

## NORWALK CHAMBER HOLDS VIRTUAL INSTALLATION & BUSINESS AWARDS EVENT

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce hosted their 97th Annual Business Awards & Installation of Officers on Wednesday, June 24th as a first time virtual event. Attendees to this online event were able to view the presentations that were made to our outstanding Norwalk Chamber members for their dedication to the Chamber over this last year. Norwalk Chamber President Amanda Blanton of Farmers & Merchants Bank was helped by past President Yovani Flores of US Bank to present the awards. Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez served as the Installing Officer for the Chamber Board of Directors, Executive Officers and the President. Also attending the event were City Council Member Margarita Rios and past Mayor Cheri Kelley. Certificates were provided to the award winners by the City of Norwalk, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, State Senator Bob Archuleta, Assembly Floor Majority Leader Ian Calderon and Assembly Member Cristina Garcia. This event could not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors. Thank you to our Gold Sponsors, US Bank, Yovani Flores and, Water Replenishment District, Director Vera Robles DeWitt. Thank you to our Silver sponsor, Norwalk Community Coordinating Council.

This year we recognized the following individuals and business for their support of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the community.

### Volunteer of the Year

Gary Murphy, Norwalk Florist

### Ambassador of the Year

Teri Bazen, formerly with Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing

### Outstanding Board Member

Tracy Polley, Kelco Sales

### President's Award

Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty

### Business of the Year

U.S. Bank, Yovani Flores

The Chamber also recognized Alison Vai, Liberty Utilities, Richard Sneed, Norwalk Records and Lynda Fisher, Walmart for their time of service as members of the Board of Directors. While we could not be in person to celebrate all of the people who were honored, we did so virtually! Special thanks to Aubrey, Aria and Bear who helped with presentations and awards during the ceremony.



Yovani Flores of US Bank accepts the 2019 – 2020 Business of the Year Award from President Amanda Blanton.



President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank is presented with her Presidents gavel plaque and special thank you gift from the Norwalk Chamber Board of Directors. Past President Yovani Flores, US Bank, is making the presentation.



President Amanda thanks Alison Vai of Liberty Utilities for serving as a member of the Board of Directors.



President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank presents the Volunteer of the Year Award to Gary Murphy of Norwalk Florist.



Tracy Polley of Kelco Sales is recognized by President Amanda as the Outstanding Board Member of the Year for 2019 – 2020.



Presenting Teri Bazen with the Ambassador of the Year for 2019 – 2020 is President Amanda Blanton, Aria and Bear.



Amanda presents her President's Award for 2019 – 2020 to Gordon Stefenhagen.



Thanking Richard Sneed of Norwalk Records for his service as a member of the Board of Directors.



Lynda Fisher is thanked for her 12 years as a member of the Norwalk Chamber Board of Directors.

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

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NORWALK COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL  
Serving the Norwalk Community since 1936

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 is the Official Publication of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

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

**PRESIDENT**  
**AMANDA BLANTON**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**EDITOR, NCBC**  
**CAREN SPILSBURY**



**NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS**

<p><b>New Members</b></p> <p><b>45 Years</b>                  Southern California Gas Company                  Julia Emerson                  800-427-2200  <a href="http://www.semprautilities.com">www.semprautilities.com</a></p> <p><b>34 Years</b>                  Frantone's Spaghetti Villa                  John Tesoriero                  562-924-9494  <a href="http://www.frantones.com">www.frantones.com</a></p> <p><b>28 Years</b>                  HealthFirst Medical Group                  Alex Saulas                  562-926-3440  <a href="http://www.healthfirstmedical.net">www.healthfirstmedical.net</a></p> <p><b>24 Years</b>                  West Coast Arborists                  Patrick Mahoney                  714-991-1900  <a href="http://www.wcainc.com">http://www.wcainc.com</a></p>	<p><b>21 Years</b>                  Villa Elena Healthcare Center                  562-868-0591  <a href="http://www.villaelenahealthcare.com">www.villaelenahealthcare.com</a></p> <p><b>13 Years</b>                  The P.C. Help Desk                  Steve Guzman                  562-869-4435  <a href="http://www.thepchd.com">www.thepchd.com</a></p> <p><b>7 Years</b>                  Keywest Auto Collision                  Goffredo Benites  <a href="mailto:goffredo452@gmail.com">goffredo452@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>6 Years</b>                  Mercury Legal Assistance                  Ana Torne                  562-868-7744  <a href="mailto:tornelda@gmail.com">tornelda@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>2 Years</b>                  Jimmy John's                  JJ Yeun Co LLC                  Brian Yeun                  562-868-1610  <a href="http://www.jimmyjohns.com">www.jimmyjohns.com</a></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.

**45 Years**  
 Chapel of Memories  
 Anthony Nunes  
 562-863-8731  
[www.chapelofmemoriesfuneralhome.com](http://www.chapelofmemoriesfuneralhome.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

**Friday July 3rd**  
 Norwalk Chamber Closed for 4th of July Holiday

**Wednesday, July 8th**  
 10am to 11am  
 Virtual Town Hall with State Senator Bob Archuleta  
 Call for ZOOM Info

**Friday, July 10th**  
 10:30am to 11:30am  
 Ambassador Drive By Meet at the Chamber Office

**Friday, July 10th**  
 12 Noon  
 Executive Committee Meeting Meeting via ZOOM

**Wednesday, July 15th**  
 9am  
 Board of Directors Meeting via ZOOM

**Tuesday, July 28th**  
 12 Noon to 1:30pm  
 Gateway Chambers Alliance ZOOM Meeting

**Tentative August 5th**  
 National Night Out Business Expo

**Tentative August 12th**  
 State of the Nation Luncheon

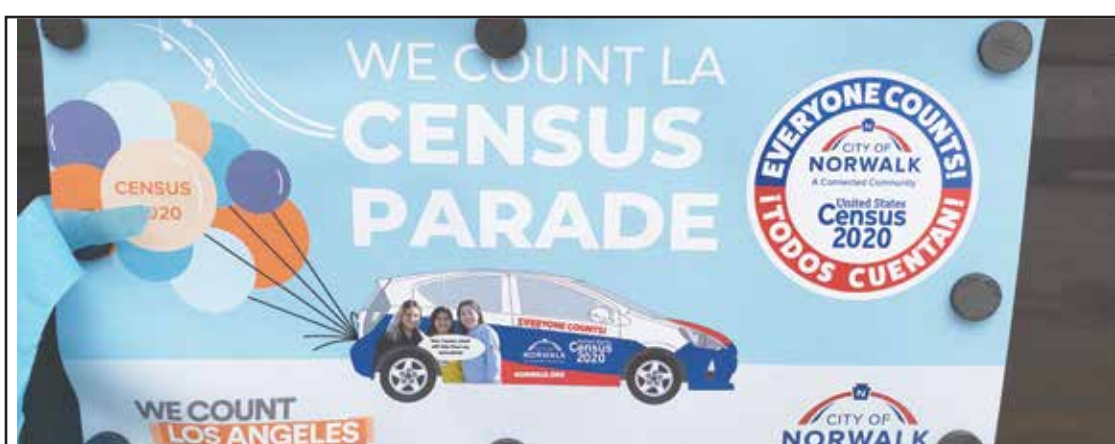
**Tentative September 17th**  
 Annual 9 Hole Golf Tournament

**CITY OF NORWALK CENSUS PARADE**

Every ten years the United States performs a Census count. This count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The 2020 Census counts the population in the United States and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). The count began officially on April 1st with a kick-off in Norwalk back in April of 2019. This year the Census is available to fill out online at [www.census2020.com](http://www.census2020.com), so if you have not filled out your Census form you can still do so online. Traditionally Census takers have visited homes that have not filled out their Census form, but with the "Safer at Home" orders, that has not yet been able to take place. Norwalk understands just how important the Census is to the community. The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community, because the results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, and more. Everyone who lived in your home on April 1st, 2020, needs to be counted in the Census. Right now, Norwalk is doing well compared to other cities but there are still about 40% of our residents that need to be counted. With that in mind and to help the residents understand how important the Census is to the City of Norwalk held a "Census Parade" on Wednesday, June 17th where elected officials and city staff visited different parts of Norwalk to share information about the Census. This is the first of other Census Parades that will be taking place. Visit the City of Norwalk's website at [www.norwalkca.gov](http://www.norwalkca.gov) to find out about future events.



City of Norwalk Census Parade



Congresswoman Linda Sanchez participates in Norwalk's Census Parade.



JC Guerrero, representing Assembly Floor Majority Leader Ian Calderon and his dog preparing for the Census Parade.



Norwalk City Staff getting ready to head out for the Census Parade.



Norwalk City Council member Rick Ramirez getting ready for the Census Parade.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2020 – 2021 year! While some of the faces may look familiar, we are just as excited to begin this year as your Board of Directors & Officers, as we were a year ago. Due to the complications from the COVID-19 "Safer at Home" orders our Chamber Board chose to keep our current officers in place for the next year as we wanted experienced leaders to guide the Chamber through this crisis! I am honored to have been asked to lead the Chamber for the next year and am looking forward to how we as a Chamber can "think out of the box" to improve our services to our members, provide support to the business community, be the leaders of economic development successes and advocate for businesses with our elected officials.

As our businesses begin to reopen, I want to thank everyone who has continued to support our Norwalk Business community. From getting food to go from our restaurants, to purchasing gift cards your support has been crucial in helping our businesses keep their doors open. We are starting to celebrate the success of these businesses by hosting Ambassador "drive by" visits. Each Friday we are driving to member businesses to take photos and use our Social Media to promote them being open. If you would like to join in with these celebrations, contact the Chamber office at 562-404-0909 or email [info@norwalkchamber.com](mailto:info@norwalkchamber.com) to find out what time we will be meeting up and going out!

We just held our 97th Annual Awards & Installation event in a different way than we have ever done it before. While we were not able to connect in person, our virtual event had a great turn out and went over well. I want to thank Mayor Jennifer Perez for serving as our installing officer and congratulate our award winners!

We are looking towards the future by tentatively scheduling our 9-Hole Golf Tournament for September at the Don Knabe Golf Center and have started a brand new fundraiser. Our "Brown Bag" fundraiser is an opportunity for you to purchase a ticket to win one of our brown bags which hold some type of libation. The tickets are \$20.00 and you will receive a number which matches a number on one of the brown bags. That will be the libation you win! Tickets are for sale on our Chamber website at [www.norwalkchamber.com](http://www.norwalkchamber.com). Tickets went on sale at the Installation Lunch today and will be sold throughout the next few months. Ticket quantity will be limited, so get yours as soon as possible. Winners will be pulled throughout the next few months.

Stay safe and healthy,

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

## Labor Law Corner

### Paid Family Leave Claims Filed July 1 Gain 2 More Weeks of Benefits

*My employee had a baby a few months ago, but she wants to wait until July to file for Paid Family Leave (PFL) so she can take advantage of the extra two weeks of benefits that take effect starting July 1. Can she wait to file her PFL claim, or does it have to be filed right after her state disability claim ends at the end of her pregnancy disability leave?*

employees who take time off work to bond with a child within one year from birth or placement for foster care or adoption, or to care for a seriously ill family member. It is important to note that this extension of benefits from six weeks to eight weeks is available only for PFL claims filed with EDD on or after July 1, 2020.

#### Date Claim Filed Is Key

For PFL claims for child bonding, the date of the child's birth (or placement for foster care or adoption) does not affect the number of weeks of benefits. The determining factor is the date on which the PFL claim is filed. So, for example, a parent whose baby was born in February may choose to delay filing a claim for PFL benefits until July 1 in order to be eligible for the more

generous eight weeks of benefits. No matter what date an individual applies for child bonding PFL benefits, however, the benefits are payable only for one year from the date of the child's birth or placement for foster care or adoption. Those who file for PFL before July 1, 2020 are eligible for only a total of six weeks of benefits. This is true even if the individuals have used some or all of their six weeks of benefits by June 30, and then take additional weeks of baby bonding time off after July 1, because it is the initial claim start date that determines whether there are six or eight weeks of benefits available.

**Ellen S. Savage**  
HR Adviser

Your employee can choose to wait until July to file her Paid Family Leave (PFL) claim. For claims filed on or after July 1, 2020, the maximum duration of California's PFL benefits will be extended from six weeks to eight weeks. The PFL program, administered by

California's Employment Development Department (EDD), provides partial wage replacement benefits to

## U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to California Businesses and Residents Affected by Civil Unrest

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to California businesses and residents affected by civil unrest that began May 26, 2020, announced Administrator Jovita Carranza of the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster following a request received from Gov. Gavin Newsom's designated representative, Mark S. Ghilarducci, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services on June 16, 2020.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Ventura counties.

"SBA is strongly committed to providing California with the most effective and customer-focused response possible, and we will be there to provide access to federal disaster loans to help finance recovery for businesses and residents affected by the disaster," said Carranza. "Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA."

"Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters whose property was damaged or destroyed by this disaster," said SBA's Director Tanya N. Garfield of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Field Operations Center-West.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, for this disaster SBA will establish a virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their electronic loan application.



U.S. Small Business Administration

**Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center**  
Mondays – Fridays  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
[FOCWAssistance@sba.gov](mailto:FOCWAssistance@sba.gov)  
(916) 735-1500

**These services are only available for the California disaster declaration as a result of civil unrest that began May 26, 2020, and not for COVID-19 related assistance.**

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to businesses and homeowners to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates can be as low as 3 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 1.25 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may also apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for property damage is Aug. 17, 2020. The deadline to apply for economic injury is March 17, 2021.

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NORWALK CHAMBER HOLDS VIRTUAL INSTALLATION & BUSINESS AWARDS EVENT



Diana's Restaurant is open again for indoor seating for to go orders. They are located at 16330 Pioneer Blvd in Norwalk. Pictured here is Samuel Magana of Diana's.



Zen's Tea House is now open for indoor seating and continuing their to go orders. You can also find Zen's Tea House at the Norwalk Farmer's Market and online. Address is 12848 Pioneer Blvd. Norwalk.



Okimoto's Automotive Center is here and open for business. If you need car service they are located at 16400 Pioneer Blvd in Norwalk.



Art Sanchez of Sanchez Restaurant & Catering has reopened his restaurant! Visit them at 12061 162nd St. Norwalk, weekdays after 2pm.



Chick-fil-A is now open for indoor seating and continues with drive through and delivery services.



Norwalk Records is now open for visitors. They are following all guidelines for social distancing, so be sure and wear your mask and gloves when you visit them. Pictured here are Amanda Torres, Edie Gonzalez and owner Richard Sneed.



Starbucks are open for drive through, mobile pick ups and order in store for your coffee needs. They are not ready yet for indoor seating. You can visit them at 11790 Firestone Blvd, at the corner of Firestone and Pioneer.



LA Fitness has reopened their facilities located at the Norwalk Fitness Village. Address is 12211 S. Norwalk Blvd. in Norwalk. Visit their website to learn about the requirements for visiting in person at [www.lafitness.com](http://www.lafitness.com).



Gary Murphy of Norwalk Florist is open for business and ready to provide you with a beautiful floral arrangement!



Dulce Canella Churros is open to provide you with freshly made churro treats! Owner Samuel Ortiz welcomes you to his restaurant, located at 15012 Pioneer Blvd.



Panera Bread is now open for both indoor and outdoor seating. They continue to offer drive through and delivery through delivery apps. Pictured with our Chamber Ambassadors is Panera manager Stephen Dalziel and they are located in the new Norwalk Fitness Village at Imperial & Bloomfield.



Alba Professional Services/H & R Block is open to help you with your tax returns and other services. You can visit them again in person just in time for the July 15th extended tax deadline. Pictured here with our Norwalk Chamber Ambassadors is owner John Alba and his staff. They are located at 11825 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk.

Creating a Strong Local Economy

- and -

Promoting the Community

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce urges you to spend your money locally to support the business community and protect jobs.

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

Public Safety Services

Recreation Programs

Street Repairs & Much More