



# The Downey Patriot

**Hospital passes big test**  
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**Grand Canyon or bust**  
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**Downey's new bishop**  
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Friday, August 25, 2006

Vol. 5 No. 18

11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey, CA 90241



**NOW THAT'S ACTING** – Actors take a cue from executive producer/director Marsha Moode during rehearsals for the upcoming production of "Guys and Dolls," opening Oct. 5 at the Downey Theater. Auditions were held earlier this month at First Baptist Church. For ticket information, call (562) 923-8061.

Photo by Art Montoya

## Two vie for seat in Second District

**DOWNEY**—Mario Guerra was the first candidate to declare himself a candidate for the Downey City Council seat in the Second District to be vacated when term limits force Mayor Meredith Perkins to step down in November.

Guerra is a big, outgoing figure who is not likely to allow his opinions to go unheard.

Guerra told *The Downey Patriot* he was declaring early in hopes of discouraging others from running.

This almost worked had it not been for Robert Rubio, who agrees that Guerra is a "formidable foe," but vows to test him at the poles in November anyway.

The other seat to be decided in November is that of incumbent Councilwoman Anne Bayer, who is running unopposed.

Guerra would seem to have too many big guns among his prominent supporters for any upset. He and his wife, Ann, have lived in Downey for 27 years, and have raised five children.

### Prominent insurance broker

Guerra attended UCLA in Economics, and is the President and co-founder of the prominent firm of Scanlon, Guerra, Jacobson and Burke, Insurance Brokers.

Rubio is no newcomer, having lived in Downey more than 23 years. He is President and Chief Professional Officer of the Rio Hondo Boys and Girls Clubs which serve more than 10 focal cities including Downey. Rubio plans to hold rallies in coming weeks.

Rubio said he will help finance his campaign with a number of fundraisers at locations including Sambis, Frantone's, the Rio Hondo Event Center and Rubio's at Downey Landing.

His campaign stresses an increase in community service programs; the promotion of Downtown Downey Business as Community, completion of the Downey Landing Development; Support of the Downey Fire and Police by supplying them with state-of-the-art equipment. And making Downey resource secure for the protection and safety of the community and schools.

Raised in nearby Santa Fe Springs, Rubio is a past president of the Saint Marianne's School Foundation. He is a past president of the Rio Hondo Rotary which covers Bell Gardens and Commerce. He has served on many committees of the Montebello Unified School District.

### Bell Gardens and Commerce

Many of his contributions are in the area of Montebello, Bell Gardens and Commerce.

But he is a member of the Downey Historical Society, the Downey Chamber of Commerce, the Downey Rose Float Association, Downey Sister Cities, the Downey Emergency Preparedness Committee, and the Emergency Preparedness Response Team.

He says he wants to give something back to the community. He'll be 60 in four months and it is time. His list of service groups and endorsements include many from Bell Gardens.

Guerra's list of endorsement and service groups is lengthy and includes the Downey Rotary, the Knights of Columbus, 27 years with the West Downey Little League, the Chairman's Round Table and Board of Managers of the Downey Family YMCA and he is campaign chairman of

the Y's annual fund drive. He is a member of the Downey Regional Medical Center Board of Directors, and serves on the Hospital's Finance and Litigation Committees.

Guerra is also Chairman of the Hospital's Memorial Trust Foundation. He is also a member of the City's Emergency Preparedness Committee. He was called to serve in Louisiana and Houston following Hurricane Katrina.

He is a Deacon and is currently the Chaplain of the Downey Police Department. He is the head of the finance and pastoral councils at St. Raymond's Catholic Church where he participates in baptismal ceremonies twice each month.

Guerra and his wife, Ann, see after 273 children of incarcerated parents during the holidays. They also founded the Diskonia Foundation which gives scholarships to deserving high school students who demonstrate community service and interest in others.

Citizens will go to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The city's Mayoral Transition will take place in December, when the title of Mayor will be rotated to another council member.

## Roberson appointed chairman of YMCA

**DOWNEY** – Steve Roberson, owner of Century 21 My Real Estate, has been appointed the new chairman of the Downey Family YMCA's Board of Managers, effective June 1 of this year.

Roberson is well known in the Downey community for his involvement in numerous civic and charitable organizations, including acting member of the ARC Board of Directors, 2004-05 president of the Kiwanis Foundation Board of Directors, Downey member Downey Chamber of Commerce and past president of the Downey Association of Realtors.

In addition to the YMCA, Roberson and his office support numerous charitable organizations, including Los Amigos Kiwanis, Gangs Out of Downey, Easter Seals, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, PTA Helps Kitchen, Character Counts, and the Downey Unified School District's Career Day program and athletic departments.

Immediate Past Board Chair Bob Winningham inducted Roberson during the June board meeting, saying "Steve has been on the Downey YMCA Board of Managers for many years, and his leadership has been highly demonstrated in all assignments he has undertaken, including chairing key committees such as Membership, Annual Support Campaign, and Financial Development.

"I know Steve will do an exceptional job as the new Board Chair of our YMCA."

Roberson and his wife, Darlene, had lived in Downey for 28 years until they moved to Fullerton eight years ago. They have two sons, Joshua and Patrick.

## Macy's Parade to visit Downey

■ Downey will also host a live taping of NBC's 'The Today Show.'

By Henry Veneracion

**DOWNEY**—Melinda Martin, regional director of public relations and special events for Macy's, formally informed the City Council Tuesday that the giant New York-based retailer has chosen Downey as one of several specially chosen cities across the country that will herald Macy's trademark Thanksgiving Day Parade in November.

Come Oct. 18, which is a Wednesday, two or three color-splashed and festooned Macy's eighteen-wheelers equipped with interactive Macy's-themed videos and sundry surprises, including one or two Macy's giant character balloons and the appearance of show biz people, will roll onto Stonewood Center to entertain shoppers and children, the planned festive program to include a taping of NBC's *The Today Show*.

Macy's "Parade on Parade," as the caravan of two to three semis is known, will start on Sept. 6 in Detroit, then proceed to Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Denver, Salt Lake, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles (Downey) on Oct. 18, Philadelphia, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Raleigh, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, then New York (Nov. 22), and finally ending up in Atlanta Dec. 5. It will have visited 23 Macy's stores in 19 states.

A sub-theme of Macy's big to-do here, according to Assistant to the City Manager Scott Pomrehn, who is coordinating the extravaganza for the city, is the unhooding Saturday, Sept. 9 of the big storefront sign that once said "Robinsons-May" to reveal "Macy's."

Operational control of Robinsons-May was assumed by Macy's in February, and Robinsons-May stores are either closing or being converted to Macy's. To mark the occasion, there will be the usual balloons, giveaways, and other goodies. A special feature: handprints of children on a giant, uninflated balloon will be taken, the balloon earmarked to fly with the other Macy's balloons along Broadway Thanksgiving Day.

Pohmren says other details of the upcoming celebration will be announced as they become available.

Martin also said that the "Macy's Parade on Parade" will be publicized in various ways, in the local media, on TV, on the airwaves, and in full-page color ads in a few select publications, such as the *L.A. Times*.

Meanwhile, in other action, the City Council:

•Denied the appeal of the Planning Commission denial to subdivide the 27,505 sq. ft. parcel (Parcel Map No. 06-66335) at 8220 Suva Street, a private street, into two lots, zoned R1-7,500 (Single-Family Residential).

Appellants were the property owners Jesus and Lorena Magana. Objections based on traffic congestion, safety considerations, and integrity of the cul-de-sac neighborhood were loud and overpowering;

•Introduced an ordinance granting an oil piping system franchise to ExxonMobil Oil Corporation;

•Adopted a resolution that finds the city to be in conformance with the Congestion Management Program (CMP) and adopted the CMP Local Development Report, in accordance with California Government Code Section 65089;

•Confirmed the Director Of Public Works' report and charge of the city's cost of abating the dangerous building nuisance at 8019 Bergman Lane, pursuant to L.A. County Superior Court Warrant No. 6SW0066; and ordered this charge of cost to be assessed against the property by recording a lien with L.A.S. County Tax Assessor;

•Presented the Major's Soaring Eagle Award to Police Officer Vincent Rosario;

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**NEW CHAIRMAN** – Steve Roberson, left, with Downey YMCA Executive Director George Saikali and Immediate Past Board Chair Bob Winningham.



**WAITING TO HELP** — Emergency Medical Technicians Thomas Henritze, Jimmy Dang and Evan McDevitt, three of the eight members of the growing DRMC Ambulance Services staff.

## Ambulance services expand at hospital

**DOWNEY** — Ambulance services provided by Downey Regional Medical Center have expanded to include transporting patients to the hospital. The service is intended for patients who are stable (non-urgent) yet have health conditions requiring medical assistance, and whose condition or treatment does not allow him or her to travel using public transportation.

In 2004, DRMC opened its Ambulance Service for patients leaving the hospital to go home or to another medical facility, and has since transported more than 1,000 patients per year. "In July we began offering non-911, inbound transports on a small scale to ensure all processes were in place and working properly," stated Robert Risher, Director of Ambulance Services. "We are now comfortably taking approximately 10 ambulance runs per day and we expect that number to grow."

Most commonly, individuals who utilize the ambulance service include those leaving the hospital for home or another medical facility; and patients being transported from their home, an area doctor's office or another hospital to DRMC. Most requests for transport come from the individual's physician.

Licensed by the state of California, the DRMC Ambulance Service is staffed full-time by licensed emergency medical technicians with basic life support (BLS) certifications. Downey Regional Medical Center is a 199-bed, independent, non-profit hospital serving southeast Los Angeles.

Services are available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Arrangements with outside ambulance service providers cover transportation needed after hours. For information or to arrange for a DRMC Ambulance Services transport call (866) 711-3762.

## DRMC gets kudos for its emergency preparedness

■ Hospital passes bioterrorism inspection while 'setting the standard' for emergency preparedness.

**DOWNEY**—The Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency recently notified Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC) that the hospital had passed its bioterrorism preparedness inspection, and praised DRMC for its disaster planning.

The EMS Agency's review covered the period, April 1, 2005-March 31, 2006. EMS serves as the lead agency for the emergency medical services system in LA County and is responsible for coordinating all system participants in its jurisdiction, encompassing both public and private sectors.

In a letter dated Aug. 10, 2006, EMS Director Carl Meyer stated, "Downey Regional Medical Center sets the standard for emergency preparedness." She also wrote, "Deb Reinhart-Gale and her staff are to be congratulated on their organization, teamwork and commitment in disaster preparedness."

Gale is DRMC's Disaster Coordinator and Director of Emergency Nursing Service.

"We take very seriously our responsibility to respond to disasters including preparation for bioterrorism-related events," said Gale. "Familiarity with disaster-specific plans is important for all of our staff members, and could save lives."

A bioterrorism attack is the deliberate release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs (agents) used to cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants. Some bioterrorism agents, like the smallpox virus, can be spread from person to person and some, like anthrax, cannot.

DRMC maintains a decontamination unit and a team trained to identify hazardous materials should they be present on the medical center campus, to isolate the affected geographic area so that no further exposures can occur, and to deny access to prevent others from becoming contaminated.

## Breastfeeding workshop offered

**DOWNEY**—A breastfeeding workshop will be held Monday, Sept. 11, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., at Downey Regional Medical Center.

The class will provide tips to help expectant mothers overcome problems and successfully breastfeed, thereby nourishing their babies and protecting them from illness.

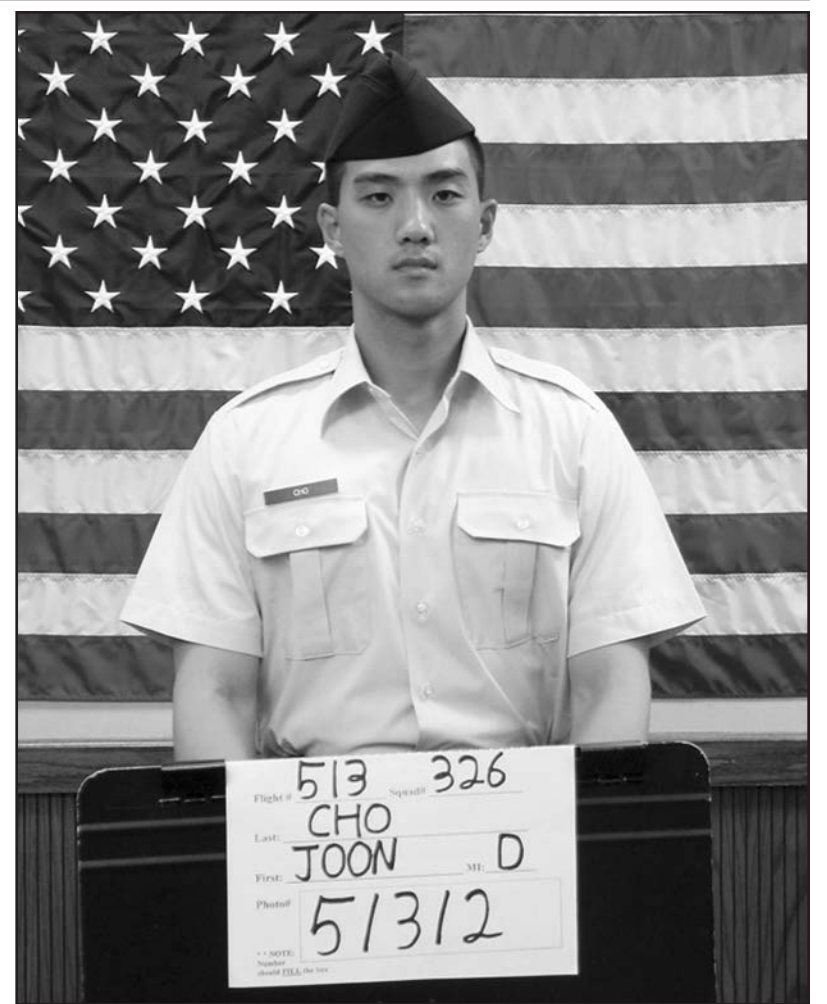
Advance registration is required, and there is a \$10 fee. For more information/to register, call the DRMC Education Department, 904-5580.

## Family Birth Center open for viewing

**DOWNEY**—Downey Regional Medical Center invites expectant parents to a "Stork Tour" from 10 am to noon on Monday, September 11, to learn more about the hospital's Family Birth Center.

The program will include an overview of important information, a tour and a question and answer period. The StorkTour is free.

For more information please call the DRMC Education department at (562) 904-5580.



**AIR FORCE AIRMAN**—Joon D. Cho, son of Jung Cho of Downey, has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. He earned distinction as an honor graduate. The airman is a 2002 graduate of Cypress High School.

## Loera graduates National Guard

**SAN ANTONIO, TX**—Army National Guard Pvt. Ricardo Loera, a 2002 graduate of Downey High School and the son of Rogelio R. and Refugio C. Loera of Downey, has graduated from the Light-Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic Advanced Individual Training (AIT) course at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

His wife, Rosalva, is the daughter of Francisco Velasquez and Rosa Rivera of Montebello.

The course is designed to train soldiers to perform maintenance, troubleshoot and repair wheeled vehicles and related mechanical components, which include internal combustion engines and power trains, spark- and compression-ignition engines, wheel-hub assemblies, hydraulic-power brakes, suspension and steering systems, and learn to operate a wheeled vehicle crane, hoist, and winch assembly.

## City library to open on Sundays

**DOWNEY**—Effective Sunday, Sept. 10, the full-service Downey City Library will be open Sundays during the school year.

This is "a real benefit to students and busy families," said Senior Librarian Jan Palen, as the additional weekend hours will give them more flexibility in their schedules.

Library patrons thus will now have access to books, magazines, DVDs, CDs and computers for the public Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Library patrons may also return books in library bookdrops during closed hours, renew books by phone or visit the library website at [www.downeylibrary.org](http://www.downeylibrary.org).

For additional information, call (562) 904-7360. The Downey City Library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave.

# Kirkwood Christian Schools

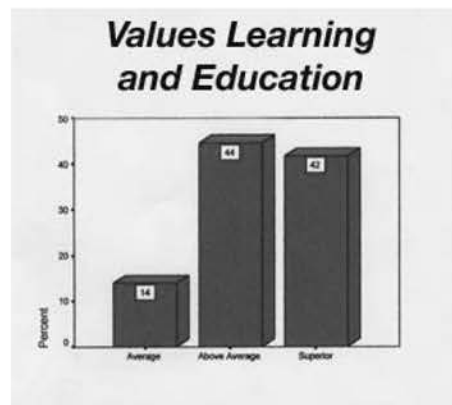
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**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT** – Marsha Moode helps an actor with his lines during rehearsals for “Guys and Dolls,” set to open Oct. 5. Miriam Nelson is choreographer and Eddy Clement musical director and conductor of the Downey Theater production. *Photo by Art Montoya*

## Rubio to preside at dedication ceremonies

**DOWNEY**—Dedication ceremonies of the 100-year old Peterson Farmhouse, located at 7535 Perry Road in Bell Gardens, to the El Rancho San Antonio Historical Society of Bell Gardens will take place tomorrow, Aug. 26. The historical farmhouse is a gift of the Ellen and Clarence Peterson Foundation.

The celebration tomorrow, to which several dignitaries have been invited, was planned to coincide with Ellen Peterson’s birthday. Downey City Council candidate and Downey resident Robert Rubio, who has strong ties to Bell Gardens and is vice president of the foundation, is emceeing the affair.

The festivities will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and include a barbecue.

## OASIS makes move to the Apollo Center

**DOWNEY**—The OASIS program, directed by Harriett Paine, will be moving to the Barbara J. Riley Community/Senior Center at Apollo Park for the month of September due to cafeteria renovations at Downey Adult School.

OASIS highlights for September are as follows:

- Sept. 11 – “Remembering 9-11: Memories and Patriotic Songs of Freedom,” with Casey Brooks, musician and Jim Jackson, actor.
- Sept. 18 – “An Artistic Musical Afternoon,” with Nick Oriundo, virtuoso accordionist and composer.
- Sept. 25 – “Let Me Tell You About Downey Regional Medical Center Volunteer Auxiliary,” with Tracy Nordbal, director of volunteer services and volunteer friends.

Classes open for enrollment at 3 p.m., with Dr. Robert Flynn providing piano entertainment. There is no enrollment fee and no preregistration and dinner may be purchased for \$3.50.

The program proper starts at 4 p.m., followed by dinner.

Downey Dial-a-Ride will provide transportation to attend the class. For information, call (562) 940-6200.

## JHPAF to meet at Hume’s home Sept. 9

**DOWNEY**—Due to scheduling conflicts for most of the John Hume Performing Arts Foundation board, the August meeting has been cancelled and rescheduled for September.

The new proposed meeting date is Saturday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. at the private home of Pauline Hume. It will be a major planning meeting for this year’s Margene Glenn Award luncheon.

As this year’s recipient of the Margene Glenn Award is Arlene Szabo, any memories, stories, or anecdotes of Arlene, and her involvement with the Downey Children’s Theatre, are to be e-mailed to Pauline Hume.

RSVP to Floyd Riggle, friggie@adelphia.net.

## D’Orazio recovering from recent fall

**DOWNEY**—Dr. Edward D’Orazio, one of the friends and lifelong supporters of the Downey Children’s Theatre, is recovering from surgery due to a fall he suffered recently caused by an aneurism in the brain.

Dr. D’Orazio is recovering at the Downey Community Hospital. Information: Lowell Szabo, (562) 862-9044.

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## Kiwanis car wash at Arc tomorrow

**DOWNEY**—The Aktion Club, a new service club made up of people with disabilities who are willing to do service for the community, is holding a car wash tomorrow, Aug. 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Arc, 12049 Woodruff Ave.

Aktion is jointly sponsored by the Downey Kiwanis Club and the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis.

Proceeds will benefit community charities. Price is \$5 per car, \$8 per SUV. Information: (562) 803-4606.

Kiwanis International is a service organization founded in 1915 whose mission is “saving the children of the world.”

The club has chapters in 93 countries and are the founders of Key Club, a service organization for high school students.

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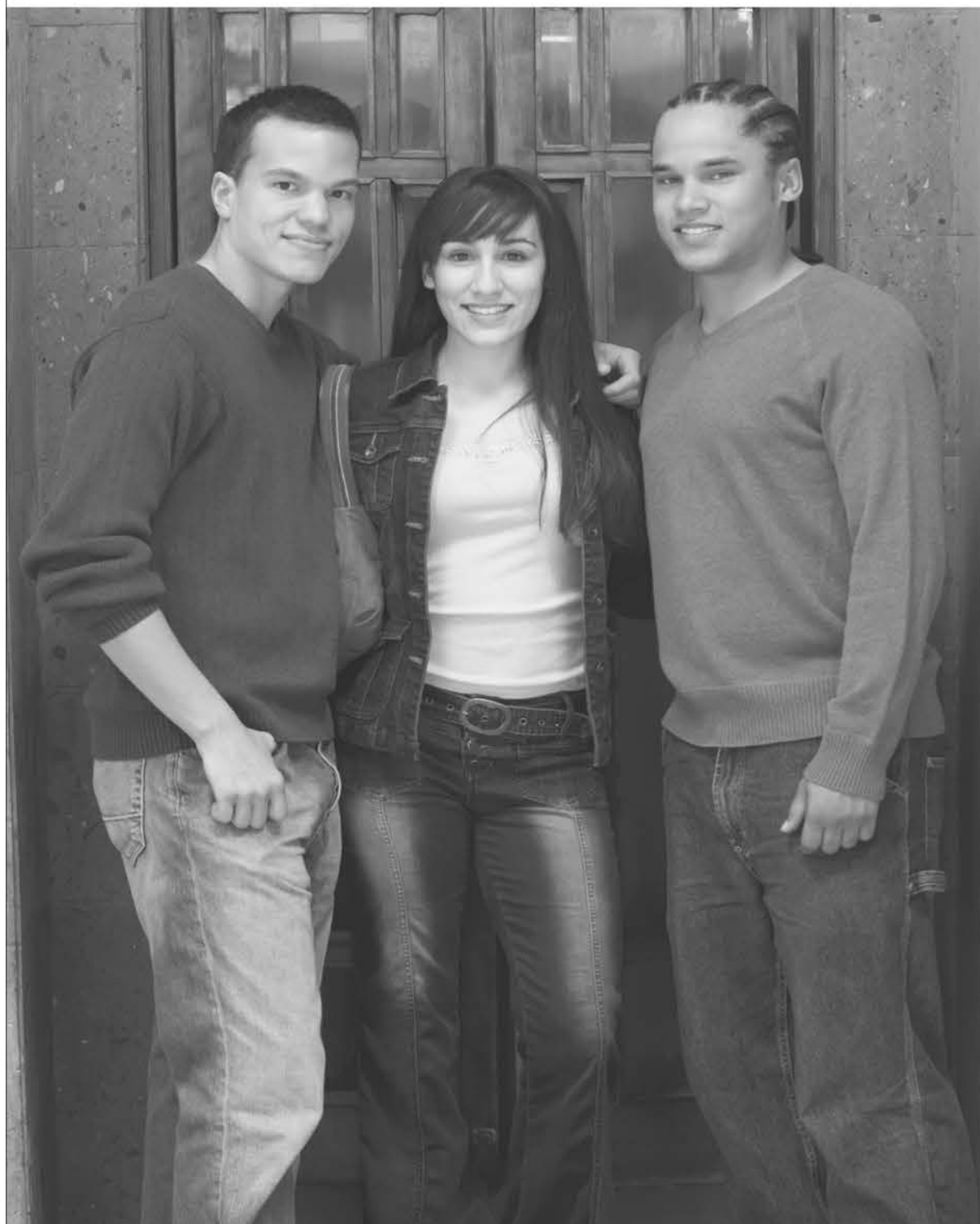
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# Too many tests for the school year?

By John Adams

**DOWNEY**—Downey Unified School Board President Donald La Plante wasted no time in the first board meeting following summer break in challenging the State Board of Education over the number of days spent on required testing of students in California.

La Plante said the time used up by exhaustive testing can be better used in the regular classroom.

La Plante also feels the state tests are worthless due to the way they are scored.

However, the state tests are mandatory and the Board passed the testing schedule as mandated by the State later as part of the Board Consent Agenda.

In other Board comments at Tuesday's regular meeting Martha Sodevani said she attended the graduation ceremonies at the Adult School and enjoyed the event greatly.

And William Gutierrez noted that it was "Hell Week" for student athletes in such sports as football, and he wished those undergoing the rigors of hot weather well. He referred to it as "Heck Week." Other members of the Board expressed their sympathy at the heat wave.

## COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

- Presented a Certificate of Appointment to Roy Beard to the Emergency Preparedness Committee for Council District 5;

- Presented the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers Certificate of Award for Outstanding Financial Reporting for FY2004-2005, to the city;

- Referred to the Planning Commission the initiation of Zone Change No. 06-97 to rezone 59 parcels from R-3 (Medium Density Multiple Family Residential) to R-2 (Two Family Residential) to conform to the General Plan;

- Added the position of Recreation Manager to the city staffing chart, deleting one Recreation Supervisor position, and appropriating \$16,223 from the General Fund for implementation;

- Authorized the replacement of seven (7) VHF mobile radios and appropriated \$20,000 for the purchase;

- Authorized the donation of the surplus reserve Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) vehicle to the Baldwin Lake Fire Department;

- Adopted a resolution adopting relocation rules and regulations conforming to the California Relocation Assistance Law (California Government Code Section No. 7260 et seq.) and the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (42 U.S.C. 460 et seq.);

- Adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 1 of Art. IV of the Downey Municipal Code to regulate juvenile daytime curfew and loitering; and

- Adopted an ordinance amending the Downey Municipal Code, Art. VIII, Building Regulations, to clarify the application of the "Art in Public Places" development fee.

The next regular public meeting of the Downey Council will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

# Downey Kiwanis give \$2,000 to TLC Center

**DOWNEY**—The Board of the Downey Unified School District accepted with gratitude a \$2,000 cash donation to support the operation of the TLC Center.

The money was a gift from the Downey Kiwanis Foundation, and was presented at Tuesday's regular board meeting.

In other action Tuesday, the School Board:

- Adopted a resolution to establish a Part Time and Limited Service Employee Benefit Plan as an alternative to social security.

- Reviewed the high school advanced Placement Music Theory textbooks proposed for adoption for the 2006-07 school year.

- Approved the schedule for elementary bus stops for the 2006-07 school year.

- Approved payment of expenses for convention and conference costs.

- Ratified a general agreement with the Elko Multi-purpose Center for the 2005-06 fiscal year effective retroactive May 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005.

- Ratified a general agreement with Lindamood Bell Learning Processes for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

- Ratified a general agreement with Vista Behavior Consulting for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

- Ratified a general agreement with Alton School for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

- Ratified payments for services provided for several Special Education Placements.

- Ratified mediation agreement including settlement of attorney's fees of \$2,000.

- Approved revision to AR 210.2 Intra District Permits.

- Approved the 2006-07 Operations Application for the K-3 Class Size Reduction program.

- Approved corrected monthly mileage allowance for 10-month, 11-month, and 12-month employees as submitted at an estimated amount of \$58,865.

- Ratified additional Adult School memberships for 2006-07.

- Ratified specified orders by the Purchasing Department.

- Ratified payroll orders for hourly, overtime, civic center work performed classified personnel, Adult School, and Food Services for the month of June.

- Ratified participation in the Los Angeles County Regional Occupational Program effective July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

## Textbooks open for inspection

**DOWNEY**—The Downey Unified School District invites the public to examine the textbooks being considered for adoption by the Board of Education for use in the high school course, Advanced Placement Music Theory.

Copies of the book will be on display in the second floor lobby of the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave., Downey, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, Sept. 5.

Comments should be made in writing to the superintendent at least seven days prior to the board meeting at which the books will be adopted.

Adoption will be recommended at the Sept. 19 meeting of the Board of Education.



**OPEN FOR BUSINESS** – Pharmacy Technician Kevin Tarvin (left) and Pharmacist Robert Fox opened the Downey Plaza Pharmacy for business this past Tuesday. The pharmacy is located on the Downey Regional Medical Center campus in its new office building at 11480 Brookshire Avenue. Hours for the first-floor Downey Plaza Pharmacy are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

# Golden Outlook GM answers your questions

Michael Blea, formerly Director of Sales for Secure Horizons, is the new General Manager of Downey-based Golden Outlook Insurance Services, which was purchased recently by the local physicians of Downey Select, St. Francis IPA and AppleCare Medical from Downey Regional Medical Center. Downey Regional operated the insurance program for more than a decade.

With many changes in Medicare already underway and more planned for 2007, Blea answers some common questions about Medicare and Golden Outlook.

**Q:** Will Golden Outlook change its scope of services under new ownership?

**A:** No. We will continue to make it easy for members of our community to learn about their health care plan options. In fact, we have added additional customer service representatives to the staff. Golden Outlook has served the community of Downey for more than 15 years, and we will continue to focus our resources on health care education, customer service and advocacy.

**Q:** Is Golden Outlook a health plan?

**A:** It is not a health plan. Golden Outlook is an insurance services organization that works as a customer service and sales group for health plans and contracted hospitals and medical groups. Over the years, Golden Outlook has helped thousands of members of our community, providing guidance, advocacy and resources. During times of illness or injury, it's important to have local people to turn to for help.

**Q:** What types of health plans do you offer?

**A:** We contract with many different types of health plans to offer our members the freedom to choose what's best for them. We purposely do not contract with just one plan nor do we own a health plan. We believe by offering options to our members, we allow our members to choose from a full spectrum of plans, from Medicare and commercial health plans.

Our plans such as Blue Shield, SCAN, Secure Horizons, Citizens Choice and Health Net present benefits that are second to none in our market, and each plan offers our members something special.

**Q:** Are most of your plans Medicare?

**A:** Yes. Our focus is on Medicare, as it is a vital Federal program for many of our area's mature adults. Medicare Advantage programs offer members unparalleled benefits today and we work hard to service those benefits, in addition to providing extra services through our physician organizations.

**Q:** What changes does Medicare have in store?

**A:** The good news is that Medicare's new prescription drug program, Part D, has taken full effect during the last year. Our members who are part of Medicare Advantage programs enjoyed Part D Prescription Drug Benefits as part of their overall health plan.

Right now, we are preparing for one of the other changes in Medicare Advantage programs – the lock in period. This took effect for the first time this year, beginning in July.

Basically, this lock-in provision means that there is a certain time of year (November 15 through March, 2007) when you can select or change your Medicare coverage. However, you can still change your medical group or physician at any time as long as you stay within the same Medicare plan.

**Q:** What new programs will be available to Downey Medicare beneficiaries?

**A:** We are excited about what's on the horizon for our Medicare Advantage members for 2007. We are right now finalizing the details on several new health plan programs, many of which will provide value-added benefits. We will soon announce the health plan benefits for 2007.

**Q:** What advice would you give mature adults who are confused about the changes in Medicare?

**A:** Call us or encourage your friends, neighbors, caregivers and family members with questions to do so. That's why we are here. There is much change occurring in Medicare and we can help you navigate the maze and make it easier for you to make good decisions about your health care. This is what we've done for more than 15 years.

## Temple Ner Tamid open house Aug. 27

**DOWNEY**—Temple Ner Tamid of Downey invites everyone in the community to its open house Sunday, Aug. 27 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Visitors will be able to meet the synagogue's new Rabbi, Len Muroff, along with Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gill, Temple President Howard Brookfield, and members of the Board of Directors. A Downey institution for more than 40 years, Temple Ner Tamid offers Jewish worship services, educational programs and social events throughout the year.

Temple Ner Tamid holds Shabbat services every Friday at 7:30 p.m. and is currently offering a course in basic Judaism on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. The synagogue is also busy preparing for the Jewish High Holy Days, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which begin Friday, September 22.

For more information about the open house, the temple, or any of its programs, call 861-9276, or e-mail templenertamid1@juno.com.

# The Poets' Corner

Lawren dancing  
annual remembrance of the Kirking of the Tartan

dance with joy  
for all the years you practiced to recorded bagpipes  
on the plywood platform your father built in the garage  
only spiders to watch you from their hidden webs

for ribbons you won at the fairs kilted skirt whirling  
springing high above the stage arms raised  
hands and elbows held like a stag's menacing antlers  
or gillie-clad feet side-stepping the blades of the Swords

today you perform at an altar  
with an organ swelling and pipes droning thanksgiving  
re-enacting the blessing of an outlawed scrap of tartan  
dance with joy

—Lorine Parks,  
Downey

(Written for my granddaughter, Lawren Wylie, who is competing this month at the World Championships in Highland Dancing in Dunoon, Scotland)



**NEW BISHOP** – Carlos Medina, center, was made new bishop of the Downey First Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints last Sunday, Aug. 20. Medina is surrounded by First Counselor Mario Cuevas (left) and Second Counselor Jeff Townsend.

# Downey First Ward names new bishop

■ Bishop Richard Parrish, after two decades in Downey, announces move to Utah.

**DOWNEY** – Carlos Medina has been selected to serve as the bishop of the Downey First Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, taking over for Bishop Richard Parrish who is moving with his family to Utah after 20 years in Downey.

Medina had previously served as First Counselor to Parrish, who led Downey First Ward for the last five years.

Medina works as a manager at a bottle facility and is the father of four. The Medina family has lived in Downey for many years.

Downey First Ward members live in the northwest quarter of Downey.

Medina also announced the selection of Mario Cuevas to serve as his First Counselor and Jeff Townsend as Second Counselor. Cuevas is a local carpenter/contractor and Townsend is a finance manager for Boeing in Long Beach. He was raised in Downey and a graduated from Downey High School in 1987.

Both Cuevas and Townsend have served previously as counselors.

# Rabbi, Cantor to be honored with dinner

**DOWNEY**—Temple Ner Tamid of Downey, located at 10629 Lakewood Blvd., is having a special Shabbat Catered Dinner at 6:15 p.m. today, Aug. 25 to celebrate the certification of Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gill, who has been the Cantorial Intern for the past year, and the welcoming of Rabbi Len Muroff.

Rabbi Muroff is a native of Toronto, Canada, and graduated from the Joint Bachelor's Degree program at Columbia University, where he majored in political science, and the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he focused on Biblical Studies. After earning a Master of Arts in Education at the University of Judaism in 1987 and ordination in 1992, he served congregations in Georgia and Boston before returning to California in 1998 with his family.

Besides serving at Valley Beth Shalom in Encino he has also served as the Assistant Dean of the Rabbinical School at the University of Judaism. The catered dinner will consist of either brisket or poached salmon plus salad, red potatoes, vegetables, coffee or tea, fruit and cookies for dessert. Donation is \$16 for adults.

For information, call the Temple office, (562) 861-9276.

# St. Raymond's 50th anniversary Aug. 27

**DOWNEY**—St. Raymond's is inviting all past, present and future parishioners, and the entire Downey community, to its 50th anniversary celebration Sunday, Aug. 27. Its theme is "We Remember and We Celebrate."

St. Raymond's was founded in early September 1956 with Fr. Patrick Cleary as pastor. Current pastor is Fr. John Higgins, who, along with the 50th Anniversary Committee, have conducted many events this past year leading up to the 50th Anniversary Mass Sunday, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m.

Presiding at this Jubilee Mass will be Cardinal Roger Mahony. A special anniversary celebration will follow.

## War on the Media

By Eric Pierce

I'm having a little trouble understanding the unbelievable amount of media attention being given to John Mark Karr, the suspect in the 1996 murder of JonBenet Ramsey. All three major cable news networks (CNN, Fox News and MSNBC) carried all-day updates of his flight from Thailand to Los Angeles Sunday, complete with detailed coverage of what Karr was drinking and eating in flight (fried king prawn, steamed rice, broccoli and a glass of French chardonnay).

Tagged "breaking news", it all culminated in a generic shot of Karr (surprise! surprise!) being led to a waiting police car in handcuffs.

Did I miss something? Did the guy kill a president or something?

Tragic as the murder of JonBenet was, the truth is many children in this country are killed on a daily basis, with the large majority barely receiving a blurb in their local paper.

But the media giants fell in love with the salacious story of a six-year-old beauty queen murdered at her home on Christmas night. They salivated at the way the case read like a John Grisham thriller, with JonBenet's parents, John and Patsy, assuming the roles of prime suspects no. 1 and 2.

For sure the case deserves coverage on some level, but does it trump the impending civil war in Iraq or Saddam Hussein genocide trial? No. But I suspect the media grew tired of the same old international news stories. Iran testing nuclear missiles? Yawn. Lebanese troops have moved into southern Hezbollah? Tell me something I don't know! Illegal immigration crisis? That was so six months ago.

No, the flavor of the month right now is the John Mark Karr case. And I suspect it's something we're going to have to live with throughout the fall and winter, or until Mel Gibson is caught drunk driving again.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

#### Form vs. function

Dear Editor:

I must agree with Mr. Powell. While medians may look pretty, they now block access to business. (*The Downey Patriot*, 8/04/06)

I used to frequent Barbara's Beauty Supply on Downey Avenue. As I would drive home after work (prior to the so-called improvements), going northbound on Downey Ave., I could turn left from Downey into the parking lot and then turn left back onto Downey and continue home. Once the median was put in, I could no longer access the parking lot without making a U-turn at the signal at Firestone & Downey to get into the parking lot.

Then, to continue home, I would now need to go south on Downey, find a place to turn around, and continue north. Possible? Yes. Inconvenient and annoying? Definitely yes.

Also, I now avoid Downey Avenue whenever possible anyway due to the constant traffic back up and the cars backing into traffic from the diagonal parking.

These are the kinds of things that keep people away from what is referred to as "Downtown Downey." Our family finds that we do almost all our shopping, other than grocery shopping, outside of Downey.

I can certainly see the benefit of making roads more aesthetic. However, if people avoid those places because of the so-called improvements, who cares if it looks prettier?

—Suzanne Dodd,  
Downey

#### Grateful for summer youth programs

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to thank the people who organize and work for the Downey Department of Recreation [Downey Community Services' Recreation and Social Services Division].

The summers in Downey are becoming more and more advantageous for our youth. As a mother of four children, summer months can create a multitude of problems. "I'm bored" seems to be the prevalent phrase once school is done and summer has begun.

Downey has been working hard and over the years has become more and more able to help students with this dilemma. My children enjoyed camps, swimming, and entertainment. I know that many people are behind all the organization and follow through of these extremely important programs and I would like to say thank you to each and every one of you. I don't know if Downey knows what torments and trials you go through to make the summer months more enjoyable for our kids, but I am extremely grateful. Thank you, thank you and thank you.

I hope that you continue to have this program grow so that our youth have more important and fun things to do besides graffiti our city and vandalize our streets.

—Anda Hayes,  
Downey

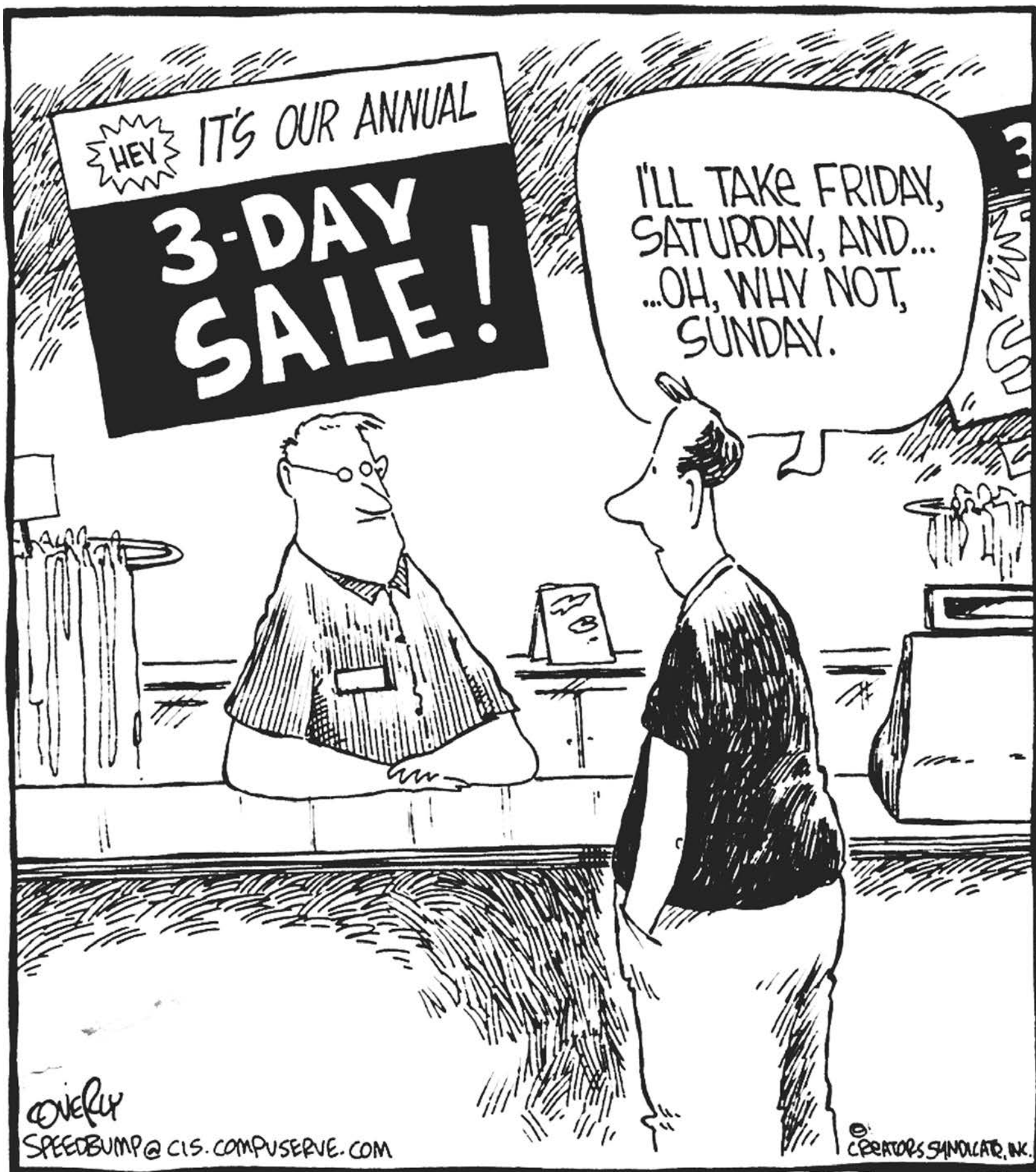
#### Downey Patriot launches blog

**DOWNEY**—The Downey Patriot has an online blog that is updated throughout the week with news, commentary and e-mails from people throughout the community.

A free optional registration allows users to receive e-mail notifications whenever the blog is updated.

Visit [www.thedowneypatriot.com](http://www.thedowneypatriot.com) for more information.

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to *The Downey Patriot*, 11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey CA 90241 or by e-mail to [downeypatriot@yahoo.com](mailto:downeypatriot@yahoo.com)



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

#### Would-be candidate speaks out

Dear Editor:

You may know, I registered to run for City Council in District 4. However, after investigating, Anne Bayer, who is currently our Councilmember for District 4, stands for everything I stand for, so what would be the justice in replacing the one Councilmember that's doing good? I will wait to run for city-wide. I have witnessed so much injustice, ignored laws, misplaced judgment, and quite frankly blatant disregard for what the citizens want, it's just enough to make me want to vomit.

I understand the need to bring fresh money into a growing city. But what I cannot relate to is the need to obtain money for the price of bringing bad elements into our city. There is a fine line between money and scam cash. Yes, the choices that are being made in City hall are bringing in money, but it's the scam that comes along with cash that's being ignored. A price to pay for inadequate decisions.

There has been quite an increase in crime due to the influx of building. What you build has a lot to do with what you bring. There is always a price. I see that Downey is beginning to pay the price with increased crime. In my neighborhood alone we have had an increase in crime. Just two weeks ago, my neighbor had his home broken into and a vehicle stolen from his driveway.

I have noticed an increase of undocumented workers in the area as well. This is not the element Downey was hoping to attract. But, with the increased building in the area, this is the type of element that is coming into the area for work, which increases the crime.

I'm not sure if the citizens of Downey realize that City Hall is making decisions that will affect the entire future of our community for years and years to come. Have you ever heard the expression "Getting too big for your britches?" I'm afraid that Downey has lost its ambience of the family oriented community it once was and is now just another money grubbing city out to make a buck and not giving a rats you know what about the crime and pollution it's created for its citizens.

Me, you, your neighbors and your children, are the people who will eventually pay for the poor decisions made by our city. It may not be today or tomorrow, but in time it will catch up and we will all pay the price in the form of increased taxes, increased auto insurance premiums, increased homeowners' insurance premium all due to the increased in crime in our city. As you are aware, the more people, the more crime. And if we continue to build a community that's bigger than we can handle, crime will overcome and Downey will be just another Moreno Valley or Los Angeles.

When I was little, I used to love to come into Downey (where my mother once owned an employment agency in the Apollo Center) and shop at the Stonewood Center before it was enclosed. The people of Downey were different. They were a proud, tightly knit, family oriented community. I felt safe. Now with all the building and growing I don't know as many people. I don't recognize as many faces, and I don't feel as safe. I know I can't be the only person in this community to feel this way.

I'm living in a city which for the moment has no desire to care about my well-being. I've complained about no sunlight, no privacy, no breezes, and no security. I've received no response other than "There is nothing we can do." I promise when I get into office, I will do something. I just wish more people would take an initiative to run for council and make the "right" changes. One person in one District can't do it all, majority rules, and there are five people on the council, four of which aren't listening.

—Stacey Rodgers,  
Downey

#### Fed up with Time Warner Cable

Dear Editor:

Well, Time Warner just blew it big time with me. Around 7:30 p.m. this evening our TV suddenly went haywire. Our picture became white and black wiggles over the entire screen. I called the number in the pamphlet we just received a few days ago. This is what I got:

1st call – After punching all the numbers they require I had a ringing phone. After 15 rings I was told "Your call is not being answered. You are being disconnected."

2nd call – Again after punching all their numbers, I got a message that said "Due to a large volume of calls you will not be answered. You are important to us but please call back later."

Sure makes you welcome, doesn't it? If this is the kind of service we can expect, DirecTV looks better already.

—Doris Hannon,  
Downey

#### Offending noise

Dear Editor:

Were you a victim of lack of sleep or just plain infuriation and annoyance in and around your home on the weekend of Aug. 11-13—thanks again to the activities at Ford Park in Bell Gardens? I know all the neighbors on my street were outraged by the noise during the day as well as in the late hours because of the music and P.A. system.

Ford Park is across the river bed on the west side of town and Downey residents close to Rio Hondo Golf Course have been subjected to noise coming east on our streets for years. However, last weekend was the last straw for us. We called the Bell Gardens Police at 10:30 at night because inside our house, we hear their music and can't even hear our TV.

The dispatcher says they will look into it. Nothing happened and again at 11:30 we call and are told there's nothing they can do.

Nothing they can do? Downey PD would have responded swiftly and responsibly, shutting that place down because of a noise violation. Not Bell Gardens. What happened to their noise ordinance, which they have? After being awakened at 2:30 a.m.—yes! at 2:30 in the morning!—they are on the P.A. system talking to the audience. I called Downey Police who suggested I talk to their watch commander because of the lack of response by Bell Gardens.

He informs me that the City Council approved a permit for that weekend's soccer tournament and had allowed them to run it from Friday 5 p.m. to Sunday 5 p.m., overriding all noise ordinance regulations. He too felt for the citizens of Downey and said we need to write the City Council and the Parks and Rec Department.


This is a totally irresponsible act on the City Council's part and they must be informed that noise from an event stops when it annoys others, as their ordinance states, or at 10 p.m., a standard city curfew time.

Log onto their website, [www.bellgardens.org](http://www.bellgardens.org), and check out the noise ordinance for yourself—Title 16. Health and Safety. Section 16.24: "The operation of sound-amplifying equipment shall only occur between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Non-commercial purposes are between the hours of noon and 5:00 p.m."

If you are fed up – please write the Bell Gardens City Council at 7100 Garfield Ave., Bell Gardens, CA 90201, phone (562) 806-7700, and fax (562) 896-7709. The number of the City of Bell Gardens Police – (562) 806-7600. Their City Council meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7p.m. let them hear your voice on the 28th. I will be there!

—Dorothy Pemberton,  
Downey

### The Downey Patriot

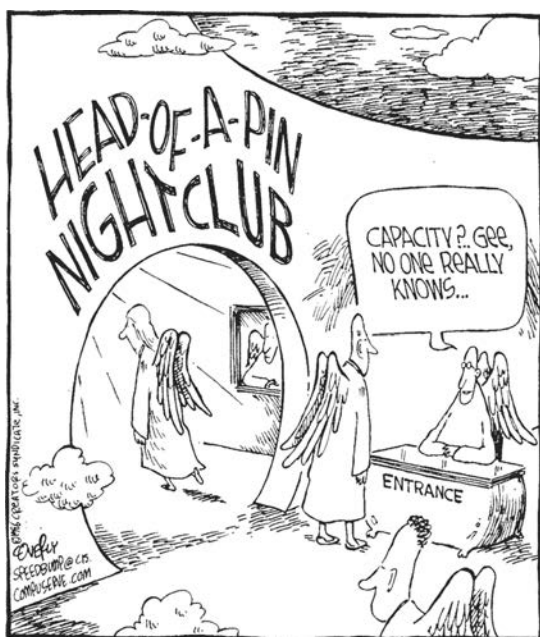
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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



**WANT TO GET INVOLVED?  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE YOURS  
CALL THE  
DOWNEY FAMILY YMCA  
(562) 862-4201**

# Downey Community Calendar

### Events For August

**Fri. Aug 25, 6:30 p.m.:** Shawn Morgan entertains at the keyboard with popular hits at Granata's restaurant, 11032 Downey Ave. Also Saturday night For information call 861-2997.  
**Sun. Aug. 27, 2:00 p.m.:** **50th Anniversary Mass** at St. Raymond's Catholic Church, 12348 Paramount Blvd. Theme is "We Remember and We Celebrate." Cardinal Roger Mahoney will preside at the service. Special celebration to follow. For information call 923-4509.

### City Meetings

**1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.:** **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.  
**1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.:** **Planning Commission**, Council Chamber at City Hall.  
**1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.:** **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.  
**1st Thursday, 9 a.m.:** **Traffic Committee**, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.  
**2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.:** **City Council/Community Development Commission**, Council Chamber.  
**2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.:** **Design Review Board**, Council Chamber at City Hall.  
**3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.:** **Parking Place Commission**, Second Floor Training Room at City Hall

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### Mondays

**6:30 p.m.:** **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg.**, for information call 426-6786.  
**6:30 p.m.:** **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.  
**1st Mon., 4 p.m.:** **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.  
**1st Mon., 7 p.m.:** **American Legion Post 270**, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.  
**2nd Mon., 11 a.m.:** **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.  
**2nd Mon., 3 p.m.:** **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.  
**4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.:** **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 861-3989.

#### Tuesdays

**9 a.m.:** **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.  
**9:30 a.m.:** **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.  
**9:30 a.m.:** **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.  
**12 p.m.:** **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.  
**6:00 p.m.:** **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 923-9464.  
**7 p.m.:** **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.  
**7 p.m.:** **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.  
**7:30 p.m.:** **Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines**, at Downey's Woman's Club, for information call 947-6802.  
**2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.:** **Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers**, at Nordic Fox. for info. call (562) 923-2191.  
**2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.:** **Sertoma Club**, at Bakers Square. for information call (562) 927-6438.  
**2nd Tues., 7 p.m.:** **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 943-3904.  
**3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.:** **Writer's Workshop West**, at 9968 Lakewood Blvd., for info call 862-3106.  
**Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.:** **Los Companeros Service Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

#### Wednesdays

**7 a.m.:** **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.  
**1 p.m.:** **Women's Bocce Club**, for information call 869-8782.  
**1st Weds., 10 a.m.:** **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call 927-0271 or 861-3493.  
**1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.:** **Downey Coordinating Council**, for information call 927-9790.  
**1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.:** **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.  
**1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.:** **Downey Emblem Club #309**, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.  
**2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.:** **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.  
**2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.:** **Downey Sister Cities Ass'n**, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.  
**2nd Weds., 11:45 - Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC. Call 927-8488.  
**4th Weds., 12:00 noon:** **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.  
**Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.:** **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

#### Thursdays

**7:30 a.m.:** **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.  
**7:30 a.m.:** **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.  
**12 p.m.:** **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.  
**12 p.m.:** **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.  
**12 p.m.:** **Optimist Club of Downey**, at Sambi's, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.  
**12:30 p.m.:** **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.  
**6:30 p.m.:** **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.  
**7 p.m.:** **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.  
**4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.:** **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.  
**2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.:** **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

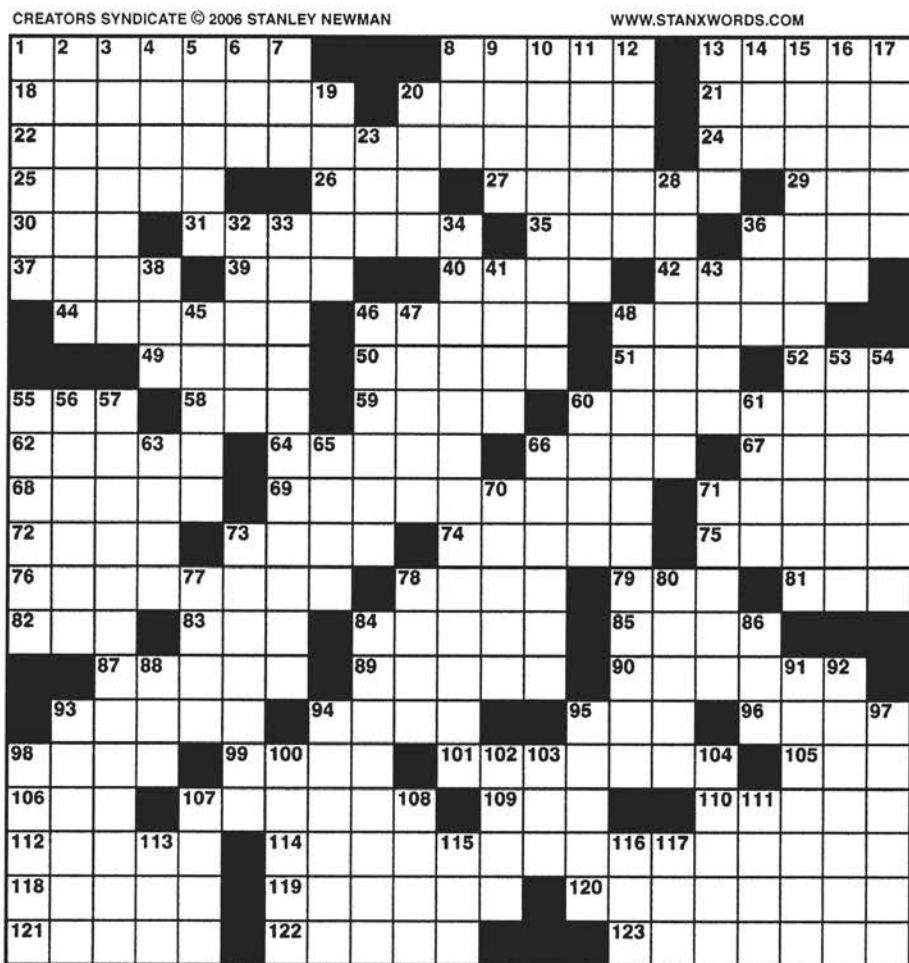
#### Fridays

**7:30 a.m.:** **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Harry Sacks at 319-1063  
**3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.:** **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**GLASS MENAGERIE:** With suitably transparent answers  
by Robert H. Wolfe

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20 Second childhood
21 TV talk host
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62 Author Zola
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75 Improved, as musculature
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78 "Gimme a break!"
79 Scottish negative
81 Merchandise: Abbr.
82 Shooting marble
83 Cribbage marker
84 Wooden shoe
85 Shouts in some rings
87 Not fresh
89 Arises, with "up"
90 Unhealthy looking
93 Parisian term of endearment
94 Penn or Astin
95 Gender abbr.
96 51 Across grp.
98 Lump of earth
99 Faux pas
101 Essex, for example
105 RPM part
106 Sales agent, for short
107 Gets around
109 Co. head
110 Got up
112 Adrien of cosmetics
114 Carbon dioxide and methane
118 Military operation
119 Thus
120 Not talkative
121 New England seafood
122 The Constant Gardener wife
123 Pacts
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2 Baltimore birds
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4 Begins to bloom
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7 551, once
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46 Create art, in a way
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48 Like some dolphins
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55 Take (from)
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94 Emphatic "yes" follower
95 44 Across fodder
97 Mountain tops
98 Unrefined
100 Not very taxing
102 Feeling sore
103 Old Olds model
104 Wizardry
107 Winter toy
108 Catches, as a concert
111 Baylor University locale
113 \_\_\_ trip
115 Hoops group: Abbr.
116 Large volume
117 List-shortening abbr.



You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.



## Captain Cardiac will perform on Downey stage

**DOWNEY** — Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries have been one of the premiere 50's and 60's rock-and-roll bands for over three decades. Their high-voltage performances have been seen worldwide from the United States to Europe, Canada, Mexico and Hawaii.

The group has been booked to headline the Downey Chamber of Commerce 3rd annual "Oldies" concert to take place on stage at the Downey Theater, Firestone at Brookshire, on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

They have been featured performers at such world-class venues as Disneyland, Universal Studios, and Magic Mountain in addition appearances at three Super Bowls and the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas. The band has also distinguished themselves with their work on both the Norwegian and Carnival Cruise Lines for over 12 years.

In addition, Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries were honored to perform at the inaugural events for the Governor of the State of California and the Mayor of Los Angeles.

According to Chamber Executive Director Sue Nordin, they have been leaving crowds screaming for more from Las Vegas to New York and from the Caribbean to Aspen.

"Fasten your seat belts and get ready for a take-off to a blast into the past," stated Nordin.

Tickets at \$25 each are now on sale at the Chamber office, 11131 Brookshire Ave. For information call 923-2191.

## Symphony promotes its free concerts

**WHITTIER**—With the announcement of its four free concerts lineup for this, its 33rd season—namely, Sept. 29 and Nov. 3, 2006, and March 2 and April 27, 2007—the Rio Hondo Symphony Guild at the same time made a pitch for its Friday Morning "Concert Preview Series," which are held at the First Friends Church, 13205 Philadelphia St. in Whittier. The public is welcome to these sessions.

Concert Previews are held each Friday before the Sunday concert performed by the Rio Hondo Symphony. At the Previews, invited professional musicians and scholars enlighten the audience about the composers and their music. This season's featured speakers include Dr. Donald Ambrosio, Marvin Neumann, Dr. Robert Sage, and Olivia Tsui.

The Guild's mission is cultivating musical interest and talent in the community, as well as helping to provide financial assistance in promoting the symphony's four free concerts a year.

For information, call (562) 693-5516.

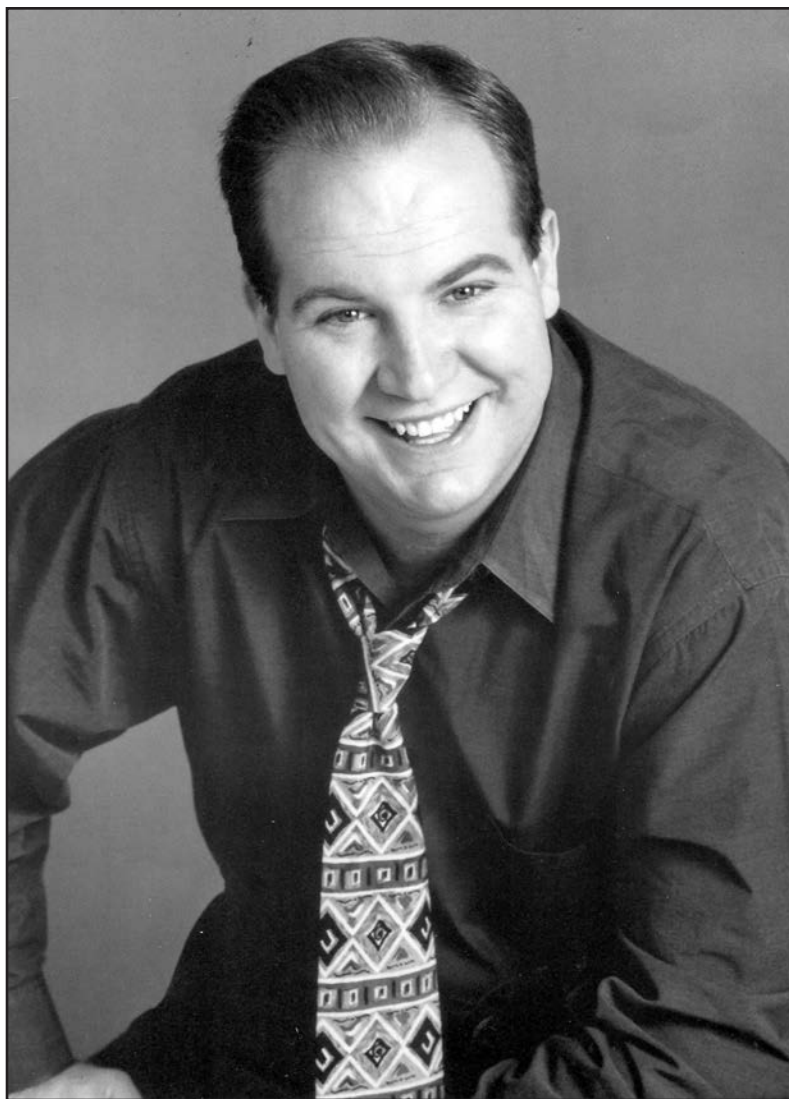
## Bellflower Chorus show Sept. 15-17

**BELLFLOWER**—The Bellflower Civic Chorus holds its annual fall concert/show Friday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16 at 2:30 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 17 at 2:30 p.m., at the William Bristol Civic Auditorium, 16660 Civic Center Drive in Bellflower.

The chorus will pay tribute to a few of country's great songwriters and the people who nurtured them. Classic favorites will include: Bob Nolan's "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and "Cool Water," Jim Reeves' "He'll have To Go," Patsy Cline's "Crazy," John Denver's "Country Roads" and more. Also in the program will be specialty numbers presented by chorus members, as well as comedy routines.

The chorus accompanist, Chris Squires, will be joined by Jan Pospisil on drums and Rick Bemis on bass. As an added attraction, the Dancing Headliners will perform a few numbers, including a line dance.

For more information/membership/tickets, call (562) 866-4664, or (323) 569-5930. Admission for all seating is \$5.



**COMING TO THE DOWNEY STAGE** — James W. Gruessing, Jr. will appear as **Big Jule** in Downey Civic Light Opera's upcoming production of the classic musical comedy, "Guys and Dolls." Previously he was seen in "Anything Goes," "Good News" "Hello, Dolly" with the local group. "Guys and Dolls" will be performed Oct. 5 through 22. For tickets and information call 923-1714.

## Popular musical opens theater season

**LA HABRA** — The 2006-07 season opens at the La Habra Depot Theatre with cult hit *Side Show!*, a musical which, despite its immense popularity, is rarely produced.

Based on the real life story of famed Siamese twins of the 1930's, Daisy and Violet Hilton, the music was written by Henry Krieger (composer of *Dream Girls*) with lyrics and book by Bill Russell. This full length Broadway show runs from Sept. 22 through Oct. 14.

Award-winning director/choreographer T.J. Dawson will oversee the production. His hit production of *Cabaret* at the Costa Mesa Civic Playhouse was the recipient of "Best Show/Best Direction in 2004" in the *L.A. Times* year end review.

Musical director Arie Gonzalez and assistant choreographer Kami Seymour round out the team.

This powerful drama is recommended for ages 15 and up.

Performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children, students and seniors. Reservations can be made by calling (562) 905-9625.

## Playhouse serving up helpings of 'Diva Dish'

**LONG BEACH** — Did you ever wonder what it was like to be a part of showbiz history? You know, Ethel Merman teaching you how to make martinis while Paul Newman gave you acting tips. And then fielding all those annoying phone calls from reporters the night your mom won the Oscar?

Welcome to the world of Luke Yankee, son of Broadway and Hollywood actress Eileen Heckart, portrayed in his one-man show "Diva Dish" playing at the Long Beach Playhouse Studio Theater.

This masterful performer and storyteller invites you into a world you've only dreamed about — full of showbiz gossip and behind-the-scenes tales of all your favorite celebrities. This multimedia theatrical event includes never-before-seen photos of stars like Marilyn Monroe, Sophia Loren and Bob Fosse, in addition to rare video clips and scores of humorous stories.

Yankee, and actor and director who splits residences in Los Angeles, Palm Springs and New York, compiled "Diva Dish" after his mother passed away two years ago.

"I realized I had this incredibly rich legacy of Broadway and Hollywood memorabilia and I had to do something with it," said Yankee, whose mother was an Oscar, Tony and Emmy award winner. "The only thing I love more than knowing all these stories is being able to share them."

During the evening, Luke "dishes" about the major divas in his and his mother's life: Marlene Dietrich, George Cukor, Marilyn Monroe, Ethel Merman, Lyndon B. Johnson, Bette Davis and Ellen Degeneres, to name a few. Luke shares video clips, photographs and even a rare audio tape of Joan Crawford.

Performances are held Fridays and Saturdays and 8 p.m. General admission tickets are \$20; \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students with school I.D.

The Long Beach Playhouse is located at 5021 East Anaheim St. in Long Beach. For more information call (562) 494-1014.

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BEERFEST R	(11:45 2:30 5:15 8:00 10:45)
SNAKES ON A PLANE R	(1:00) 6:10
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ACCEPTED PG13	(10:15 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:15 10:45)
PULSE PG13	(10:25 12:50 3:15 5:40 8:05 10:30)
STEP UP PG13	(11:00 1:40 4:20) 7:00 9:40
WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13	(10:10 1:15 4:20) 7:25 10:30
THE DESCENT R	(10:25 3:35) 8:45
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**WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13** (10:50, 1:45, 4:45), 7:40, 10:35  
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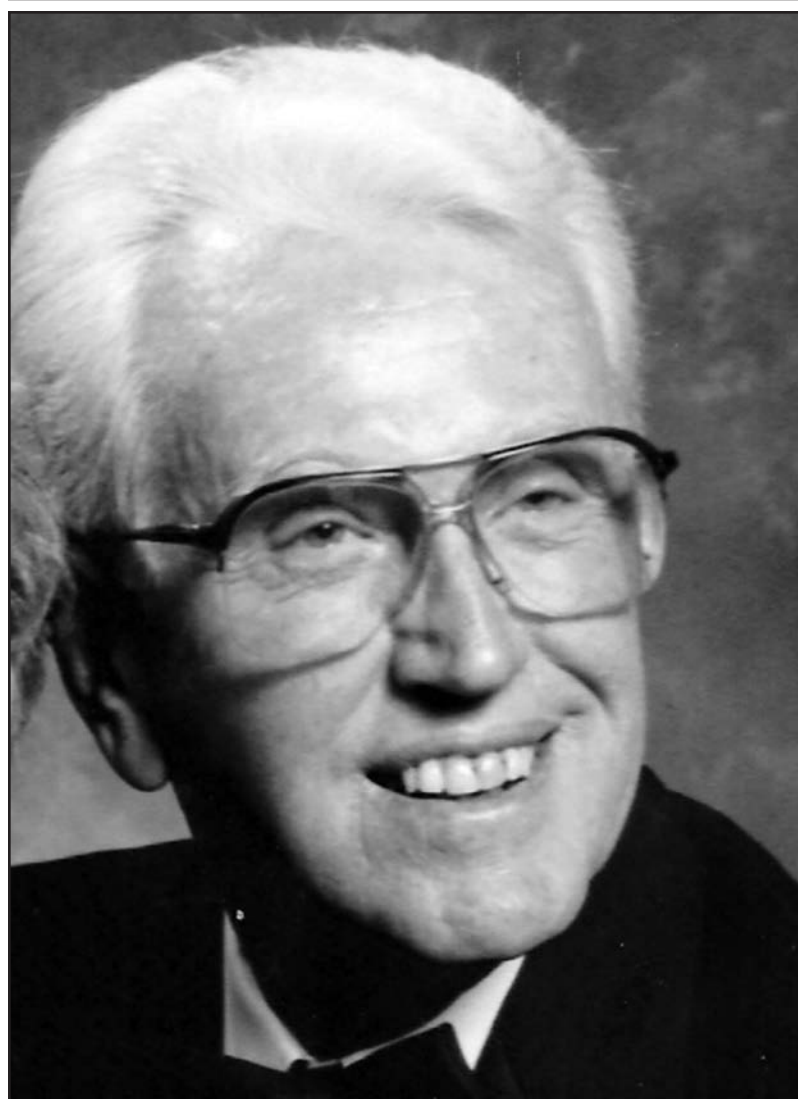
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JAMES EDWARD FERGUS—He passed away Aug. 19.

## Floyd Wayne Allen was longtime resident

**DOWNEY**—Longtime Downey resident Floyd Wayne Allen, who was born April 21, 1938, passed away on July 26 after a tedious battle with bladder cancer.

He had a career with Blue Chip Stamp Co., where he played on a golf team and was the manager of the softball team.

He is survived by his sister and brother, Genevieve and Felton, both of Florida; daughter, Ginger (Ron); sons, Dan and David (Ruth); and eight grandchildren, Brittany, Michelle, Megan, Shilah, Ryan, Derek, Sean, and Kelsey.

## Service tomorrow for James Edward Fergus

**DOWNEY**—James Edward Fergus, who worked for Douglas Aircraft for 44 years and was a longtime resident of Downey, has passed away. He died Aug. 19, a month shy of his 80th birthday.

He was born Sept. 19, 1916 in Santa Barbara to Melvern and Georger Fergus, and was raised on an organ ranch in Downey. A graduate of Whittier High School and Whittier Junior College, he passed the test to become a licensed engineer.

He met his wife, Norma, at a dance. They married in 1938 and had 66 years together before her passing in 2004. He is survived by daughters, Laurie (Dave) Forward and Adele (George) Fergus-O'Brien; and grandchildren, Tracey (Wade) Heidner, Spencer (Amber) Forward; Chad O'Brien, and Luke O'Brien.

It was shortly after graduation that he went to work for Douglas Aircraft. During World War II, he transferred to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he helped set up the bomber plant there. He retired in 1980 as a Planning Manager after 44 years of service.

He and wife Norma were one of the first couples involved in the Downey-Guadalajara Sister Cities Program, hosting 35 college students over the years. Their love of travel took them to Mexico often, visiting the students they hosted. Besides traveling to almost every state in the Union, they also traveled to Europe, England, Canada, Iceland, China, Egypt, and Jordan.

He was a 32nd Degree Mason, and one of the highlights of his life was when he received the Hiram Award. He was also very active with the Shriners, and was a Purveyor for many years. He was an active volunteer "Pink Man" at Downey Hospital as well, and an active supporter of the Memorial Trust Foundation: in 1998, he and wife Norma received the Foundation's highest award when they were inducted into the Founder's Circle.

He was also very active in the First Presbyterian Church of Downey, and had the longest membership.

A memorial service will be held Aug. 26 at 2 p.m. at the church. Arrangements are by Miller-Mies Mortuary of Downey.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his name to The Midnight Mission, 601 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA, Attn: K. Ward.



FLOYD WAYNE ALLEN—Died July 26 of bladder cancer.

## Alvin Leroy Stroh dies in his sleep

**DOWNEY**—Born Dec. 9, 1922, Alvin Leroy Stroh died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Downey Aug. 21. His wife of 60 years, Leonore Stroh, was by his side.

A Marine Captain serving in the South Pacific during World War II, he returned to duty during the Korean conflict.

His business career began as a Southern California distributor for Bell Brand Foods. He owned McMillin Wiring and Plating from 1969 to his retirement in 1995.

He is survived by son Duane; daughter Julie; sister Gloria (Dick) Nelson of Albuquerque, New Mexico; brother Jim (Eileen) of Eckert, Colorado; daughter-in-law Susan Stroh; grandson Christopher Stroh; Julie's lifetime partner, Cyl Santillan; and many nieces and nephews.

Service is at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29 at Miller-Mies Mortuary, 11015 Downey Ave. in Downey, followed by interment at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier. Viewing is from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28.

## Downey Church Directory

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## Downey Adult School's "Tours At A Glance"

**DOWNEY**—Registration is now open for the Downey Adult School Fall/Winter tours, which feature one day trips with Tour Director Harriet Paine. Tour registration coupons are available in the Downey Adult School main office, 12340 Woodruff Ave. or mailed upon request.

The tours at a glance:

•"Will Rogers State Park"—Sept. 21: Restoration is complete at Rogers' home and grounds; enjoy a docent tour; lunch at Gladstone's by the Sea, Malibu.

•Getty Villa - Newly Restored—Sept. 29: Tour and picnic box lunch at Getty Villa.

•Goldstone Deep Space Communication Center—Guided tour on Fort Irwin Military Base with lunch on base; Route 66 Museum Old Town, Victorville.

•Christmas Flowers, Goodies and Lights—Dec. 6: Roger's Gardens, Weidner's Poinsettia Gardens, Holiday luncheon at Lawry's Five Crowns and Del Mar Christmas Lights display.

•Disney Concert Hall - L.A. Master Chorale's "Shine"—Dinner at San Antonio Winery-Maddalena Restaurant; West Coast premiere of Reich's newest work, "Daniel Variations," and highly-acclaimed L.A. Master Chorale's "Shine."

Call (562) 940-6213 for more tour information.

## Downey Christian Club meets Sept. 13

**DOWNEY**—The Downey Christian Women's Club, which enjoys a buffet luncheon at their second Wednesday of each month's meetings (usually held at Los Amigos Country Club, 7295 Quill Drive), says men are also welcome to these meetings.

The next luncheon meeting is at 11:45 a.m. Sept. 13, with a presentation on "Fire Safety" by a representative from the Downey Fire Department as the special feature. Speaker is Luanne Hunt, whose topic is "How Broken Hearts are Mended by Unconditional Love."

Reservations are requested by the Monday before the luncheon, by calling either Ginnie, 927-8488, or Dolores, 868-7135.

## Trust fund for arts, music established

**BELLFLOWER**—With more school districts struggling to keep programs in arts and music alive, Airborne, Inc., manufacturer of what is regarded as the nation's leading herbal product in the cough and cold aisle, recently announced that it will provide some much-needed relief for several school districts that include the Downey Unified School District.

It has established the Airborne Teacher Trust Fund, a nonprofit charitable corporation, to fund art and music programs in elementary and middle schools that are in jeopardy of being lost due to budgetary limitations. According to USA Today, California is spending \$6,298 in art and music programs per pupil, which is below the national average of \$6,835.

The Airborne Teacher Trust Fund is the vision of Victoria Knight-McDowell, a former second grade teacher and creator of Airborne Health Formula. Victoria's goal with the initiative is to help other teachers get their dreams and ambitions off the ground.

"With budgets becoming tighter each year, schools are faced with the difficult decision of having to cut vital programs, says Knight-McDowell. "The Airborne Teacher Trust Fund is meant to fill the gap and keep our youth engaged and inspired, so they can live full and rewarding lives."

According to the 2006 Center for Education Policy, 71 percent of the nation's 15,000 school districts have reduced time spent on subjects such as art social studies and history since 2002.



**JAZZY SOUNDS**—The Bilgewater Brothers, whose performances feature jazz, novelty songs and parlor room ballads, are seen playing at a recent Furman Park concert. The concert series ended this week. Photo by Art Montoya.

## Special guests join L.A. Philharmonic

**LOS ANGELES** - Lucas Richman, Music Director and Conductor of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, makes his Bowl debut this weekend, Aug. 25 and 26, at 8:30 p.m. when he leads the Los Angeles Philharmonic with special guests the Smothers Brothers, comedienne Julia Sweeney, narrator Peri Gilpin, and pianists Joanne Pearce Martin with Gavin Martin in the "Comedy Tonight" programs.

Richman replaces conductor Leonard Slatkin, who was originally scheduled to lead these programs; Slatkin is replacing an ailing Sir Andrew Davis on the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's European Festival tour.

The Smothers Brothers, members of the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame, have been called "National Treasures," an endearing title earned by wooing three generations of audiences. Sweeney presents a new piece, commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, from her hysterical one-woman show "In the Family Way," about the adoption of her Chinese child, performed with a new orchestral score by composer Anthony Marinelli.

Joanne Pearce Martin and Gavin Martin perform the classic "Carnival of the Animals", with a new narration written by Brian Hargrove and Greg Pierce. The new version has a Hollywood take — it's the story of Cathy B. Simon, who arrives in Los Angeles on a bus to become a star, and all the Hollywood clichés she meets — agents, managers, press agents, etc.

Tickets are available by calling (213) 480-3232.

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[thedowneypatriot.com](http://thedowneypatriot.com)  
[downeypatriot@yahoo.com](mailto:downeypatriot@yahoo.com)

## Graveside services held for Carlton Jack Harpst

**DOWNEY**—Carlton Jack Harpst, born Sept. 9, 1923 in Ohio, passed away on Aug. 20 following two major strokes. He was a Downey resident for 53 years.

He came with his family at age 5 to Southern California where he met Jacqueline Nichols, who would become his bride in 1943 until her death in 2003.

He was attending USC when he left to serve in the Army Air Corps. He flew missions over the Himalaya Mountains from India to China to supply food and war materials to the Chinese Nationalists.

Upon his return he re-entered USC and graduated with a degree in Engineering, with USC later awarding him a master of Engineering degree.

He worked briefly as a teacher and then took a job with Bethlehem Steel in Vernon where he served as the company's West Coast plant engineer until his retirement in 1980. He and wife Jackie raised their two children, Lee and Scott, in Downey.

He is survived by his sons, Lee (Lucille) and Scott, and grandchildren Sarah, Brian, and Ashley Harpst.

Services were held Aug. 24 at Pacific Vie Memorial Park in Corona del Mar.

## Angelina Rosalee Caito lived here all her life

**DOWNEY**—Angelina Rosalee Caito, born Nov. 3, 1930 in Los Angeles to parents Joseph and Jennie Diliberto, passed away on Aug. 19. She resided in Downey all her life and was 75.

She is survived by sons, Philip (Marita) Fuller, Chris (Odette) Fuller, and Donny (Donna) Fuller; and grandchildren, Andy, Angelina, Ashlie, Christopher, Caitlin, DJ and Eric.

A funeral mass was held at Aug. 24 at St. Raymond's Catholic Church, followed by interment at All Souls Cemetery.



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# Grand Canyon or bust – family style

By Brooke Karli

It was a few months ago that my family came together and decided to venture to one of our country's most prized possessions. So often you hear of people taking vacations to other parts of the world, but really, there is so much to be discovered in our own nation's backyard.

None in our family of five had ever been to the Grand Canyon – the closest we ever got was watching the Brady Bunch vacation episode. But we had a level of excitement for this trip. In fact, weeks prior, we shopped for clothes to wear to “the Canyon”, deleted our digital camera memory sticks and pinched every penny for extra souvenirs.

And every cent spent was well worth it. Upon arriving in Williams, AZ – the “gateway to the Grand Canyon” – we were greeted by friendly people, delicious food and a thrilling cowboy shootout. The following morning, we boarded a steam-engine train, which transported us to the Grand Canyon. We jumped off the train and hopped onto a tour bus.

Our tour guide filled us in on the history and numbers of the Canyon – the Canyon is over 277 miles long, the Colorado River stretches from the Rockies to the Gulf of Mexico, and 5 million people from all corners of the world visit the Canyon each year. All the while, we reveled in the beauty of this natural wonder.

After our tour, we watched the sun set – and nine hours later, we watched it rise. In the 28 hours that we were there, we saw deer, elk, rabbits, squirrels, blue jays, condors, bumble bees, and lunched with a dragonfly.

But everything aside, the most stunning attraction was the Canyon itself. Every time I looked at it, it looked different – and every time I looked at it, it left me in awe. How could a crack in the floor of a desert be so majestic? It was a mystery to me, but not one worth figuring out – just one worth admiring. There is a connection made between soul and nature as you stand on the ledge of this Canyon.

That connection was deepened by being with my family as we stood together in amazement of what we consider to be one of God's best gifts to mankind. Not only was there a connection with the Canyon, but also with the people there. From a 4-year-old girl who had just learned how to blow a bubble, to a 102-year-old woman who made her way to the edge with her walker, the connection with those from all over the world transformed the Canyon into a melting pot.

On our way home, we traveled down Route 66, stopping at the Grand Canyon Caverns, where we were lowered 21 stories underground, and Peach Springs, an Indian reservation where we met the tribe's princess. When all was said and done, this trip had become the most beautiful and cultural experience for all of us.

I don't think it's possible for the Canyon to ever lose its effect. And to much disappointment, pictures and postcards do absolutely no justice to its grandeur. We are definitely going back again and are confident that even then, it will still take our breathe away.



**KARLI FAMILY VACATION**—Over 5 million people visit the Grand Canyon each year, including the Karli Family, above. The Canyon stretches 277 miles through northern Arizona, having been carved by the historic Colorado River.



## Eat at Rubio's and support local kids

**DOWNEY**—The brand new Gauldin Elementary Dolphins Fitness Club, a school club that teaches kids the importance of health and fitness, is raising money to buy exercise equipment and healthy food for the 4th and 5th grade students at Gauldin Elementary.

As part of their fundraising, 20 percent of each transaction taken at the Rubio's restaurant at Downey Landing between 2 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 21 will be donated to the club.

The Dolphins Fitness Club officially opens Sept. 12 and will run through April 28, 2007. The pilot program will show kids how to follow the new USDA Food Pyramid while leading them in exercise one hour per day, three days a week after school. The kids will even monitor what they eat in a food-intake journal.

Parents have also signed up to prepare healthy dishes to share with the children.

Rubio's is at 12014 Lakewood Blvd. and features a low-fat menu.

# Vacationing story brings back memories

By Eric Pierce

And on the other end of the spectrum...

My family never did travel much together. There were no yearly vacations to Hawaii, or a leisurely cruise down to Ensenada. Instead, my parents said if we wanted to go on vacation we should study hard, go to college and get a degree, that way we could one day afford to go on vacation with our own loving families.

It was a nice theory, but I think they were just being cheap.

In fact, the only time we went anywhere as a family was when some far-off uncle died, and my parents would try to disguise the funeral as a vacation.

Mom: “How would you kids like to make a drive down to Tijuana? We can eat tacos and enchiladas... And they have dogs down there with only three legs.”

Me: “Cool! ...Wait a minute...who died?”

And so the “vacation” would begin, three frustrated kids dressed in uncomfortable Sears clearance rack suits climbing into the family Dodge Ram Charger for the two-hour drive south to Tijuana.

The funerals themselves were never too bad (I was young and didn't really understand what was going on) so in my eyes a funeral was two days of family togetherness and good eating – similar to Christmas, only everybody wore black sunglasses.

You wouldn't even know the family was in mourning because everybody was so nice and cheerful. It was all an act, of course, but it added to the guise that we really were on vacation.

The best part of our mini-vacations, for me anyways, was visiting all the uncles I never get to see. They were the types of uncles that taught me how to swear in Spanish and gave me my first sip of beer. And, even though they must have been in their 50's, every time there was a party they'd be out on the dance floor, swooning women half their age.

Apparently women in Mexico find middle-aged men with receding hairlines, paunch bellies and overgrown sombreros very attractive.

My uncles would also take me on their lap and have me watch the evening news with them, just to watch the sexy weather lady strut around. (Actually, she was the reason I got into journalism in the first place.)

The drive back home was fun too, especially when we stopped at the border checkpoint. Me and my brothers would crouch in the back of the truck and pretend to be illegal immigrants, trying to secretly smuggle ourselves into the U.S. When border patrol questioned us, we would shake our heads and play dumb. “Que? Que?”

To this day, I'm surprised my parents didn't ever leave us behind.

Yes, those “vacations” were good times. Perhaps we never got to see the Coliseum in Rome or The Louvre in Paris, but how many people have seen a three-legged Labrador snacking on *carne asada*?

Nothing brings a family closer.

# Residents invited on upcoming one-day trips

**DOWNEY**—Registration is now open for the Downey Adult School fall/winter tours, which feature one-day trips with Tour Director Harriett Paine. Tour registration coupons are available in the Downey Adult School main office, 12340 Woodruff Ave. or mailed upon request.

The tours at a glance:

•“Will Rogers State Park”—Sept. 21: Restoration is complete at Rogers' home and grounds; enjoy a docent tour; lunch at Gladstone's by the Sea, Malibu.

•Getty Villa - Newly Restored—Sept. 29: Tour and picnic box lunch at Getty Villa.

•Goldstone Deep Space Communication Center—Guided tour on Fort Irwin Military Base with lunch on base; Route 66 Museum Old Town, Victorville.

•Christmas Flowers, Goodies and Lights—Dec. 6: Roger's Gardens, Weidner's Poinsettia Gardens, Holiday luncheon at Lawry's Five Crowns and Del Mar Christmas Lights display.

•Disney Concert Hall – L.A. Master Chorale's “Shine”—Dinner at San Antonio Winery-Maddalena Restaurant; West Coast premiere of Reich's newest work, “Daniel Variations,” and highly-acclaimed L.A. Master Chorale's “Shine.”

Call (562) 940-6213 for more tour information.

## Church to mark 9/11 anniversary

**DOWNEY**—The 5th anniversary of 9/11 will be remembered Saturday, Sept. 9 from noon to 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Downey, 8348 E. Third St.

The remembrance will include reflections from various members of the community who were directly connected to one of the locations that were impacted. Special music, media and other art forms will be included in the ceremony. Prayer emphasis will be included throughout the hour service.

The event is open to the public, and will be held in the First Baptist Church chapel. Information: Sherri lacy, 923-1261, ext. 269.

## 9/11 remembrance at Cerritos College

**NORWALK**—The Associated Students of Cerritos College will host a 9/11 remembrance event on Monday Sept. 11 at 2 p.m.

“Remembering 9/11” will feature readings, music, and a memory poster where attendees will be invited to write about their own memories of the tragedy that occurred five years ago on Sept. 11, 2001.

The event will be in the college's Burnight Theater, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk.

For information, call Holly Bagdanovich, Director of Student Activities at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2476.

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## Ask the Contractors Board

Do you have questions about hiring and managing building contractors? The California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) has answers. For more information, or to check out a contractor's license, bond and workers' compensation insurance information, visit the CSLB web site at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).

**Q:** I have gotten a few bids to get my leaking roof fixed. One of the contractors said we don't need to have a written contract to do the work. He said that it's not a big job, so it's really not necessary. Is this true? Do I have to have a written contract, regardless of the size of the job?

**A:** Written home improvement contracts are necessary for jobs that cost \$500 or more, including labor and supplies. Even if the job is less than \$500, which may be your case, it's still a good idea to have a written contract because it outlines the terms that you and your contractor have agreed upon.

The old axiom is true: "A verbal contract is as good as the paper it's not written on." More information about what contracts should include is available at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).

**Q:** The winter storms lodged a branch into my rain gutters and now they are flooded and broken. I need them fixed ASAP, but I am on a tight budget and unsure how to find the best contractor for the cheapest price. Any recommendations?

**A:** Yes, there are many ways to find a credible and affordable contractor. Looking one up in the phone book is the easiest way, however, you need to make sure you check the contractor's history and verify the contractor's license before hiring someone with whom you've never done business.

Your local Better Business Bureau may be another resource. Local roofing associations or building associations have high standards for their members and may be able to refer you to someone who is in your area.

Additionally, ask family, friends and neighbors who have had work done on their homes. See if they can provide a reference. You can verify a contractor's license, and check to see if any formal complaints have been filed against them by going to [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).

By law, contractors must have their license number in their ad, or say that they are not licensed. So, you can check them out, even before you call them.

**Q:** I am having new windows installed in my home. I changed my mind and want windows with a different design than originally specified in the contract. I have told the contractor about the change I want, and he seems pretty agreeable to it. Should I still amend the contract to include the change? It just seems like a lot of unneeded hassle.

**A:** Yes, you should insist the contract is amended to include the change in the window design. Although it may seem to be a "hassle" to the contractor to amend the contract, you should always include amendments in writing to show proof of what you and the contractor have agreed to.

Also, if the changes you want made aren't made to your satisfaction, and you don't have a written contract, it will be much more difficult for you to resolve the dispute without litigation.

### Warren Pep Squad plans reunion

**DOWNEY**—In celebration of Warren High School's 50th anniversary, the Warren Pep Squad is inviting all former cheerleaders, song leaders, and mascots to the homecoming game on Friday, Oct. 20. A huge reunion is being planned next year for all the cheer squads from the past 50 years.

Contact Kellie Acosta at [warrencheeralumni@yahoo.com](mailto:warrencheeralumni@yahoo.com) or (562) 469-7001, ext. 87889 for more information.

### 2nd Century Foundation meets Mondays

**DOWNEY**—The 2nd Century Foundation meets the first Monday of every month at 4 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, call 927-9790.



**ALFONSO ORTIZ**—Century 21 My Real Estate welcomes Alfonso Ortiz to their office. Ortiz has been a financial advisor with American First Credit Union and holds an Associate of Arts in Political Science from Long Beach City College. He is currently a junior at Cal State Dominguez Hills. "Alfonso offers a strong financial background and offers a bilingual choice for all clients investing in real estate," stated Angie Piece, general manager. To contact Ortiz, call (562) 927-2626.

### Learn to deal with difficult people

**LONG BEACH**—A Long Beach seminar will show attendees how to deal with "know-it-alls, dictators, snipers, grippers, 'yes' people, 'no' people" and other contrary characters.

The seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn Long Beach Airport on Nov. 7. For information, call (800) 780-8469.

### Transportation provided

**DOWNEY**—Worldwide Transport, an extension of Best Travel, is now providing transportation to the doctor and to the hospital and clinics for anyone in need. For information call (800) 869-6764.

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## Stroke screenings to be held at Masonic Lodge

**DOWNEY**—Downey residents are invited to a stroke screening to be held at the Downey United Masonic Lodge #220, 8244 3rd St., on Sept. 25. Appointments will begin at 9 a.m.

Life Line Screening is organizing the effort. A stroke, also known as a "brain attack," is ranked as the third leading killer in the world, and the second among women. Through preventive screenings, the risk of having a stroke can be greatly reduced.

Screenings are fast, painless and low cost, according to Life Line Screening. They say it involves the use of ultrasound technology, and scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which can lead to a stroke; aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which are a strong predictor of heart disease.

Also offered for both men and women is a bone density screening to assess their risk for osteoporosis.

Each screening takes about 10 minutes to complete. A complete vascular screening package, including the Stroke/Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Ankle Brachial Index (hardening of the arteries) screenings, is \$109. Other packages are available as well.

Life Line Screening was established in 1993 and employs over 60 ultrasound teams that travel to local communities to conduct the screenings.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (877) 237-1287. Pre-registration is required.

### Life gets tougher for drunk drivers

**NORWALK**—A bill that promotes the use of alcohol monitoring systems on convicted drunk drivers unanimously passed out of the Assembly this week. The bill will make legislative findings and declarations concerning the usefulness of continuous remote alcohol monitoring systems.

Current law requires those convicted of multiple drunk driving violations to participate in an alcohol treatment. However, the courts have no way of determining whether the individual is abiding by the conditions of probation.

"Continuous alcohol monitoring systems are needed to ensure that offenders are abiding by conditions of their parole or probation. These conditions are meaningless without enforcement," said Assembly Member Rudy Bermúdez, who authored the bill.

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Carpet & vinyl. Free in home estimates. Mohawk, Shaw, Beaulieu, Kane, Congoleum. Showroom at 9303 Alondra Blvd. in Bellflower.  
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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2006-07 ADOPTED BUDGET OF CERRITOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

The governing board of Cerritos Community College District will hold a public hearing on the Proposed Adopted Budget of the District for the 2006-07 year prior to final adoption as required by Title 5 Division 6, Chapter 9, Subchapter 4, Section 58301.

The Public Hearing will be held at the Cerritos Community College "Cheryl A. Epple Board Room" on September 6, 2006, at 6:00 P.M. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting.

The Proposed Adopted Budget will be available for public inspection at the following location(s) should members of the public wish to review the Budget prior to the Public Hearing.

Location: Cerritos Community College, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk - President's Office and Vice President of Business Services Office: Date/Time: Wednesday, August 30, through Wednesday September 6, 2006 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?  
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**Marlene Rodriguez**  
For the Professional & Personal advice you need attention YOU deserve  
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Century 21  
My Real Estate Co.



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Bell market - meat market, restaurant, beer and wine license, 3,029 sq. ft. - great location!



**NORTH DOWNEY UNITS**  
Four Units: Three Units - 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms. One Unit - 1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom.



**NORTH DOWNEY - PRICE REDUCTION!**  
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, family room, fireplace in living room, 1,457 sq.ft.

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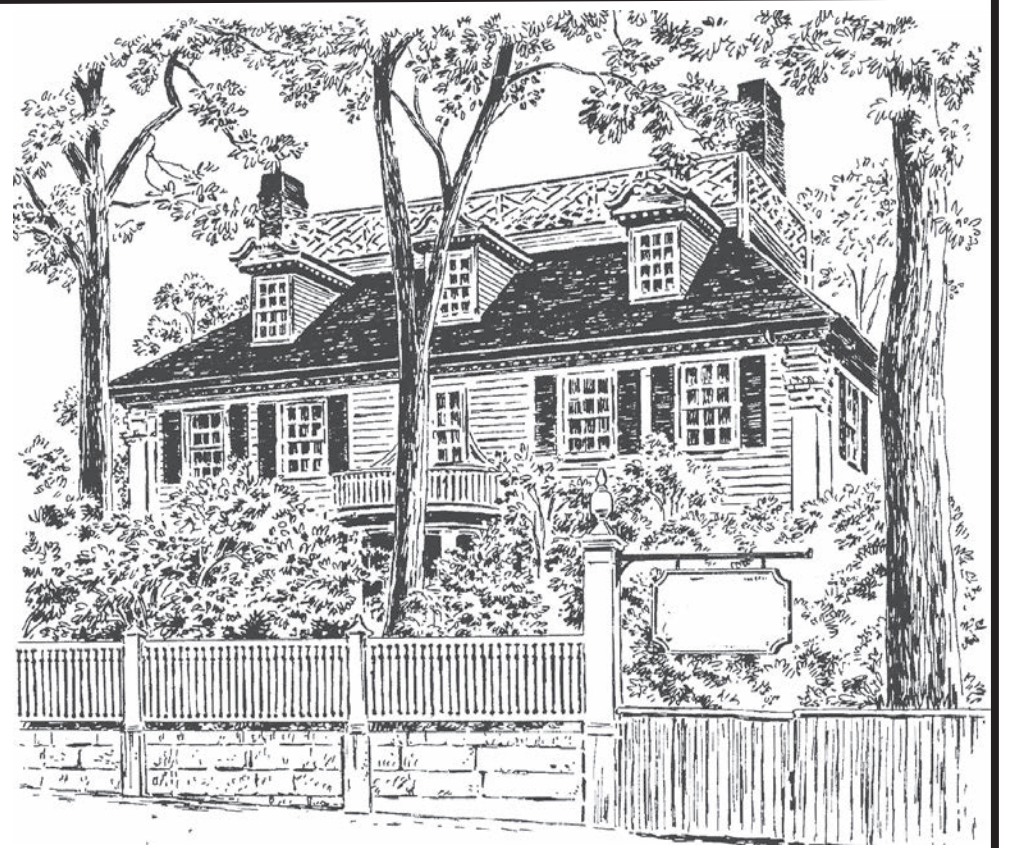
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## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

LOOKING FOR AN OLDER MANSION?  
LOOKING FOR A NEWER CONDO?  
WANT TO RENT A ONE BEDROOM?  
WANT TO SELL A VACANT LOT?  
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### TEAM UP WITH CENTURY 21 MY REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE ARENA

INTRODUCING OUR STARTING LINE UP

## THE CLIENTS

**THE FANS**  
OUR CLIENTS

**#1** "I am very happy with my agents **Lilian Lopez** and **Lorena Amaya**. **Lilian** and **Lorena** helped find the right home for me and were very nice." -- Rosa Hernandez

**#2** "**Marlene Rodriguez** did an excellent job listing my home. We are very satisfied with **Marlene**." -- Angel Ruela

**#3** "Above and beyond is exactly what **Diana Cattani** did helping me find a home. **Diana** bent over backwards to help me." -- Jacqui Abejar

**MVPs**  
OF THE MONTH

**#1 GO TEAM**

**TOP LISTING**  
Ruben Rios

**TOP PRODUCTION**  
Lorena Amaya & Lilian Lopez

**TOP SALES**  
Maria Zuloaga

<p><b>REAL ESTATE 101</b> DRE APPROVED Live Real Estate School 800-641-2111 x119 Darlene</p>	<p><b>HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE</b> 29 Years Serving Downey and Southeast Los Angeles</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIRCLE OF TRUST</b> Clients &amp; Century 21 My Real Estate Co.</p>	<p>Across the Field, Down the Court or Around the Bases Where Ever Your Game Takes You</p> <p><b>FREE RELOCATION SERVICES</b> 800-641-2111</p>	<p><b>MY ESCROW GROUP INC.</b> 562-776-5972 Public Escrow Company Bank Of Orange County Building 8345 E. Firestone Blvd S-102 • Downey, CA 90241</p>
<p>Changing Teams or a Career <b>Century 21 My Real Estate</b> Ongoing Training • Pension Plan • Freedom • Flexibility Teaming with the #1 Company</p>	<p><b>MY MORTGAGE</b> A DIVISION OF METROCITIES SOUND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 800-641-2111</p>	<p>COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT NETWORK WHEN YOU'RE READY TO EXPAND YOUR INVESTMENTS <b>THE CIN TEAM</b> 800-641-2111</p>	<p><b>PROPERTY MANAGEMENT</b> YOUR SUPPORT TEAM Saving You Time While Keeping Your Investments Safe - Sound - Secure 800-641-2111</p>

<p><b>♥ Cerritos</b> Great Cerritos location near Cerritos Mall - 3 Bedrooms, 1.75 Bathrooms, extra large living room, formal dining room, eating area in kitchen, swimming pool, corner lot - all this home needs is someone to give it some love! (562) 927-2626</p>	<p><b>One Appleby To Go</b> Live on Appleby in Downey - great North Downey location, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, large master bedroom suite, spacious living room, formal dining room, sparkling pool and patio. (562) 927-2626</p>	<p><b>BIG Value, Little Price</b> Semi-private Downey street with 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, hardwood floors, new carpet, great yard, close to schools and shopping. (562) 927-2626</p>	<p><b>Rockin' Hot Home</b> 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms, studio apartment w/bathroom, living room and family room w/fireplaces, newly remodeled kitchen w/maple cabinets and granite countertops, new kitchen appliances, breakfast area, sun room, swimming pool, hot tub, 2-car garage. (562) 927-2626</p>
<p><b>No Downers - Just Uppers!</b> Upgraded kitchen and bathrooms, 3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bathrooms, dining room, tile flooring in kitchen and bathrooms, wood floors in living room and bedrooms, separate inside laundry room, located on cul-de-sac. (562) 927-2626</p>	<p><b>Calling All Seniors</b> Move-in condition! Senior complex in Downey - 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, central air conditioning, new carpet, paint and linoleum, fireplace, view of pool and spa area, 2 parking spaces, secured underground security building and private patio. (562) 927-2626</p>	<p><b>Slip And Slide</b> Great pool with slide, nice corner lot home, immaculate appeal, boat parking, toasty fireplace, 3 Bedrooms, 1.75 Bathrooms. Call Jesse Ibarra (562) 879-3899</p>	<p><b>Love Your Home 24/7</b> Cute Lakewood home with 3 Bedrooms, 1.75 Bathrooms, family room with fireplace, interior laundry, 2-car garage. Call Karen Hayashi (562) 327-2189</p>

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**Sweet Deal!!!**  
 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 900 sq. ft. mobile home.  
 Priced @ \$79,950  
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**A Super Buy!!!**  
 3 bedrooms, 2 remodeled baths, newly remodeled kitchen w/ granite counter tops, central air, new roof, new windows w/ 1,189 sq. ft. of living space.  
 Call Frank Moreno @ 562-619-8280  
[www.FrankMoreno.com](http://www.FrankMoreno.com)



**R-3 Lot!**  
 Build Units or Condo's on this 14,810 sq. ft. lot! Has large single family home currently rented (must tear down to build.) Call for more details!  
 Marie Picarelli @ 562-618-0033  
[www.MariePicarelli.com](http://www.MariePicarelli.com)



**Location, Location, Location!**  
 Exquisite N.E. Downey home w/5 bedrooms, 6 baths, gourmet kitchen w/Viking appliances, granite counter tops, Travertine floors, formal living & dining rooms, family room & pool w/ fountains.  
 Built in 2005, 5,946 sq. ft. on a 10,064 sq. ft. lot.  
 Call Carrie Uva @ 562-761-0597



**Quality & Elegance!**  
 3 bedrooms, 3 baths in a nice quiet neighborhood with a family room, master suite, attached garage, formal dining room, 1,672 sq. ft. of living space, 2 stories, & patio.  
 Priced to Sell at \$499,000  
 Amparo Gastelum @ 562-445-7375



**Summer Pool Special!**  
 1,648 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bath, & formal dining room. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac street in North Downey a sparkling pool awaits your swimmers. A Must see!!!  
 Call for an Appointment  
 Mary Jane Lee @ 562-618-0390

**Mario Persico**  
 "Mario Moves You...24 Hours a Day!"  
**562-533-7433**

Mario: Born in Downey \* Raised in Downey  
 Lives in Downey \* Worships in Downey  
 \*\*\*SELLS DOWNEY\*\*\*

**Open House Weekend**  
**SAT. & SUN., AUG. 26 & 27**  
**12 pm**

**7921 4th Place-Downey**  
 Downey Spanish Villa located on a huge 11,500 sq. ft. lot family room w/ fireplace, bright living room w/ fireplace, library/office, 3 baths, AMAZING backyard w/ pool, & private spa. AND MORE!!!

**7336 Hannon-Downey**  
 Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, large living room w/ central air/heat, full copper plumbing, light & bright kitchen, beautiful hardwood floors, new carpet, on Cul-de-Sac.  
 Call Mario TODAY to See!!!

**12721 Brock-Downey**  
 Unbelievable! 3 bedrooms, living room & family room each w/ fireplaces, new carpet, new interior & exterior paint, and much more! Call MARIO to SEE!!!

**More Downey Listings!**

Bdrms	Baths	Sq. Ft.	City	Price
3	1	1,138	Downey	\$549,000
4	2	1,675	Downey	SOLD
4	3	2,441	Downey	PENDING
5	4	3,311	Downey	\$1,425,000
5	4	4,300	Downey	\$1,595,000

Call Mario for More Info!  
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**JOSE'S HOT BUYS!!**

**2006**

**North East Downey**  
 5 BD, 4 BA,  
 3,200 sq. ft. of living space, large lot & high end amenities  
**\$1,329,900**

**POOL HOME**  
 Remodeled 3 BD, 2 BA, 10,160 Sq. Ft. lot in N.E. Downey  
**\$874,900**

**Cul-de-sac!**  
 4 BD, 3 BA, over 2,100 Sq. ft. of living space on a 8,200 sq. ft. lot  
**\$864,900**

**Hot Buy!**  
 3 BD & 1 BA, large family room w/ fireplace & remodeled kitchen.  
**\$574,900**

**Move Right In!**  
 4 BD, 2 BA remodeled kitchen and bathrooms, new windows and floors. Priced to SELL. Call Jose for more information.

[www.SoldByJose.com](http://www.SoldByJose.com)

**MICHAEL BERDELIS** **562-818-6111**  
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**Over \$57,000,000 in real estate sold in 2005**  
**Prudential's Chairman Circle Award Winner 2000-2005**

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**Custom Built Beauty!**  
 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath home in Cherokee Estates with fireplaces in both the living room and family room, a remodeled kitchen with built-in stainless steel appliances, formal dining room, and large master bedroom with private bath. Home also features hardwood floors, newer copper plumbing, central air & heat, and crown molding. Property is set on a corner lot with a large backyard and covered patio. \$875,000.  
 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111  
 Check out the virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)



**Bring Your Paintbrush!**  
 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home in North Downey on a large lot that needs a little TLC. Price: \$630,000.  
 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



**Budget Beater!**  
 3 bedroom, 1 bath home with nice hardwood floors, large covered patio, 2 car attached garage, and spacious backyard. This home, with new stove and freshly painted exterior, is in move-in condition and a must see! Price: \$529,900  
 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



**Custom Built Beauty!**  
 Spacious 3 bed, 2.5 bath in N. W. Downey on a large lot with detached guest house. Home has a remodeled kitchen, newer dual-plane windows, concrete tile roof and copper plumbing. Priced to sell at \$824,500.  
 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



**Quality & Elegance**  
 Beautiful 5 bedroom 4 bath newly constructed home in the NE section of Downey. With marble flooring & granite counter tops in kitchen & baths, the seller spared no expense in delivering this lavish home. The floor plan has 1 bedroom down & 4 bedrooms upstairs & has a wonderful vaulted ceiling entry that will take your buyers breath away. This home combines modern features with a very traditional floor plan. \$1,299,900.  
 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111  
 Check out the virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)



**Great North East Downey Deal**  
 2 bed 1 bath home near Stonewood Mall with 2 car detached garage and bonus room. Home has hardwood floors throughout and property boasts a big backyard. Price \$599,900.  
 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



**Smart buy!**  
 3 bed, 2 bath home on a large lot in the NE Downey area. With spacious bedrooms (including master bedroom w/private bath), large living room with view of backyard, and den with fireplace, this is a beautiful home that you want to miss. Other details include newer cement tile floor, central air and heat and inside laundry room. The property has a carport and 2 car detached garage priced \$779,900.  
 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



**New Construction in North Downey with Pool!**  
 5 bedroom, 3 bath home with marble floors, beautiful open kitchen with granite counter tops and new appliances, high vaulted ceilings in living room, formal dining room, office, 2 family rooms - 1 upstairs and 1 downstairs, and a wonderful master bedroom with fireplace, balcony, and large master bathroom with jetted tub and separate shower with travertine touches throughout. 1,349,950.  
 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111  
 Check out the virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)



**The Party is Here!**  
 Spectacular 3 bed, 2 bath North Downey pool home with a great floor plan including formal living room, family room with fireplace off kitchen, master bedroom with private bath, and inside laundry room. Other amenities: hardwood floors, central air/heat, and copper plumbing. Entertain guests in the backyard with a built-in BBQ, private grass area, and large pool. Bonus room with private bath is perfect for that overnight guest, mother-in-law, or just some extra storage! \$785,000.  
 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111  
 Check out the virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)