

NORWALK CHAMBER MEMBERS SUPPORT LOCAL

As we move through the COVID-19 pandemic together, our Norwalk Chamber members are stepping up to help locally. From providing meals to first responders to collecting basic necessities to donate to local care facilities businesses are reaching out to support each other and the community. Norwalk Chick-fil-A recently provided lunch to the Public Safety Officers while Norwalk Community Hospital held a donation drive to gather items to give to care facilities. Southern California Pizza has fed our Sheriff personal during the Stay at Home Orders (SHO) and the City of Norwalk held a blood donation drive. Café n' Stuff is supplying seniors with meals through an online donation program and Cerritos College held food donation give a ways. Local school districts continue to supply students and their families with meals and the YMCA is providing child care for families of essential workers. Not only are Chamber members supporting the community, but Norwalk residents are stepping up to do the same. Norwalk Lions Club members and residents recently held a drive through support parade for So Cal Pizza, residents continue to visit our restaurants for "to go" dinners to help support local, and social media is full of posts where people are checking in and staying connected. Everyday someone is doing something to help during the pandemic. We encourage you to find ways to stay connected even while you are still staying at home. Purchase flowers, records, clothing or office supplies through a local business. While doing this you will continue to help the business community in Norwalk thrive and survive this pandemic. For a list of businesses that you can shop locally, visit the Norwalk Chamber website at www.norwalkchamber.com and click on our Member Directory!.



Café n' Stuff is providing lunches to seniors at home through a new outreach program. Pictured here are Rita DeBenedictis and Roberta Carlos as they provide to go orders.



Heather Ramirez, Marketing Director and Farid Khansarina Owner of the Norwalk Chick-fil-A provide lunch to Norwalk Public Safety Officers.



Friday evenings at Café n' Stuff you can pick up your to go order and enjoy live entertainment at a drive in concert by members of the vocal group Kulayd. Pictured here with the group are Café n' Stuff owner, Ebie Ghaneian and Catering Manager Rita DeBenedictis.



Norwalk Public Safety getting ready to enjoy lunch from Chick-fil-A.

NORWALK RESTAURANT STILL OPEN FOR TAKE OUT AS RESTRICTIONS EASE

As California and Los Angeles County Health Departments begin to ease restrictions on their Safer At Home Orders (SHO) restaurants will soon begin to reopen for dining in. But there will still be many limitations on just exactly how that will look. Our Norwalk Chamber members are staying on top of all recommendations by the Health Departments so that they can reopen safely while they welcome you back to their locations. You may see staff wearing masks and gloves, you will likely not have community salt and pepper shakers or condiments at your table, you can be asked to wear a mask unless you are eating and the configuration of seating arrangements will most definitely be modified. All of these are being done with the health of the consumer and the community being the most important reason. Even as businesses reopen, there is still no vaccine available for COVID-19, so there are still opportunities for community spread. As we move into our new normal, visit CDC.gov to find out information on the safety measures you should take for you and your family to have the best health you can. Pay attention to the signs that will be posted at your favorite restaurant to let you know about their restrictions and let us all support each other as we move through this reopening process together!



Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, open for takeout and delivery orders has been preparing for the day that they can safely reopen! They are located at 10640 Rosecrans Ave. in Norwalk.



Toros Taqueria has been open for takeout service, but looks forward to being able to offer indoor seating as we move through Stage 2 of the recovery process. They are located at 15617 Studebaker Rd. #2 in Norwalk.

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

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Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
Invites you to attend our virtual
**97th Annual Installation of Officers &
Salute to Business Awards Event**

~
Wednesday, June 24, 2020
12:00 pm ~ 1:30 pm
Via ZOOM

To attend register at:
<https://bit.ly/2LqoCjI>

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Gold Sponsor	\$600
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Logo in Chamber newspaper for 4 months	
Social media recognition	
Sponsor introduction during event	
Silver Sponsor	\$400
Program Recognition	
Logo on Chamber website for two months	
Logo in Chamber newsletter for two months	
Social media recognition	
Sponsor introduction during event	

Registration required

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

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PRESIDENT
AMANDA BLANTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

<p>New Members</p> <p>Amanda Blanton – Scentsy Norwalk CA 90650 562-566-4970 Amanda24203@gmail.com Amandablanton.scentsy.us</p>	<p>25 Years Diana’s Restaurant Alma Meza 562-926-5802 www.dianas.net</p> <p>25 Years Metropolitan State Hospital Dr. Michael W. Barsom 562-651-2245</p> <p>24 Years PIH Health Stephanie Brown 562-698-0811 http://pihhealth.org/</p> <p>17 Years Norwalk True Value Hardware Joel Aparicio 11056 E. Rosecrans Ave Norwalk CA 562-864-0912</p>	<p>13 Years Norwalk Community Hospital Dhawat Kothari 562-863-4763 www.altacorp.com</p> <p>11 Years State Farm Insurance Lucy Rodas 562-868-6218 www.lucyrodas.com</p> <p>7 Years Norwalk Preservation Partners LLC William Szymczak 310-802-6670 jlanne@preservationpartners.org</p> <p>6 Years Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant Jason Perez 562-868-1553 ogrosewoods@gmail.com</p>
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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.

31 YEARS
Norwalk Florist
 Gary Murphy
 562-863-4478
www.floristnorwalk.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**PLEASE NOTE:
 THESE DATES AND LOCATIONS COULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

June 11th
 Virtual Press Conference & Tour
 “The Village at Cerritos College”
 10am to 11:30am
 RSVP to Thury@cerritos.edu

June 17th
 Board of Directors
 ZOOM Meeting
 9am

June 24th
 97th Annual Business Awards & Installation
 Virtual Event • Via ZOOM
 12noon

July 15th
 Women’s Leadership Brunch
 (Tentative)
 DoubleTree Hotel
 10:00am

August 5th
 Annual Business Expo
 (Tentative)
 4:30pm to 7:00pm
 Norwalk City Hall Lawn

August 12th
 Annual State of the Nation Luncheon
 (Tentative)
 11:30 doors open
 12 Noon lunch starts

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

GREATER WHITTIER YMCA AWARDS HONOREES

The YMCA of Greater Whittier, which includes Norwalk in their service area, is proud to present its annual service awards. Each year the Y recognizes staff and volunteers for their outstanding service to the Y’s mission. Each awardee is nominated by their peers and is honored at the annual board recognition event. This year’s event, the 104th, will take place virtually.

The Myron Claxton Award recognizes distinguished service to the Y. This year it is being awarded to 2019-2020 Board Chair and Chief Volunteer Officer, Berta M. León. Berta began volunteering for our association because, as a Whittier resident, she wanted to help the Y take action to support young people and seniors to reach their highest potential. Berta became more engaged as a volunteer and began her membership on our board in 2005. In addition to chairing our board, she is leading the Diversity, Inclusion and Global task force charged with developing policies to ensure that all segments of society have access to and can thrive at our Y. Berta has been an integral part of creating structures and support that enable all of our neighbors to take an active role at the Y.

Greg Burchfield is receiving the Don Jenkins Award recognizing outstanding volunteer service. Greg has devoted his energy to YMCA Camp Arbolado for more than 30 years. His passion for serving others began when he arrived at camp as a child, and he now is one of four generations of Arbolado enthusiasts. Greg spends each Memorial Day at the Camp Volunteer Work Weekend where he takes great pride in readying the mountain bikes for the Don Jenkins Mountain Bike Program. Whenever possible he makes time to clear old trees for use as firewood during camp sessions. He is a Camp Alumni Member and is an exemplary example of what it means to be a White Ragger in our YMCA Ragger program. Greg has created a legacy that continues to empower future generations to continue to support the mission of the YMCA as a Y for All.

Florie Harrison, Executive Director of Youth Services, is being honored with The Tina Arriaga Heart of the Y Award as the outstanding employee of the year. Florie began at the Y in 2016, in the childcare department, and since then she has become the lead staff member for all of Youth Services. Florie’s attention to detail and her ability to implement procedures to ensure compliance for federal and state licensing regulations have been priceless assets to the success of both the childcare and food distribution programs. With her oversight the food distribution program has grown from snacks and lunches for children in childcare to providing year-round meals for any child in the area. During the COVID-19 pandemic school closures Florie quickly adapted the food distribution logistics and procedures to provide “Grab and Go” meal service to ensure the safety of families and staff. Since March 16, the program has grown from about 1,000 meals per week to more than 5,000. Florie has been a dedicated member of the operations team and exemplifies the Y’s core values of caring, honesty, responsibility and respect through her care and concern for the youngest members of our community.



2019-2020 Board Chair and Chief Volunteer Officer, Berta M. León receives the Myron Claxton Award.



Florie Harrison, Executive Director of Youth Services is honored with the Tina Arriaga Heart of the Y Award.



Greg Burchfield is presented with the Don Jenkins Award.

NORWALK COMMUNITY HOSPITAL STAFF HOLDS DONATION DRIVE

Norwalk Community Hospital marketing and community staff members have been holding weekly donation drives to collect food and everyday necessities to donate to care facilities. Carmen Hernandez, Community Liaison, has been coordinating efforts for donations here in Norwalk. She shares that their marketing team are purchasing food items from the various stores and locations throughout the community. They gather their goods on Wednesdays and distribute what they have been able to gather to various assisted living and board and cares. They pick one area for distribution and deliver to their doors. They are still seeking donations for these care facilities. They share that anything is greatly appreciated, as some times what the deliver may be the only meals that residents have to eat in a day. You can reach out to Carmen at 562-850-4922.



Donations collected from the weekly donation drive.



Volunteers getting ready to visit care facilities to provide donation food and goods.



Pictured here in the center is Carmen Hernandez, Community Liaison for Norwalk Community Hospital.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Chamber Members,

Normally this June article would be a big "Thank You" to all who have provided support and guidance during this last year as I have served as your Chamber President. While I am saying thank you for your support, I am also asking you to continue to provide that support and guidance, as I will be serving another year as your President. Due to the current circumstances in our society (COVID-19) our Chamber Board has determined that we will continue for one more year with our current officers, to provide wisdom and stability to the Chamber during the current crisis.

As our businesses begin to open up again, I am excited to see what the next year has in store for us all. Over the past few months we have had to think "outside the box" to continue to support the business community. There are changes that businesses have made to continue operations, from takeout only restaurants to ZOOM networking events and more. Some of these changes will be with us for months to come, as we still must practice social distancing and CDC protocols. Here at your Norwalk Chamber we will continue to provide information about resources, grants, rules and regulations as we become aware of them.

I hope you will sign up to attend our 97th Annual Awards & Installation Event on June 24th. This will be a virtual event that you must register for by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/2LqoCjl>. You can join us by purchasing lunch at a Norwalk Chamber Member restaurant, then sign on to ZOOM and celebrate our Business of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and more! To find our Chamber member restaurants, visit our website and click on our member directory. We hope you join us on this first time ever virtual event.

We look forward to growing and sustaining our business community with you in 2020 to 2021.

Stay safe and healthy,

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

Labor Law Corner

Factors to Keep in Mind When Rehiring Furloughed Employees

We are gearing up to restart our business soon. We furloughed several employees. Are there any concerns about rehiring? When we furloughed these people, we did not consider it a layoff because we knew we would be rehiring them soon.

One requirement of that program is that the borrower (employer) must offer to rehire (for the same salary/wages and same number of hours) laid-off employees. For purposes of loan forgiveness, the borrower must have made a good faith, written offer of rehire. However, if the employee rejects that offer, it must be documented by the borrower. Some employees prefer, for safety or other reasons, to remain at home and not to return to work.

Other Considerations

There are other factors to consider:

- If the business is unionized, the collective bargaining

agreement should be reviewed. Wages, hours and working conditions are covered by such agreements, and possibly any concerns about rehiring employees who have been laid off for certain conditions. Those policies need to be reviewed to assure the employer is in compliance with the agreement.

- Also, an employer needs to review its own internal policies and practices. Many companies have specified written policies and/or practices on rehiring employees who have been laid off. If that is the case, the employer needs to be consistent with those practices.

Obviously, rehiring practices need to be nondiscriminatory. However, absent the circumstances noted above, there are no rehiring practices required by law. An employee who was, for example, on the cusp of being terminated when furloughed is not guaranteed reemployment. It can be a good idea to review the furloughed employees' disciplinary practices before

deciding to reemploy them.

Safety Procedures

Lastly, it's advisable to let the rehires know about various issues, such as exact dates to return, what might have changed (or not), and new safety procedures. Many businesses are highly regulated by such safety procedures, such as:

- Hand washing;
- Disinfection of surfaces;
- Continued social distancing;
- Staggered shifts;
- Other industry-specific requirements.

Remember, asking a furloughed employee to return to work is a positive thing. Just remember to follow the proper procedures and keep aware of any local requirements.

NORWALK CHAMBER ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Farid Khansarinia, Owner of Norwalk Chick-fil-A.

At their annual election meeting held on May 20th, the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce elected three new board members to each serve a three year term. Farid Khan of Norwalk Chick-fil-A, Frank Heldman of Liberty Utilities and Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance will begin their term of office after the 97th Annual Business Awards and Officer Installation Virtual event on June 24th. They will take the place of retiring Board Members Richard Sneed, Norwalk Records and Lynda Fisher, formerly of Walmart. Norwalk Chamber Board members commit to support the Mission of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, which is to promote a profitable business environment that produces a quality lifestyle in Norwalk, California. Working together to promote economic development, sound government legislation and creating positive connections with the entire community, our Chamber supports keeping our dollars local to provide resources for the entire community. Here is a little bit of information about each of our new Board Members.

Farid Khansarinia, raised in Southern California, is the Owner and Operator of the Imperial and Bloomfield, Norwalk Chick-fil-A. He has a retail career which spans more than thirty years and more than forty five years of involvement and service to the Los Angeles community. He began his retail career just after high school pushing carts at Price Club and worked his way up through the leadership ranks at companies like Sam's Club and Home Depot. He later joined Best Buy where he managed teams and markets across both the southland and the country including serving as Senior Vice President of US Retail. He joined the Chick-fil-A organization to pursue his dream of entrepreneurship and to bring his dedication to running a customer-focused business to the community in which he grew up. Farid is active in his community serving as both a coach and patron of various youth sports leagues. He and his wife Suki have five children and live in Chino Hills.



Frank Heldman of Liberty Utilities.

Frank Heldman joined Liberty Utilities in 2017 as Director of Operations. Frank Heldman's experience includes over 30 years in water operations, including municipal and private corporations.

Frank Heldman served as a Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) Director representing the large water users of the District's service area. The large water users purchase approximately 78% of all the water provided by the CBMWD. The large water users provides this to residents and businesses in the Cities of Santa Fe Springs, Vernon, Compton, Monterey Park, Lynwood, Norwalk, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Montebello, East Los Angeles and the City of Commerce.

Frank Heldman has extensive experience in operations and budgeting for various local water purveyors. Some of his work includes securing Prop 84 grant funding, basin clean-up, and providing both direction and oversight to management staff to ensure the proper operation of both water treatment and distribution systems. Mr. Heldman has also been a member of budget advisory committees for numerous water agencies.

Additionally, Mr. Heldman is involved in various professional and civic organizations and has held leadership positions in a number of these organizations. He has a passion for giving back to both the water community and the communities where he works and lives.

Frank Heldman holds a B.A., Business Administration, and a M.A. in Organizational Leadership, and holds a SWRCB D-5 and T-4.



Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance

Lucy Rodas is a State Farm agent here in Norwalk. She started her agency in 2010 and has been dedicated to helping her community manage the risks of everyday life ever since. Before working at State Farm, she worked in mortgages for over 20 years and has carried her expertise over to her work at State Farm.

Lucy was born in Mexico and was raised in Bellflower, and has lived locally ever since. She graduated from California State University Fullerton where she received a BA in Business Finance. She has also earned professional designations of Charter Financial Consultant and Certified Life Underwriting. Lucy consistently ranks among the top State Farm Agents.

Contact Information:
Lucy Rodas
State Farm Insurance
11928 Firestone Blvd, #100
Norwalk, CA 90650
562-868-6218

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CalChamber Updates

6 Things Legislature Can Do to Help State Recover from Economic Devastation | Author Loren Kaye

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the California economy, especially public-facing businesses. Entertainment—including motion pictures, television, live shows and theme parks, restaurants, accommodations and retail sectors have been laid waste, evaporating thousands of jobs. Few states depend on this sector as does California. Tourism, hospitality and retail also are the very sectors that employ workers on the lower rungs of the economic ladder. The supply and service chains that feed into and out of those industries are likewise on the brink. Like a boulder crashing into a lake, the longer this crisis persists, its waves will widen their reach and affect more industries and throw more Californians out of their jobs.

Governor Gavin Newsom has focused on the factors necessary to reopen the economy, including increased testing, contact tracing, availability of personal protective equipment and reengineered workplaces. More recently the Governor has begun to loosen some of the initial stay-at-home restrictions. California businesses have volunteered their support in numerous ways, including altering manufacturing operations to produce PPE and other necessary supplies. Restaurants are donating food to vulnerable populations in their communities. Many businesses have continued paying employees' wages and benefits, even though the employees are not working. Employers are finding ways to help out where they can.

Employers have also reworked their operations and made significant changes to the physical environment and work practices, including health screening, personal protective equipment (PPE) and social distancing, among others, to make employees and consumers feel safe once back in business. That said, the private sector cannot be the safety net for this crisis; that is the role of government. Instead of imposing new burdens on employers, the key is to alleviate financial pressures so they can recover and rebuild the workforce.

Policies to Boost Recovery

With the Legislature returning to work, state leaders can adopt policies that will boost recovery and mitigate the worst of devastation. Economic recovery and public health should be their exclusive focus in the 2020 session

• First, do no more harm. State leaders should reject new taxes on employers and working Californians and resist new regulatory or statutory mandates.

• Second, improve liquidity for businesses to buy time for economic recovery. Lawmakers should conform state tax law to ensure small businesses do not pay taxes on emergency federal assistance, reinstate net operating loss carry backs to alleviate cash flow burdens on businesses expecting a loss this year, and suspend the requirement to prepay 100% of estimated sales tax liability based on last year's collections.

• Third, postpone nonessential compliance and rulemaking activities. Dozens of state agencies are committing regulatory business-as-usual. Instead, they should pause all non-essential state regulatory functions not urgently needed to protect human health and extend the time to implement rules that have not yet taken effect, such as California Consumer Privacy Act regulations

• Fourth, eliminate disincentives against telecommuting. Even when the economy reopens, employers will need to limit the number of people in the work-place. Telecommuting provides that alternative, but employers will only embrace that option if it doesn't lead to liability and frivolous litigation. Lawmakers should also settle the continuing uncertainty created by AB 5 over independent contractor status for numerous occupations and business conditions, such as enabling workplace protections for freelancers without jeopardizing their status.

• Fifth, jump-start global tourism marketing for California once the all-clear is sounded for public gatherings.

• And sixth, boost economic activity and construction jobs by streamlining new housing, public infrastructure and commercial developments. Remove incentives

to litigate and delay, temporarily pause new mandates on analysis and mitigation of vehicle trip thresholds, and place a cap on development fees for new housing projects.

State and local governments can also improve their guidance to employers on compliance with the many COVID-19 orders. Once the state begins reopening the economy, it should take care to issue clear and concise guidance that reflects operational considerations for the diversity of industries across California. It should also counsel local jurisdictions to conform to state guidance to ensure business reopenings are as uniform as local conditions allow, and that compliance with new orders is easily understood. Like no time in our modern history, all Californians must pull together to overcome this unprecedented convergence of natural disaster and government-ordered shutdown. Business as usual is not an option.

Loren Kaye is the president of the California Foundation for Commerce and Education, a think tank affiliated with the California Chamber of Commerce. This guest commentary first appeared on CalMatters.org

Cerritos College set to officially open California's First-Ever Community College Housing to Tackle Student Homelessness on June 11

Join the virtual/onsite press conference for details about the housing development

Media Contact: Aya Abelson, Public Affairs

WHAT: Cerritos College will celebrate the opening of 'The Village', **California's first community college housing exclusively for students facing homelessness** with a virtual/onsite press conference on Thursday, June 11, at 10 a.m.

The College collaborated with Jovenes, Inc., a Los Angeles nonprofit that assists homeless and displaced young adults, to establish a transitional student housing development to address student homelessness. Additional support for the project comes from the City of Norwalk, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn (2nd District), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

WHEN: Virtual/Onsite Grand Opening Press Conference
Thursday, June 11
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Via Zoom. Dial-in Zoom details will be provided upon RSVP. For reporters who want to social distance (with a proper face covering) and attend onsite, please advise upon RSVP.

CONTACT: RSVP to Cheryl Thury at thury@cerritos.edu by June 10

About Cerritos College: Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college's district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at <https://www.cerritos.edu>.

Visit us at
www.NorwalkChamber.com

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- and -
Promoting the Community

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Local sales tax dollars support basic city services
When you shop in Norwalk, you are paying for...

Public Safety Services

Recreation Programs

Street Repairs & Much More



The Village at Cerritos College

Virtual Press Conference and Tour

The Village at Cerritos College is California's first, secure housing development for community college students who are homeless.

Thursday, June 11 | 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Zoom details will be provided upon RSVP
RSVP to Cheryl Thury at thury@cerritos.edu by June 10

Special welcome remarks by Chancellor Eloy Oakley

Partners

