

www.norwalkchamber.com

info@norwalkchamber.com

### NORWALK CHAMBER ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce hosted our Annual 9-Hole Golf Tournament on Thursday, March 30th at the Don Knabe Golf Center and Junior Academy. Golf teams competed for the coveted title of first place in this fun filled tournament. It was a beautiful afternoon at the golf center while the rain held off and attendees were treated to a dinner from Chick-fil-A restaurant before heading out to their respective holes for the shot gun start. As each team moved around the golf course to finish their nine holes, they were able to network with other teams and enjoy the beautiful weather. We were fortunate to have Norwalk Deputy City Manager Richard Rojas, Norwalk Director of Community Development John Ramirez, Norwalk La Mirada School Board Vice President Jose Rios, Board Member Karen Morrison and Superintendent Dr. John Lopez in attendance at our event.

This event could not have happened without the support of our generous sponsors. Thank you to the following sponsors: Athens Services, Gordon Stefenhagen, Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, Nationwide Environmental Service, Grapevine Development, City of Norwalk City Council Member Jennifer Perez, Greater Whittier YMCA, Chick-fil-A Norwalk, American Legion Post 359, TNG Realty, Rios & Garcia Team and Norwalk La Mirada USD. And lastly thank you to those that donated items for our raffle: Amanda Blanton, Scentsy and Epicure, Joe Derthick, AFLAC, Farid Khansarinia, Chick-fil-A, Ric Ochoa, So Cal Pizza, and Joel Del Giorgio.

The tournament closed with awards being presented to our golf teams. First place team was Team Gordonator, sponsored by Gordon Stefenhagen. Our 2nd place team was the combined team of State Farm Insurance and Community Family Guidance Center and third place was the City of Norwalk Team. Additionally, the Chick-fil-A Team was recognized as our "Most Athletic Team." Eric Rodas was the winner of our putting contest and Bill Kearns was awarded with the best score overall in the tournament. Thank you to Joe Derthick for coordinating the putting contest! We also want to recognize the hard work and planning that was put in by our Events Committee to make this day a success. Thank you committee members: Sue Arthur, Irma Macias, Joe Derthick, Dora Sandoval, Jose Rios, Gary Murphy, Denise Urtiaga and Essen Menjivar for the work you put in to help with this event. Special thanks to our members Natalie LeGaspi and Marilee Stefenhagen, Soroptimist International Norwalk/SFS, Karla Butler, and Tracy Polley for helping out that day! Thank you to Teri Bazen for designing and creating our event awards, your talent is amazing. Our next event will be our famous "Mini Golf" Tournament coming on May 18th at Golf n' Stuff here in Norwalk. Visit our website at www.norwalkchamber.com to find out details for this event.



Norwalk Chamber Golf Tournament, getting ready to tee off.





At the check in table for the tournament are (I to r) Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Natalie LeGaspi and Marilee Stefenhagen, Soroptimist International Norwalk/SFS, Ambassador Sue Arthur, and the Chick-fil-A Cow and Chick-fil-A Cow.





Waiting to give out meals to the golfers Irma Macias, are Community Family Guidance Center, the Heather Ramirez of Chick-fil-A.



Our second-place golf team! Pictured here are (I to r) Sponsor Lucy Rodas and Joaquin Rodas, State Farm Insurance, Bill Sinko, Community Family **Guidance Center and** President Rich LeGaspi.



Our first-place golf team, Team Gordonator. Pictured here are (I to r) David Saucedo, Chamber Board President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Bill Kearns, David and Margaret Verhaaf.



Team American Legion Post 359 on the golf course. In this photo are (in no particular order) Brody Damico, Rocky Damico, Commander Melissa Braicov, Robert Motsenbocker, Tim Blotzer and Cruz Meza.

Combined team of State Farm Insurance Athens Services, Gold and Community Family Sponsor. In this photo Bill Guidance Center the golf course. In this photo are (I to Member Dora Sandoval r) Bill Sinko, CFGC, and Ismael Castro. Lucy, Joaquin and Eric Rodas of State Farm Insurance.



Gordonater Team on the Golf Course. Pictured (l to r) Bill Kearns, David Saucedo, Dave Verhaaf and Margaret Verhaaf.

on are (I to r) Iso Nakasato. Joel Del Giorgio, Board



The Chick-fil-A Golf Team, pictured here are (I to r) Tyler Kim, Adriana Marron, Leslie Anguiano and Heather Ramirez.



City of Norwalk Team, John Ramirez, **Director of Community** Services and Deputy **City Manager Richard** Rojas.



Kearns, former **Director of Recreation** & Park Services is recognized as the overall best scorer in the Annual Golf Tournament.



Our third-place team was represented by Hannah Matus of the City of Norwalk with **Board President Rich** LeGaspi TNT Fireworks.



Norwalk La Mirada USD golf team at the tournament. In this photo are (I to r) Assistant Superintendent Business Services, Estuardo Santillan, School Board Member Karen Morrison, Superintendent Dr. John Lopez and Director Maintenance and Operations, Gerald "Buzz" Mitchell.



Grapevine Development, LLC Team at the golf tournament. In this photo are (I to r) Jacob Acevedo, James Acevedo and Sal Flores.

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

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PRESIDENT RICH LEGASPI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDITOR, NCBC CAREN SPILSBURY

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 8th Egg Stravagant 12:30pm to 4pm City Hall Lawn

Wednesday, April 19th Board of Directors Meeting 9am via ZOOM

> Saturday, April 22nd Cerritos College Earth Day Festival 11am to 2pm

Sunday, April 23rd



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.

Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing & HVAC

60 Years

Don Skala

49 Years

48 Years

43 Years

36 Years

Sonoco

Board

Lisa Vernola

562-864-5800

Jeannie Mayer

562-868-4660

Marie Garnica

Yolando Castro

Vidal Zambrano

562-868-1251

Garcia Family

562-926-8472

562-402-9336

31 Years

3<u>0 Years</u>

562-921-0881

562-868-7777

Adrian Garcia

dskala@laplumber.com

Southern California Edison

adrian1.garcia@sce.com

Bruce's Prime Rib & Spirits

SELACO Workforce Development

https://www.selacowdb.com/

https://ironworkers416.org/

**Premier Wheels & Tires** 

**Reinforcing Ironworkers Local 416** 

Vernola's Towing, Inc.

<u>SPONSORS</u>

Stefenhagen Athens Services

### **RENEWING MEMBERS**

Gordon

Tam's Super Burgers Angelo Makris 562-864-3373

Pawnmart Jewelry & Loan C. Rae Goldsmith 562-929-2377

24 Years New Harvest Christian Fellowship Richard Salazar 562-929-6034 https://www.newharvestnorwalk. church/

John's Sweeper Repairs John Ozonian 562-860-0604

<u>16 Years</u> Sue Arthur Community Member

<u>13 Years</u> The P.C. Help Desk Steve Guzman 562-869-4435 steve@thepchd.com

<u>9 Years</u> Kustom Made Graphics Essen Menjivar 626-348-4060 info@kmghd.com

<u>8 Years</u> Allergy Asthma Sinusitis Medical Center Dr. Divvang Trivedi 562-864-4959 allergist@hotmail.com

<u>7 Years</u> TNG Realty Rios & Garcia Team Jose Rios 562-972-4761 jmrios562@gmail.com



# tng real estate

<u>5 Years</u> Alpha Business Services Angelina Espinosa 866-272-6500 https://alphabusinesservices.net

Arturo Sanchez Senior Halloween Parade Foundation Art Sanchez Jr. 562-794-4628

<u>2 Years</u> McDonald's - Sonshine Enterprises Patricia Yoon 310-433-4569

La Jara Brewery Randy Johnstone www.lajarabrewing.com

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Artesia Cemetery District Antonio Mendoza 11142 E. Artesia Blvd. Cerritos, CA 90703 562-865-6300 info@artesiacemetery.com www.ArtesiaCemetery.com

**HG Home Design** 

Denise Jensen 12142 Front St. Norwalk, CA 90650 562-279-3394 djensenbosslady@gmail.com

LA Financial Credit Union

Robert Llamas 12125-A Imperial Hwy. Norwalk, CA 90650 177 E. Colorado Blvd. Suite 900 Pasadena, CA 91105 800-894-1200 https://www.lafinancial.org/

MEC Manufacturing, LLC

Thinkers 4 Autism Resource Fair Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex 10am to 2pm

Monday, April 24th Creating Connections Lunch Kung Pao Bowl \$15.00

12noon

Tuesday, April 25th Gateway Chambers Alliance 12noon via ZOOM

Monday, May 1st to Friday, May 5th National Small Business Week

### SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday, May 18th** Mini Golf Tournament

Thursday, May 25th Coffee & Conversation

Wednesday, June 14th 100th Anniversary Installation & Awards Dinner https://www.premierwheelsandtires. com/

<u>25 Years</u> Coast Plaza Hospital Patrick Rafferty 562-864-5800 Farmers & Merchants Bank Amanda Blanton 866-437-0011 www.fmb.com

Ely Lapuz 12844 Excelsior Dr. Norwalk, CA 90650 951-314-5798 www.monsterenergy.com

### NORWALK CHAMBER NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

Norwalk Chamber welcomes our new members for the month of March to the Chamber family. We encourage you to find out more about their businesses and how you can connect with them. This last month we added L.A. Financial Credit Union, Artesia Cemetery District, HG Home Design and MEC Manufacturing, LLC as new members of the Chamber. We are also fortunate to be able to celebrate many long-term members as they chose to renew their membership. Most notably was Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing and HVAC, and owner Don Skala, a 60-year member of the Norwalk Chamber. Our Norwalk Chamber Ambassadors visit our members bi-monthly to deliver their renewal package and this month was no exception. When we drop by a member's business, we are able to check in with them to see how things are going in their business. Additionally, to see if there are any resources that the Chamber can provide to them. If you would like our Ambassador Team to visit your business, just reach out to info@ norwalkchamber.com to schedule this.

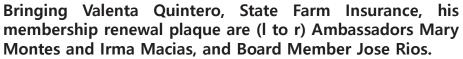


New member L.A. Financial Credit Union, led by Robert Llamas receives their new member plaque from Executive Director Caren Spilsbury.



Pat's 605 Cyclery received their membership renewal plaque from our business visits Team.







Visiting the new owner of Norwalk Florist and delivering her new member plaque. Pictured here are (I to r) Ambassador Mary Montes, C & E Upholstery, Patricia Zavala, Norwalk Florist/Patty's Pretty Flowers, Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center and Past President Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Rios & Garcia Team.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Dear Norwalk Chamber members,

WELL, SPRING is in the air along with a lot of rain, so I hope you didn't float away because we have some great events coming up. First, I would like to thank all the sponsors and all who played in our 9-hole golf tournament. This is always a fun event. Thank you to Gold Sponsors Athens Services and Gordon Stefenhagen. Also, thanks go out to Silver Sponsor Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, Awards Sponsor, City of Norwalk, Council Member Jennifer Perez and Beverage Sponsors American Legion Post 359 and TNG Realty, Rios and Garcia Team. Without your support we could not have had such a successful event.

With Easter just around the corner we wish everyone a good holiday. This is a good time for family to get together and share memories. Hope you all find that golden egg. Remember that the City of Norwalk has their Easter Egg Stravagant on Saturday, April 8th from 12:30pm to 4pm at the Civic Center Lawn. Visit their website at www.norwalkca.gov to find out additional information about this event.

Please mark your calendars for our big Gala June 14th at the Doubletree Hotel. This will be a great event for the Chamber, it will also be our 100th Birthday celebration so please make plans to be there. Tickets will be available beginning May 1st at the Chamber office or online at our Chamber store. It will be a fun night to see the history of our Chamber of Commerce. Make plans to also attend our next Mini Golf tournament on May 18th at Golf-N-Stuff. This is for all the "serious" golfers in town. We always have fun at this one so please support this event. Email info@norwalkchamber.com for information on how to participate. More events are being planned out for this year so stay tuned for additional news soon. We encourage you to shop local here in Norwalk and happy Spring!

Your Chamber Board and Staff are here to help your business succeed in our community. If you need any resources, reach out to the office to see how we can help.

Be safe and have a great month.

Respectfully,

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

### **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION AT CHICK-FIL-A**

Norwalk Chamber held our bi-monthly Coffee and Conversation at Chick- We recently gave only one of our employees a merit-based raise after an excellent fil-A, Norwalk Fitness Village, hosted by Farid Khansarinia. These events are *performance review and asked that employee not to tell others. The employee* designed to provide a low-key networking opportunity for our members still told their coworkers and now several of our staff are upset. What can we do and guests. Chick-fil-A provides complimentary coffee each time to those that attend and we all provide the conversation. Be sure and join us for the next networking opportunity at Chick-fil-A on Thursday, May 25th. Be sure and bring your business cards to share with others and find out more about growing your business connections over coffee and conversation.



coffee Enjoying networking at Chick-fil-A Juan are (I to r) Ambassador Joe Rueda of Bravo are Past President Derthick, Board President Financial Solutions Jose Rios, TNG Realty Rich LeGaspi, Board Member is networking with and Danika Mendoza Butler and Karla President Toni Grijalva.



and New Bravo Past Chante Smith of of IBE Digital. Thinkers 4 Autism.

Member Finding out about de each other's business

#### State Health Department, Cal/OSHA Update

### LABOR LAW CORNER

about this situation?

Making compensation decisions about your workforce that are both fair and rewarding to top performers can be an important tool to help retain top talent There are, however, some possible traps that employers should avoid in this area.

#### **Confidentiality of Wage Increases**

In California, wage equality continues to be an important policy issue. To this end, the state passed the Fair Pay Act, which sought to ensure that employees are paid equally for performing substantially similar work. The Fair Pay Act has been amended several times to increase protection for workers. One of those protections prohibits "pay secrecy." Under the Fair Pay Act, employers cannot prohibit employees from disclosing their own wages; discussing the wages of others; asking about another employee's wages; and aiding or encouraging other employees to exercise their rights under the Fair Pay Act. Additionally, the National Labor Relations Act, a federal law geared toward allowing employees to act collectively regarding their working conditions, allows employees to discuss their own wages openly as part of that effort. So, instructing the employee to keep their raise and new wage secret violated both federal and California laws. Ultimately the employer cannot take any action against the employee for sharing information about their raise and new wage rate.

## COVID-19 Order, Guidance

On March 3, 2023, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated its COVID-19 public health order and guidance following the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency on February 28, 2023. CDPH updates include changes to isolation and guarantine recommendations, effective March 13, 2023, and face-covering recommendations, effective April 3, 2023.

#### **Isolation and Quarantine**

The updated CDPH order revises isolation and quarantine recommendations to align with • a seniority system; the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) isolation recommendations. • a merit system; Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 should continue to isolate for five days but may leave isolation after five days, if they are feeling well, symptoms are improving and are fever-free for 24 hours. Notably, COVID-19 cases do not need to test negative after day five to leave isolation. The order revises the definition of "infectious period" to align with the updated isolation recommendations. Infectious period is now defined as:

(symptom onset date is Day 0) through Days 5-10 after symptoms first appeared AND 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved; OR

• For asymptomatic confirmed cases, two days before the positive specimen collection date (collection date is Day 0) through Day 5 after positive specimen collection date for their first positive COVID-19 test. The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/ OSHA) COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency regulations specifically incorporate the CDPH's definition of infectious period, so this latest revision will impact employers' COVID-19 returnto-work policies — essentially making it easier for employees to return to work after five days if they have improving symptoms and are fever free.

#### **Face Coverings**

The CDPH also updated its face-covering guidance. The order specifies that individuals must continue to follow the requirements of CDPH's face-covering guidance through April 2, 2023, after which they will become recommendations. The general community recommendations are still based on the CDC's community level framework, but the new guidance will remove the face covering requirements for certain specified high-risk settings when it takes effect on April 3. CDPH's new guidance also specifies that after ending isolation (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms are improving), confirmed COVID-19 cases may remove their mask sooner than Day 10 with two sequential negative tests at least one day apart. Although the CDPH is relaxing its masking guidance, Cal/OSHA's COVID- 19 regulation still specifically requires employees to wear face coverings in certain circumstances. For example, the regulation specifies that COVID-19 cases must wear a face covering in the workplace until 10 days have passed since the date symptoms began or their first positive test. While Cal/OSHA's regulation specifically incorporates the CDPH's definition of "infectious period," the new CDPH guidance allowing COVID-19 cases to remove their masks after two sequential negative tests doesn't appear to impact the regulation's 10day requirement, meaning employers will likely need to continue to follow the regulation's current face covering requirements as written. Cal/OSHA updated their COVID-19 Non-Emergency Regulation FAQs on March 13, 2023, to address the recent CDPH changes. Cal/ OSHA's revised guidance adopts CDPH's definition of infectious period, meaning COVID-19 cases can return to work after five days without a negative test, so long as they are feeling well, symptoms are improving and are fever free for 24 hours. However, Cal/OSHA's guidance maintains that COVID-19 cases that return to work must wear a face covering for 10 days after symptoms first appear or their first positive test. Employers should review the revised guidance to ensure their COVID-19 prevention policies are up to date.

#### Justifying Pay Disparity

Of course, the employer was concerned that if other employees found out about the wage increase and that the employee was making more than others; it could create several issues in the workplace. Although the Fair Pay Act wants employers to pay employees who do substantially similar work the same, the law does allow for differences in pay if the differences are based on legitimate, bona fide factors. Bona fide factors that may lawfully justify a pay disparity include:

- quantity or quality of work; or

a factor other than sex, race or ethnicity, such as education, training or experience.

• For symptomatic confirmed cases, two days before the confirmed case had any symptoms If an employer is using the fourth factor to justify a pay disparity, the employer has to show that the factor also is job-related and consistent with business necessity. For example, if an employer uses experience as the bona fide factor to justify disparate pay between two employees, the experience needs to be related to the job that the employees perform and not just "more experience." For this employer, the employee earned the salary increase because of the quality of their work compared to their peers as reflected in the performance review. So, the employer may rely on this factor to justify why they are paying this employee more than any other that does substantially similar work. Relying on these factors, employers then can have open conversations with the rest of their employees about why compensation decisions were made after the staff became aware of the raise as well as avoid any potential claims under the Fair Pay Act.

#### 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

### **NEW BUSINESSES IN NORWALK**

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the City of Norwalk helped welcome two new businesses to the community with Ribbon Cutting events on March 25th. Luckily the weather cooperated and it was a beautiful day to spend with the new businesses and all of their attendees. Our first Ribbon Cutting was for Something Good LA, a new restaurant located in Paddison Square right across the street from City Hall. This restaurant was the dream of Viviana, Mariana and Dontay as they brought their dream to Norwalk. The restaurant has been open for a few weeks and already has guite a following here in Norwalk. Their menu includes dishes such as their Pork Belly Sando and their "Grilled Cheese" Burger. This event included a car show and visits from celebrities such as Rapper Xzibit and former Los Angeles Laker Trevor Ariza. We were also fortunate to have Mayor Ana Valencia, Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, Council Member Rick Ramirez, NLMUSD School Board Vice President Jose Rios and Nandy Santana, Field Rep for State Senator Bob Archuleta along with our Norwalk Chamber Ambassadors and Board Members. We want to thank Ozzie Ramos, the Public Safety Team and Norwalk Sheriff Staff for being on hand to help with crowd control for this well attended event.



LA.



**Pictured with Rapper Xzibit** Board are President Rich LeGaspi and Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia.



Norwalk Public Safety Officers were on hand to help with the Ribbon Good LA.



Norwalk Chamber Ribbon Cutting Something Good LA. Pictured here (I to r) Ambassador Essen Menjivar, Kustom Made Graphics, Board Member Gary Murphy, Ambassadors Denise Urtiaga, Kustom Made Graphics, Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Sue Arthur, and Board **TNT Fireworks.** 



and Vice Mayor Margarita Rios.



Board Members and Board Member Gary Murphy presents a Ambassadors at the certificate to Something Good LA on behalf of for Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco.



Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center presents a certificate on behalf Good LA.



Officially cutting the ribbon at Something Good Presenting a business spotlight award from the Receiving a certificate from the office of Senator City of Norwalk. Pictured here are (I to r) Mayor Bob Archuleta are (I to r) Dontay Kidd, Viviana Ana Valencia, business owners Dontay, Viviana and Mariana Hernandez, City Council Member and Mariana, City Council Member Rick Ramirez Rick Ramirez, Nandy Santana, Field Rep Senator Bob Archuleta, Mayor Ana Valencia and Vice Mayor Margarita Rios.



Board President Rich LeGaspi presents a Ribbon Cutting certificate to Something Good LA from the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

Following this Ribbon Cutting we headed over to Ladybug Kids Dental to officially welcome this business to the Norwalk Community. Dr. Justin Ghiam and Officer Manager Elizabeth D. had a fantastic grand opening with many friends and family members in attendance. We were also happy to welcome Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and Council Member Rick Ramirez to the Ribbon Cutting event. Once again Nandy Santana, Field Rep for State Senator Bob Archuleta was in attendance to present a ribbon cutting certificate on behalf of Cutting at Something President Rich LeGaspi, of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez to Something the Senator. Beautiful flowers were being delivered nonstop to Ladybug Kids Dental while the ribbon

cutting was taking place, each delivery more beautiful than the previous one. After the certificates were presented, photos taken, and the ribbon was cut, then refreshments were served and tours of the new facility were provided.

Check out Ladybug Kids Dental and bring your kidlets here for their dental services. You can visit their website at www.ladybugkidsdental.com for additional information or to make an appointment.



At the Ribbon Cutting for Ladybug Kids Dr. Justin Ghiam and Dental were family, friends, Norwalk Chamber Elizabeth representatives and community members.



Nandy Santana, Field Rep for State Senator Bob Archuleta presents a certificate on behalf of the Senator to Ladybug Kids Dental for their Ribbon Cutting event.



A second Ribbon Cutting was held as additional family and friends of Ladybug Kids Dental arrived to help with the celebration.



D. getting welcome ready to everyone their to **Ribbon Cutting event.** 



After the ribbon is Ladybug cut, Kids Dental welcomes in the Norwalk Community.



Vice Mayor Margarita Rios presents a Business Spotlight Award to Ladybug Kids Dental to celebrate the event. Also pictured here are Chamber Board President Rich LeGaspi and City Council Member Rick Ramirez.



Board President Rich LeGaspi presents a certificate on behalf of Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn and the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce at the Ribbon Cutting for Ladybug Kids Dental.

