://ymcawhittier.org/ to learn about everything the YMCA offers.

Next the YMCA was the recipient of funds from the State of California that were obtained by Assembly Lisa Calderon. A check presentation was held, with the Assembly Member attending and giving the donation of \$250,000.00 which will help the YMCA with much needed work on the facilities. CEO Curt Skotnicki and YMCA Board Members Ron Copley and Caren Spilsbury were on had for the presentation. In addition to the check presentation, AT&T also donation 50 laptop computers to local children from the YMCA.



Receiving the donation to the YMCA from **Assembly Member Lisa Calderon. Pictured** here (I to r) Board Vice Chair Ron Copley, **Board Member Caren Spilsbury, Assembly** Member Lisa Calderon and CEO Curt Skotnicki.



YMCA Staff at the Annual Pumpkin Plunge. Pictured here (I to r) Juan Aceves, Soretta Walker, Amanda Kasimoff and Luis Diaz.



Assembly Member Lisa Calderon pictured with CEO Curt Skotnicki.

PAINT THE TOWN PINK RESTAURANT **FUNDRAISERS**

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, City of Norwalk, American Cancer Society, Little Lake City School District, Norwalk La Mirada USD, Cerritos College and more came together during the month of October to "Paint the Town Pink" and raise funds to help with the battle against breast cancer during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Raising funds for the Men Wear Pink Campaign were NLMUSD School Board Vice President Jose Rios, Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez, Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro, NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. John Lopez, Little Lake City School District Superintendent Jonathan Vasquez, Norwalk Sheriff Captain Richard Conti, City of Norwalk Director Recreation and Park Services Allan Perdomo and Norwalk Chamber Board Members Frank Zepeda, El Clasificado and Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant. These Men Wear Pink campaigners raised funds though donations and encouraging people to visit our restaurants on their fundraising days. Thank you to all who supported and helped with this annual event. You can still donate to any of the Men Wear Pink campaigners by visiting their website at https://bit.ly/MenWearPinkLA and clicking on their photo.



At Don's Terivaki Grill for our Paint the Town Pink Fundraiser. In this photo are (I to r) Commissioner Michael Rosoff, **Boad members Dora Sandoval and Frank** Zepeda, Dr. Jessica Medrano and Dr. John Lopez, NLMUSD, Board Member Jose Rios, Lt Noe Garcia, Sergeant Jose Saldivar and Don's Teriyaki owner Sonia Pream.



Also supporting Paint the Town Pink are Commissioners Martha Meza, and Rachel Contreras, Ramon Espinoza and Commissioner Esperanza Serrano.



Supporting Paint the Town Pink at Chickfil-A from El Clasificado are (I to r) Elvis Mancilla, Karina Higuera, Rick Perez, Alexia de Leon, Frank Zepeda, Jocelyn Orozco, **Quetzal Martinez, Favian Arévalo and Yabet** Badajoz.



At the Paint the Town Pink fundraiser at So Cal Pizza for lunch. Pictured here (I to r) Owner Ric Ochoa, Ambassador Sue Arthur, Board Member Jose Rios, Dan, Gwen and **Aubrey Spilsbury and Board Member Dora** Sandoval.

RENEWING MEMBERS BUSINESS VISITS

Norwalk Chamber Board Members and Ambassadors visited our members to deliver their membership renewal and check in with them to see how they are doing in the current economy. Many businesses still struggle with inflation and worker shortages so checking in with them on a regular basis is important. We celebrate with our renewing members and thank them for staying active in the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. If you would like a visit from our Chamber Board Members and Ambassadors, send an email to info@norwalkchamber.com to set one up.



Visiting Teriyaki Don's Grill to bring them their membership renewal plaque.



Delia and Nena Castro their 24-year accept membership renewal from Chamber Board Members Delivering the membership and Jose Rios.



At Diana's Restaurant with the membership renewal. In this photo are (I to r) Ambassador Chair Karla Butler, Alma Meza of Diana's, and Board Members Lucy Rodas and Jose Rios.



Karla Butler, Lucy Rodas renewal to Norwalk Auto Auction.



Rodney Okimoto accepts the 42-year membership renewal plaque from the Norwalk Chamber.



of Norwalk lves **Printing & Graphics receives** his 23-year membership renewal from Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance and Ambassador Chair Karla Butler.

Creating a Strong Local Economy • 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
Street Repairs
Recreation Programs **And Much More**

STATE OF THE CITY

Norwalk's Annual State of the City event took place on Friday, October 23rd at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex. Attendees were treated to a buffet lunch and then heard presentations from the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, Norwalk Sheriff Station and the City of Norwalk. Mayor Ana Valencia served as the MC for this annual event and additionally shared five different videos which provided updates on different aspects of Norwalk. The videos started with Looking into the Future, then moved on to Infrastructure, an Active and Healthy Community, A Vibrant Norwalk and finished with Community Programs and Services. Norwalk Sheriff Captain Richard Conti provided an overview of the services that are provided by both Public Safety and the Sheriff Department. He went over the new Quadrant Program for the City and discussed Norwalk's different enforcement teams and thanked the City for their support of law enforcement. He then discussed the objectives of the community policing initiatives which include quality of life, traffic safety and crime control. Prior to the Sheriff the audience heard from the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce on issues facing our businesses today.



Attending the State of the City Event are (I to r) Norma Amezcua, Jose Rios, Juan Aceves, Amanda Blanton, Dora Sandoval, Ivan Sulic, Danika Mendoza, Richard Rojas, Irma Macias, Gary Murphy, Senator Bob Archuleta, Lori Herrera, Victor Sanchez, Mayor Ana Valencia, Catalina Valera and Vice Mayor Margarita Rios.



Attending the State of Norwalk La Mirada School the City Address are (I **Cerritos College** Trustee Zurich Lewis, Past **Chamber President Toni** Grijalva, Cerritos College, Ambassador and Past **Chamber President Sue Arthur and former Norwalk** Mayor Bob Arthur.



Attending the State of the City Luncheon are Dora and Iso Nakasato of Athens Millie Casillas, Services, NLM PTA, Dr. David Olea. Principal Norwalk High School and Karinna Alatorre, American Lung Association.



City of Norwalk Directors attending the State of the City Address.



District at State of the City.



Norwalk Community **Promotions Commissioner Armida Leon with Carlos del** real Leyva of the Norwalk American Legion and the **Dream Big Project.**



Erika **Flores** and Hernandez of the Water Replenishment District are at the State of the City Luncheon.



Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia with State of the City Sponsor IBE Digital.



Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia with State of the City Sponsor



Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family **Guidance Center with Iso Nakasato and Dora Castor** of Athens Services.



Arlene Vasquez and Carmen Gonzalez of LA CADA at the State of the City Luncheon.



Primestor Development.



Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent Little Lake City School District with Los Angeles County Fire Department at the State of the City Luncheon.



Enjoying the camaraderie at the State of the City are (I to r) Board Member Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Victor Sanchez, Bellflower City Member, Scott Council **Communications** Smith, Officer, ABCUSD and Irma Macias, Community Family **Guidance Center.**



Pastor Arthur McKibben with Noralk Mayo Ana Valencia from the Door of Hope Youth and Family **Resource Center, Executive** Director Mercedez Quintanilla, Leeland Rodriguez, **Angelica Gutierrez** and Matthew Garcia.



Norwalk Chamber attending the State of the City Luncheon. Pictured here (I to r) Iso Nakasato, Athens Services, Dora Sandoval 605 Kiwanis, Esperanza Serrano, Norwalk Commissioner, Ambassador Joe Derthick, Irma Macias, CFGC, Board Member Gary Murphy, Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Tracy Polley, Kelco Sales, Ally Hernandez, WRD, Frank Zepeda, El Clasificado, Ambassador Sue Arthur, Claudia Cardenas, Primestor Development, Yovani Flores, US Bank and Toni Grijalva, **Cerritos College.**

