

MULTI CHAMER MIXER KICKS OFF THE YEAR

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Santa Fe Springs Chamber to kick off the New Year with a networking mixer at Bruce's Prime Ribs. Members from both Chambers were able to meet new potential clients and business partners through this event. Our host was business owner Jeannie Curato, who along with her husband Tony and son Bruce, welcomed our attendees to Bruce's Prime Rib. Tony shared some of the history of the restaurant which has been in their current location for almost 60 years. Door prizes for the evening were provided by Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning and the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. Over 45 business and community leaders were in attendance at this multi chamber event. Be sure and join the Norwalk Chamber at our next networking event on Tuesday, February 25th at Frantone's Restaurant for a Creating Connections lunch with the Paramount Chamber. Thank you to Bruce's Prime Rib for hosting such a successful event.



Attendees at the Multi chamber Mixer, in this photo is Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez and Norwalk Chamber members Norwalk Realty, TNT Fireworks, CAPC, Inc. Soroptimist International, Cerritos College, Community Family Guidance Center, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Money Mart, Kustom Made Graphics, AFLAC, Su Casa, Ending Domestic Violence, Bruce's Prime Rib, HealthFirst Medical, Helpline Youth Counseling, Little Lake City School District and Teacher's Association of Norwalk La Mirada.



Networking at the Mixer are (l to r) Board Member Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Natalie Saenz, CAPC, Inc. and Teri Bazen, Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning.



Meeting new connections at the After Hours Mixer are (l to r) Essen Menijivan, Kustom Made Graphics, Denise Urriaga, Money Mart and Carlos Gallardo, Farmers & Merchants Bank.



Reconnecting at the Mixer is Norwalk Chamber Ambassador Sue Arthur with Eva and Randy Fluker of Macaroni Kids Norwalk.



Norwalk Chamber President Amanda Blanton of Farmers & Merchants at Bruce's Mixer with Carlos Gallardo also of Farmers and Merchants Bank.



Zac Coleman, DAUM Commercial Real Estate, Christy Lindsay, Santa Fe Springs Chamber and Greg Iwasaki of HealthFirst Medical sharing business tips.



Kelly Baker of Job's Daughters networking with Ruth Rodriguez, representing Teacher's Association of Norwalk La Mirada.

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

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FEBRUARY 2020



Networking at the mixer are (l to r) Ambassador Susan Arthur, President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Ambassador Teri Bazen, Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Executive Director Caren Spilsbury and Board Member Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks.

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

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Facebook:

<http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM>

**PRESIDENT
AMANDA BLANTON**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY**

**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

February 11th

57th Assembly District
Candidate Forum
8am to 10am
Santa Fe Springs
Town Hall

February 12th

Annual Mayor's Prayer
Breakfast
6:30am
DoubleTree Hotel

February 13th

Norwalk City Council
Candidates Forum
Norwalk City Hall
6pm to 8pm

February 20th

NEA Annual Mock Interviews
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex
7:30am to 2:30pm

February 25th

Creating Connections Lunch
Norwalk & Paramount
Chambers
Frantone's Restaurant
12pm to 1pm

February 28th

Annual State of the City
Address
DoubleTree Hotel
11:00am to 2:00pm

SAVE THE DATE

April 1st

Norwalk Chamber
7th Annual 9-Hole
Golf Tournament
4pm to 8pm
Don Knabe Golf Center



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.

45 Years

Norwalk Business Services
Richard Cavish
562-863-4808

37 Years

Best Western Hotel
Allen Chi
562-929-8831
www.bestwestern.com

29 Years

Cerritos College
Dr. Jose Fierro
Toni Grijalva
562-860-2451
www.cerritos.edu

28 Years

Reinforcing Iron Workers
Local 416
Hart Keeble
562-868-1251

27 Years

Premier Wheel & Tires
Garcia Family
562-926-0048

27 Years

Best Buy Tire Pros
Andy Kasbarian
562-868-7724
bestbuytirepros.com

23 Years

SELACO WDB
Yolanda Castro
562-402-9336
www.selaco.com

19 Years

**Teachers Association of Norwalk
La Mirada**
Maureen Quiros Gray
562-868-6251
tanlapres@tri-cityed.org

13 Years

Mid-Cities Credit Union
Bessie Griffin
310-638-5147
www.mcscu.org

11 Years

Pat's 605 Cyclery
Ron Patterson
562-864-0740
www.pats605cyclery.com

7 Years

Dragon Computer Services
Rainer Thornhill
562-698-4690
www.dragoncomputerservices.com

5 Years

**JWCH
Welsey Health Care**
Vanessa Landin
562-281-0305
www.jwchinstitute.org

4 Years

Farmers & Merchants Bank
Amanda Blanton
562-344-2064
www.fmb.com

State Farm Insurance

Valente Quintero
562-474-1818
www.valquintero.com

3 Years

Door of Hope
Mercedes Quintanilla
562-972-1927
mq@doorofcenter.org

2 Years

Whittier College
Timothy Anderson
562-907-4219
www.whittier.edu

Panera Bread

Stephen Daiziel
stephen.daliziel@panerabread.com
www.panerabread.com

New Members

**Innocosma Inc.
Matthew Shin
251 Orangefair Ave.
Fullerton CA 92832
866-970-9898
matthew@aalwee.com**

Members in the News

Two ABCUSD Schools Named as 2020 California Distinguished Schools

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond recently announced that 323 elementary schools are being honored under the 2020 California Distinguished Schools Award Program. This program recognizes outstanding education programs and practices, as well as for closing the achievement gap and for exceptional student performance. Two schools from the ABC Unified School District were named to this year's list: Carver Elementary School in Cerritos and Elliott Elementary School in Artesia.

"We are very proud of these two outstanding schools," said School Board President Dr. Olga Rios. "Both Carver and Elliott Elementary Schools have highly dedicated teachers and staff."

Both Carver Elementary School and Elliott Elementary School made this year's list due to their outstanding performance. One component of the Distinguished Schools program recognizes schools based on performance and progress on indicators from the California School Dashboard. Distinguished School awardees represent both excellent teaching, learning, collaboration, as well as real-time conflict resolution and positive behavior intervention.

"Congratulations to Principal Berlyn at Carver Elementary and Principal Barron at Elliott Elementary and their dedicated teams for receiving this important recognition," said Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu. "Thank you to our amazing students and families who are so dedicated to learning and to our schools. This recognition is yours as well."

The schools will be honored at an awards ceremony at the Disneyland Resort on February 10, 2020. More information about the California Distinguished Schools program can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/>.

Contact: Scott Smith, Communications Officer
(562) 229-7864 Direct
(562) 965-2191 Cell
Scott.Smith@abcusd.us

NORWALK CHAMBER MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District (NLMUSD) held their second Future Ready Expo on Wednesday, January 22nd at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles. This event showcases different schools within the District and the different programs they have. From robotics to film to music and more, attendees were able to visit directly with school and district leaders to find out more about the programs offered. NLMUSD focuses on career and college readiness, so all students are given opportunities to explore what they would want in their future. On hand for this event were Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian, School Board President Jude Cazares, Vice President, Jessie Urquidi and Board Members Karen Morrison, Chris Pflanzler, and Jorge Tirado.

To find out additional information about NLMUSD and the programs offered, contact Joanne Jung, Director of College and Career Pathways at JJung@nlmusd.k12.ca.us.



Bonnie Lytle, Principal of Escalona Elementary School, a California Distinguished School, sharing information on their many school programs.



At the Future Ready Expo are (l to r) Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian, School Board President Jude Cazares, and Dr. Patricio Vargas Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services.



NLMUSD Board Member Chris Pflanzler at the Future Ready Expo with Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez.



Welcoming the attendees to the Future Ready Expo are: (l to r) Dr. Patricio Vargas Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, NLMUSD School Board Member Karen Morrison, NLMUSD School Board President Jude Cazares, Vice President Jessie Urquidi, Board Member Jorge Tirado, Board Member Chris Pflanzler and Estuardo Santillan, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



If you cannot tell by now, we are in election season and commercials are nonstop on television, while the City of Norwalk is painted with banners and yard signs. Primary elections are right around the corner, and with those come choices. We encourage you to do your homework on both candidates and issues so that you are fully prepared to help make the decisions that will affect our community for many years to come. To help you with making a choice on candidates the Norwalk Chamber is holding a City Council Candidates Forum on Thursday, February 13th, at Norwalk City Hall from 6pm to 8pm. All filed candidates and have been invited and we hope that you are able to make it to meet them face to face and hear from them directly on their platform and ideas for the future of Norwalk. We are also participating in a Candidates Forum for the 57th State Assembly District, in which the incumbent, Ian Calderon decided not to seek reelection. This event is co-hosted by the Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier Chambers and will take place on February 11th, at the Santa Fe Springs Town Center from 8am to 9:30am. For more details on either of these events, contact the Chamber staff at info@norwalkchamber.com

On January 28th we partnered with the Santa Fe Springs Chamber in an After Hours Mixer at Bruce's Prime Rib. Special thanks to owner Jeannie Mayer for hosting our Chambers for this fun event. Multi Chamber events are a great way to grow your business connections, so if you missed this one be sure and make our Creating Connections Lunch on February 25th at Frantone's Spaghetti Villa for lunch with both Norwalk and Paramount Chamber members.

With Valentine's Day fast approaching it is time to start thinking about that special someone. Be sure and visit our Chamber Members to make that purchase of flowers or other gifts for the happy day or one of our member's eateries for a great dinner! Visit the Chamber website at www.norwalkchamber.com to find a business for all of your holiday purchases!

As always, I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Chamber event or even on a visit to your business.

Amanda Blanton
2019-2020 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Farmers & Merchants Bank

Annual Homeless Count in Norwalk

Every year, Los Angeles comes together as a community to launch the United States' largest, and most complicated, Homeless Count. This is a massive task that requires thousands of volunteers to accomplish this task. Those volunteers come together in cities all over Los Angeles County for three nights in January, are provided training, and are then sent out in the nighttime to count. The hash tag #theycountwillyou tells the story. Every person counts, no matter where you live or sleep at night. These counts each year help the community to understand just how impacted they are with homeless and what services they may need. Norwalk held their count on Wednesday, January 22nd and over 60 folks came out and volunteered their time to support the count. This year, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez volunteered at the Norwalk Homeless Count along with Mayor Margarita Rios, City of Norwalk Commissioners and Norwalk Chamber Board Members. Thank you to all who attended and supported this community outreach activity.



City of Norwalk Commissioners going through training for the homeless count.



Congresswoman Linda Sánchez and Norwalk Mayor Margarita Rios getting ready to head out and help with the homeless count.



Many of the volunteers for counting the homeless!

Norwalk City Council Recognizes Angel Tree Sponsors

Each year the City of Norwalk recognizes those that go above and beyond in helping with the Angel Tree program. The many sponsors that were recognized that evening include Norwalk Chamber members and community leaders. They were all given thank you plaques for their support of this annual community activity that brings Christmas and happiness to many local families. The true value of the residents in the Norwalk community come out every year through their generosity to so many that are in need. Thank you to all who participated in this year's event!



Norwalk City Council recognizes Angel Tree Sponsors, included in this photo are John Alba of Alba Professional Services, Norwalk Knights of Columbus, Norwalk Community Coordinating Council and Matthew and Heather Crocker.



Norwalk Senior Center Bingo Club is honored for their contributions in the \$2500 to \$5000 sponsorship category.



The next set of sponsors, include the Norwalk Lions Club, Gordon and Marilee Stefenhagen and Golden State Water.



Tom and Marie Jackson are honored for their Platinum Sponsorship of the Angel Tree Program. In this photo are (l to r) Council Member Leonard Shryock, Marie Jackson, Mayor Margarita Rios, Tom Jackson, Cerritos College Trustee ret., Vice Mayor Luigi Vernola, and Council Members Tony Ayala and Jennifer Perez.



Students from the Cerritos College Promise Program are given their student banners that have hung for the last year on street lights in Norwalk. The presentation was made by the Norwalk City Council.

LABOR LAW CORNER

Restraining Orders Can Help Employers Maintain a Safe Workplace

We have an employee who is very frightened by another person's behavior. What can we do?

Any concern that an employee may raise in the workplace needs to be thoroughly investigated to determine the appropriate course of action to ensure that employees have a safe and healthy workplace, which is required of all employers.

Conduct an Investigation

The first step is to investigate why the employee is frightened. This may involve talking with the employee as well as other involved parties and witnesses. If an employer determines that a restraining order should be sought to protect employees at work, it is good to involve your attorney in the beginning to help with the investigation and to prepare the legal paperwork.

While an employee may go to court and obtain a personal restraining order, California Code of Civil Procedure Section 527.8 allows an employer to go to court to obtain temporary and permanent restraining orders even though the employee has not filed for a personal restraining order.

The value of the employer obtaining a restraining order is that if the person has been served with the restraining order and appears on your premises in violation of the restraining order, then the police can arrest the person.

Obtaining a Restraining Order

In order to obtain a temporary restraining order, the employer must be able to establish by the evidence that there has been an act of violence or a real credible threat of violence.

An example of a real credible threat of violence is when a person is known to own a gun and tells the employee, "I am going to get my gun and meet you in the parking lot after work."

An example of a threat that may not rise to the level of a credible threat of violence is when a person tells the employee, "I am going to continue to harass you until you do what I want." Although that statement should be taken seriously and may give rise to a harassment claim, it is not something, absent other evidence, that would give rise to a credible threat of violence for a judge to issue a temporary restraining order.

In many cases, a judge issues temporary restraining orders the same day that paperwork is submitted to the court. The temporary restraining order will remain in effect pending a hearing on whether a permanent injunction should be issued. Permanent restraining orders may be granted if evidence is shown at a hearing that there is a need for a permanent injunction and the permanent restraining order can remain in effect for up to three years.

While human resources representatives may be involved in the investigation, they are not permitted to sign the paperwork submitted to court because they are not owners of the company. Only owners and officers of a corporation or the company's attorney may sign on a company's behalf.

Consult an Attorney

In situations that involve either violence or real credible threats of violence, it is best to work with an attorney to ensure that your investigation is thorough and that the evidence submitted to a judge substantiates the immediate need for a restraining order.

Ribbon Cutting at BurgerIM

Norwalk Chamber Members and community leaders visited the new BurgerIM on Wednesday, January 29th for the official Ribbon Cutting event. City officials, representatives from elected state and national leaders, chamber members and residents all came together for the official ribbon cutting and to welcome owner Roy Narvaez to Norwalk. In addition to the ribbon cutting event, BurgerIM hosted evening festivities that included photo opportunities with the Penny Brothers, local Norwalk High School graduates who both play for professional football teams and two eating competitions.



Cutting the ribbon at the new BurgerIM, located right below the iconic Norwalk sign at Norwalk Town Square.



Norwalk Council Member Jennifer Perez with Norwalk Chamber President Amanda Blanton at the Ribbon Cutting.



Receiving a certificate of congratulations on his Ribbon Cutting Event from Congresswoman Linda Sánchez. Pictured here (l to r) Chamber President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Norwalk Mayor Margarita Rios, business owner Roy Narvaez and Field Representative Griselda Ortiz, Congresswoman Sanchez.



Attending the Ribbon Cutting are Norwalk Chamber Ambassador Sue Arthur and Cynthia Lizarraga of Grocery Outlet.



Norwalk Mayor Margarita Rios presents a Business Spotlight Plaque to BurgerIM owner Roy Narvaez.



Norwalk residents are enjoying samples of BurgerIM sweet potato fries. Pictured here are Norwalk Council Member Jennifer Perez and Ambassador Sue Arthur.



Presenting a Ribbon Cutting Certificate to BurgerIM are (l to r) President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Mayor Margarita Rios, owner Roy Narvaez and Chamber Board Member Rich Legaspi, TNT Fireworks.



Norwalk Mayor Margarita Rios and Council Member Jennifer Perez pictured with owner Roy Narvaez and his staff members.

57TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT CANDIDATES' FORUM

FREE & OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

This forum is sponsored by

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 **SANTA FE SPRINGS TOWN CENTER HALL**
8 AM 11740 TELEGRAPH RD., SANTA FE SPRINGS



Norwalk Chamber members attending the Ribbon Cutting event are (l to r) Greg Iwasaki, HealthFirst Medical, Dora Sandoval, Little Lake City School Board, President Elect Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Samuel Ortiz, Dulce Canella Churros, Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, owner Roy Narvaez, Fernando Lopez, Zen's Tea House, Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Sue Arthur, Victor Sanchez, Community Family Guidance Center and Carmen Hernandez, Norwalk Community Hospital.

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
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**NORWALK CITY COUNCIL
CANDIDATES
FORUM**

Thursday, February 13th, 2020
6pm to 8pm
Norwalk City Council Chambers
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
Norwalk CA

**MEET THE
CANDIDATES**

**CANDIDATES VYING FOR NORWALK CITY COUNCIL
ARE ALL INVITED TO ATTEND.**

FORMAT: A 15 MINUTE MEET & GREET WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A FORUM WITH CANDIDATES STATEMENTS AND Q & A. QUESTION CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FORUM. QUESTIONS MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE FORUM BY EMAILING info@norwalkchamber.com.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.
Presented by:

www.norwalkchamber.com