**VOLUME 9 ~ NUMBER 8** 

www.norwalkchamber.com

info@norwalkchamber.com

#### NORWALK CHAMBER HOLDS VIRTUAL INSTALLATION & BUSINESS AWARDS EVENT

As the COVID-19 crisis seems to be ever changing, our Norwalk Chamber Ambassadors are continuing to support our Chamber members by visiting them as a group caravan on Fridays. The Ambassadors, along with Board Members and Staff have been able to visit a variety of our local businesses and provide encouragement during this time of uncertainty. As the group visits the businesses we hear positive feedback in addition to finding out about their struggles. Businesses are shifting their marketing focus online and on social media. Restaurants are continuing to expand their seating footprint with the help of the City of Norwalk temporary outdoor dining permits. Additionally funding has become available through the Cities Business Loan Program not only to help with rent and utilities, but also to help with financial output that businesses have made to protect against COVID-19. Visit the Cities website at www.norwalkca.gov to find out additional details about the loan program. We encourage you to share any changes to your business because of the pandemic and continue to use your Chamber connections to find information or market your business. If you would like the Ambassador to drop by your business and check in with you, send an email request to info@norwalkchamber.com.



business. Pictured here with our Chamber Ambassadors are Craig Wicks and David Gallardo.



Lucy Rodas of State Farm Insurance is open for business. Visit their website at www. lucyrodas.com or contact the office at 562-868-6218 for insurance information.



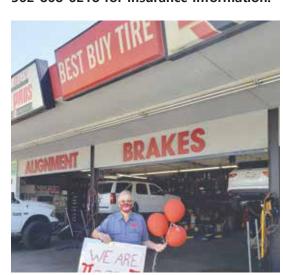
Don's Teriyaki Grill is open for both dining outdoors and takeout orders. They are located at 12327 Imperial Hwy, in the Civic Center Plaza.



So-Cal Pizza is open for takeout orders and they are hosting a Friday Night Tailgate Party every week. Bring your canopies, tables and chairs and enjoy music while social distancing. So-Cal is located at 12253 Imperial Hwy.



El Taco Locco is open for takeout and outdoor seating. Visit them at the Civic Center Plaza for authentic Mexican Food. Picture here is owner Delia Castro. Address is 12341 Imperial Hwy.



Best Buy Tire Pros is open and providing their services as an essential business. Visit them at 12932 Pioneer Blvd. in Norwalk. Pictured here is owner Andy Kasbarian.



outdoor dining options on their new patio area. You can still get takeout or delivery, but also dine outside.



Mr. Rosewoods Family Restaurant now has Looking for great Chinese Food? Visit Kung Pao Bowl and owner Steve Hyun at 12331 Imperial Hwy for outdoor dining or take out. You can also order delivery through online options.



Toros Taqueria is open for takeout orders. They are located at 15617 Studebaker Rd. #2, close to the 605 Freeway!



McDonald's Restaurant, located corner of Bloomfield and Alondra, continues to be open for drive thru and delivery orders.



Tam's Super Burgers at 11700 Rosecrans Ave is open for drive thru and takeout orders. Pictured here is owner Angelo Makris with his staff.



Frantone's Spaghetti Villa is open for takeout and outdoor dining. Visit them at 10808 Alondra Blvd. for a great outdoor dining experience.



Northgate Gonzalez Market continues to provide many necessities during the current crisis. They are located at 11660 Firestone Blvd. here in Norwalk. Pictured here are (I to r) Norwalk Chamber President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank and her daughter Aria, Ambassador Irma Macias of Community Family Guidance Center, Epi Villegas, Store Manager and Board Member Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates.



Norwalk Grocery Outlet is still open and providing much needed goods to local residents. Visit their Wine Shop for some great deals on good wines! Owners Jorge & Cynthia Lizarraga are pictured here.



Our Ambassador group is getting ready to go out and visit local businesses!

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

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

#### Norwalk **Chamber of Commerce**

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http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM

**PRESIDENT** 

**AMANDA BLANTON** 

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDITOR, NCBC** 

**CAREN SPILSBURY** 

# CALENDAR **OF EVENTS**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**PLEASE NOTE:** 

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

#### August 10th

**Executive Committee Meeting** 12noon via ZOOM

### August 19th

**Board of Directors Meeting** 9am via ZOOM

#### August 21st

**Ambassador Drive By Business Visits** 11am @ Norwalk Chamber

# August 28th

**Ambassador Drive By Business Visits** 11am @ Norwalk Chamber

September 1st **Brown Bag Fundraiser Drawing Begins** 

> **Tentative** September 17th

Annual 9 Hole **Golf Tournament** 

October 23rd Wine & Design Fundraiser

> 7pm to 9pm Via ZOOM

October 30th State of the Nation

> **ZOOM Event** 12noon









# **NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS**

#### **New Members**

Wine & Design

Yvonne Parades-Alexander La Mirada CA 90638 657-298-3015 Stanton.ca@wineanddesign.com www.wineanddesign.com/stanton-ca

On The Mark Indoor Digital Advertising Network **Neil Hirsch** 

5199 E. PCH Suite 616 Long Beach CA 90804 562-386-2205 neil@onthemarkad.com

www.onthemarkad.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.

45 Years **Golden State Water** 

Albert Rivera 562.863.2607x 100 arivera@gswater.com

28 Years Su Casa Ending Domestic Violence

Anna Conti 562-519-8597 www.sucasadv.org 27 Years Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Advanced Performance Parts

James Romo 562-653-3200 www.aalrr.com

25 Years De Jon Management, Inc. McDonalds Alondra & Bloomfield

16 Years

714-827-3730

NTMA Gina Marinello 562-921-3722 http://trainingcenters.org/

14 Years **HUB International** 

Brian Jondle 714-739-3177 www.hubinternational.com

<u>13 Years</u> Shakey's Pizza Restaurant Melissa Bustillos 562-864-2512

www.shakeys.com 10 Years **Swift Freight** 

562-926-0509 www.swiftcargo.com

#### 8 Years

Yuri Marquez yuri@appincusa.com

8 Years

All American Trophy & Engraving

Paul Purdum 323-725-1962 aatrophy@sbcglobal.net

7 Years So-Cal Pizza Ric Ochoa

562-868-3252 http://www.scalpizza.com/

3 Years **Athens Services** 

Susan Ayala 888-336-6100 www.athensserices.com

2 Years Don's Teriyaki Grill Sonia Pream 562-991-5621

donsteriyakigrill@gmail.com

# MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

#### SoCalGas Now Powering Two Los Angeles Facilities with Bloom Energy AlwaysON Microgrids

reliability

oxide fuel cells. The switch to fuel cells will efficiency, and reliability." power grid. Photos of the fuel cells at one of the SoCalGas facilities are located here.

fuel cells could use natural gas, renewable natural gas, or hydrogen. The fuel cells at SoCalGas intake natural gas and oxygen, and through an electrochemical reaction, produce electricity without any combustion. Bloom Energy Servers can operate at 60% efficiency and are considered one of the most efficient power solutions currently available. More information on how fuel cells work may be found here.

"Using Bloom Energy's fuel cells for our facilities is yet another way that SoCalGas by 683 metric tons per year compared to the The environmental benefits of switching is demonstrating our commitment to be an industry leader supporting a 21st century energy system," said Maryam Brown, president of SoCalGas. "These onsite generation systems will provide clean, affordable and resilient energy to key facilities so that we can ensure safe and reliable service to our 22 million customers."

to many Bloom Energy Servers installed in Distributed Generation Technology that do and 20% by 2030.

air pollution and electric costs, and increase eager to team up again to bring fuel cells given only to the cleanest technologies in to SoCalGas' own facilities," said Kris Kim, the state. LOS ANGELES and SAN JOSE, Calif. - July managing director of strategic development. Adoption of distributed power generation 17, 2020 - Southern California Gas Co. at Bloom Energy. "Fuel cells at utility-owned solutions, also called distributed energy (SoCalGas) today announced it has begun sites are a natural fit as we are both looking resources, is a growing trend in the U.S. powering two of its largest Los Angeles-area to the future of energy and prioritize qualities These solutions can combine environmental facilities with Bloom Energy (NYSE: BE) solid like fuel flexibility, emissions reductions, benefits and the ability to provide

reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, air "I am delighted to see SoCalGas has chosen disasters or outages. While SoCalGas uses pollutants and the cost of power, as well as Pico Rivera to showcase this exciting new solar generation at 6 of its 113 facilities, the provide reliable electricity independent of the technology," said Sen. Bob Archuleta (D-Pico company selected the fuel cell solution for Rivera). "It is no longer up for debate; its Monterey Park and Pico Rivera facilities hydrogen will be a part of California's clean proud of SoCalGas for taking the initiative and bringing these investments to the our clean energy goals."

will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions have powered through over 1,500 outages. current grid profile – which is like eliminating to fuel cells at these facilities are part of annual GHG emissions produced by the SoCalGas' vision to be the cleanest gas electricity use of 112 homes. Because no fuel utility in North America, and support a "The SoCalGas pipeline system is integral has certified the Bloom Energy Servers as a with renewable natural gas (RNG) by 2022

Fuel cell power will reduce GHG emissions, central and southern California, so we were not require a generation permit, a designation

uninterrupted power in the event of natural for their superior resiliency.

To produce electricity, Bloom Energy's energy future. I have fought for investments The Bloom Energy Servers at each of in both hydrogen infrastructure and clean SoCalGas' facilities total 950 kilowatts in size, transportation programs in the California replacing over 90% of the baseload power Legislature and I will continue to do so. I am that would otherwise come from the grid. The Servers are configured as AlwaysON Microgrids. Microgrids are a distributed 32nd Senate District and I look forward to power supply that are always-on – operating continuing to work with them as we pursue alongside the main grid and independently during an outage. Bloom Energy has In addition to providing cost savings and deployed its Servers at 600 sites globally, and improving reliability of power, the fuel cells more than 85 of those are microgrids, which

is burned to produce the electricity, smog- 21st century energy system that provides forming pollutants and particulate matter are clean, affordable, resilient and integrated reduced by more than 99%. And, because energy. As part of its vision, the utility last they virtually eliminate all combustion-related year committed to replacing five percent of pollutants, the California Air Resources Board natural gas supplies to its core customers

#### ABCUSD Students to Return to School Virtually to Start School Year

school year with instruction through the ABC Virtual Academy on August 24, 2020. This decision, made by the ABCUSD Board Newsom's latest guidelines for public schools as well as public health data. The Governor's directions specify that school districts within counties that are placed on the California County Monitoring List "must conduct distance learning only." Los Angeles County has been on the Monitoring List for some time due to the increase in confirmed

"As an educator, I know the importance of having students physically in the

COVID-19, hospitalizations, and deaths.

District will be starting the 2020-2021 teachers, and staff. Right now, the threat to back into schools will happen when public public health is simply too great to have health circumstances allow Los Angeles them at our schools."

of Education at a Special Meeting held Students will begin the school year in the that time, ABCUSD will continue to work today, is based on direction from Governor ABC Virtual Academy, an online instructional model that focuses on synchronous stakeholders to meet the needs of our learning where students interact with their teachers. Students follow a set schedule each day, giving the Virtual Academy the feel of being in class.

> "The ABC Virtual Academy will be as close to in-class teaching as we can get in an online environment," said Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu. "We plan to provide workshops and instructional videos to help our families adjust to this new learning environment."

classrooms," said Board President Dr. Olga More information about the specifics of Rios. "However, our first priority is the the ABC Virtual Academy will be sent to

July 17, 2020 – The ABC Unified School health and safety of our students, families, families later in July. Bringing students County to be off of the California County Monitoring List for at least 14 days. Until collaboratively with our families, staff, and students.

#### **About the ABC Unified School District**

In 1965 the Artesia, Bloomfield, and Carmenita School Districts unified and became the ABC Unified School District. Today, the District serves over 30,000 Pre-K to 12th Grade and adult education students through its 30 campuses. The District is home to some of the most awarded and recognized schools in California and serves the cities of Artesia, most of Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, as well as portions of Lakewood, Long Beach, and Norwalk.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As a Norwalk Chamber member you have a number of member benefits that can help support your business not only during the current crisis, but well into the future. Your Chamber webpage has direct links to your webpage and your social media platforms. These multiple links bring customers directly to you from the Chamber. They also help with SEO optimization. Your membership also brings the opportunity for different discounts. The Chamber has partnered with Office Depot/Office Max on a Chamber discount program. You can save on many everyday items that you use in your business and additionally realize great savings on printed materials. That can help you with new COVID rules that don't allow your business to reuse menus and other types of items.

As a Chamber we connect you with many different community events and opportunities. We are a leading voice for business with your elected

officials, from the City to the Federal level. Your Chamber newspaper goes out to 95% of the homes in Norwalk and is also mailed to our entire mailing list. So if you choose to take advantage of our low cost advertising in the Chamber paper, your business can be seen by almost 100,000 people here in Norwalk.

For our new businesses we offer Virtual Ribbon Cutting events and in the future they will be in person again. We also provide an opportunity for new and small businesses to pay their membership dues in monthly or quarterly payments, which is a big help with a tight budget. Workshops and networking events are another opportunity to grow your business and the Norwalk Chamber offers these to our members at reduced costs or even no cost. Do you have a special product or sale going on at your businesses? Are you hiring? The Norwalk Chamber can share this information through our social media, our newsletter and our email blasts. This is all done as a benefit to you, our members.

I encourage you to take advantage of all your member benefits, especially during this time of crisis, where your Norwalk Chamber will continue to partner with you to help grow your business. If you would like to have additional information about your benefits or how the Chamber can help you, reach

out to the office by email to info@norwalkchamber.com or call 562-404-0909.

Stay safe and healthy,

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



Tracy Polley of Kelco Sales, receives his Board Member of the Year Award 2019 2020, from our Drive By Ambassador Group.



Gary Murphy of Norwalk Florist, receives his Volunteer of the Year Award, 2019 - 2020, from our Chamber members: Pictured here are (I to r) Ambassadors Rebecca Ortiz, Joe Derthick, Karla Butler, Irma Macias, Chamber President Amanda Blanton, Gary Murphy, Ambassador Lori Herrera and Kathy Weiss of the Norwalk Doubletree Hotel.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has created difficulties for many businesses locally it has also created business growth and expansion is certain sectors. Some sectors that have experienced growth are grocery stores, manufacturers, and home improvement stores. Norwalk Chamber is not only visiting our current members, but also dropping by new businesses to meet them and welcome them to Norwalk. Pictured here are two new businesses that have opened during this pandemic.



Norwalk Ambassadors visit Code Coffee, a new business located at the corner of Rosecrans and Claressa Ave. in Norwalk. Drop by and visit with Brother Will.



Wiki Ramen World has opened their doors at San Antonio and Our Norwalk Ambassadors getting ready to visit one of Olive, just south of the I-5 Freeway. This is their Wall of Ramen that you see right when you walk in the door. Visiting them are Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, President Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank and VP of Finance Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates.



our members. Pictured here are (I to r) Joe Derthick, AFLAC, Irma Macias, CFGC, Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates, Rebecca Ortiz, AFLAC, Lori Herrera and Kathy Weiss, Doubletree Hotel and Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank.

#### **Feeding Norwalk**

During the shutdown orders, folks have suffered job losses and furloughs and have had many difficulties with navigating the EDD for obtaining their unemployment benefits. With that comes a greater need for local food banks and food distribution events. Recent support from Grocery Outlet has provided much needed donations to the Norwalk Food Pantry. They held a "Wave of Kindness" event where groceries were purchased for their customers through donations from Newmark Merrill and Grocery Outlet. Then they held their "Independence From Hunger" or IFH event where customers could donate \$5.00 for a food bag donation that would be donated to the Norwalk Food Pantry. Each customer that participated also received a \$5.00 off their next \$25.00 visit to the store. Next the City of Norwalk City Council, led by Council Member Margarita Rios partnered with Farm Fresh to You and other organizations for a drive through food distribution event. Over 900 families were given boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, milk and other necessities through this partnership.

If you would like to make a donation for needy families you can reach out to the Norwalk Food Pantry at 562-929-5544.



Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios is pictured here with our Chamber Board Members, Ambassadors and the volunteers for the drive through food distribution

#### **Labor Law Corner**

# COVID-19 and a New Hire's Expired Identity Document

1, and she says that she has not been able to renew it B document. due to COVID-19. Can we hire her?

DHS issued this policy due to COVID-19 closure of a photograph. If the employee's identity document initial and date the change. expired on or after March 1, 2020, and the document

We just hired an employee who does not have a current expiration date has been extended by the issuing Confirm State Extensions identity document. Her driver license expired on April agency due to COVID-19, then it may be used as a List Employers can confirm that a state has automatically

### **Adding Note**

Yes. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) The expired document should be entered under Section Department of Motor Vehicles extension for driver issued a temporary policy beginning on May 1, 2020 that 2 on the I-9 Form and "COVID-19" should be added licenses may be found at https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/ allows an identity document with an expiration date on to the Additional Information section. Employers also covid-19-relief-information/driver-license-extensions/. or after March 1, 2020 to be accepted for I-9 purposes. may attach to the I-9 Form a copy of the webpage or DHS will continue to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 other notice indicating that the document has been national emergency and will provide updated guidance offices or reduced services that prevented individuals extended. The employee has 90 days after the DHS as needed. Employers may check for current updates by from renewing documents. Identity documents for I-9 terminates this temporary policy to obtain and present going to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services purposes include a driver license, federal- or state- a current document. When the employee obtains a (USCIS) website at https://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central/ issued identification card with identifying information new document, enter the new document's number temporary-policies-related-covid-19. and a photograph, or a school identification card with and expiration date in the Additional Information field,

extended the expiration date of its state IDs and driver licenses by checking the state motor vehicle administration websites. Information on the California

Sunny Lee HR Adviser





#### STATER BROS. ANNOUNCES NEWLY PROMOTED EXECUTIVES

Stater Bros. Markets announces promotions for several key positions within the Bertha Luna has been promoted to the position of Regional Vice President Retail Operations. In this role, Luna will continue to report to Stater Bros. Markets Executive Vice President Retail Operations Keith Thomas. In this position, Luna will lead the Retail Operations for a regional area served by Stater Bros. Markets. Luna has been a member of the Stater Bros. 'Family' for twenty (20) years and has over thirty-two (32) years of experience in the retail grocery industry. Luna began her career in the retail grocery industry in 1988 as a Courtesy Clerk at Lucky Stores. She became a member of the Stater Bros. 'Family' in 1999 during the acquisition of Albertson's and Lucky Stores.

Paul Stoffel has been promoted to the position of Vice President Marketing. In this role, Stoffel will continue to report to Stater Bros. Markets Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Dennis McIntyre. Stoffel will lead the strategic planning, development and execution of Stater Bros. Market's center store category **Bertha Luna has been Paul Stoffel** management initiatives, procurement, master data management (MDM), and the Company's store brand quality assurance program. Stoffel has over twenty-three (23) years in the retail grocery industry. He began his career at Stater Bros. Markets in 1997 as a Courtesy Clerk at the Company's Arlington location in Riverside and held



promoted Vice President of Retail of Marketing for Stater President of Information Operations for Stater Bros. Bros. Markets. Markets.



has to Regional promoted to Vice President promoted to Senior Vice



Technology.

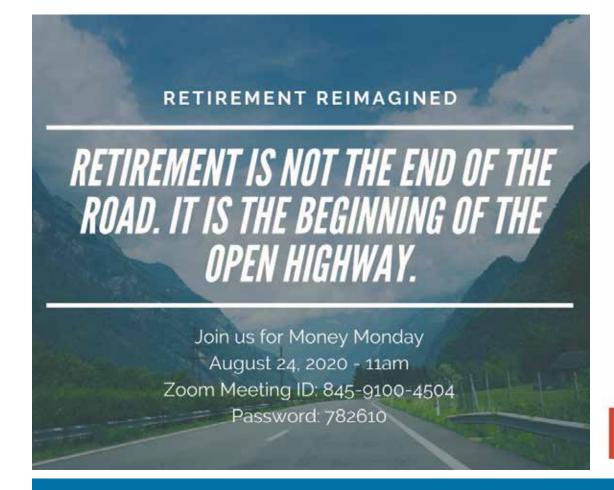
the positions of Meat Wrapper and Clerk before being promoted to the Merchandising Department at the Corporate Office in 2005. Stoffel was promoted to Inventory Analyst in the Marketing Department in 2006 and continued to advance in the Marketing Department where he held the positions of Inventory Analyst Supervisor, Buyer - Merchandiser, and Director Category Management. In 2019, he was promoted to Senior Director Marketing, his most recent position.

Gil Salazar has been promoted to the position of Senior Vice President Information Technology. In this role, Salazar will continue to report to Stater Bros. Markets CEO Pete Van Helden. As part of Stater Bros. Markets' ongoing commitment to digital transformation, Salazar will continue to drive remarkable innovation critical to meet the current and future needs of our customers and all areas of the company.

Salazar serves as a member of the Company's Executive Leadership Team which evaluates and sets key strategies for the Company. Salazar brings more than thirty-one (31) years of information technology experience to his role. Prior to Stater Bros. Markets, Salazar served as Director IT Services for Hyundai Capital America. He also served as Director Information Technology for Partners Consulting, providing IT services to clients across multiple industries; Associate Vice President of IT Services at AIG; VP Information Technology for Ford Motor Credit; and Senior Manager Systems Infrastructure for ConAgra Foods Inc. Salazar served Stater Bros. Markets as Assistant Director Operations / Technical Support in 2013. In 2016, Salazar was appointed to Stater Bros. Markets Vice President Information Technology, his most recent position.

#### CITY OF NORWALK EXPANDS SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

The City of Norwalk rolled out a Small Business Loan program in June of this year, to provide financial support to businesses that were affected by COVID-19. The original program called for the business to be in arrears on their rent and would cover up to three months of rent/lease or mortgage payments if approved. Norwalk City Council approved expanding the program at their July 21st City Council Meeting. The new program raises the potential loan amount from the original \$10,000 to up to \$35,000. The new guidelines also include coverage of lease/ rent/ mortgage, utilities, purchase of supplies and materials to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and assist with costs associated with boundaries required to operate under current health department guidelines. If your business is in need of assistance, visit https:// bit.ly/3f93afl for additional details and to see if you qualify.



# Economic Recovery Stimulus Program

NORWALK

As a response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City of Norwalk is making a portion of CDBG HUD funds available to businesses

- One-time loan and/organt of up to \$35,000 at 0% interest Funds must be used for business lease/rent/mortgage and/or utility
- payments, supplies to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, or costs associated with requirements under current health department guide-
  - Loans have the potential to be forgiven
- 5-year term with no pre-payment penalties
- Visit https://www.norwalk.org/city-hal/departments/communitydevelopment

Is your business eligible?

Businesses who have received federal funding regarding COVID-19 relief in the amount of \$35,000 or more in specified categories above are not eligible

Be physically located within Norwalk city limits

Be in a commercial or industrial location

Possess a valid City of Norwalk Business license as of date of application

At least one employee meets CDBG eligible income requirements – 80% of County

Demonstrate in amears on lease/rent/mortgage and/or utility payments at some point since March 17, 2020 due to stay-at-home order, if applicable

Participate in the City of Norwalk Outdoor Business Operation Permit Program,

if applicable (contact Planning at (562) 929-5744 for more information)

City has received your application and all required documentation

Block Group is 80% or less of the County Median Income)

If you think yourbusiness qualifies or if you'd like more information, please reach out to: Community De ve lopme nt De pt. 562-929-5951 smallb usine ssloans@no nvalkca.gov

# 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**