

### ANNUAL STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

Each year the Norwalk Chamber hosts the Annual State of the Nation Address featuring Congresswoman Linda Sánchez. We partner with other local Chambers of Commerce that are part of her congressional district so that the Congresswoman can reach many constituents during this address. This year was no exception as we virtually shared the event with the Artesia, Cerritos, Lakewood, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier Chambers along with many local officials, city and community leaders. The event began with a welcome to all attendees by MC Carol Crosby, an introduction of the Congresswoman by Luis Cetina of the Metropolitan Water District and then we heard from Congresswoman Linda Sánchez as she once again shared her State of the Nation Address for 2020.

Congresswoman Sánchez thanked all for providing an opportunity to gather and how important it was to be able to come together for this event each year. She then shared information on the most important item at the top of everyone's mind, the current COVID-19 crisis. She started off with what has been accomplished so far with regard to the national government. When the pandemic started in March, Congress knew that they had to act fast. As stay at home orders began to take effect there was overwhelming bipartisan support to do something quickly. With that bipartisan support they were able to put together the CARES Act. It was important to get resources to families and small businesses to help stabilize the economy. Congress created the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and increased the funding for Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) which included a grant portion. They invested in COVID-19 testing capabilities and vaccine research. Funding also included providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for front line workers and the federal supplement to state unemployment benefits. Additionally, this included direct stimulus payments to families.

Once the CARES Act was rolled out, Congress began to see that there were holes in the roll out of the PPP and some very big hurdles for minority owned and very small businesses. There was a great demand for PPP and EIDL loans and not enough funding. There were also inadequate funds for small local governments, such as the cities in her District. They also realized that the timeline in the CARES Act did not reflect the reality of what was happening with the pandemic. As big as the CARES Act was, it was not big enough to reflect the reality of the current crisis. Because of this Congress passed a bipartisan replenishment bill in April to replenish the funding for the PPP and revised some of the rules in order to make them accessible for very small businesses and to minority owned businesses. Next Congress turned their attention to a second CARES Act which was passed in the House in May (the HEROS Bill) which was never brought forward or passed by the Senate. That bill included over 75 billion dollars for testing, contact tracing and treatment so that we could work on opening the economy safely. The HEROS Act would have also delivered aid to all sizes of local government and would have ensured that the PPP funds would have gone to underserved communities, including Chambers of Commerce. It would also have sent another round of stimulus payment to families, extended the federal supplement unemployment benefits and expanded and improved the employee retention tax credit. In the bill were several provisions that the Congresswoman championed that were included, such as a refundable tax credit for businesses to pay for PPE and other employee pandemic protective expenses. The House also passed the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act which the Congresswoman was able to have many provisions included in it to help working parents, but this also did not make it out of the Senate. They took all of these actions and more in the House because the most effective way to reopen the economy is to get the pandemic under control and have a safe place for working parents to leave their children. After four months the Senate had not considered anything until September and then passed a "skinny" bill that was a pared down version of the HEROS Act and did not provide many of the items that were included in the House bill. The House then passed an updated HEROS Act in October, which was a pared down version of the original Act but included many of the original items in the first HEROS Act. Again, the Senate would not look at the pared down version of the bill and were adamant that they would not provide assistance to state and local governments. Unfortunately, the Congresswoman does not know when they will begin negotiations again for another relief bill, as they need a partner to work with and right now the Senate is not that partner. Congresswoman Sánchez will continue to do everything in her power to get small businesses the help they desperately need at this time and the relief that they need before the end of the year. She will also continue to work to get our local cities the relief that they need due

to the financial difficulties they are experiencing with the decline in sales tax revenue and increases in costs due to modifications that have been put into place because of the pandemic.

The Congresswoman reminded the attendees that even with all of the difficulties we have experienced with the pandemic, 2020 is a critical year because of the census. The results of the census not only determine our representation in Washington DC, but it also determines grant and formula funding across the federal government which is determined by the census numbers. The Congresswoman has worked for more than a year to make sure our census workers had the resources and the time that they needed to conduct a full count. With that she shared that her District had some of the highest response rates in the state, coming in above the state and county averages. She shared her thanks to all the Cities, Chambers, and community organizations that came together to help get the response rate up and that this could not have been done without everyone's support. She will now be working to make sure of the accuracy of the data that the census bureau will be managing so that it is reported accurately to the federal agencies.

Looking forward in Congress, trade will be at the top of the list in January. The Congresswoman serves on the Ways and Means Committee which has jurisdiction over trade and has always been at the forefront of fighting to make sure there is a level playing field for our businesses. A critical part of this is the enforcement of labor standards in other countries. She had heard from many that NAFTA was not working and that is why when they were renegotiating the USMCA last year they insisted on stricter new labor enforcement mechanisms. As a result of the changes they were able to make to the new USMCA she supported the trade agreement, which was the first one that she had ever supported. She hopes that this can serve as a model for future negotiations with trading partners. Congresswoman Sánchez knows that the agreement isn't perfect but hopes that all will share with her their ideas for an even better agreement in the future with upcoming discussions for trade agreements with the United Kingdom and the European Union.

The Ways and Means Committee also has jurisdiction over the tax code, and she has been able to move important provisions in many of the changes that have been implemented. One example that she shared was a provision that reduced administration and compliance costs for small businesses who offer retirement savings plan and that was signed into law. She also shared about a provision that allowed workers to set aside pretax money for childcare which is more important than ever right now. She will always look at legislation through the lens of how this will impact working families and small businesses in her District and to make sure that they are able to compete on a fair and level playing field.

As we begin to move into next year, and 2020 is in our rearview mirror, there will be some important legislature that Congress will be working on. Infrastructure is one item which includes schools, roads, housing, and broadband access and other critical foundations for our economy.

We have all learned during this pandemic the importance of our digital structure as all families are relying on technology more than ever. Technology is crucial to survival so assuring that all communities have access to quality broadband falls under our infrastructure needs. Water is another critical infrastructure need and the Congresswoman was able to help secure over four million dollars for the WRD Albert Robles Center. She will continue to fight to see that our cities and water districts receive their fair share of funding. Another major priority is her work on the Whittier Narrows Dam which is a key local infrastructure need because the Dam is over 50 years old and needs restoration to be upgraded. She has been able to secure the funding needed to do this work and include language that the Army Corp of Engineers study ways to minimize the disruption to the neighborhoods around it while the improvements are going on.

One of the most important parts of her job, but least talked about is case work. She and her staff have worked since the pandemic to support small businesses with PPP and EIDL, to help bring Americans home who were stranded around the world, to help people with food insecurities, and to help with unemployment, Social Security and Medicare benefits. If you or anyone you know needs help, the Congresswoman and her staff are available for you. Reach out to her office with any questions or visit her website to find resources.

After sharing with all attendees, the Congresswoman



answered audience questions. In closing Congresswoman Sánchez was thanked for sharing her State of the Nation Address with virtual flowers and a commitment to her District to continue to work for all businesses and residents to bring as many resources as possible back to her District.

The Norwalk Chamber, in alliance with our partners, Artesia Chamber, Cerritos Chamber, Greater Lakewood Chamber, Montebello Chamber, Pico Rivera Chamber, Santa Fe Springs Chamber and Whittier Chamber want to thank our generous Sponsors for helping to make this event possible.

- Southern California Gas Company
- Metropolitan Water District
- Water Replenishment District
- Beverly Hospital
- Kaiser Permanente
- Ride Yellow



Norwalk Chamber thanks our State of the Nation Sponsors: Southern California Gas Company, Metropolitan Water District, Beverly Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, Water Replenishment District and Ride Yellow.

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**

**AMANDA BLANTON**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**EDITOR, NCBC**

**CAREN SPILSBURY**



**NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS**

**New Members**

**31 Years**  
**Community Family Guidance Center**  
Bill Sinko  
562-924-5526  
www.cfgcenter.com

**TNT Fireworks**  
Rich LeGaspi  
800-585-9487  
www.tntfireworks.com

**11 Years**  
**Soroptimist International Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs**  
President  
https://sinorwalksantafesprings.org/

**7 Years**  
**Active Pest Control**  
Van & Pary Leang  
562-572-7594  
www.active-pestcontrol.net

**Bill's Barber Shop**  
Dave Rosa  
562-802-1218  
daverosa7@gmail.com

**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.

**35 Years**  
**Costco Wholesale**  
Marketing Department  
562-929-0826  
www.costco.com

**23 Years**  
**CAPC, Inc.**  
Caroline Reggio  
562-693-8826  
www.capcinc.org

**20 Years**  
**Outback Steakhouse Restaurant**  
JJ Mastopietro  
562-863-8908  
www.outback.com

**6 Years**  
**The Sterling Insurance & Financial Group**  
Patty Contreras  
909-946-0101  
www.thesterling-ins.com

**34 Years**  
**Sonoco**  
Marie Garnica  
562-921-088  
www.sonoco.com

**17 Years**  
**Kelco Sales**  
Tracy Polley  
562-868-9861

**3 Years**  
**Loftus Land Company**  
John Loftus  
626-229-9482

**U-Haul of Los Angeles**  
Robert Kelley  
626-859-4500  
www.uhaul.com

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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PLEASE NOTE:

THESE DATES AND LOCATIONS COULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**November 11th**

Instagram Webinar  
10am via ZOOM  
Part II

**November 18th**

Board of Directors Meeting via ZOOM

**November 18th**

Instagram Webinar  
10am via ZOOM  
Part III

**November 18th**

Norwalk Chamber Fundraiser  
Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant  
All Day Event

**November 28th**

Small Business Saturday  
All Day

**December 4th**

Greater Whittier YMCA  
Christmas Prayer Breakfast

**December 9th**

Norwalk Chamber  
Drive in Holiday Mixer

**December 16th**

Board of Directors Meeting  
9am via ZOOM

**Norwalk Chamber Hosts Paint Night Fundraiser**

On October 23rd, Norwalk Chamber hosted a virtual Paint Night Fundraiser. Our Chamber member, Wine & Design and owner Yvonne Parades-Alexander brought together a group of participants on ZOOM to paint and network together. Tickets were presold and supplies were delivered directly to the participant so that all could paint safely together. The Chamber thanks our Sponsors, the City of Norwalk, Mayor Jennifer Perez and Farmers & Merchants Bank for

their support of this event. You can host your own paint night event with friends and family by contact Yvonne via email at Stanton.ca@wineanddesign.com or by visiting their website at www.wineanddesign.com/stanton-ca. As we move into the holidays this can be a fun safe family event where you create a memory on canvas that you can all share together. If you are looking for a fundraiser for your organization, you can reach out to Yvonne about that also.



Making memories together while painting are Aubrey Spilsbury and Melissa Ramirez.



At the Paint Night Fundraiser are Norwalk Chamber Board Member Karla Butler and Little Lake City School Board member Dora Sandoval.



Showing off their canvases at the Paint Night are Lori Williams and Sherry Wilson.



Our group of painters show off their finished product!

**11th Annual Small Business Saturday November 28th this Year**

Virtual shopping, dining outside, ordering online and much more can all be done this year on Small Business Saturday. While we are all bound by the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are still many ways to support your small business community. The Norwalk Chamber will once again be a Neighborhood Champion for Small Business Saturday and will support our small business community through our Social Media, our email blasts and newsletter. This year more than any of the last 10 is the most important for supporting our small businesses. We will be sharing any coupons, sales and specials that they may have with you on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We will be showcasing our small businesses throughout the month and we encourage

you all to think outside the box on how you can support them on November 28th. We will have a drop in event at the Norwalk Chamber that morning from 9:30am to 10am. You can stop by our office, pick up information on specials and sales that may be going that day and grab a donut or coffee to take with you! You may also be able to grab a

shopping bag (while supplies last) to help with your shopping. Call the Chamber at 562-404-0909 for additional details on the upcoming Small Business Saturday!



**SHOP SAFELY WITH US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.**



Shopping Small in partnership with American Express on Small Business Saturday.

**BRIGHTEN UP THE SEASON BY SHOPPING SMALL WITH US.**



Start your holiday shopping by shopping small on November 28th, Small Business Saturday.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Norwalk Chamber Members,

I would like to start by thanking our Paint Night Fundraiser Sponsors, the City of Norwalk, Mayor Jennifer Perez and Farmers & Merchants Bank. Your support helped with the success of this fun event. Small groups were able to gather together and make memories while creating a fun painting to hang on our walls. Yvonne Parades-Alexander is the owner of this business that can provide small and large group fun events or fundraiser events. Her business is Wine & Design and she can be reached at [stanton.ca@wineanddesign.com](mailto:stanton.ca@wineanddesign.com) to set up your own fun event. Norwalk Chamber will be hosting another Paint Night Fundraiser in the spring, so keep your eyes open for information on that event.

As we head into the holiday season, we know that it will be a season like no other. Our traditional Chamber events will have to be reimaged. We look forward to our Annual Holiday Mixer, which will be held at the Norwalk Chamber office as a "drive through" event. This will take place

on the evening of Wednesday, December 9th at 14783 Carmenita Rd. in Norwalk. We will have traditional raffle of a "Barrel O' Holiday Cheer" so look to purchase your tickets for that from a Chamber Board Member, Ambassador, or on our Chamber web store. We will have appetizers for you to pick up enjoy socially distant in our parking lot or take home with you. You will be able to tour our Chamber conference room which will be laden with baskets and other items you can enter to win with your raffle tickets (available for purchase at the event.) Look for additional information to come out on this annual holiday event.

For City of Norwalk holiday events, visit [www.norwalk.org](http://www.norwalk.org) and click on Special Events to see the dates and times that online and drive through holiday events will take place. We also encourage you to celebrate the 11th Annual Small Business Saturday with us this year, by shopping at our small businesses here in Norwalk. Drop by the Chamber office to get coffee and a donut to go before you visit our businesses.

Lastly, we would like to thank the City of Norwalk for recognizing the difficulties that our business community is facing and will continue to face as the COVID-19 shut down moves forward. Your support in not raising the trash rates for the commercial community is much appreciated by our Chamber members.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe Thanksgiving!

**Amanda Blanton**

2020-2021 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
Farmers & Merchants Bank

## PAINT THE TOWN PINK NORWALK



Norwalk Chamber, the City of Norwalk and the American Cancer Society once again teamed up to "Paint the Town Pink" (PTTP) for National Breast Cancer Awareness month. It was more important than ever this year to highlight the Making Strides against Breast Cancer campaign because of the pandemic shut down. Many people have been staying home, not getting the necessary screenings or treatments because of COVID-19. But cancer doesn't sleep or stay home so it is even more important to share with people the resources that are available to attack cancer from every angle.

More than 1.8 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in the United States in 2020. Without the American Cancer Society's

nearly 75 years of investments in research, patients wouldn't have as many effective treatment options and preventative tools. As the largest private not-for-profit, non-governmental funder of cancer research in the US, they have played a role in many of the major cancer research breakthroughs in the last century. American Cancer Society also has resources available to patients and their families. For information, day to day help and emotional support reach out to 800-227-2345 or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). American Cancer Society also reminds you of the importance of getting cancer screenings at the right time! For women, breast cancer mammograms should be obtained every year starting at age 45. (you can start at 40 if you wish) Women ages 30 – 65 should get a Pap test every 3 years. Men should start testing at age 45 for colorectal cancer and based on family health

history at age 45 for prostate cancer. For both men and women beginning lung cancer screenings would be based on whether you are a current or former smoker, or if you had exposure to cigarette smoke. You should also speak with your doctor about these screenings. These are recommendations only and you should always speak with your physician to discuss when you should begin with any preventative screenings for cancer.

Norwalk Chamber thanks the City of Norwalk and the American Cancer Society for once again painting the town pink to highlight National Breast Cancer Awareness month. We thank City Manager Jesus Gomez, Sheriff Captain James Tatreau and Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro for participating in



Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant kicked off the "Paint the Town Pink" fundraising activities. Pictured here is Jason Perez, owner of Mr. Rosewood.



Supporting the "Paint the Town Pink" fundraiser at Mr. Rosewood are Little Lake City School Board Member Dora Sandoval and City of Norwalk Senior Citizens Commission Chair, Esperanza Serrano.



Attending the kick off fundraiser at Mr. Rosewood are Ric and Lori Ochoa of So-Cal Pizza.

the "Real Men Wear Pink" campaign and competition. Thank you to our local restaurants that held fundraising activities to support "Paint the Town Pink": Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, So-Cal Pizza, Don's Teriyaki Grill, Chick-fil-A and Kung Pao Bowl. And thank you to all who participated by visiting these restaurants and supporting not only the fight against breast cancer, but the fight against all cancers!

**MORE PHOTOS SEE PAGE 4**

## Labor Law Corner

### Impact of SB 1383 Expansion of Family Rights Act on Large Employers

*We have more than 50 employees and are already covered by the California Family Rights Act (CFRA), so how will the CFRA expansions under SB 1383 affect us as a large business?*

Under existing law, employers with 50 or more employees are subject to the CFRA and its federal equivalent, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). When SB 1383 goes into effect on January 1, 2021, however, the CFRA will be widely expanded to cover all employers with 5 or more employees. The new law also repeals the New Parent Leave Act (NPLA) as of January 1, 2021, which currently covers employers with 20 or more employees and provides leave for baby bonding.

#### Eligibility Requirements

Although SB 1383 has drastic implications for smaller employers not previously covered under CFRA, large employers should be aware of several changes. For example, the eligibility requirements for an employee to take CFRA leave will be that the employee:

- has at least 12 months of service with the employer, and
- has at least 1,250 hours of service with the employer during the previous 12-month period.

Notably, the requirement that an employee work at a worksite where the employer employs 50 or more employees either at the worksite or within 75 miles of the worksite, has been eliminated. This means that employees previously ineligible due to working at a small worksite and/or based on their location may now be eligible for CFRA leave.

#### Family Member Categories

In addition, employees may take CFRA leave to care for additional categories of family members. Specifically, in addition to taking leave to care for a child, parent, spouse or registered domestic partner with a serious health condition under existing law, an eligible employee also may take CFRA leave to care for grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, adult children and parents-in-law. These new categories of family members are not included in the FMLA.

#### Qualifying Military Exigency

Also, eligible employees may now take CFRA leave because of a qualifying exigency

related to the covered active duty or call to covered active duty of an employee's spouse, registered domestic partner, child or parent in the U.S. Armed Forces. This is also a qualifying reason under the FMLA.

#### Eliminated Provisions

For baby bonding leave under CFRA, the limitation on the amount of leave that parents may take to bond with a new child when both parents are employed by the same employer, has been eliminated. Another elimination in the law is the "key employee" provision that previously allowed an employer to deny reinstatement under certain limited circumstances.

#### Leave Interactions

With the various CFRA expansions, there may be more instances in which an employee takes leave under CFRA without having FMLA leave run concurrently (at the same time). For example, an employee could theoretically use 12 weeks of CFRA leave to care for a grandparent with a serious health condition (which is not a qualifying reason under FMLA), and then in the same 12-month period use another 12 weeks of FMLA leave due to their own serious health condition—for a total of 24 weeks of leave within a 12-month period. This is just one example of how the CFRA and FMLA will interact differently under the new law. Employers should familiarize themselves with the changes in the CFRA, update their family and medical leave policies to account for those changes (and the repeal of the NPLA), and pay close attention to the qualifying reasons when administering and tracking leave under CFRA and/or FMLA.

St. Lic. #271767

# NORWALK/LA MIRADA

## Plumbing

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# PAINT THE TOWN PINK NORWALK continued from page 3



Larry Sandoval of the American Cancer Society pictured with Little Lake City School Board Member Dora Sandoval at the PTPP Fundraiser at Mr. Rosewood.



Painting the Town Pink at Don's Teriyaki Grill are owner Sonia Pream and her staff.



Don's Teriyaki Grill giving a PTPP T-Shirt to those who donated \$25.00 or more.



Norwalk residents supporting the PTPP fundraiser at Don's Teriyaki Grill. In this photo are Don and Helen Miller, formerly with the Norwalk Postal Service.



City of Norwalk once again decorated the different departments to support the fight against breast cancer. This window was decorated by Norwalk City Clerk's office.



Norwalk Community Development Department decorates to support getting your mammograms!



City of Norwalk lights up pink at night throughout the City properties.



Norwalk Senior Center supporting the "Paint the Town Pink" campaign.



Norwalk Social Services Department supports breast cancer awareness month with a visual display.



A spooky display at the Social Services Department to support breast cancer awareness month.



City of Norwalk Administration Department gets onboard with a well decorated window for "Paint the Town Pink" Norwalk.



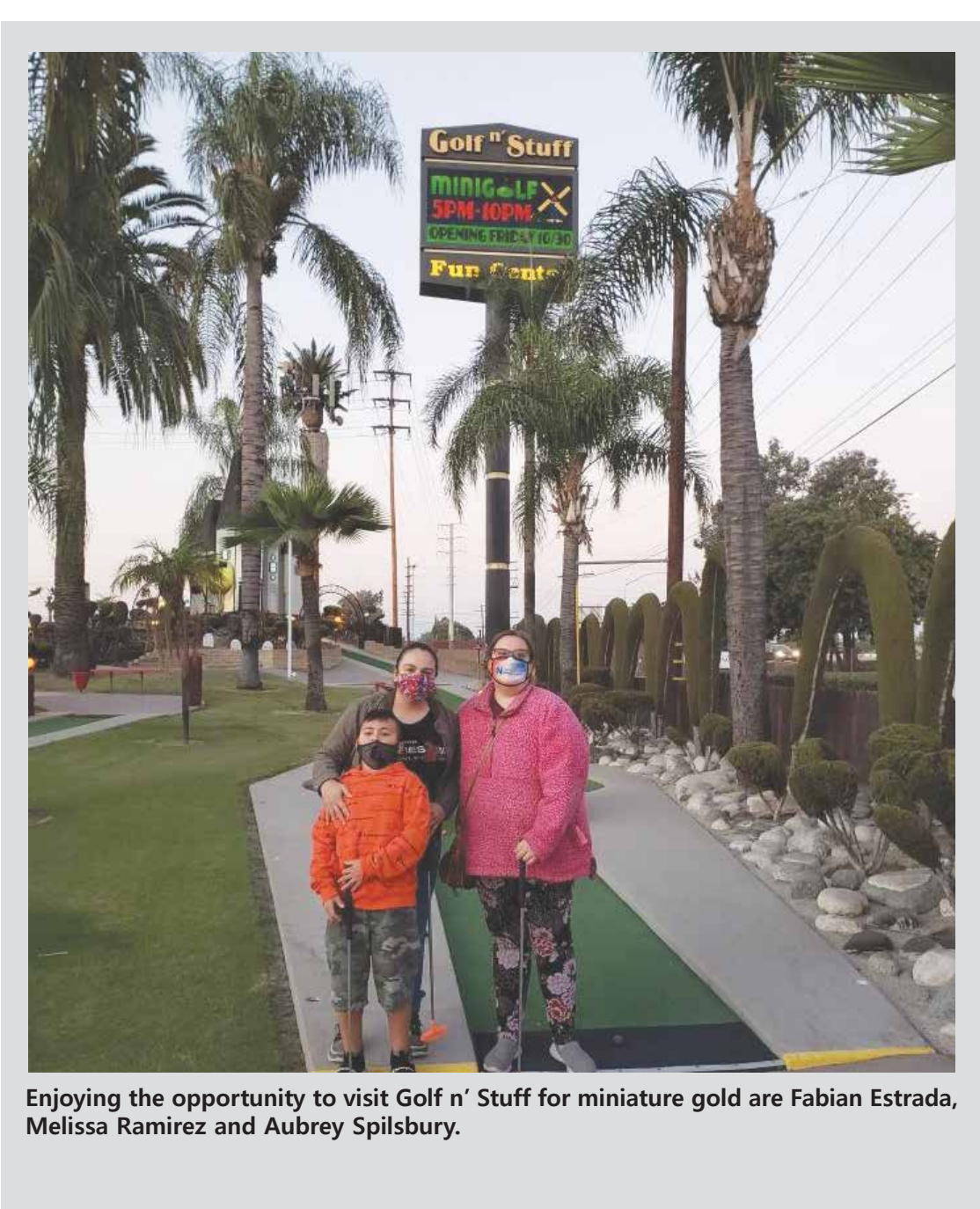
Norwalk Human Resources is all decked out in pink for breast cancer awareness.

**Norwalk Chamber Invites**  
 You to be our guest at our Annual  
**Drive In Holiday Mixer**  
**Wednesday, December 9th, 2020**  
**Norwalk Chamber of Commerce**  
 14783 Carmenita Rd.  
 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
*Refreshments Will be Served*

**Sponsor Opportunities Available**  
**Gold Sponsor \$500.00:** Signage at Event, Logo on Chamber website for 6 months, Logo in Chamber newsletter for 6 months, 10 tickets for Holiday Cheer Drawing, 25 Raffle Tickets.  
**Silver Sponsor \$300.00:** Signage at Event, Logo on Chamber website for 3 months, Logo in Chamber newsletter for 3 months, 5 tickets for Holiday Cheer Drawing, 15 Raffle Tickets.  
**Refreshment Sponsor:** Contact the Chamber for this opportunity to highlight your restaurant "goodies."

**RAFFLES, OPPORTUNITY DRAWING FOR HOLIDAY CHEER ICE CHEST**  
 To RSVP Please Call (562) 404-0909

**Bring a non-perishable food item for the Norwalk Food Pantry and receive a raffle ticket for a special drawing!**



Enjoying the opportunity to visit Golf n' Stuff for miniature gold are Fabian Estrada, Melissa Ramirez and Aubrey Spilsbury.