

Norwalk Education Alliance Holds 2nd Annual Career Paths Exploration Night

The Norwalk Education Alliance (City of Norwalk, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, Norwalk La Mirada USD, Cerritos College, and Southeast Los Angeles Workforce Development Board) held their 2nd Annual Career Paths Exploration Night on Thursday, May 3rd at Norwalk City Hall. This event is designed to provide high school students, local residents, and those seeking information on a career with basic information on steps they need to take for that particular career. This year Norwalk Chamber Businesses were on hand to answer the many questions that those in attendance had. Southern California Gas Company, California Department of Rehabilitation, Cerritos College, TANLA, Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles, AFLAC, Norwalk La Mirada USD, and Liberty Utilities participated in this event, which drew over 500 students and residents to City Hall. There were many other business sectors represented that evening including technology, real estate, media and fashion. Also representing our armed forces were the United States Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force, California National Guard and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Visiting the event that evening was Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and Council Member Leonard Shryock. This outstanding collaboration is designed to bring resources to the Norwalk community to help create positive economic growth through shared energy and information. Thank you to all who participated in this year's Exploration Night.



Southeast Academy students getting prepared to assist in the 2nd Annual Career Paths Exploration Night.



Southern California Gas Company staff are ready to provide information about possible careers in the energy and utility field.



Liberty Utilities are prepared to meet many visitors to their table to information them of possible careers in their utility sector.



Norwalk Chamber Board Member Adam Stanchina is pictured here with Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, as she visits the Career Paths Exploration event.



Visiting the different booths are City of Norwalk Bing Hyun, Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez and Norwalk Chamber Ambassador Jose Rios of Berkshire Hathaway.



Event lead Anthony Cobbs of Norwalk La Mirada USD is pictured with Andrew Perez, Mayor Jennifer Perez and NEA Lead Bing Hyun.



Supporting this annual event are Norwalk Council Member Leonard Shryock, Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and Chamber Ambassador Jose Rios.



Cerritos College is on hand to provide information on different College and Career Pathways available at the campus.



Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk provides answers to the questions from attendees about the Hospitality Industry.

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

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California Department of Rehabilitation is in attendance, with Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company providing information to a visitor to the Utilities Sector.



Norwalk Chamber Board Member Jennifer Perez is in attendance, with Southern California Gas Company providing information to a visitor to the Utilities Sector.

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

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

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PRESIDENT YOVANI FLORES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDITOR, NCBC CAREN SPILSBURY

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, June 6th Ambassador Meeting
12noon
Norwalk Chamber

Thursday, June 7th Coffee with a Cop
Ella's Café
9am to 11am

Thursday, June 7th Service Workshop
Solutions to Maximizing Social Security Benefits
11:30am
Norwalk Chamber
RSVP 562-888-9182

Wednesday, June 13th Norwalk Chamber of Commerce 95th Annual Awards & Installation Luncheon
12noon to 1:30pm
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex

Wednesday, June 13th City of Norwalk Summer Concert Series
6pm to 9pm
City Hall Lawn

Wednesday, June 20th City of Norwalk Summer Concert Series
6pm to 9pm
City Hall Lawn

Thursday, June 21st Service Workshop Advanced Planning, Veterans Benefits, Trusts, Healthcare Directives
11:30am
Norwalk Chamber
RSVP 562-888-9182

Wednesday June 27th Norwalk Chamber Annual Planning Session
2pm to 7pm
Southern California Gas Company

Thursday, July 26th LA's Largest Mixer
Pasadena Convention Center
4pm to 8pm

Wednesday, August 8th Annual Business Expo
Norwalk City Hall Lawn
5pm to 8pm



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NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

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.

43 Years
Chapel of Memories
Anthony Nunes
562-863-8731
chapelofmemories@verizon.net

32 Years
J & N Nut Products
Manuel Baeza
562-868-7525
jandnnutproducts@yahoo.com

Frantone's Pizza and Spaghetti Villa
John Teserio
562-924-9494
www.frantones.com

23 Years
Metropolitan State Hospital
Dr. Michael W. Barsom
562-651-2245

22 Years
West Coast Arborists
Patrick Mahoney
714-991-1900
pmahoney@wcainc.com

19 Years
Pawnmart Jewelry & Loan
C. Rae Goldsmith
562-929-2377
martys.pawnmart@verizon.net

Goodwill Industries
Janet McCarthy
562-435-3411
jmccarthy@goodwillsolac.org

17 Years
Thompson & Associates
Mia Chung
562-868-2231
mia@frontstreettax.com

9 Years
State Farm Insurance
Lucy Rodas
562-868-6218
lucy.rodas.RZX9@statefarm.com

3 Years
Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant
Jason Perez
562-868-1553
Ogrosewoods@gmail.com

3 Years
Allergy, Asthma, Sinusitis Medical Clinic Inc.
Divyang Trivedi MD
562-864-4500
allergist@hotmail.com

2 Years
Don Knabe Golf Center & Junior Academy
Neil Sauer
562-921-7047
www.playknabegolf.com

New Members

Speedy Dog Food Truck
Orlando Garcia
Norwalk CA
562-303-3072
speedydogca@gmail.com

Ribbon Cutting at the New Veterans Resource Center

The Ribbon was cut at the new Veterans Resource Center located at the Norwalk Library on Imperial Highway. This center will bring much needed resources to our Veteran population in Norwalk and the surrounding communities. Librarian Sue Kane along with Jesse Walker-Lanz of Los Angeles County Libraries were on hand to coordinate the event. Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez spoke to the gathering and expressed her pleasure in the opening of this center. There are volunteers on hand at the library to help those Veterans in the resource center. Visit them today to see what they have to help our Veterans. The address is 12350 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk CA.



Attending the Ribbon Cutting at the new Veterans Resource Center at the Norwalk Library are (l to r) Jesse Walker-Lanz, LA County Libraries Norwalk Chamber President Elect, Trisha Gutierrez, Alberto Ruiz, Field Deputy Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, Sue Kane, Norwalk Librarian, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Gordon Stefhagen, Friends of the Norwalk Library, Ivan Sulic, Field Deputy, Supervisor Janice Hahn, Griselda Ortiz, Field Deputy, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Chamber Members, Board and Ambassadors

It was a sincere honor when almost a year ago I was asked to serve as President of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. I can't believe how quickly time passed. In accepting this position, I decided this was my opportunity to give back to a community and an organization that has given me every opportunity to succeed in my professional life. As we worked to recruit new members and add value to our existing members I got the opportunity to meet business owners, managers and employees of companies who I would have never met.

Over the past 24 years I have worked as a Manager for US Bank, and I consider myself lucky to work for a business that encourages and allows volunteerism by their employees.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our incoming President Trisha Gutierrez the best of luck. You have an amazing group of Ambassadors, Board Members, and the best Executive Director Caren Spilbury. In closing I want to thank everyone for all their support and guidance. I could have never done this without the help of every single member. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, as President I wish I could have done more but our work is not over and you all have my commitment that I will continue to help in any way I can. Special thanks to the City of Norwalk, our Mayor Jennifer Perez, City councilmember's, and our City Manager Jesus Gomez. Your involvement with the Chamber is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Yovani Flores
2017-18 President
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
US Bank Branch Manager



Norwalk Chamber President, Yovani Flores presents a "thank you" gift to our guest speaker Mark Toohy of the California Earthquake Authority.

NORWALK HAPPENINGS

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Our May Women in Business Luncheon was a great success with guest speaker Rakdy Khlok, Emergency Manager for the City of Downey. Rakdy provided a presentation on Active Shooter Preparation and general emergency preparedness. Her advice for active shooter prep was to know where you can hide in your business if someone were to come with a gun, know the escape routes, create obstacles and that you should remember the drill: Run, Hide, and Fight. She also advised to visualize this happening so that you can really prepare should it happen. Act it out in your business so that everyone is prepared. Be creative as anything can be used as a weapon by you when trying to protect yourself. Rakdy also shared that every business should have an emergency plan in case of any disaster. Questions that she asked were: How would you get home from work in case of a disaster? Do you have a 3 day supply of food and water at your workplace? Do you have a plan for a disaster at work and have you shared it with staff? Just as you need a plan at home, you need one at work. Visit www.ready.gov to find an Emergency Supplies list to get your business ready for a potential disaster. Thank you to Rakdy Khlok of the City of Downey for visiting our Women in Business and speaking on this very important topic.



Attending the Women in Business Luncheon are Holly Noble, 4 The Love of Horses & Mary Kay Cosmetics, John Noble, Norwalk Ambassador Sue Arthur, and Priscilla Figueroa and Jasmine Beltran of Money Mart.



Attendees at the May Women in Business Lunch, including Teri Bazen, Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Sue Arthur, Chante Wise, Thinkers 4 Autism, Holly Nobel, 4 the Love of Horses, Priscilla Figueroa and Jasmine Beltran, Money Mart and John Noble.

CAPC, Inc. host Annual Kaleidoscope 6 Chamber Mixer

CAPC, Inc. Capitalizing on Capabilities empowers adults with developmental disabilities to live and work on their own. Each year they host a mixer for the six Chambers that they are members of, and this year it was on May 10th at the Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk. Carolyn Reggio is the CEO of this organization and each year her team puts on a wonderful event for networking and fundraising. Carolyn, her staff and many volunteers work tirelessly to put together many silent auction items for attendees to bid on, along with bringing vendors that provide food tastings and Chambers that bring their members and their energy to the event. This year was no exception with stiff competition in the Chamber trivia competition, a new activity for the Chambers. Ultimately every Chamber was a winner, as we all came together to support this great organization. If you would like more information about CAPC, Inc. you can visit their website at www.capcinc.org. They would also like the public to know that they are HIRING! If you are looking for an opportunity to work for a great organization, enjoy teaching others, like to work in the community and are self motivated, this may be the place for you. Reach out to them at 562-693-8826 ext 3007, if you would like more information.



Manning the Norwalk Chamber table at the Kaleidoscope 6 Chamber Mixer are volunteers Melissa Ramirez, Aubrey Spilsbury and Chamber Board Member Adam Stanchina.



Competing in the CAPC, Inc. trivia contests are representatives from all six Chambers, including Adam Stanchina of the Doubletree by Hilton. Pictured with them is CAPC, Inc. CEO Carolyn Reggio (in front).



Representing the Norwalk Chamber at the mixer are Ambassador Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank and Joe Derthick, AFLAC.



Visiting the Mixer at the Doubletree Hotel are staff from Money Mart, Denise Urriaga and Essen Menjivar of Kustom Made Graphics.



Wearing Norwalk Red at the mixer are volunteers Melissa Ramirez, Aubrey Spilsbury and Board Member Julia Emerson of Southern California Gas Company.

Renewing Members



Gary Murphy of Norwalk Florists receiving his 29 year membership renewal from Chamber President Yovani Flores.



Adrian Garcia accepts a renewal plaque for Southern California Edison, for 43 years as a Norwalk Chamber Member, from President Yovani Flores of U.S. Bank.



Norwalk Chamber President Elect Trisha Gutierrez receives her membership renewal from President Yovani Flores.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Su Casa's Gala of Light a Success

Su Casa presented the 1st Annual Gala of Light Saturday, April 21 at the beautiful Old Ranch Country Club. Supporters of Su Casa enjoyed a great evening of auctions, raffles, a steak or salmon dinner, and entertainment by the King Salmon Band. Some of the great auction prizes taken home that evening included Round Trip Airfare anywhere in the US and a hotel and long term parking from Southwest Airlines and Courtyard Marriot, Disneyland Park Hopper Tickets, and an incredible Madonna Inn wine tasting adventure.

Board of Directors Chair Susan Held began the evening's program. Ms Held provided comments and introduced Executive Director Anna Conti who addressed the audience of Su Casa's accomplishments over the past year.

Karen D'ingillo, a member of the board of directors, author, and the evening's inspirational speaker. D'Ingillo presented her life story of domestic abuse, her life's trajectory to today, and how agencies such as Su Casa are so important to our community. The audience was deeply touched by her honest and emotional description of how domestic violence impacted her family.

Following Karen's address, thousands of dollars were raised in a Raise the Paddle event, led by Debbie Vince and Robert McKenna. Audience members were able to provide financial support for areas of need for Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence.

The rest of the evening was spent dancing to King Salmon and regaling the very successful fundraising event to support Su Casa.

Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence is a non-profit organization dedicated to combating domestic violence and to providing programs and services in support of domestic violence survivors.



(L-R) Karen D'Ingillo, Board Member, Anna Conti, Executive Director, Susan Held, Board Chair, Cybill Aros-Pearson, Board Member, and Anne Rodriguez, Board Member. Su Casa toasts the success of the 1st annual Gala of Light



Guests dance to the sounds of King Salmon

California Earthquake Authority speaker at Chamber Breakfast

Mark Toohey of the California Earthquake Authority was the guest speaker at the Norwalk Chambers Quarterly Leadership Series Breakfast on May 23rd. Mr. Toohey shared information on what the California Earthquake Authority does and how they educate, mitigate and insure homeowners and renters against earthquake damage to property. Mark informed the group that we all live within 30 miles of an active fault yet less than 10% of us have earthquake insurance. Some myths that people have about damage from an earthquake are: The government will bail me out, residential insurance policies cover earthquake damage and it cost too much to carry earthquake insurance. To counter these myths, Mark shared that even if FEMA comes in to help, they will only provide about \$50,000.00 to the homeowner which will not even begin to cover replacement costs. That in California residential insurance policies do not cover earthquake losses, you have to purchase a separate policy. And that the costs of earthquake insurance have gradually come down since the 1994 Northridge quake. To find out about how much earthquake insurance can cost you, visit their website at www.earthquakeauthority.com and use their online calculator to get an estimate of what this insurance may cost you, you might be surprised how affordable it is. Mark recommends purchasing earthquake insurance through your current homeowner insurance carrier.

Adrian Garcia of Southern California Edison and Julia Emerson of Southern California Gas Company then spoke and provided information about getting prepared for a disaster and steps you can take afterwards to make sure your business is able to survive. Some of this information can be found at <https://preparesocal.org>. Remember that you should take the same precautions at your business that you take at your home. Additional tips that were shared: keep your vehicle filled with fuel at least half way at all times, as gas station pumps do not work without electricity and in a disaster the electricity may go out so do not turn off your gas at home, first walk around the perimeter of your home and look, listen and smell for a gas leak then turn off all appliances that are gas and check your meter to see if the gas is still running. If it isn't you likely don't have a gas leak and can leave your gas on, if it is running you may have a gas leak and then should turn your meter off. Additionally make copies of all your important documents including driver's license and have a file hand that you can grab in case you need to evacuate your home.

Thank you to the California Earthquake Authority, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company for sharing valuable information to our attendees at our Leadership Series Breakfast.



Hearing about earthquake preparedness at our Leadership Series breakfast are: (l to r) Mark Toohey our presenter, Ibn Johnson, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Adrian Garcia, Southern California Edison, Chamber Board Member, Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates, Cheri Kelley, Hometown Realtors, President Yovani Flores, U.S. Bank, Board Member Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company, Gary Murphy, Norwalk Florist, Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty and in front, Steve Guzman, The P.C. Help Desk.



Attending the breakfast are Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty, Adrian Garcia, Southern California Edison and Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company.



Getting ready for breakfast and the workshop are (l to r) Karla Butler, Cheri Kelley, Yovani Flores and Gary Murphy.

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