

# SANTA FE SPRINGS BUSINESS

Official publication of the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce / [www.sfschamber.com](http://www.sfschamber.com) / Vol. 37, No. 6 / November-December 2024

Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce  
and First Pacific Bank  
present

## 2025 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK Breakfast

Dr. Chris Thornberg  
Beacon Economics

**THURSDAY  
JANUARY 16, 2025**  
7:30AM - 9:30AM  
at the  
**DoubleTree by Hilton**  
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## 2025 Economic Outlook: Insights from Dr. Christopher Thornberg

As we approach the start of a new year, businesses and individuals alike are eager to understand the economic landscape for 2025. To shed light on these crucial developments, **Dr. Christopher Thornberg**, a renowned economist and founding partner of Beacon Economics, will be the keynote speaker at an exclusive event on **Thursday, January 16, 2025**, at the **DoubleTree by Hilton in Norwalk**.

The event will be held at **13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, 90650** from **7:30 to 9:30 a.m.** and promises to provide attendees with an in-depth analysis of the economic outlook for 2025. Dr. Thornberg, known for his wit, sharp insights and accurate forecasts, will discuss key trends that could shape the year ahead, including inflation, interest rates, employment, global trade, and consumer spending.

### Why Attend?

In today's rapidly changing global economy, understanding where the markets are heading is crucial for making informed decisions, whether you're a business leader, investor, or concerned citizen.

### About Dr. Christopher Thornberg

Dr. Thornberg is a recognized expert in economic forecasting, regional economics, labor markets, and real estate. As the founding partner of Beacon Economics and an expert witness, Dr. Thornberg has advised numerous businesses, government entities, and non-profits on economic issues. His expertise is frequently sought after by the media, making him a trusted voice in understanding economic shifts.

Whether you're looking to make strategic business decisions or want to gain a better understanding of the 2025 economic outlook, this event is a must-attend.

### How to Register

Seats for this highly anticipated event are limited, so we encourage early registration. To secure your spot and be part of this insightful discussion with Dr. Thornberg, please visit [sfschamber.com](http://sfschamber.com) or call (562) 944-1616.

Join us at the DoubleTree by Hilton Norwalk for an informative and engaging session and equip yourself with the knowledge needed to navigate the economic landscape of 2025.

## State of the City Address Highlights Progress

On Wednesday, October 9, Mayor Jay Sarno and City Manager René Bobadilla delivered the State of the City Address to over 200 patrons at Town Center Hall, highlighting the progress and accomplishments of the City of Santa Fe Springs over the past year.

The audience included members of the business community, various stakeholders, elected officials, and city staff.

Key topics included achievements, ongoing projects, and future goals of the City of Santa Fe Springs, emphasizing the city's strong fiscal health, supported by a \$2.5 million surplus budget and effective resource management.

Mayor Sarno and City Manager Bobadilla praised the city's efforts to improve public safety, particularly a new partnership with the California Highway Patrol.

In addition, Infrastructure improvements, including planned upgrades to streets, which will enhance residents' quality of life and improve business operations, were presented.

Economic development was a focal point, with updates on new residential and commercial projects that drive job opportunities, increase local revenue, and provide both low-income and market-value housing. The City also highlighted its investments in workforce development to support its

long-term commitment to improving services for residents and businesses.

Looking ahead, they outlined strategic plans for future growth, including infrastructure projects like the Aquatic Center.

They affirmed that the State of the City is strong and will continue to thrive with the community's ongoing support. The event offered a great opportunity for attendees to learn about the City and make new connections.

Special thanks were given to Pastor Terry Risser from Florence Avenue Foursquare Church for the invocation and to Santa Fe Springs Fire Department's Captain Stewart and Engineer Hamada for Posting the Colors and



leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

A special thank you to our Platinum Sponsors, Transtech Engineering and Bridgeland Resources, LLC., for their generous support that contributed to the overall success of this event.



*Kt's Custom Baskets wins "The Most Creatively Displayed Table" and proudly holds up her certificate with Chamber President Carlos Gallardo.*

## Businesses Sparkled at the 2024 Santa Fe Springs Chamber Business Expo!

On Wednesday, September 18, the SFS Chamber of Commerce hosted its much-anticipated annual **Business Expo** at **Heritage Park**. This vibrant event has become a cornerstone in the local business calendar.

The 2024 Business Expo underscored the theme of connecting businesses and empowering the community, providing a platform for local companies to continued on page 2

SFS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlos Gallardo, Farmers and Merchants Bank

### Supporting Measure SFS: A Community Effort for a Better Santa Fe Springs

As president of the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce, I've had the unique opportunity to witness the incredible partnership between our city manager, Rene Bobadilla, his hardworking team, and our local business community. It's truly inspiring to see how we've come together, united by a common goal—supporting Measure SFS, a critical initiative that will be on the ballot this November 5. This measure represents our collective commitment to improving our city's infrastructure and ensuring a brighter future for all of us.

Since March of this year, chamber members have sat down with city officials, engaging in open, productive discussions about the challenges we face as a community. These conversations have been a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when we work together. It's through this collaboration that Measure SFS was developed—a solution that addresses the pressing need to repair and maintain our roads, a need that affects each and every one of us.

Measure SFS is a parcel tax focused on commercial and industrial properties in our city, aiming to generate around \$6 million annually. This money will be dedicated to vital road repairs and maintenance, which is something we can all benefit from, whether you're a resident, a business owner, or someone who commutes through Santa Fe Springs.

Here's what you need to know about Measure SFS:

- **Purpose:** The measure will fix potholes, repair curbs, and maintain our roads, ultimately

improving traffic flow, protecting our groundwater, and ensuring our streets remain safe and usable for years to come.

- **Tax Rate:** Commercial properties will be taxed at 7¢ per square foot, and industrial properties and vacant lots at 3.5¢ per square foot.
- **Why Now?:** A road study from 2021 found that more than half of our roads are in poor or fair condition, and heavy commercial vehicles have played a major role in this deterioration.

As someone who works in this community, I understand the frustrations of driving on roads that are filled with potholes or in need of repair. Measure SFS offers a practical solution that not only addresses today's issues but also invests in our city's long-term future.

With Election Day approaching, I urge everyone—whether you're a resident, business owner, or both—to take the time to learn more about Measure SFS. Let's talk to each other about what it means for our city, and let's continue working together to ensure Santa Fe Springs remains a place we can all be proud of. Every vote counts, and your voice can make a real difference.

Together, we can shape the future of our city. Let's come together to support Measure SFS and ensure a stronger, safer Santa Fe Springs for generations to come.



**VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
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Learn how to prepare taxes, while helping your community! Training is free and available to interested volunteers. Volunteers will help complete income tax forms for low-to-moderate-income people who cannot prepare their own 2024 tax returns. Call to prepare yourself as a Volunteer Tax Preparer!

Please call the Gus Valasco Neighborhood Center or (562) 692-0281 for more information.

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Jay Sarno Mayor  
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Your City Council

Jay Sarno Mayor  
William K. Rounds Mayor Pro Tem  
Joe Angel Zamora Councilmember  
Aracelis Rodriguez Councilmember  
Juanita Martin Councilmember

## Chamber Business Expo continued from page 1

showcase their products and services. With exhibitors from a wide range of industries, the event catered to a diverse audience, reflecting the dynamic business landscape of the SFS region.

Visitors were able to engage with business owners directly, discover innovative products, and learn more about services that support the growth of local enterprises.

The Expo also offered a space for businesses to network with one another, potentially sparking new partnerships, friendships, collaborations, and ideas that could drive future economic success in the region.

Beyond business, the Expo celebrated the spirit of the community through its lively **food and desert court**, where local eateries and vendors served up delicious offerings. This area not only added a vibrant social element to the event but also highlighted the role food businesses play in the local economy.

The food court was a hit with attendees and showcased culinary creativity from restaurants that included Azar Event Center & Catering, California

Grill, Chick-fil-A, Gatherings n' Stuff, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, , and Tepeyac Restaurant & Tequila Sports Bar.

The dessert court offered sweet drinks and treats from Dem'Nutz, La Michoacana de Tocumba Artisan Ice Cream, Santa Fe High School, Starbucks, and Sugar and Spice Cafe!

We thank the Water Replenishment District of Southern California and Norwalk/La Mirada Plumbing & HVAC for donating the thirst-quenching cold water for all to enjoy throughout the day and for all other generous donations.

The day sparkled with gems who helped make this event a huge success from the exhibitors, participants and volunteers to the SFS Chamber Ambassadors and staff.

As the event concluded, attendees left inspired and optimistic about the future of local commerce. The SFS Chamber of Commerce reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the business community through initiatives like the Expo, which provide invaluable resources, connections, and exposure for enterprises of all sizes.

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# SAVE THE DATE: Tree Lighting Ceremony



**Town Center Plaza, Saturday, December 7, 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.**  
 Join the annual Tree Lighting, featuring live entertainment, crafts, food, photos with Santa, and a snow sled area. Free treats while supplies last. For more information, Please call the Department of Parks & Recreation at (562) 863-4896.



## End of Summer Evening Mixer

On September 24, our chamber's End of Summer Evening Mixer brought together a fantastic crowd at Pikey's Pizza in Whittier. Members and guests enjoyed delicious pizza while networking, fostering connections, and strengthening our community ties. It was a lively evening filled with great food, conversation, and camaraderie. Many thanks to Pikey's Pizza for hosting this memorable event! To experience their menu for yourself, call (562) 325-8257 or visit them at 11343 La Mirada Blvd, Whittier, CA 90604, open seven days a week.

## Santa Fe Springs Crime Statistics Year-to-date Comparison of Part I Crimes September 2024

Crimes reported	2023	2024	-/+	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>12 %</b>
Homicide	4	1	-3	-75 %
Rape	6	8	2	33 %
Robbery	28	56	28	100 %
Aggravated Assault	40	58	18	45 %
Burglary	161	221	60	37 %
Commercial/Retail	151	211	60	40 %
Residential	10	10	—	— %
All Thefts	515	563	48	9 %
Shoplifting	85	108	23	27 %
Burglary/Theft from Vehicle	266	236	-30	-11 %
Other theft	164	219	55	34 %
Grand Theft Auto	235	201	-34	-14 %
Arson	9	7	2	22 %

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SFS Chamber members and non-members getting together for business-to-business networking lunch.

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9545 E. Whittier Blvd.  
Pico Rivera
- 18 DEC** **Tamales & Margaritas**  
Betty Wilson Center  
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- 16 JAN** **Zapien's Salsa Grill**  
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Visit [sfschamber.com](http://sfschamber.com) or call (562) 944-1616 to register or for more information

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## Bringing Together Local Professionals Over Lunch

On September 19, local business owners, professionals, and community members gathered for the Santa Fe Springs Networking Lunch at the Double-Tree Hotel in Whittier. The event, organized by the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce, provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to connect, share ideas, and build new business relationships in a relaxed yet professional setting.



Chamber member Marisa Novak is ready to enjoy a scrumptious lunch.

Hosted in the remodeled Double-Tree lounge, the event featured a delicious lunch and a welcoming atmosphere for both long-time chamber members and newcomers alike. Attendees had the chance to network with a diverse group of professionals from various industries, exchange business cards, and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

For those interested in expanding their professional network, the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce regularly hosts monthly events like these. Be sure to mark your calendar for future opportunities!

## October 'Taco Thursday' Networking at Noon Event!

Chamber members and guests gathered for a delicious lunch outside of Town Center Hall on Thursday, October 17. The Networking at Noon monthly event was well attended by professionals from Santa Fe Springs and surrounding areas. Chamber members and guests enjoyed a lively and productive afternoon with music, networking, raffle, and a Halloween roundtable question.



The savory taste of street tacos and bacon-wrapped hot dogs from Junior's Tacos.

The highlight of the afternoon was the aroma of chicken, carne asada, al pastor, and bacon wrapped hot dogs that filled the air from City Hall to the library. Junior's Tacos cooked up a delicious meal outside where laughter and connections were heard.

Thank you to everyone who attended and met someone new. We welcome you to join us every third Thursday of the month to build connections and strengthen our local business community.

**Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce**

**Upcoming Events**

**"The Road to Success: Insights from Visionary Entrepreneurs"**  
**November 19th**  
"An Exclusive Event Featuring the Journeys of Three Inspiring Entrepreneurs"

**Ivan Fernandez:** Visionary behind SPN Networks, a rapidly growing IT company.

**Cathy White:** Entrepreneur extraordinaire, merging beauty and culinary excellence with The Lash Co & Sugar & Spice Cafe.

**Darryl Blunk:** President & CEO of Appfels Coffee, leading the brand to new heights in the coffee industry.

"Join us for a morning of inspiration. Hear how these entrepreneurs turned challenges into success. Reserve Your Spot Today!"

Meeting time: **8:30 am - 10:30 am**

**MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND!**

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# RIBBON CUTTING AND GRAND OPENING CELEBRATIONS

## Ribbon Cutting Celebration for Your Notary Girl

On October 15, Your Notary Girl, owned by Claudia Miramontes, celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Whittier. The joyous event marked a new chapter as the business opened its doors with a dedicated location to serve the community. Special thanks to Senator Bob Archuleta for supporting local business by attending and welcoming Claudia and her notary services into the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce. To learn more about Claudia's notary services, call (323) 314-9792 or visit 11743 Washington Blvd., Whittier, CA 90606. Thank you to all who joined in the celebration!



## Grand Opening of Mr. Fries Man Draws Heartwarming Community Support

On October 28, Santa Fe Springs celebrated the grand opening of Mr. Fries Man, a new local eatery on Telegraph Road. Owners Miguel and Kimberly Puente, joined by family, friends, and a supportive community, marked this special day with heartfelt joy.

Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco and representatives from Senator Bob Archuleta and Supervisor Janice Hahn's offices honored the event, alongside Santa Fe Springs Chamber leaders Kathie Fink, Carlos Gallardo, and Mark Gutierrez, who extended a warm welcome.


Guests enjoyed Mr. Fries Man's signature fries and wings, making it an instant community favorite. Visit their new location at 13473 Telegraph Rd., Whittier, CA 90605, for a taste of these popular dishes!

## Tom's Truck Center Launches First U.S. Onsite Hydrogen Refueling Station; Ribbon Cutting Event September 13

Tom's Truck Center, a leading commercial truck dealership and member of the Nikola sales and service network, has become the first in the U.S. to open an onsite hydrogen refueling station. Located in Santa Fe Springs along Highway 5, the Nikola Hyla modular station offers high-pressure hydrogen dispensing for heavy-duty trucks, supporting California's transition to zero-emission transportation. The station refuels up to 30 trucks daily and operates Monday through Friday, with dedicated Hyla Ambassadors ensuring efficient service.


The unveiling event included notable guests such as State Senators Josh Newman and Bob Archuleta, as well as Santa Fe Springs City Manager Rene Bobadilla and Santa Fe Springs Chamber CEO Kathie Fink. Tom's Truck Center President and CEO KC Heidler emphasized the dealership's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and supporting hydrogen infrastructure. This station is the first of many, with a permanent facility projected by 2026.



 Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce

*You're Invited*

# RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION!


 **Call to Freedom Life Insurance Solutions**

CALL TO FREEDOM  
Bringing Life back to the Industry

We are excited to announce the Ribbon Cutting event for Will Sturgeon owner of Call to Freedom Insurance solutions. Come celebrate with us, meet the team, enjoy some nibbles and network with other local businesses.

Thursday November 7, 2024  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Location:  
Santa Fe Springs Chamber Of Commerce  
12016 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 100  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670



 Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce

## JOIN US FOR THE GRAND OPENING - RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION FOR

 **DRIVEN STRENGTH CLUB**

**Thursday  
November 14th  
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

**Register:**  
[www.sfschamber.com](http://www.sfschamber.com)  
(562)944-1616

Come take a tour of the new facility, meet the team and Network with local businesses!

12311 Telegraph Rd. Santa Fe Springs, CA., 90670



# Member Anniversaries!

Congratulations to our renewing members (September-October 2024)! We greatly appreciate your continued support and involvement.

- 63 Years**  
Santa Fe High School
- 54 Years**  
Soroptimist of Norwalk – Santa Fe Springs
- 46 Years**  
Santa Fe Springs Women’s Club
- 44 Years**  
Rebar Engineering, Inc.
- 38 Years**  
North American Plywood Corp.
- 37 Years**  
SPIRITT Family Services
- 36 Years**  
Hart & Vandenberg CPA’s  
Rio Hondo Americas Job Center of California at SASSFA
- 35 Years**  
Bumble Bee Foods LLC  
Los Nietos School District  
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- 34 Years**  
REACH
- 33 Years**  
Santa Fe Springs Firefighters Local 3507
- 32 Years**  
Olin Chlor Alkali Products
- 31 Years**  
CHL Packaging
- 30 Years**  
The Whole Child
- 25 Years**  
Ramon’s Custom Auto Upholstery  
Zapp Precision Strip, Inc.
- 22 Years**  
Valvoline Company
- 21 Years**  
Velasco Law Group, APC  
Whittier Union High School District

- 17 Years**  
Express Employment Professionals
- 15 Years**  
Beyond 21<sup>st</sup> Century Beauty Academy, Inc.
- 14 Years**  
Romero’s Food Products, Inc.
- 13 Years**  
SELACO Workforce Development Board
- 10 Years**  
Brothers Building Services, LLC  
SERVPRO of Whittier
- 9 Years**  
Zigliff Material Handling
- 8 Years**  
Muller King & Company  
Rexford Industrial Realty, Inc.
- 7 Years**  
Clearman’s North Woods Inn  
Clearman’s Steak n Stein  
State Farm Insurance – Diego De Lama
- 6 Years**  
AtWork Personnel Services  
Helpline Youth Counseling, Inc. (HYC)  
K Taylor Insurance Solutions  
UniFirst Corporation  
Zapien’s Salsa Grill & Taqueria
- 5 Years**  
ACRO Printing, Inc.  
Advanced Ground Systems Engineering, LLC  
Legal Shield – Frank Bellospirito
- 4 Years**  
Holzinger Industrial Sheet Metal  
Spectro Coats
- 3 Years**  
Embroidery Goods, Inc.  
Maqpower Compressor Corp  
Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant

- 2 Years**  
Asurge  
BEA-utiful Photography  
Corporate Concierge  
ERA Group  
Final Appearance Detailing & Protection  
General Logistics Systems  
Juniors Tacos  
Pikey’s Pizza Company  
Primerica – Diana Padilla  
RMH Dance & Productions  
The Lash Co.  
Wells Fargo Advisors  
Your Notary Girl – Claudia Miramontes
- 1 Year**  
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Ericka B. Photography  
isolved HCM  
Juan Bravo De Rueda CPA Inc.  
New Comfort Industries Inc.  
The Bodega

**Would You Like to Promote Your Business?**

Hosting a networking event is a great way to showcase your facility and to let the local business community know what you do. As a host, of a Business Card Exchange or Networking @ Noon event your business will be announced at every Business Card Exchange throughout the year and your event will be advertised on our website and in the newspaper. We will do an article after your event for the chamber newspaper. In addition, you receive lots of social media buzz and photos. Please contact the chamber at (562) 944-1616 or mail@sfschamber.com if you are interested in hosting a Business Card Exchange, Networking @ Noon, or evening mixer.



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2024

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Thank you to our sponsors and all who participated.



*Alicia Fombona of  
United Real Estate Pacific Sales.*

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*Relay for Life*



*KT's Custom Baskets*



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*Everyone's a winner at the SFS Chamber Expo!*



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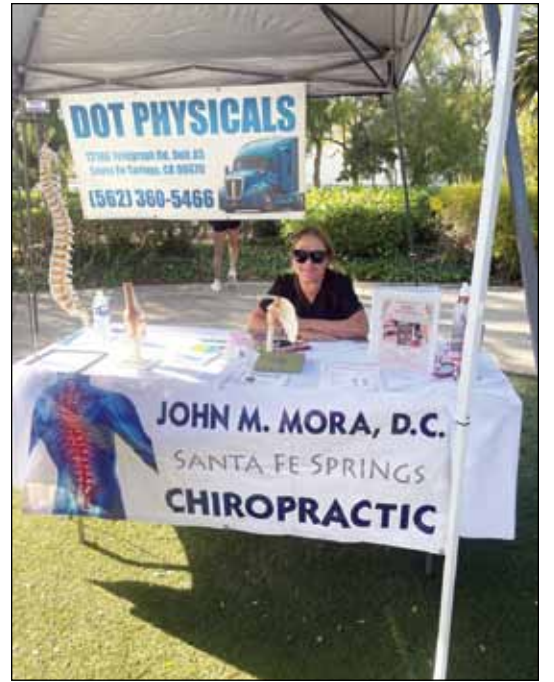
Pictured with Chamber President Carlos Gallardo, Laura Medina is the big winner of the "Bestest Raffle Prize Ever!"



Myrna Ferniza of Bridgewater Law Group with the door prize winner.

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Miles of smiles and good times at the Expo!



Toni Grijalva (right) of Cerritos College wins the TV donated by Restoration Unlimited.



Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce

# BUSINESS CARD EXCHANGE

## Sunrise Breakfast

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**NOVEMBER 6**  
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

CHAMBER MEMBERS: \$20  
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Register at [sfschamber.com](http://sfschamber.com) or call (562) 944-1616

## October Business Card Exchange Breakfast at Geezers

On October 2, the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce hosted its popular Business Card Exchange Breakfast. The event was generously sponsored by Geezers, a well-known local restaurant with a longstanding presence in the community.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast while exchanging business cards, sharing insights, playing games, and discussing collaboration opportunities. This informal yet vibrant setting allowed participants from a variety of industries to make new connections, strengthen existing relationships, and promote their businesses.

The Business Card Exchange is one of the chamber's most anticipated recurring monthly events, offering a friendly and productive environment for local entrepreneurs and professionals to grow new partnerships. Sponsors like Geezers help ensure these gatherings are both enjoyable and impactful for the local business community.

For more information on upcoming Chamber events, visit the Santa Fe Springs Chamber website at [sfschamber.com](http://sfschamber.com) or call (562) 944-1616.



Ambassador Chair Jerry Pinkston presents Cindy Heid, Manager/Special Events Coordinator, with a Certificate Of Appreciation.



SANTA FE SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# UGLY SWEATER

## BUSINESS CARD EXCHANGE

**The Ugliest Sweater Wins A Prize!**

**DECEMBER 4, 2024**  
WEDNESDAY | 8:00-9:30AM

MEMBERS - \$20  
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Attendees tossing around the ice-breaker ball for fun introductions.



Chamber member Mariana Moreno and Chamber President Carlos Gallardo share a laugh during the networking game.

Contact the SFS Chamber: (562) 944-1616 or email us at [mail@sfschamber.com](mailto:mail@sfschamber.com)

Sign up for our Email Newspaper



Mentors and mentees at the Norwalk Courthouse

## YEF Mentor Program Visits Norwalk Courthouse: A Day of Legal Insight and Inspiration

On Thursday, October 24, the Youth Enrichment Fund (YEF) Mentor Program took an exciting educational trip to the Norwalk Courthouse. The visit was designed to give participating students firsthand exposure to the legal system and its workings.

Led by their mentors, the students had the opportunity to observe courtroom proceedings, interact with legal professionals, and gain insights into careers in law.

Highlights of the day included observing a live court session and an engaging Q&A with a judge and local attorneys who shared their experiences and advice for young people.

The trip aimed to inspire and empower students by offering a close look at the judiciary's role in upholding justice, fostering their understanding of legal processes, and motivating them to pursue future educational and career goals.

This experience is part of the YEF's broader mission to provide students with valuable learning opportunities that open doors to diverse professional fields.

The day left students feeling encouraged, with many expressing newfound interest in the legal profession. It was another successful outing for the YEF mentor program.



Representatives from the Santa Fe Springs and Norwalk chambers of commerce at the DoubleTree by Hilton Los Angeles-Norwalk evening mixer.

## Mixing Up the Fun at the Dual Chamber Evening Mixer

On Thursday, October 17, the Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs chambers of commerce hosted an evening mixer at the DoubleTree in Norwalk. The event brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals from both communities for an evening of networking and collaboration.

The DoubleTree provided a vibrant setting, allowing attendees to exchange ideas and explore potential business partnerships. The mixer featured a warm and welcoming atmosphere, complete with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Chamber members and guests were eager to connect, share their experiences, and discuss opportunities for local economic growth.

Overall, the mixer was a resounding success, providing attendees with valuable connections and renewed optimism for the future of business in the region. The Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs chambers of commerce continue to demonstrate their commitment to supporting local businesses and encouraging collaboration within the community.



Posing just like the pros before heading to the next hole.



Mentors and mentees test their skills out on the course.

## YEF Mentor Program Spends A Day On The Course!

The Youth Enrichment Fund (YEF) hosted a memorable Mentor Program event at Golf N' Stuff on September 26, bringing together mentors, mentees, and community leaders for a fun-filled day!

Attendees enjoyed a wide range of activities, from miniature golf to arcade games, allowing mentors and mentees to bond outside the typical program setting. The atmosphere was lighthearted, yet impactful, with plenty of opportunities for conversations and informal discussions about career paths, education,

and life goals.

The event underscored the YEF Mentor Program's mission to empower youth through guidance and positive role models, offering them the skills and confidence needed to succeed.

With support from local sponsors and community members, the YEF continues to provide these enriching experiences, ensuring that youth receive the encouragement and tools they need to thrive.

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## ‘Behind the Headlines: Lessons from a Legendary Life in News’



October 22, a chamber event featuring veteran news reporter Dave Lopez was a memorable experience for all in attendance.

Lopez, who spent nearly 50 years covering major stories across South-

ern California on KCBS Channel 2, captivated the audience with insights from his pioneering career as one of the first Hispanic reporters on a major station.

Sharing highlights from his journey,

as well as the personal challenges he overcame, Lopez’s story is a true testament to resilience, dedication, and the values that shaped his life and work.

Guests enjoyed a nostalgic look

back at his impactful career, centered around themes from his book, *It’s a Great Life if You Don’t Weaken: Family, Faith, and 48 Years on Television*.

Thank you to all who joined us for this inspiring event!

## California’s Commercial Real Estate Rules Are Changing: What SB 1103 Means for You

Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed Senate Bill 1103 (SB 1103), the Commercial Tenant Protection Act of 2024, into law, introducing changes to California’s commercial real estate industry. These changes, relevant for small businesses and nonprofits leasing commercial property, will mean increased operational costs and legal exposure, particularly to small property owners and more protections and transparency for tenants.

However, this law only applies to qualified commercial tenants defined as businesses with five or fewer employees, restaurants with fewer than 10 employees, and nonprofit organizations with fewer than 20 employees and leases executed or tenancies commenced or renewed on or after January 1, 2025. Here’s what businesses need to understand about the new law and how it may impact their operations when it takes effect next year.

### Key Provisions of SB 1103

#### 1. Extended Notice Periods for Rent Increases and Lease Terminations:

Property owners are now required to provide 90 days’ notice for rent increases exceeding 10%.

#### 2. Transparency in Property Operating Costs: SB 1103 mandates that prop-

erty owners provide detailed, itemized documentation of common area expenses within 30 days upon written request from tenants.

#### 3. Language Accessibility: If a lease is negotiated in one of five specified languages (Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Korean), property owners must provide the lease in that language including every term and condition in that contract or agreement.

### Impact on Landlords and Tenants

SB 1103 places a large financial and administrative burden on property owners and exposes them to greater legal and financial risk for non-compliance. Extended notice periods, improved record keeping and translations costs will require changes to administrative processes and potentially a pivot in financial strategies due to the possibility of higher vacancy rates.

Tenants will need to inform the property owner about their status as a qualified commercial tenant and provide employee details to benefit from certain legal protections under this law. This law will grant them additional time to relocate or adjust their businesses for higher rents and have access to an accounting of their shared expenses and a better understanding of their contractual obligations if they require a translated lease.

The passage of SB 1103 marks a major shift in California’s commercial real estate, especially for property owners who self manage small properties. To successfully navigate this change, local businesses should seek guidance from commercial real estate experts who can help them understand this new law taking effect just around the corner.

For more information about commercial leasing and sales, contact Gloria Jimenez, Associate at GM Properties at 562-762-3113 (office) or gloria@gm-propertiesinc.com



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Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce

"AI Essentials: Understanding the  
Technology Transforming Tomorrow"

December 10th

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Jeff Wurfel



Upcoming  
Events



Join Us for an Eye-Opening Exploration of AI

Dive into the world of Artificial Intelligence and discover how it’s reshaping industries and possibilities! This interactive presentation will cover:

- What does AI look like?
- Exploring AI Forms
- Generative AI
- Key Considerations
- Using Generative AI

Sponsored by:



Who Should Attend: This session is ideal for professionals, innovators, and anyone curious about AI’s capabilities and applications.

Town Center Hall: 11740 Telegraph Road, SFS, CA 90670

Register : [www.sfschamber.com](http://www.sfschamber.com)

Chamber Members \$10 | Prospective Members \$15

## Cerritos College Offers Customized Workforce Training for Businesses

In the fast-paced world of manufacturing, logistics, and foodservice (among other industries), staying competitive is crucial. As technology evolves and market demands shift, businesses must invest in their most valuable asset: their employees. Cerritos College's Economic Development Department offers customized training tailored to the specific needs of businesses and manufacturing companies who need to enhance workforce skills, resulting in increased productivity, improved safety, and a more engaged workforce. Here, we explore the various benefits employers can gain from investing in their employees through training and professional development.

### Enhanced Safety and Compliance

One of the most pressing concerns for businesses is workplace safety. Our training programs include OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) guidelines that equip employees with the knowledge to identify hazards, adhere to safety protocols, and minimize workplace injuries. A well-trained workforce not only reduces the risk of accidents but also lowers costs related to worker compensation, legal liabilities, and insurance premiums.

Moreover, a culture of safety can lead to improved morale among employees, fostering a sense of responsibility and community. Employees who feel safe and supported are more likely to be engaged and productive, contributing positively to the company's overall performance.

### Continuous Improvement and Project Management Skills

Effective project management is essential in the business sector to ensure that projects are completed on time and within budget. Our training programs focus on project management methodologies that empower employees with the skills necessary to lead projects effectively. Training in frameworks like Lean Manufacturing, Kaizen or Six Sigma can teach workers how to optimize processes, reduce waste, and enhance productivity. Additionally, fostering project management skills helps in cultivating future leaders within the company. Employees who are equipped



*LeFiell Manufacturing Company*

with these skills are more likely to take initiative, manage teams, and drive projects forward, which is crucial for any business looking to innovate and grow.

### Increased Technical Skills

In today's digital age, proficiency in software tools is essential. Customized training on the MS Office Suite, including Excel, Word, and PowerPoint, can dramatically improve efficiency in reporting, data analysis, and communication. Employees who are well-versed in these tools can better analyze data, prepare presentations, and streamline their work processes. Blueprint reading and Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing (GD&T) are critical skills in manufacturing. Our training focuses on interpreting technical drawings and schematics which significantly enhances an employee's ability to understand project requirements, leading to better execution and fewer errors on the shop floor.

### Leadership Development

Investing in leadership training is essential for any business looking to build a sustainable future. Our customized programs can help identify potential leaders within the organization and provide them with the tools necessary to motivate teams, manage conflicts, and drive change.

Leadership development fosters a culture of continuous improvement and accountability, encouraging employees to take ownership of their roles. When employees see a clear pathway to advancement through training and development, it boosts retention and loyalty, reducing turnover costs.

### Fostering Innovation and Adaptability

In industries characterized by rapid change, fostering a culture of continuous learning is critical. Our customized training encourages employees to think critically and creatively, equipping them to adapt to new technologies and methodologies. This adaptability is crucial in an era where automation and smart manufacturing are becoming the norm. By investing in customized training programs, businesses can cultivate a workforce that is not only skilled but also innovative. Employees who feel supported in their development are more likely to contribute ideas that can lead to process improvements or new product innovations, giving businesses a competitive edge.

The benefits of training and development in the workplace are manifold. From enhancing safety and compliance to improving project management skills, technical proficiency, and leadership development, our customized training programs empower employees and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

By investing in their workforce, businesses can achieve higher productivity, greater employee satisfaction, and return on investment (ROI). For more information contact Belle Gomez, Director of Community Advancement and Economic Development, Cerritos College, (562)860-2451, ext. 2510 or [bgomez@cerritos.edu](mailto:bgomez@cerritos.edu). Please visit us at <https://www.cerritos.edu/cerritotrainsu/>



*Cheers to our newest SFS Chamber members!*

## Santa Fe Springs Chamber Welcomes New Members

The Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the newest members who have recently joined its ever-growing network of local businesses and professionals. These fresh additions bring a range of expertise and innovation to the community, further enriching the chamber's dynamic environment.

The chamber looks forward to supporting these businesses as they integrate into the network, providing them with opportunities to connect, learn, and thrive. As part of the chamber, these new members will have access to valuable resources such as networking events, educational workshops, and business development initiatives.

To all the new members: welcome to the Santa Fe Springs Chamber family! We're excited to see what the future holds for your businesses and for our community.

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## Share Your Story

We are all experts at something. What is your *something*? Share that something with us at the chamber. Please consider telling us about your business and what you have to offer so we can share it. If you're looking to increase your business your storytelling is a good start. Telling your story effectively imparts a more human side to your business. Most sales people will admit it's the emotional side of the brain that drives purchasing, so storytelling gets your business where you want to be. Please contact the chamber office at (562) 944/1616 or email your story to [mail@sfschamber.com](mailto:mail@sfschamber.com)

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# 2024 Relay for Life Santa Fe Springs



The 2024 Relay for Life Santa Fe Springs was a huge success with the City of Santa Fe Springs assistance coming on board to team up and support the event! Our event this year raised over \$105,115 (and counting) supporting programs, patient services and research for the American Cancer Society.


Thirty-two teams and over 4,000 participants attended to help the fight against cancer by walking laps on the track at Little Lake Park. One hundred cancer survivors and their caregivers were our guests of honor and were treated to brunch.



Teams fundraised with a variety of foods, handmade items and raffles during the day. The First Bubble Run had 100 runners with lots of children having fun. The Relay culminated with the Luminaria ceremony, lap and fireworks spelling out HOPE and CURE honoring and remembering those touched by cancer.

The event is normally held the last Saturday of September each year. Please join us next year as the event grows and expands. Be a part of this yearly event by registering a team to walk or simply come to enjoy the festivities as we all work together as a community to fight cancer, one lap at a time and one dollar at a time! Next Year's Theme for the event will be "Curechella".

For more information or to get involved, go to [www.relayforlife.org/santafespringsca](http://www.relayforlife.org/santafespringsca).



**SANTA FE SPRINGS**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE




**Human Resources Roundtable**

Presented by:  
**Partner Paul Fleck, Esq.**  
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# A Reminder of Disabled Veterans' Tax Savings

By Jeff Prang, Los Angeles County Assessor

As we prepare to give thanks this November on Thanksgiving Day, it's also important to remember those that have served our great nation in the military and honor their courage and valor this Veterans Day.

Veterans Day is a federal holiday and is celebrated this Nov. 11. Veterans Day, as most of you know, is a tribute to military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. It's not to be confused with Memorial Day, which honors those who died while in service. Veterans Day honors all military veterans, including those still with us.

As a quick reminder, Veterans Day evolved from Armistice Day, which was proclaimed in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson, celebrating the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. That occurred on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. and formally recognized the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" in 1918 that ended the war.

Not only am I visiting with you about Veterans Day but to remind you that we have tax savings' programs available for veterans, especially those that are disabled. I just don't think we can't remind our disabled veterans enough that they're programs that can save them money on their property tax bills.

The exemption for disabled veterans or the unmarried spouse of a deceased disabled veteran through the Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption reduces the property tax on the veteran's primary residence in real dollars, if they are rated 100% disabled or receive compensation at the 100% rate due to being unable to work. The unmarried surviving spouse of a qualified veteran can also claim the exemption.

To be eligible for the exemption, a veteran must have been injured during their military service. The injuries that qualify for the exemption include being blind in both eyes, losing the use of two or more limbs and/or being totally disabled, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. As such, the disability rating must be issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Ratings from personal physicians are not accepted. Although there is no time limit on filing, only up to eight years is retroactively refundable and it starts from the effective date of the disability rating. To receive the full savings, it must be filed by February 15.

There are two levels of this exemption: the basic exemption and the low-income exemption. The basic exemption, also known as the \$100,000 exemption, is available to all qualifying claimants. The exemption amount is compounded annually by an inflation factor. For 2024, the basic exemption amount is \$169,769, which results in about \$1,700 off their property tax bill.

The low-income exemption, also referred to as the \$150,000 exemption, is available to qualifying claimants whose annual household income does not exceed a specified income limit. The amounts for both the low-income exemption and the annual income limit are compounded annually by an inflation factor. For 2024, the low-income exemption amount is \$254,656 and the annual household income limit is \$76,235. That translates to about \$2,500 off their property tax bill.

We owe a tremendous debt to our veterans and I say thank you for all that you've done, all that you do and all that you will do. Our Democracy is built on your service. I just don't think we can say it enough.

For additional property tax relief programs, visit <https://assessor.lacounty.gov/exemptions/disabled-veterans> or call (213) 974-3211.

*Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang has been in office since 2014. Upon taking office, Prang implemented sweeping reforms to ensure that the strictest ethical guidelines rooted in fairness, accuracy and integrity would be adhered to in his office, which is the largest office of its kind in the nation with 1,400 employees and provides the foundation for a property tax system that generates more than \$20 billion annually.*

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