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CRIME REPORT

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

At 12:00 p.m., two males broke into a home in the 10200 block of Foster Road. The homeowner returned unexpectedly and frightened the suspects and they fled the residence. The two suspects were detained one block away and were subsequently arrested. It was discovered that the suspects made entry into the home through an unlocked bedroom window. Both suspects were booked for burglary.

At 4:45 p.m., Downey Police Dispatch advised of a License Plate Reader "stolen hit" in the Downtown area. A Downey officer located the vehicle westbound on Firestone Blvd. The vehicle yielded during a traffic stop and three female suspects were detained. The driver of the vehicle was arrested for Grand Theft Auto and one passenger was arrested on drug possession charges.

At 7:15 p.m., a resident returned to her home on the 7500 block of 2nd Street and discovered their front door smashed in. Upon checking the inside the resident saw two suspects inside her home. The two male suspects fled the residence with a minor amount of loss. Detectives are investigating.

At 8:00 p.m., the Crime Impact Team deployed two, two-officer police units. Team members made 5 arrests which consisted of 3 narcotic related charges and 2 warrants. They also issued a municipal code violation to a subject at Rio San Gabriel Park.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

At 8:00 p.m., the Crime Impact Team deployed two, two-officer police units in the city. In all, they made one warrant arrest, one DUI arrest, issued seven tickets, five DMC citations (all at Rio San Gabriel Park for afterhours and marijuana violations), issued one marijuana possession ticket, and impounded two vehicles.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

At 9:00 a.m., the Downey Police Special Enforcement Team participated in the annual ABC Statewide Shoulder Tap operation. The ABC decoy was deployed to several liquor stores throughout the city and one person purchased alcohol for him. S.E.T is following up on the investigation.

At 8:00 p.m., the Crime Impact Team deployed two, two-officer police units in the city. During the evening, the teams issued 13 traffic citations, five municipal code violations (two at Rio San Gabriel Park), made two warrant arrests.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

At 6:30 a.m., Downey officers responded to the 10600 block of Western Avenue regarding a possible prowler. Upon arrival they saw a suspect matching the description sitting in a silver Honda. The suspect fled from officers on foot and was detained shortly after by officers. Evidence indicated the suspect was attempting to steal the Honda. He was also found in possession of narcotics and arrested.

Hike the sales tax? Voters to decide in November

By Christian Brown
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Under pressure from city staff to find new revenue streams for public safety and street repairs, the Downey City Council reluctantly moved forward with plans to place a half-cent sales tax increase on the ballot in November.

In a 3-2 decision, with Mayor Alex Saab and Councilman Sean Ashton dissenting, the city council decided to let voters weigh in on whether a permanent sales tax hike, which would provide the city an additional \$9 million annually, is necessary.

City Manager Gilbert Livas believes it is.

"It's my job to make sure we stay ahead of the curve. The truth is we're not at the revenue source we were at in 2007," said Livas.

The reason behind the slow down in revenue? Car dealerships (or better yet, the lack thereof).

As a result of the Great Recession, Downey lost three dealerships when Ford, Cadillac, and Acura succumbed to the plummeting economy. As dealerships shutdown so did the city's sales tax revenue, which relied heavily on the millions of dollars the businesses generated each year.

"It would take three department stores to make up for every dealership we've lost," Livas said.

While sales tax revenues remain flat, the need for more public safety, park renovations, and street overhauls is mounting, according to city officials.

Usually staffed at 111-115 officers, the Downey Police

Department currently has 109 police officers on payroll.

"For us to be proactive and increase patrols, we need 7-10 additional officers," said Chief Carl Charles, who acknowledged that state law AB 109, which released thousands of prisoners, is increasing local crime.

Livas said the cost of hiring the additional officers adds up to \$1.3-1.5 million annually. A small amount compared to the potential cost of revamping the city's aging parks and repaving residential streets.

"We have a lot of outside shoppers in our city," said Livas. "A tax increase would help fix the local streets, upgrade our parks, and make sure our police and fire have the best equipment."

Councilman Luis Marquez echoed the city manager, concerned that the city's public services could fall behind without additional funding.

"It's been 30 years since our parks have been touched," he said. "No matter how many grants we receive, we'll never get to the complete needs of the city."

"It should be up to the residents to decide."

Likewise, Mayor Pro Tem Fernando Vasquez agreed that residents should be offered the chance to vote on the tax hike, which would elevate the city's sales tax from 9 percent to 9.5 percent, if approved by a simple majority of voters.

"I know I pay enough in taxes, but I value our public safety and life -- what value do we put on life," said Vasquez, recalling the recent string of deaths in the city.

"Why now? If there ever was a

time [to place this on the ballot], it's now when a majority of people are out here to vote."

However, Saab is pushing back against the tax proposal, suggesting the city opt for spending cuts and waste reductions before burdening residents with a new tax.

"My concerns are how this will affect existing businesses and new businesses in our city," Saab said. "I don't know if this is the right time for this...we have a lot of positive growth happening in the city. We don't want to make people think twice about investing in our city."

Prior to the vote on Tuesday, the city council reviewed results of a survey conducted in February by polling agency Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates, who interviewed 400 Downey residents likely to vote in the November election.

When asked if the city was in need of additional funding to provide an adequate level of city services, 23 percent answered there was "great need and 47 percent said there was "some need." Nearly 25 percent said there was "little or no need" and 5 percent were unsure.

When asked directly about a potential sales tax increase, 45 percent said they would definitely vote in favor while another 25 percent said the would probably vote yes or lean towards yes. The poll revealed that 29 percent indicated they would not support the measure.

The city council on Tuesday also approved an \$83,000 contract with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates, which will educate the public on the sales tax increase measure.

Teacher gets 3 years in jail for sex with student

DOWNEY – Brandon Hitchcock, the 32-year-old Downey High teacher and soccer coach who had sex with a female student, was sentenced to three years in county jail on Monday.

Hitchcock, of Lakewood, also was ordered to stay away from the victim. In November, Hitchcock pleaded no contest to two counts of unlawful sexual intercourse.

Hitchcock was a teacher and a soccer coach at Downey High School. In 2014, school staff were alerted about an inappropriate relationship between Hitchcock and a 17-year-old student. Administration informed law enforcement and they immediately began an investigation.

Deputy District Attorney Amanda Luna, who prosecuted the case, said Hitchcock had sexual

interactions with the victim over a seven-month period.

The victim sued Hitchcock last October, alleging he preyed on her and initiated a sexual relationship.

According to the lawsuit, the girl, identified in court documents as Jane Doe, was a student in Hitchcock's 11th grade American history class during the 2013-14 school year. The lawsuit alleges that Hitchcock, who was 30 at the time, "began grooming" the 16-year-old girl, paying extra attention to her and inviting her to "hang out" in his classroom after school.

Starting in January 2014, Hitchcock began allowing the girl to sit in on his sixth period, despite her having a sixth period photojournalism class, the lawsuit alleges. It was during this time that

Hitchcock allegedly began flirting with the girl, writing in an email to her that it was "hard not to miss [her] smile."

Shortly before spring break, Hitchcock and the girl exchanged telephone numbers and Hitchcock told the girl that he "liked her." They kissed while they were alone in his classroom, the suit alleges.

Over the next several weeks, Hitchcock allegedly told the girl that he loved her, and they began to have sex in April 2014.

Rumors of the relationship began to circulate on campus that September and in October, the girl reported the relationship to her parents, who called police.

Downey teen Viviana Gonzalez gets in to West Point

DOWNEY – Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard recently met at her district office with Viviana Gonzalez of Downey, who has been appointed to West Point's Class of 2020.

Roybal-Allard nominated Gonzalez for this appointment.

During Gonzalez's visit to the office, the congresswoman presented her with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition. Gonzalez's father, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, also attended the meeting.

Gonzalez will be graduating this year from Cornelia Connelly High School in Anaheim, where she has been a member of the

varsity volleyball team and the JV swim team. She decided to pursue a nomination to West Point after attending a service academy workshop during her sophomore year, as well as West Point's Summer Leaders Experience.

She is also a member of a local Infantry Explorers Post, which meets at the Los Alamitos base. Her professional goal is to become a psychologist, so that she can help fellow soldiers in need of counseling.

She is the daughter of Juan Carlos and Sylvia Gonzalez.

Military service academies offer students a fully funded college



education in exchange for these students committing to at least five years of military service as commissioned officers after they graduate.



Downey resident Alicia Edquist, an instructional lab tech and adjunct journalism professor at Cerritos College, received the Rich Cameron Volunteer of the Year award this past weekend.

The award was presented at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges state convention, held at the Marriott Hotel in Burbank.

"I have been so fortunate to have the privilege to work with such an amazing mentor, instructor, colleague and friend," said Edquist, referring to Rich Cameron, faculty adviser for the Talon Marks, Cerritos College's campus newspaper. "Words cannot express my excitement, appreciation and honor I feel at this moment!"

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 78°

Saturday 80°

Sunday 76°

THINGS TO DO



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday - First Baptist Church of Downey, 8:30 a.m.

Pancake breakfast, arts and crafts, stories, and 5,000 candy-filled eggs.



Easter Egg-Stravaganza

Saturday - Norwalk Civic Center, 12:30 p.m.

Crafts, games, food and Easter egg hunts for kids of all ages.



Family Game Night

Saturday - Columbia Memorial Space Center, 6 p.m.

Life-sized Jenga, karaoke, raffles, robotic missions, and more.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

Poll results show residents support sales tax increase

Raul Cruz: I would like to meet the residents that are happy with city hall and with an increase of taxes! They must not use Firestone and Lakewood; those projects are over budget and late.

Alida Chacon: Lol...at first I thought this article was from The Onion. I have yet to find a Downey resident who is even remotely "ok" with this tax increase.

Kevin Boyington: And the city's paying how much for the fireworks show this year...

Gordon Clemmer: Funny how every time there is a proposal for a tax increase it is sold as either for 1. Schools 2. Public Safety. I guess if they told the truth and said "we are fiscally incompetent and we need more money for our pet projects" they would not get their money.

Reach us on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/DowneyPatriot](https://www.facebook.com/DowneyPatriot)

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@TheRealJerryH: Instead of taxing citizens, the City of Downey should've not given tax breaks to all of those businesses at that new mall.

Follow us! @DowneyPatriot

discoverDowney

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL SPACE CENTER
CITY OF DOWNEY

city of **STEM**
science festival

Celebrate **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math** with fun events for kids and adults!

For a detailed schedule of the daily activities, go to COLUMBIASPACESCIENCE.ORG

AND JOIN US FOR THE

Big SCIENCE FEST

City of STEM all month long!
Open for FREE for the whole week March 29 - April 2

AT THE SPACE CENTER
SATURDAY, APRIL 2
Vendors, Food and Out of this World Fun!

Support from **Financial Partners CREDIT UNION**

@columbiaspace

QR code and social media icons.

Downey parks and recreation director Arlene Salazar was recognized by the City Council on Tuesday, her last in Downey. Salazar accepted a job with Pico Rivera.

Salazar was the driving force behind many of Downey's signature events over the past few years, including the World Cup party downtown, the Tour de Downey, and Special Olympics World Games hosting duties last summer.

Photo by John Zander



Downey resident Slim Tanner celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this month.

Slim is a World War II veteran and an accomplished musician and band leader.

He enjoys sharing his love of music with his great-grandson, Luke Ticknor.



Elijah (ID No. 16-17886), a 2-year-old male Domestic Short Hair gray tabby, is SEAAAC's Pet of the Week.

Elijah is athletic, very curious, and already neutered. He is looking for a home that will keep him entertained.

To adopt Elijah, or another animal like him, visit SEAAAC during animal viewing hours.



St. Raymond Catholic Church
12348 Paramount Blvd., Downey CA 90242
Phone: 562-923-4509 • Fax: 562-869-3359
Website: www.saintraymond.org • E-mail: info@saintraymond.org

Holy Thursday - The Evening Mass of Our Lord's Supper
March 24th - 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 25th
12 noon 7 Last Words (Spanish)
3:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion (English)
6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion (English)
8:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion (Spanish)

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil Mass
March 26th - 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Mass Times
March 27th - 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (English)
1:00 p.m. (Spanish) (No 5:30 p.m. Life Teen Mass)

Spring Worship Directory

Come Celebrate Easter Morning at
HOLY REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Festive Worship Music & Holy Communion
10:00 am
Family Continental Breakfast
11:00 am

14515 Blaine Avenue
(Blaine and Maplewood)
Bellflower, CA 90706
562-867-0714

Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church
Celebrate Easter with us
Saturday, Apr. 26 at 11:00AM
Set Free
9820 Lakewood Blvd. - 562.869.6013
www.downeychurch.org

iglesia cristiana de
downey
first christian church

www.downeyfirst.org ~ www.iglesia-cristiana.org
(562) 862-2438 (562) 862-7418

YOU'RE INVITED!
Easter Sunday, March 27
English Worship
8:30 am & 10:00 am
Spanish Worship
12:30 pm
Family Cafe open 8 am - Noon
We have newly remodeled areas for your kids!

10909 New St., Downey, CA 90241
Encouraging message ~ Uplifting music ~ Outstanding childcare
Casual atmosphere ~ Friendly people ~ Community minded

Holy Week
Messiah Lutheran Church
10711 Paramount Boulevard • Downey • CA
Palm Sunday ~ March 20 ~ 9:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday ~ March 24
7:00 p.m.
Good Friday ~ March 25
7:00 pm
Easter Sunday ~ March 27
9:00 a.m. - Easter Service
10:30 a.m. - Breakfast
11:00 a.m. Egg Hunt for children 12 & younger
For more information call
(562) 923-1215

Celebrate Easter
at Downey United Methodist Church
10801 Downey Aveue
Pancake Breakfast 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Children's Easter Egg Hunt
following Worship Service

HE HAS RISEN

Making a difference for Christ in Downey and beyond

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

EVENTS FOR MARCH

Saturday, March 26: **Easter egg hunt**, First Baptist Church of Downey, 8:30 a.m.
 Tuesday, March 29: **Pub Science Night**, Columbia Memorial Space Center, 7-9 p.m.
 Wednesday, March 30: **Cosmic Carnival**, Columbia Memorial Space Center.
 Thursday, March 31: **Girls in STEM**, Columbia Memorial Space Center.

CITY MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.
 1st Tue., 4:00pm.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.
 1st Tue., 6:00pm: Emergency Preparedness Committee, at Fire Station No. 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.
 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.
 3rd Tue., 6:30pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.
 4th Mon., 5 pm: Green Task Force, at City Hall.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

MONDAYS

7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 869-6478.
 2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, call 304-3439
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

TUESDAYS

9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Paul Sheets at 714-618-1142.
 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call William Medina 413-3477.
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.
 7 pm: Healing Room and Prayer, at Desert Reign Church 11610 Lakewood Blvd, call 861-6011.
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.
 2nd Tues., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 905-7103.
 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 pm: Sertoma Club, at Cafe 'N Stuff, call 927-6438.
 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
 7 pm: Out Post 132 Royal Rangers, at Desert Reign Church, call 928-8000.
 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Cindy 803-4048.
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.
 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, at Los Amigos Country Club, call Helen 864-7319.
 2nd Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 928-4132.
 3rd Wed.: Downey Dog Obedience Club, at Apollo Park, call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call (310) 604-0725.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Armida Lugo, (562) 715-6142.
 3rd Wed., 6 pm: American Business Women's Association, Rio Hondo Country Club, call Barbara 863-2192.
 4th Wed., 12:00 pm: Retired Federal Employees, at Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
 7:30 am.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.
 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.
 7 pm: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, call 776-3388.
 1st Thurs., 12:00 pm: Downey Christian & Professional Luncheon, Sizzler's Restaurant, call James 310-1335.
 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm.: The Downey Amateur Radio Club, at First Baptist Church room 120.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6 pm: Lions Club, at Coco's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.
 3rd Thurs., 6 pm: Downey CIPAC, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

FRIDAYS

7:30 am: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618.
 3rd Fri., 8:30 am: Women's "In His Glory" Ministry at Los Amigos C. C. 622-3785.

SATURDAYS

9 am: Farmers Market, Downey Avenue at 3rd Street, call 904-7246.
 4th Sat., 12:00 pm: Downey Arts Coalition, email contact@downeyarts.org.

On This Day...

March 24, 1765: Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.
1958: Elvis Presley was inducted into the Army in Memphis, Tenn.
2002: Halle Berry became the first African-American performer to win a best actress Oscar, for "Monster's Ball."
BIRTHDAYS: Fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger (65), comedian Louie Anderson (63), wrestler The Undertaker (51), actor Jim Parsons (43) and retired quarterback Peyton Manning (40).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
ELECTRIC COMPANY: For a pleasant kilowatt-hour
 by Gail Grabowski

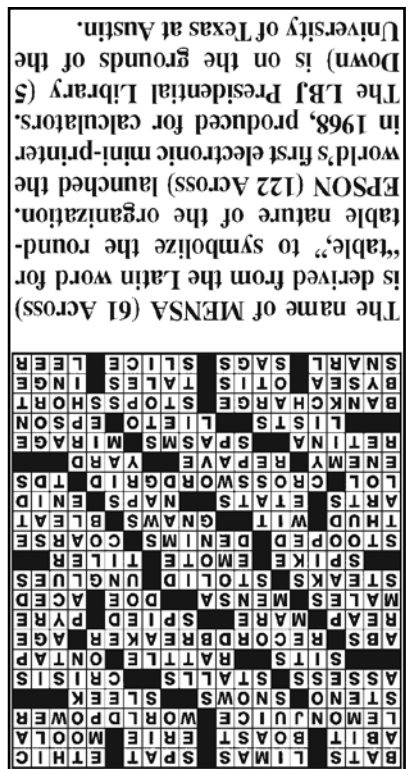
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|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 81 Ill-mannered | 9 Custodian |
| 1 Dugout array | 84 Dull sound | 10 Run up a seam |
| 5 Green beans | 85 Clever person | 11 Person playing for pay |
| 10 Tiff | 87 Chews like a mouse | 12 Broadcasts |
| 14 Moral principle | 89 Sound from a sheep | 13 Legendary archer |
| 19 Somewhat | 90 Dance and drama | 14 Sort of autocrat |
| 20 Talk big | 91 French states | 15 Hoodwinked |
| 21 Southernmost Great Lake | 94 Catches some z's | 16 "In what manner?" |
| 22 Bucks | 96 Oklahoma city | 17 Adjectival ending |
| 23 Mayonnaise ingredient | 97 Bit of cybermirth | 18 Preceder of pool or port |
| 25 Major player in international affairs | 98 Across-and-down pattern | 24 Polite refusal |
| 27 Shorthand user, for short | 102 NFL scores | 26 End of the fourth qtr. |
| 28 Hoodwinks | 103 Nemesis | 29 Concrete chunk |
| 30 Finely contoured | 105 Do some roadwork | 32 Mushroom part |
| 31 Size up | 106 Cloth measure | 34 USPS deliveries |
| 33 Plays for time | 108 Pupil's neighbor | 35 Short distance |
| 36 Dire situation | 110 Muscle twitches | 37 Keep up |
| 40 Plops down | 113 It's not there | 38 "Fine by me!" |
| 42 Unnerve | 117 Rosters | 39 Makes tracks |
| 45 Ready to pour | 120 Be dishonest with | 41 Bogus offer |
| 46 Muscles worked in sit-ups | 122 Printer brand | 43 Placed down |
| 49 Historical achievement | 123 ATM fee, for example | 44 Barely manage |
| 53 Era | 128 Slams on the brakes | 46 Munitions |
| 54 Pick peppers, say | 130 Nautically | 47 Tuckered out |
| 56 Colt's mom | 131 Big name in elevators | 48 Retail venue |
| 57 Caught a glimpse of | 132 Some Chaucer stories | 50 Mine extractions |
| 58 Combustible heap | 133 Picnic playwright | 51 On a lease |
| 59 Bucks and bulls | 134 Entanglement | 52 Blissful |
| 61 High-IQ club | 135 Losses strength | 55 Staple of Chinese cuisine |
| 64 Forest female | 136 Piece of cake | 58 Lager alternative |
| 65 Sailed through | 137 Impolite look | 60 Disregard |
| 66 Swordfish servings | DOWN | 62 To a degree |
| 68 Unemotional | 1 Hobbyist's wood | 63 In the course of |
| 71 Separates, in a way | 2 Shills for, say | 67 Kebob stick |
| 73 Electrical surge | 3 Eras | 69 Pack __ (quit) |
| 75 Overplay a part | 4 Landscaping materials | 92 Ft. oz. fractions |
| 76 Flooring specialist | 5 His Library is at the U of T | 93 Transpose |
| 77 Crouched | 6 Promises to pay | 95 Neighbor of French Indo-China |
| 79 Overalls fabrics | 7 Large water pipes | 98 Curmudgeonly |
| | 8 Fancy tie | 99 Cameo shape |
| | | 100 Doesn't go quietly |
| | | 101 Loses moisture |
| | | 104 Dairy machine |
| | | 107 TV psychologist |
| | | 109 Defense secretary Carter |
| | | 111 Bullion, for instance |
| | | 112 Grey Goose rival, for short |
| | | 114 Unified |
| | | 115 Small canyon |
| | | 116 Drama direction |
| | | 118 Kit Carson House town |
| | | 119 Sp. miss |
| | | 121 Oil Market Report producer |
| | | 123 Air-gun ammo |
| | | 124 Author Rand |
| | | 125 Code-cracking org. |
| | | 126 Band booking |
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| | | 129 GPS reading |

Reach Stan Newman at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, or at www.StanXwords.com

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Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Today's topic affects us all... if we're lucky. It's the most reliable sign of aged skin: wrinkles. Why do we get them? Is there anything we can do to slow them down, or to minimize them?



Wrinkles are found in healthy skin. Babies are born with them. As we age, our skin gets thinner, drier and less elastic. It loses some of its ability to protect itself from damage. Creases, folds, and ridges form. The first wrinkles to appear on our face tend to occur as a result of facial expressions, but sun damage, smoking, dehydration, some medications, and a number of other factors also cause wrinkles to develop. Our genetic makeup has a big influence on how wrinkled we become, and when and where wrinkles start to appear.

Those wrinkles that occur in areas of muscle contraction, such as the forehead and upper face, and around the mouth, are known as intrinsic aging wrinkles.

Extrinsic aging wrinkles, on the other hand, are caused by exposure to environmental factors like ultraviolet radiation (sun exposure) and cigarette smoking. This kind of wrinkling occurs mostly in sun-exposed areas and is spread out, fine, and shallow. Heredity plays a large part for this kind of wrinkling, and certain fair-skinned ethnic groups are more prone to it, including the Scottish, Irish, and English. Those with darkly pigmented skin are less likely to show this type of wrinkling.

Cellulite is a type of wrinkling found most commonly in women. It is often associated with obesity, and appears in the hips, thighs, and buttocks. The skin has an "orange peel" appearance, caused by fat tissue in the dermis (the lower deep layer of the skin).

Even though wrinkles can give us the appearance of wisdom, most of us don't welcome them. Every year, billions of dollars are spent on treatments globally. Cost and effectiveness vary enormously.

Many cosmetic procedures are used. As you might imagine, they are not normally covered by insurance. Treatments include:

- Paralysis of superficial muscles with Botox
- Filling in depressions
- Skin surgical treatments (chemical peels, dermabrasion, and laser resurfacing) that remove the sun-damaged outer layers of the skin. Some of these treatments require anesthesia and an operating room. As the surface heals, a thicker and healthier outer skin layer develops, and new collagen forms in the deeper skin layers.

•Topical treatments, which include creams such as Vitamin A, alpha hydroxyl acids, antioxidants, and moisturizers.

Alternatively, here are some preventive measures you can take today - they are free of charge and have great side effects! They may help to slow the progression of wrinkles, and certainly won't hurt:

- Protect your skin from the sun every day. Seek shade, cover up with clothing, and use a broad-spectrum sunscreen. Every time the skin tans or burns, it is aging prematurely.

- If you smoke, stop now. Did you need yet another reason? Smoking speeds up how quickly skin ages. It leads to wrinkles and a dull, sallow complexion.

- Avoid repetitive facial expressions. When you repeatedly contract the same muscles for many years, these lines can actually become permanent.

- Wear sunglasses to reduce lines from squinting.

- Eat a healthy, well-balanced diet. It may help to prevent damage.

- Drink less alcohol. Alcohol dehydrates the skin, and, in time, causes damage.

- Exercise regularly, as this improves circulation. Better circulation may give the skin a more youthful appearance.

- Cleanse your skin gently. Do not scrub or use strong topical creams. Repeated irritation can accelerate skin aging.

Clearly, wrinkles don't harm our health - not physically, that is. The decision to treat them through costly cosmetic procedures will depend on how much they bother you when you look into the mirror...and on your spending priorities.

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans don't have living wills

It's a difficult topic for many to discuss let alone take action on. What are your legal health care wishes in the unfortunate chance you are incapacitated and can't speak or act for yourself?

With the nation's elderly population increasing, America's emergency physicians urge adults of any age to get their affairs in order when it comes to advance directives.

"A living will expresses your own health care wishes in written form if you were unable to verbally do so yourself," said Jay Kaplan, MD, FACEP, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "If you were in a coma from an accident, for example, and never wanted a feeding tube - your living will would need to say that."

What is an Advance Directive?

An advance directive is a legal document stating your medical wishes if you were unable to express them yourself. They would include a power of attorney and living will. It states to your doctor and/or any health care worker what type of care you would want (i.e. no breathing tube, etc.) if you were too ill to tell someone yourself.

You should know you are also able to change the documents at any time. It is also written when you are deemed competent and able to understand what these decisions mean and how they will affect you. Also, it is recommended you give a copy of the advance directive to someone (i.e. your doctor) so your wishes can be properly carried out (do not leave your advance directive in a safety deposit box where no one would be able to find it).

However, each state has slightly different variations to their advance directive laws, so please refer to your local governmental authority or <https://www.uslivingwillregistry.com/> for further details.

What is a Living Will?

A living will expresses your own healthcare wishes if you were unable to do so yourself in the written form. For example, if you were in a coma (let's say, from an accident) and you never wanted to have a feeding tube placed. If you stated this in your living will, then a feeding tube will not be placed if this was documented in your living will advance directive.

Some other living will directives may include whether or not to undergo dialysis, to donate any of your tissue or organs, and/or whether to have your heart restarted (either chemically or electrically) if it ever stopped. Again, your living will can be changed at any time and again, refer to your local state laws for specific governmental details.

What is a Power of Attorney?

A power of attorney is someone you trust (usually a family member or close friend, greater than 18 years of age) to make medical decisions for you if you were ever unable to yourself. For example, let's say you became suddenly ill and unable to breathe (and speak) on your own. Your power of attorney is contacted. If the power of attorney knows you never wanted to have a breathing tube placed, they would be able to tell the healthcare professionals taking care, making sure your wishes are fulfilled.

Of note, in some states, if you have a living will AND a power of attorney, the power of attorney's opinion may trump that of your living will. For instance, if you come through an emergency department unconscious, and your living will states you don't want your heart restarted, but your power of attorney states you do, then your heart would try to be restarted. There are state specific guidelines for this appointment as well, so again contact your local state governmental agency for additional information

Canned tuna recalled due to possible health risks

Bumble Bee Foods and Tri-Union Seafoods are voluntarily recalling canned chunk light tuna because of possible health risks.

Bumble Bee is recalling 31,579 cases of the canned tuna with UPC codes 8660000020, 8660000021 and 8660000736. They were produced in February 2016 and distributed nationally.

The company said they could pose a possible health risk because of "process deviations" which occurred in a packing facility not owned or operated by Bumble Bee.

"The recall is being initiated out of an abundance of caution due to the possible under-processing of the affected products," Bumble Bee said.

Tri-Union Seafoods is recalling 2,745 cases of Chicken of the Sea brand canned tuna because it might be undercooked due to an

equipment malfunction, according to manufacturer Tri-Union Seafoods.

"During a routine inspection, it was discovered there was a malfunction in a machinery part. That part has been replaced, and the proper functionality of the machine verified," said John DeBeer, vice president of Quality and Compliance for Chicken of the Sea.

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Preservationists hunt for the first Cinderella home in Downey

DOWNEY – Downey resident Kathy Perez did some research after reading an article that the first “Cinderella Home” built by Jean Valjean VanDruff in 1954 was located in Downey.

The article, titled “The Fading Romance of America’s Cinderella Homes,” was published last week on CityLab.com, a publication of The Atlantic.

“These low-slung, ranch-style houses, marked by high-gabled, shake-shingle roofs and decorative gingerbread trim, sold a fantasy,” the story read. “These were storybook homes, designed through and through to appeal to the nuclear family at the dawn of the Atomic Age.

“They also sold dreams of Western expansion and middle-class membership—dreams that have faded as much as the homes themselves.”

We will let Kathy Perez take it from here:

“After reading the article, “The Fading Romance of America’s Cinderella Homes,” and learning that the first Cinderella Home was built in Downey in 1954 by Jean Valjean VanDruff, I started searching for more information to locate this very special home. I found a website and contact information for Mr. VanDruff, not knowing if it was still current or if Mr. VanDruff was still alive. I was so excited when I received a reply from the man himself, but dismayed when he

couldn't remember the address, just the cross streets.

“I took architecture at USC, and started designing and building custom homes in Downey in 1949. I enjoyed it so much, I dropped out of school and concentrated on home building.

Then, in 1954, I designed a home on Lubec Street near Arrington. My wife, Eleanor, saw me designing it and said it should be a home for Cinderella - a magic moment. When it was finished, I put a sign up on the side of the front yard, calling it the Cinderella Home. Both outside and inside, it was an unbelievable sensation. People came from everywhere to see it, lining up into the street to come in. We estimated that about 35,000 people came to see that home, but in the meantime, my brother and I decided to quit custom building and go into tract building. The fantastic success of that home helped us to accomplish it, our first tract having 168 homes in west Anaheim in 1955. So, actually Kathy, there is only one Cinderella Home in Downey. All the others were pre-Cinderella. In all modesty, I did contribute some wonderful homes to the city of Downey, but they were before the Cinderella sensation.”

I contacted George Redfox and he did a bit of google sleuthing. He found what he thought might be our Cinderella Home. I sent Mr. VanDruff the photo and this is what he wrote back:

“Right on! Kathy, it couldn't be missed! It even still has the



original garage door which was an integral facet of the architecture. The shrubbery is TERRIBLY overgrown, and the roof just doesn't have the soft, wonderful character that the cedar shakes had.

You are exactly correct in your understanding that the building permit was taken out in 1953 and, of course, construction would have started immediately. It probably took about 5 months to build. The shrubbery should be removed and replaced with new plantings. It almost totally hides the Palos Verdes stonework and literally dominates the picture. The ‘thing’ on the lawn, beside the driveway, is a unique Palos Verdes planter and big decorative hanging light fixture, but you would never know it. After all these years, the buried light fixture is probably no

good. It was quite a beautiful feature when it was new.

As McDonald's Golden Arches has to be the most renowned structure and business in Downey, the Cinderella Home was surely the most renowned residence.”

Finding Mr. VanDruff and his Cinderella Home has made the last couple of days quite exciting! I was so afraid that both he and the home were gone. Knowing that they are both in great shape is great news! I hope that we can move forward and do whatever we can to make sure that this “renowned residence” is celebrated and protected from alteration and demolition.

Kathy Perez and George Redfox are board members with the Downey Conservancy.

Downey school board gives award to custodial staff

DOWNEY – Downey High School's custodial staff, along with Downey Adult School utility worker Greg Ruiz, were honored by the Downey Board of Education on March 8.

These 17 employees were

presented with the Shared Values award in the area of Clean and Safe Schools for providing learning environments that promote high performance within the school community.

Principal of DHS, Tom Houts, and Downey Adult School, Blanca Rochin, presented the awards to their staff members for the “enormous support” they have given to the Downey Unified

students at their respective school sites.

“I am extremely grateful for a staff that takes pride in their work,” stated Houts. “With a large school site such as ours, this group works long hours to sustain such a well maintained campus. I am very proud to be here tonight to recognize this group of dedicated individuals.”

The DHS custodial staff that were presented with certificates included: Abner Carrera, Reymundo Corrales, Marco Estrada, Monica Flores, Efrén García, Harvey Gunkle, Jose Leal, Ana Mendez, Shawn Orsinger, Steven Stepp, Roman Torres, Moises Velazquez, Edmundo Vizcaino, Christopher Williams and Mercedes Zapata.

“In the Downey Unified mission it states that ‘Our highly qualified staff foster meaningful relationships with students, parents and the community...’” expressed Rochin. “Greg is a great example of the highly qualified staff our district is referring to; his attitude is great and he truly creates a positive school culture.”

“Downey Unified would like to thank all who were recognized tonight for the amazing work they do,” stated D. Mark Morris, President of the Board of Education. “Considering how big our campuses are, it is gratifying how our employees do such a great job. They truly makes a difference in our students' lives and I am proud we are honoring each of these individuals with our Shared Values award.”

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Verla Allen, longtime teacher, passes away

DOWNEY – Verla Maurine Oldham Allen passed away peacefully, with her family at her side, on March 9 at her home in Long Beach.

Verla was born in Coalgate, Okla., on Jan. 29, 1921. She attended Oklahoma A&M, in Stillwater, Okla., where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics, in 1942.

While attending college, she met Marvin Richard Allen. After both graduated in 1942, Marvin entered World War II by joining the U.S. Army Air Corp. During the war, Verla taught high school.

Marvin returned from the war in 1945 and they were married in Stillwater. While starting a family, both worked on their masters degrees and received them in 1952. Verla received a Master of Science in Home Economics.



Both continued to teach until they moved their family of three children to Long Beach in 1952. Upon their arrival in Long Beach, Verla was hired as a Home Economics teacher at Downey High School. A fourth child was born in Long Beach in 1953. Verla continued to teach at Downey High School until her retirement in 1984.

After Marvin's passing in 1985, Verla continued to work as a substitute teacher for Downey Unified School District, into her 70's.

She is survived by her son, Stephen Allen; daughters Linda James, Judi Overturf, Susan Owenby; 7 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren.

Services will be held at Cypress Forest Lawn Church of Our Fathers on Saturday, March 26, at 9 am.

Jim Weston, Koran War veteran, mourned

DOWNEY – On March 15, James "Jim" Weston passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family.

Jim was born Jan. 22, 1932, in Niagra, Wisconsin, to Harry and Helen (Lindstrom) Weston. When he was very young, the family relocated to West Bend, Wisconsin, where Jim spent his childhood, living on the shores of Silver Lake.



In 1951, Jim joined the US Army, and served during the Korean War, and later, in the Wisconsin National Guard. After his military service, Jim attended the Milwaukee Business College, and entered the civilian work force.

In 1962, he met Mary Coon, and on July 20, 1963, Jim and Mary got married.

In 1964, Jim and Mary moved to Downey, into the house where they raised their son, and where they lived for nearly 53 years.

Jim is survived by his wife Mary, son Tim, daughter-in-law Mari, and granddaughters Emily and Meghan.

The funeral service will be held on March 24 at Miller Mies mortuary in Downey at 11 a.m. Interment will be at Riverside National Cemetery on April 1 at 9:30 a.m.

Space center hosting Cosmic Carnival

DOWNEY – The Columbia Memorial Space Center will host a "Cosmic Carnival" this Wednesday, March 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The event will feature specialized tours, robotics labs, activities, and science presentations in Spanish. This marks the start of the space center's efforts to enhance the Hispanic community's participation in STEM by debuting programming translated in Spanish.

For more details, go to columbiaspacescience.org or call (562) 231-1200.

Shared Stories: My Favorite Cup

As with many of her generation, the arc of Daniela Kanz's secretarial career traces the development of technology from manual typewriter to word processing in the computer age. Shared Stories is a weekly column featuring articles by participants in a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Bonnie Mansell is the instructor for this free class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. Curated by Carol Kearns

By Daniela Kanz

A favorite coffee cup of mine had the saying on it "I FAXED MYSELF TO HAWAII. – A SECRETARY'S DREAM."

I no longer have that cup or that dream as I went to Hawaii with my youngest daughter in 2013. Thinking about that cup brings back memories of working as a secretary (or administrative assistant as it is now called). There is a celebratory week and day in April that has been in existence since 1952 celebrating this profession.

In high school I learned the Pitman method of shorthand. It was a difficult system whereby one had to use a pencil to make the dark and light strokes, and the strokes could be either on the line, over the line, or under the line depending on the sound of the word. I did manage to learn the system, but was never able to gain much speed as I was overly concerned about being unable to read back what I wrote.

During this time in high school, a visitor came to an assembly who was a speed typist. He typed over 100 words per minute on a manual typewriter. This was a pivotal moment for me as I decided I would one day type that fast. I took several business related subjects in high school and upon graduation ended up working at a bank near Wall Street.

In order to move into a better position as secretary to the bank manager, I needed to have good shorthand skills. While riding the subway, I saw an advertisement for the Speedwriting School that taught an alphabetic form of shorthand. I

enrolled in this school, continued to gather speed in my typing, and managed to pass the shorthand test at the bank.

I worked there until moving to California where my typing skills landed me a job at North American Aviation – the forerunner to Rockwell/Autonetics, now Boeing. I eventually moved from typist to secretary there as well.

One of my favorite comments about the job at Autonetics was that while the engineers I worked for developed the plans for the Apollo, we produced so much paperwork that the astronauts would not need the space ship. All they needed to do was climb to the moon using all the paperwork as a ladder. I worked there for five years.

Then, while my children were little, I turned to waitressing as I could earn more money in less hours as a waitress. I joined the waitress union and I received many jobs through the union hall working for caterers.

This came in very handy when my husband was on strike at his union job at the company that made cartridge cases for the military going to Viet Nam. The caterer felt sorry for my family and provided us with any leftovers from the various weddings, bar or bat mitzvahs, and studio parties we worked. I also worked at the Hollywood Paladium as a banquet waitress working events such as the Grammys and New Year's Eve as well as New Year's Day Breakfast.

Additionally, I often took jobs at the Coliseum handing out hot dogs and beer at union wages. One of my favorite waitress memories was getting ready for the Magic Mountain opening. There was to be a big pre-opening festivity for a huge crowd of Hollywood celebrities.

The day before the event, we all worked in a big warehouse putting together box dinners in pretty flower boxes. The caterer needed so many people to work handing out the boxed meals and to work the bars that they asked the regulars if we could get family members to help out – even if they weren't union. A great

many of my male family members knew how to be bartenders and they helped fill the bill.

When we moved to New Mexico, I went to work for the Sears Catalog Store in Hobbs as the teletypist and I was back to my love of typing. I would make a game of it to see how many orders I could type and submit to Dallas before the deadline so that customers would receive their orders in the shortest amount of time.

While working at Sears, I decided to further my education by attending New Mexico Junior College. I thought that perhaps getting my Associates Degree in Secretarial Science would help me secure a better paying job and would offset the years I gave up office work.

It was at NMJC that I learned about Word Processing. I flew through the machine transcription class due to my typing skills and finally met my goal of typing 100 words per minute. I enjoyed machine transcription over shorthand, but the course required I learn Gregg Shorthand - the third system I attempted to learn.

Again, I was so fearful of being unable to read what I wrote, that I fell back to my Speedwriting whenever I needed it, but really preferred machine transcription with a Dictaphone.

After graduation from NMJC, I went to work for a bank in Hobbs in the Word Processing Department ending up as supervisor over five operators as the department and bank grew. I even ended up in a national magazine due to a measurement report to management I devised.

Word processing was the up and coming office production endeavor during the 1970s.

When we returned to California, my word processing experience landed me a job for the company that was contracted to put in the 911 emergency system for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. I like to say I worked that contract from cradle to grave as I was hired during contract negotiations, and after the system was up and running, the company managed a five-year maintenance contract.

This extended the life span of my tenure to almost 11 years. I retired from that company, but didn't stop working. I will always be thankful to this company as they subsidized my going back to school and getting my bachelor's degree.

Over the years, I had yearnings to teach and often volunteered as a Sunday school teacher at my church, so I decided to obtain a California Teaching Credential. After acquiring the credential, I was able to teach adults computer applications at ABC and Paramount adult schools.

I especially enjoyed working with seniors as I understood their anxieties, having had similar experiences while learning the ever-evolving computer literacy required nowadays. Only someone who typed on a regular typewriter would know about using the letter 'L' for the numeral one (1). You cannot do that in a computer spreadsheet.

Due to medical issues, I am now a retiree living with my youngest daughter. She is a fourth grade teacher at Hollydale School in the Paramount Unified School District. Sometimes I visit her class to help her students with their reading. One of her students gifted her with a cup that is now my favorite. It states: "Teachers make A difference."

Beer and science at Downey Brewing Company

DOWNEY – Downey Brewing Company, in conjunction with the Columbia Memorial Space Center, will host a "Pub Science Night" this Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Konstantin Batygin, an assistant professor of planetary science at CalTech. In 2015, Forbes placed her on its list of "30 Under 30: Young Scientists Who Are Changing the World."

The event is free and open to the public.



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Keeping the peace between children when estate planning

By Nathaniel Sillin

When you die, will your kids fight over your money?

It's an important question that might be hard to answer now, but parents who devote themselves to estate planning with relevant updates over their lifetimes can potentially keep arguments between adult children to a minimum.

As of 2013, American retirees are the sixth most generous in the world when it comes to the amount of assets passed on to family, according to a survey by HSBC, the global British bank. The latest survey (<http://www.about.hsbc.com.au/news-and-media>) noted that 56 percent of American retirees plan to leave an inheritance with an average amount of \$176,814.

How you allocate your estate, no matter what the amount, requires planning and proper communication. Here are a few ways to start.

Know where you stand first. If you haven't updated your estate planning in the last 5-10 years, do so now to fully understand your complete financial picture. Like all personal finance issues, estate planning should be adjusted when significant life changes happen or there is a major shift in assets, such as when a relative needs help.

In short, your estate picture has to reflect current financial realities, so before you decide how to allocate your wealth either before or after you die, seek qualified financial, tax (<https://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Estate-and-Gift-Taxes>) and estate advice.

Once you've determined distribution, confirm your plan. Managing money and family are usually parallel issues until the topic of estate planning arises. For some families, splitting money, property and possessions more or less equally among adult children is a smooth process.

However, when it doesn't result in the fairest outcome for everyone involved, it can be trickier to navigate. Varying situations for each child might mean that an even split won't work. Once you

are able to determine your assets, start thinking through how you can distribute them.

Re-affirm your executor and powers of attorney. Making a will and designating various health, financial and business powers of attorney as applicable are the standard first steps in estate planning. Certain kinds of trusts might also be relevant.

Generally it's good to have documents in place (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/estateplanning>) early in life. As your children get older, it's a good idea to review those documents and designated leadership.

Start communicating. Hollywood has produced many a movie scene with family members sitting nervously in a lawyer's office waiting for the will to be read. Such

moments make for great comedy or drama, but not great modern estate planning.

Based on what you hope to leave your family, the state of your relationship with your adult children and whatever weigh-in you get from qualified advisors, it's usually better to communicate your plans to your children in advance in person and make sure your legal documents confirm exactly what you plan to do.

Bottom line: Could your current estate planning eventually put your kids and other family members at odds? Don't wait - the time to update or start estate planning is right now.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

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YOU'RE COVERED!

How to Find the Home that's Right for You!

For the majority of homebuyers, finding the right property to buy is often the most difficult step of the home buying process- more difficult than saving for a down payment or getting a mortgage. Before you start your search, consider these important factors.

- 1. How much house can you afford?** Knowing what you can afford will help you narrow your search to homes within your budget. The basic rule of thumb is that no more than **28%** of your gross annual income should be applied to your mortgage, insurance and property taxes.
- 2. What type of home do you want?** What features make up the ideal home for you and your family? How many bedrooms should it have? Do you want a pool? Do you want a detached home with a big yard or a condo with a patio? Conversely, what features would eliminate a home from your list of prospects? Knowing what you want, and don't want, will help you focus your search on homes that fit your needs.
- 3. Location, location, location!** Choosing real estate is more than whether you want to live in the city, in the suburbs or away from it all in a rural area. Your neighborhood matters. In fact, **59%** of recent buyers said the quality of the neighborhood was the top factor influencing where they lived. Whether you want a house in a great school district or one that's convenient to health facilities, defining the qualities of your neighborhood will help you narrow your search area.

Top Reasons for Purchasing a Home¹

1. Desire to own a home
2. Desire for a larger home
3. Job-related relocation or move
4. Change in the family situation
5. Desire to be closer to family/friends/relatives

Top Factors Influencing Neighborhood Choice¹

1. Quality of the neighborhood
2. Convenient to job
3. Overall affordability of homes
4. Convenient to friends/family
5. Design of neighborhood

Fact: Homeowners lived in their homes for a median of **9 years** before selling. However, recent homebuyers say they expect to live in their homes **15 years!**

Looking for a quick estimate based on your finances? Visit Bankrate.com and use their "How Much Can I Afford" calculator.

Are you ready to start your home search? Let's discuss it! Once you've define what the right home looks like, pop into the office or call me and we'll discuss your options and I'll give you the scoop on what to expect during the process. Finding the right home can be a difficult process; however, with an experienced professional by your side, you're sure to make the right decision.

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OUR CLIENTS

"Flor Martinez did a good job! Flor put a lot of effort into marketing my property and holding Open House." - Jose Quirarte

"Maria Franco did an excellent job!" - Jorge Chavez

"Lety Munoz did an excellent job and made everything convenient for me!" - Francisco Villasenor

FEATURED PROPERTY

Spish Splash!
Beautiful large home located in prestigious NE Downey offers a lot of privacy at the end of a cul-de-sac. Diamond shape lot with over 10,500 sq. ft. surrounded by mature trees and manicured landscaping. The pool is 12 feet deep, heated and with a nice diving board. Call Today!!!

TOP PRODUCERS

TOP LISTING Juan Delacruz
TOP PRODUCTION Maria Franco
TOP SALES Manuel Acuna

One Of A Kind!
This 11,000 sqft. custom Downey home sits on over an acre of land. The property features 7 bedrooms, 13 bathrooms, pool house, workout room, sports court, study/library, tree house, game room, 6 car garage and a movie theater that seats approximately 10 people. Call Today For Info!!!

Great Downey Home!
This home shows like a model home. Granite throughout. Lots of remodel. Shows great. Newer kitchen and baths. Park like back yard. Family room. Newer plumbing, roof and electric. 3 attic fans. Walk to Rio San Gabriel, Doty and Downey High Schools. Call Today!!!

Move In Ready!
MOVE IN READY! Newly remodeled kitchen, including new stone counter tops & tile floor, soft closing drawers & cabinets, stainless steel appliances. Newly remodeled bathrooms; dark wood laminated floors throughout; newly landscaped, including timed sprinklers in front & back yards; covered patio. Call Today For Info!!!

Excellent Downey Home!
Beautiful home and move in ready. Nice family room with cozy fireplace, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and inside laundry area. House has beautiful hardwood floors throughout the home and fresh paint in and out. The backyard has a large covered patio and is perfect to entertain. Call Today!!!

Prime Downey Location!
Great opportunity to purchase a 3 bed 2 bath home in Downey. This corner lot property is located near the orange estates neighborhood. The cozy home is a combination of updated amenities while keeping its Ranch style charm. Call Today!!!

Terrific Downey Home!!!
Very nice house you must see have to see the inside. 3 bedrooms 3 baths large family room. Back yard have parking for 6+ cars with electric gate. Close to freeway, stores & schools. Call Today!!!

North East Downey!
Best North East Downey location. Needs a little updating and will be beautiful home. Large Master bedroom with french doors to all formal living room and dining room - Family kitchen with island in center - Office with built in book case - Circular driveway in front 3 car garage - Guest house with 3/4 bath - Newer roof. Call Today!!!

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Built in Sweat Equity!
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JUST LISTED!
9306 Stamps, Downey
4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, great floor plan, professionally landscaped, stacked stone, 2 car detached garage, wrap around, outdoor patio living area, close to schools and shopping, great part of North Downey, 1,877 sq. ft. living space 9,027 sq. ft. lot.
Priced at \$75,000

Downey Home!
3 bedrooms, 1+3/4 baths, updated kitchen, 1,708 sq. ft. living space.
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List Price: \$1,189,000

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REDUCED

SO MUCH SPACE FOR A GOOD PRICE
3 BD, 2 BA + office, family room & a play room. Remodeled kitchen w/ appliances, inside laundry, central a/c, a bar in the family room, and a two-tier backyard.
List Price: \$474,950



MUST SEE

HUGE LOT NEAR STONEWOOD MALL
4 BD, 3 BA, 2,373 sq. ft. living space, 11,718 sq. ft. lot, living room & family room w/fireplace, master BD with private bath & backyard with pool.
List Price: \$775,000



COMING SOON

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN DOWNEY!
4 BD, 3 BA townhome currently under construction & will be ready for move-in this summer. Call for more details or a private showing of this new Downey community.
Call For Price!



COMING SOON

NORTH DOWNEY POOL HOME
4 BD, 2 BA, 2,750 sq ft home on a 10,000 sq ft lot nestled in a cul-de-sac with a pool & a detached bonus room. Near Gallatin Elementary.
List Price: \$779,900

Happy Easter!

