

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Norwalk Chamber was once again a Neighborhood Champion for Small Business Saturday (SBS) which is celebrated on the Saturday following Thanksgiving each year. The Chamber hosted a coffee meet up where attendees were provided a free shopping bag celebrating SBS and then encouraged to go out into the local community to "Shop Small." Attending the coffee meet up were members of the Norwalk Chamber Board of Directors and Ambassadors, along with City of Norwalk Commissioners. Businesses were provided with posters and other marketing materials to use at their locations, along with magnets and other items to give away to shoppers that day. Attendees were encouraged to go out and shop small, take photos and then share on their Social Media so that others would be encouraged to shop small. Small Business Saturday was created in 2010 by American Express to recognize the important economic contributions small businesses make in their local communities and to celebrate by spending the day shopping small and local!

65% of businesses in the United States are considered small businesses and contribute an overwhelming amount of support to their communities. Did you know that out of every dollar spent in the community .68 cents stays local! That is why when you shop small you make a big impact. Our small businesses here in Norwalk give back to the community in so many ways that shopping small and local for one Saturday is a small contribution that residents can give back to them. So we encourage you to all shop local and shop small not only on Small Business Saturday, but throughout the Holiday Season!



City of Norwalk proclaims Saturday, November 25th, 2023 as Small Business Saturday. Accepting the proclamation are members of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. Pictured here are (l to r) Past Board President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Board President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, Council Member Tony Ayala, Council Member Jennifer Perez, Ambassador Sue Arthur, Board Member Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis, Norwalk Chamber Executive Director Caren Spilsbury, Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia, Iso Nakasato, Athens Services, President Elect Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, Council Member Rick Ramirez and Board Member Tracy Polley, Kelco Sales.



Getting ready to head out and "Shop Small" on Small Business Saturday are (l to r) Public Safety Commissioner Michael Rosoff, Beth Rosoff, Board President Rich LeGaspi, Alex LeGaspi, Natalie LeGaspi, Board Member Dora Sandoval, Joshua Hoskins, Public Safety Commissioner Patti Hoskins, Chamber Intern Aubrey Spilsbury and Melissa Ramirez.



Supporting our Small Business Community on Small Business Saturday.



Already shopping on Small Business Saturday are Natalie and Rich LeGaspi.



Welcoming shoppers on SBS are Gabby Valenzuela and her staff at Casa Artesanal.



La Jara Brewing Co. is open on Small Business Saturday to serve new brews to those that visited them that day.



Commissioner Patti Hoskins visits Donut King on Small Business Saturday.



Visiting Norwalk Florist/Patty's Pretty Flowers on Small Business Saturday. Pictured here are (l to r) Aubrey Spilsbury, owner Patty Zavala and Melissa Ramirez.



Visiting Zen's Tea House on Small Business Saturday, meeting Anthony and sharing shopping bags with him.

PAINT THE TOWN PINK WRAP UP EVENT

The Norwalk community once again came together to support National Breast Cancer Awareness Month by painting the town pink throughout the month of October. On Monday, November 15th Starbucks Coffee hosted our wrap up event, where representatives from the American Cancer Society

(ACS) were able to award our Men Wear Pink participants and announce the results of their endeavors. Lisa Erickson and Nancy Gutzmer of ACS shared that our Men Wear Pink Team was the 3rd place overall fundraising team out of well over 100 teams in Los Angeles County. Collectively they raised over \$13,000.00 to help with research, support and information for our community about not only breast cancer, but all cancers. Our top fundraiser was Dr. John Lopez, Superintendent Norwalk La Mirada USD and following close behind was Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Little Lake City School District. Bringing home the Bronze Medal was Allan Perdomo, Director of Recreation and Park Services for the City of Norwalk. While it was fun to announce the top three fundraisers, every one of our Men Wear Pink participants were celebrated for their efforts during October. If you would like to make a donation, they are still accepting them through December 31st for this year's campaign. And keep your eyes open for next year's Paint the Town Pink restaurant fundraisers and opportunities to get involved in this important mission.



Some of our Men Wear Pink participants at Starbucks Coffee. Pictured here (l to r) Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, Jose Rios, Vice President Norwalk La Mirada School Board, Jesus Gomez, Norwalk City Manager, Dr. John Lopez, Superintendent, NLMUSD, Allan Perdomo, City of Norwalk and Lt. Noe Garcia representing Sheriff Captain Richard Conti.



Jason Perez of Mr. Rosewood presents Norma and David Howe with a plaque to recognize their ongoing support of the Paint the Town Pink and Men Wear Pink campaign for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez accepts a certificate of participation from Lisa Erickson of the American Cancer Society.



Lisa Erickson of the American Cancer Society presents NLMUSD School Board Vice President Jose Rios with a certificate thanking him for his participation in the Men Wear Pink campaign.



Lisa Erickson of the American Cancer Society presents Dr. John Lopez a certificate thanking him for his participation in the Men Wear Pink campaign.



Jason Perez of Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant is recognized for his fundraising for the "Paint the Town Pink" campaign.



Norwalk Director of Recreation and Park Services Allan Perdomo is thanked for his participation as a "Men Wear Pink" candidate.



Lt. Noe Garcia accepts a recognition certificate on behalf of Captain Richard Conti and the Norwalk Sheriff's Station from Lisa Erickson of the ACS.

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

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Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

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info@norwalkchamber.com

Facebook:

http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM

PRESIDENT

RICH LEGASPI

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC**

CAREN SPILSBURY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, December 12th

City Council Reorganization
6pm @ Norwalk City Hall

Tuesday, December 19th

Creating Connections Luncheon
Outback Restaurant @ 12noon

Wednesday, December 20th

Board of Directors Meeting
9am via ZOOM & Chamber Office

Chamber Office Closed

December 25th to January 1st

Thursday, January 11th

Coffee with a Quadrant Officer
Quadrant #4
Norwalk Chamber @ 10am

Wednesday, January 17th

Board of Directors
9am via ZOOM & Chamber Office

Thursday, January 25th

Coffee with a Quadrant Officer
Quadrant #2
Chick-fil-A, Norwalk Fitness Village
10am

Wednesday, January 31st

2024 Employment Law Update
Presented by Ann Smith
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
9am Location to be Announced

SAVE THE DATE

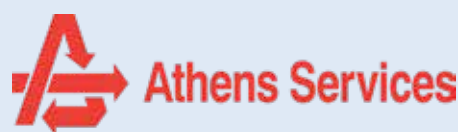
February 1st

Coffee with a Quadrant Officer
10am @ Mr. Rosewoods Family Restaurant

February 15th

After Hours Networking Mixer
Budget Car Rentals

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.

48 Years
Luxury Inn
Vinay Patel
562-868-0791
luxuryinnnorwalk@gmail.com

Dr. Paul Crismon
562-864-6535
drpaul.crismon@verizon.net

37 Years
Liberty Utilities Corp
Alison Vai
800-727-5987
<https://libertyutilities.com/>

31 Years
Helpline Youth Counseling
Jeff Farber
562-864-3722
jfarber@hycinc.org

30 Years
Nationwide Environmental
Joe Samuelian
562-860-0604
marlene@nes-sweeping.com

26 Years
CAPC, Inc.
Shauna Epting
562-693-8826
www.capcinc.org

23 Years
Outback Steakhouse
JJ Mastopietro
outback0571@outwestrg.com

Community Legal Services
Anthony Filer
562-864-9935
afil@clsocal.org

22 Years
L.A. CADA
Juan Navarro
562-906-2676
jnavarro@lacada.com

20 Years
Kelco Sales
Tracy Polley
562-868-9861
tracy.polley@gmail.com

18 Years
El Clasificado
Martha De La Torre
323-278-5310
www.elclasificado.com

16 Years
Norwalk Community Coordinating Council
President
nccc@usa.com

6 Years
YMCA of Greater Whittier
Curt Skotnicki
562-907-2727
cskotnicki@ymcawhittier.org

NEW MEMBERS

Elmer Brizuela Medicare & Health Services
Elmer Brizuela
Norwalk, CA 90650
323-992-5728
ebrokersolutions@gmail.com

MEMBERS INVEST IN NORWALK

Investing in the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce by maintaining your membership is a positive outcome for the entire business community. As a voice for good business legislation, a representative of business to the community and a resource for our members, the Norwalk Chamber is consistently providing services for our businesses. If you have a milestone celebration coming up, or have remodeled your facility and would like to have a Ribbon Cutting, reach out to the Chamber so that we can celebrate with you. If you need resources, reach out to the Chamber so that we can connect you to one of our partners who can help you. You can contact the Chamber by email at info@norwalkchamber.com or by phone at 562-404-0909. We look forward to another year of working with you to promote our businesses and bring recognition to our members. Be sure and mark your calendars for our upcoming 2024 Employment Law Update Breakfast on Wednesday, January 31st and come celebrate the Holidays at our upcoming Annual Holiday Mixer on December 6th. We look forward to getting to know you better and celebrating a successful 2023.



Amanda Blanton and her daughter Aria Blanton-Sena receive the membership renewal for Farmers and Merchants Bank from Board President Rich LeGaspi.



Juan Lezama of Lezama Consulting USA is presented with his new member plaque by Jason Perez of Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant and President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks.



Ambassador Irma Macias of Community Family Guidance Center accepts their membership renewal from Board President Rich LeGaspi.



President Elect Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant and Aria Blanton-Sena present Rich LeGaspi with the TNT Fireworks membership renewal.



New Member Elmer Brizuela, Medicare & Health Services, receives his membership plaque from President Elect Jason Perez and Board President Rich LeGaspi.



Presenting the membership renewal to Kustom Made Graphics are (l to r) Ambassador Sue Arthur, Essen Menjivar and Denise Urriaga of Kustom Made Graphics, Board President Rich LeGaspi, Art Sanchez of the Arturo Sanchez Senior Halloween Parade Foundation, Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center and Dr. David Olea, President 605 Kiwanis.



Past President Yovani Flores of US Bank receives the membership renewal from Executive Director Caren Spilbury.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Norwalk Chamber Members,

'Tis the season for getting ready for the holidays! Thanksgiving has come and gone, and now we are on to Christmas and New Year's. At the Norwalk Chamber we are celebrating the holidays all month. We just had our Annual Holiday Mixer and had a great turn out for this event. We hope that you were able to join us for this annual celebration. Thank you to Art Sanchez for always visiting the Mixer as Santa Claus! Thank you also to all of our sponsors, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Athens Services and US Bank, in addition to those that donated food and raffle prizes. Without your support it would not have been a success.

Heading into the rest of December we invite you to participate in our Holiday Creating Connections Lunch at Outback Restaurant on December 19th. The "steal the present" game is always the highlight of this event. Our City also celebrates each year with many holiday events. One special one is the Angel Tree program which provides children with a gift of clothing and presents. If you are able to help you can contact Norwalk Social Services at 562-929-5544 and ask how you can get involved.

We are in the middle of "Small Business Season" which kicked off on November 1st and runs through the end of December. Our Small Business Saturday always takes place the Saturday after Thanksgiving. At the kick off we give out shopping bags and send attendees out to Shop Small. We encourage you all to keep shopping local and shopping small this season to support the small businesses in our community.

Norwalk Chamber welcomes new member Elmer Brizuela, of Elmer Brizuela Medicare & Health Services to our Chamber family. Get to know Elmer at one of our upcoming networking opportunities. And as we head into a new year, I hope you look around and celebrate all of your successes from this year.

From my family to yours, have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Respectfully,

Rich LeGaspi

2023-2024 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
TNT Fireworks

MULTI CHAMBER NETWORKING MIXER

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce hosted a multi-Chamber mixer with the Bellflower and Downey Chambers of Commerce on Thursday, November 16th at Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant. On hand were many members of the three Chambers of Commerce along with Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia, Bellflower Mayor Sonny Santa Ines and Downey City Council Member Timothy Horn. As members and guests were networking, they were able to enjoy appetizers from Mr. Rosewood, including the famous mini burritos. The evening included a plethora of raffle prizes that were donated from the three Chambers and many of the members. It was a great event where all three Chambers were able to meet new business connections from both Norwalk and the surrounding cities. Save the Date for our next Networking Mixer that will be hosted by Budget Car Sales & Rentals on Thursday, February 15th from 4:30pm to 6pm at 12541 Rosecrans Ave. in Norwalk.



Board Presidents from our three Chambers at the networking mixer. Pictured here (l to r) Daniel Andrade, Board President Downey Chamber, Rich LeGaspi, Board President Norwalk Chamber and Jeff Smith, Board President Bellflower Chamber.



Norwalk Chamber members and City Commissioners enjoying the Multi Chamber Mixer.



Checking in the guests at the Multi Chamber Mixer. In this photo are Art Sanchez, ASSHPF, Past Chamber President Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College and Chamber Intern Aubrey Spilsbury.



Networking at the Multi Chamber Mixer are Phil Arey, Budget Car Sales & Rentals, Ambassador Denise Urriaga, Kustom Made Graphics, Ambassador Sue Arthur, Ambassador Essen Menjivar, Kustom Made Graphics and Public Safety Lieutenant Raudel Perez.



Toni Grijalva of Cerritos College with Jason Perez of Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant enjoying the Multi Chamber Mixer.



At the Multi Chamber Mixer are Ambassador Irma Macias, Christine Consunji-Chen, and Lucy Barcelos.



Lt. Raudel Perez of Norwalk Public Safety with Mercedes Quintanilla of Door of Hope Youth and Family Resource Center, Nandy Santana, Field Representative for State Senator Bob Archuleta, Michael Gutierrez, Door of Hope Youth and Family Resource Center and the owners of Samuri Hibachi Grill.



At the Mixer are new member Elmer Brizuela with Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia and Brenda Carrier.



Enjoying the Multi Chamber Mixer are (l to r) Ambassador Irma Macias, David Gallardo, Budget Car Sales, Ambassadors Denise Urriaga and Essen Menjivar, Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia and Board Member Jason Perez.

LABOR LAW CORNER

Workers' Comp: Pay for Follow-Up Doctor's Appointments Not Required

My employee sustained an injury on the job a few months ago. He is claiming that we have to pay for his doctor's and therapy appointments. Is this true?

Generally, an employer is required to pay the employee only on the day of the injury/for time spent waiting for and receiving treatment.

Day of Injury

The U.S. Department of Labor has addressed this issue, stating, "Time spent by an employee in waiting for and receiving medical attention on the premises or at the direction of the employer during the employee's normal working hours on days when he is working constitutes hours worked." Employers should not try to dodge this requirement by having the employee seek treatment after their shift. The law is very protective of injured workers, and treatment should be prompt.

Follow-Up Appointments

However, follow-up appointments and therapy appointments are not dictated by the employer, and therefore are not payable as work time for hourly employees. Employees can use their sick leave, paid time off (PTO) or vacation pay to cover these appointments, like any other doctor's appointment. They also can schedule these actions after their shift, if possible. It is also important to remind employees to keep these appointments, as failure to do so could result in their claim being terminated. Lastly, keep in mind that not all injuries require medical treatment at all. Injuries that can be treated with first aid do not require a trip to the doctor or emergency room. Also, some employees don't want to go to the doctor, and unless their injury is severe, the employer cannot force them to do so. In those situations, it is recommended to have the employee sign an acknowledgement that they do not wish to seek medical attention.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Norwalk Chamber thanks our member, Alba Professional Services/H & R Block for their ongoing partnership with the Norwalk Chamber. Thank you for your sponsorship for our recent Fall Festival along with your other sponsor support this year. Alba Professional Services/H & R Block is a family-owned tax and accounting firm that will be celebrating 60 years here in Norwalk in 2024. John Alba is the

owner and he also serves on the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Visit their website at <https://www.albarapidtax.com/> to find out more information on the services that they provide.

John Alba offers these tips for your 2023 taxes:

Thankfully it's not too late to try and minimize your taxes for 2023. If you haven't scheduled a tax planning session, now is a great time to do so. Here's how a tax planning session can potentially help your situation:

- **It can make a difference.** This is especially true if you have a major event that occurs during the year.
- **Put yourself in control.** Timing is important when it comes to minimizing taxes, and the timing is often in your control
- **There are tax planning opportunities for every level of income,** not just those at the top of the tax bracket
- **The tax landscape is constantly changing.** New tax laws are passed almost every year. New laws may mean new tax deductions you can take advantage of. It can also mean that an existing deduction you had been used to taking is no longer available.
- **You have help.** Tax planning comes down to looking for ways to reduce taxable income, delay a tax bill, increase tax deductions, and take advantage of all available tax credits. The best place to start is to bolster your level of tax knowledge by picking up the phone and asking for assistance.

CITY OF NORWALK VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

The City of Norwalk celebrated and thanked our Veterans at the Annual Veterans Day Celebration on Saturday, November 11th at Norwalk City Hall. Attending the event were Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia and Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, along with Council Members Tony Ayala, Jennifer Perez and Rick Ramirez. Norwalk also welcomed Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, State Senator Bob Archuleta, State Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn. After a welcome by Mayor Valencia, and Invocation by Benito Garcia, American Legion Post 359 Chaplain, there was the presentation of colors by both the American Legion Post 359 and the La Mirada VFW Post 9148. Following this was the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem sung by Jazmin Alvarez. Next the Legion Auxiliary Unit 359 presented the POW/MIA Ceremony which was followed by speakers from the American Legion, the Service Medley and then the guest speaker, U.S. Navy Veteran Manuel Gomez. Manuel shared his story with attendees and all were touched by his journey. After this the various Legislative Officials presented certificates of recognition and then the City Council handed out the Hometown Heros Banners to the families of our Hometown Heros. The event closed with a benediction, the retiring of the colors and Jazmin Alvarez sang God Bless America. Norwalk appreciates our Veterans and the service that they have provided to our county. Each year they are recognized at the Veterans Day event, so mark your calendars for next year which will be held on Monday, November 11th.



Many Veterans attended the Veterans Day Celebration at Norwalk City Hall on November 11th. In this photo are Norwalk City Council Member Jennifer Perez and Rick Ramirez, California Senator Bob Archuleta, Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez, Little Lake City School Board President Manuel Cantu, and guest speaker Manuel Gomez, U.S. Navy ret.



Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn with Past Commander Melissa Braicov and Veteran Joey Garcia, at the Veterans Day Celebration.



Congresswoman Linda Sánchez pictured with guest speaker Manuel Gomez, U.S. Navy ret. at the Veterans Day Celebration.



At the Veterans Day event pictured with Los Angeles County Supervisor Hahn are Veteran Ramon Espinosa and Norwalk Commissioner Esperanza Serrano.



American Legion Auxiliary Executive Board Member Dora Sandoval pictured with Past Commander Melissa Braicov as the American Legion received a donation of \$200,000.00 from LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn for the Legion Hall improvements.



Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Staff Patty Santana and Allison Franco thank Starbucks for their donation to the event.



Veteran Dave Rose with wife Theresa attending the Veterans Day Celebration.

- 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

RIBBON CUTTINGS AND MORE

Norwalk Chick-fil-A and Chamber Board Member Farid Khansarinia opened his second Chick-fil-A restaurant with a Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, November 15th. On hand to help with the celebration were State Senator Bob Archuleta along with Norwalk Commissioner David King and our Chamber Members. Between the two Chick-fil-A restaurants, Farid employees over 200 local community members and helps bring much needed sales tax dollars to the City. We congratulate him on the opening of his second restaurant and wish him the best for this new venture.

City of Norwalk also cut the ribbon at Hermosillo Park and switched on the new Wifi that is free and open to the public to use. This was the first park in Norwalk to have the Wifi turned on, and we expect that each of the parks in the city will also be switching on Wifi that will be open and available for public use. Many homes in Norwalk do not have Wifi available to them, so this will benefit those families, especially those with school age children. Congratulations to the City for obtaining funding for this much needed support from our Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.



Congratulation Farid Khansarinia on his Ribbon Cutting for the new Chick-fil-A are Board President Rih LeGaspi, Board Members Amanda Blanton and Dora Sandoval, Ambassador Irma Macias, Past Presidents Toni Grijalva and Jose Rios, Lt. Noe Garcia, Board Member Danika Mendoza, the Chick-fil-A Cow and Norwalk Sheriff personnel.



A little rain did not dampen the Ribbon Cutting celebration. In this photo are (l to r) Phil Arey, Budget Car Sales & Rentals, Jose Rios, Vice President NLMUSD School Board, Past President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank and Board President, TNT Fireworks.



Enjoying the new restaurant at the Ribbon Cutting. Pictured here (l to r) Norwalk Commissioner David King, Ambassador Irma Macias, Past President Toni Grijalva, Board President Rich LeGaspi, Board Member and Owner Farid Khansarinia, Board Member Dora Sandoval, State Senator Bob Archuleta and Board Member Amanda Blanton.



Receiving a certificate of recognition for the Ribbon Cutting on the new Public Wifi at Hermosillo Park. Pictured here (l to r) Norwalk City Council Member Jennifer Perez, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia and Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez.



The switch is turned on for the new Public Wifi at Hermosillo Park. In this photo are Ivan Sulic, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez, State Senator Bob Archuleta, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia and Norwalk City Council Member Jennifer Perez.



Getting ready to cut the ribbon for the new Public Wifi at Hermosillo Park.

St. Lic. #271767

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