

SEAN ASHTON: We won't fix the homeless crisis by throwing money at it, says Downey councilman

Continued from page 1

Rain was forecast, but the cold and damp had held off, and the spring evening light lasted well beyond the interview.

Two tables were laden with vegan snacks, olives, wine and beer. Other tables held neat piles of books of poetry by local poets and t-shirts with quotes.

Poster boards held laminated clippings of my articles about the homeless women who stand at the post office, with colorful photos of one of them, "Julie."

These last minute decorations made it to the party thanks to the goodwill of Maria at Office Max, the one on Firestone near the old All-American site. She put them together at the last minute for me, and even found some coupons to help ease the expense.

I talked with artist Scotty Salmon - "like the fish" - whose colorful abstract shapes were underscored - pun intended - by five-line musical staves.

"This big one even has a title," Scotty said, and I could make out, between undulating golden swirls, the words "The Girl From Ipanema." Interpretation of the circles and triangles is left to the viewer.

This reporter interviewed some early arrivals, specifically one young woman with lime green hair done up in corkscrew curls.

"Why do you have green hair," I asked, and the answer was, she

used to work at Disneyland making costumes for the parades, and the employees' appearance there was rigidly regulated.

Now Sarah, 24, doesn't work at Disneyland, she runs a shop called Pop in Little Tokyo, and she is having the time of her life doing some of the things she always wanted to do. Oh, to be that young again.

Sarah had come with her friend Vicki because Vicki's fiancé, Steve Cheng, was the headliner musician for later in the evening.

Roy had just done some white on white pieces in honor of Robert Ryman, the important minimalist and conceptual artist who died in February, still working at age 88. Minimalism played a large part in Roy's development, and refers to a spare and bare style, a reaction to the more florid abstract expressionism of the twentieth century.

The Interview

At the appointed hour, a beginning audience of 10 or so had arrived. They sat on folding chairs in the large cement expanse around Roy's atelier in Santa Fe Springs, in a pleasantly isolated industrial park. His space's 20-ft. high ceilings accommodate Roy's newly expanded style. Not for every living room, but maybe for a foyer, the way Roy's guru Jackson Pollack's masterpiece "Mural 1943" dominated the entry to patron Peggy Guggenheim's Manhattan townhouse.

The cinderblock wall outside the compound made a bright backdrop as Downey Councilman Sean Ashton launched into an explanation of the ways that viewing the problem of homelessness have evolved.

"Homelessness cannot be cured by throwing money at it," Sean said. "Time has shown us that method doesn't solve the problem."

And the problem isn't homelessness at all.

"It's the myriad of modern-day troubles," said Sean, "which lead to that final disaster. If we can solve those, homelessness will go away."

"Last week at an inter-city conference on this subject," Sean said, "we identified factors, like a decline in the economy, and the eroding buying power of the middle and lower class worker's wage."

Then there is the un-affordability of housing; death of sheltering relatives; mental health issues and the soaring cost of medications; alcoholism and drug abuse; domestic abuse. Sex trafficking. Technology has replaced humans with machines and robots, even on something as mundane as the corner car wash.

"And there have always been a few," said Sean, "who are happy to live outside the system. They used to be called hobos and hippies, not vagrants, and they took to the open road or Walden Pond, not the San Gabriel Riverbed."

"During the 80's," said Sean, "there was talk of hard answers for crime, and so possession of drugs like marijuana was over-criminalized. That put more people in jail, resulting in overcrowding the jails, and now we have that problem to deal with. Let the prisoners out early? Let-for-profits build jails and run them? One problem has created another."

From the audience, the musician who had played the guitar and was singing at 6 pm when the gates opened, asked a question.

"I'm from Downey," he said. "I'm a truck driver, and these for-profit humanitarian service businesses strike me as wrong. Like for-profit jails." Clearly the audience was interested in all the ways government and its people can interact.

By now it was 7:15, still light, and there were 15 interested listeners.



Scott Salmon with his original artwork. Photo by Lorine Parks

"Downey has gotten \$300,000 from CDBG," said Sean. "Sorry for the jargon, that's Community Development Block Grants, and we are working with a group called the Whole Child. We are targeting families who have become homeless, and bringing services to them, and their school-age children. We can get them help to go on living. So one segment is being served."

I said I understood that there were ordinances in California that forbid anyone from interfering when a homeless person camps out on a bench. Calling the police won't get them moved from their spot in front of a business.

"That raises ADA concerns," Sean said, meaning the Americans with Disabilities Act, "in case the sidewalk is not clear enough for someone in a wheelchair to pass. Public safety is also a main concern."

Roy asked about the census taking.

"We take the census every year," Sean said. "We need it to calculate how much government funds to ask for, to provide services."

How many homeless are there in Downey?

"This year there were 89," said Sean. "But two years ago it was 310, and last year 208."

How to account for the big discrepancy?

"Maybe we are reducing the number by offering them services," said Sean. "Or maybe the counting method is not accurate."

"I volunteer with the census count," said Roy. "If it's a rainy night you can't find even one, and when the sun comes out in the morning, there are five at one gas station."

"There is a shelter being planned in Downey," said Sean. "But it will be for veterans. It is on county property but within the Downey city boundaries, on Gardendale and Garfield. Before I was on the Council, I thought that wasn't Downey. It had an American Legion Hall, a recreational building with a bar. But the property had become rundown and was not generating tax revenue for the county."

"So the County and Downey partnered to raze the hall, and plan the shelter," said Sean. "But the neighbors in South Gate and Hollydale have complained. NIMBY - Not In My Back Yard."

Continued on page 7

HOMELESS: Legislators struggle for answer to homeless crisis

Continued from page 1

homelessness and falling into homelessness on a continuous basis," said Peter Lynn, the authority's executive director.

About a quarter of those counted became homeless for the first time in 2018, and about half of those cited economic hardship as the primary cause, the authority said.

About three-quarters of the homeless people counted were living outdoors, fueling concerns of a growing public health crisis with piles of garbage and rats near homeless encampments lining downtown sidewalks.

County Supervisor Janice Hahn called the increase in homeless population "disheartening."

"Even though our data shows we are housing more people than ever, it is hard to be optimistic when that progress is overwhelmed by the number of people falling into homelessness," Hahn said.

The Los Angeles County figures mirror tallies across California, as state officials struggle to address a lack of affordable housing. In addition, officials said, wages among lower income people have not kept up with the rising cost of living.

Some state lawmakers on Tuesday called for legislation capping rent increases on some tenants and encouraging the construction of more affordable housing.



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The Greater Downey Association of Realtors presented four \$1,000 scholarships to local graduates. From left: Alyssa Nevarez, Downey High School; Stephanie Gonzalez, Warren High School; Brian Magdaleno, Warren High School; Dan Nevarez, DAOR President; and Monica Rivera, Keller Williams SELA. Not pictured is Sengum Gankhuyag of Warren High School.

Risher family gives \$10,000 in scholarships

DOWNEY – Greg and Barbara Risher Welch own Risher Mortuary, a small business that has an office in Downey and is a member of the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

The actual mortuary is in Montebello and is a member of the Montebello Chamber of Commerce.

Greg and “Barb” are both actively involved in many civic groups. Greg is a chaplain for the Downey Police Department, has gone on many humanitarian missions around the world, and is active in the Downey YMCA, Rotary Club, and the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

Barb has leadership roles in the Montebello Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, and the Rotary Club. They are each genuine, giving people. Together, they are a mighty force for good.

A few years ago, they created something very special in our community. At eight local high schools, they give \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who are examples of “caring for others”. The scholarship is actually called the “Caring for Others Scholarship”.

This year, they gave twenty \$500 scholarships, a total of \$10,000, to students who truly care for and serve others around them. Imagine that!

Greg and Barb Welch are not rich. They are simply hard-working people whose lives are centered around giving to others.

Barbara’s parents, Ray and Marge Risher, began Risher Mortuary in 1959. After the passing of her parents, Barbara and Greg continued with the family tradition of caring for the grieving families throughout the community.

“We truly consider our

funeral business a ministry to the bereaved,” said Barbara. “Since the community has embraced us with their confidence to help them through life’s most difficult time, Greg and I decided to give back in a way that would attempt to further the attitude of caring for others.

“It is a simple concept that is sorely missing in today’s society.”

Greg continued, “So we developed the ‘Caring For Others’ idea from a concept of encouraging graduating seniors to simply compose an essay about how they are going to use their next level of education to “Care For Others”.

“We award each winner \$500 to be used for their higher learning. It doesn’t matter what their GPA is nor what field of study they will pursue.

“People from all walks of life have the ability to serve others at some point and in some way. Whether the educational journey of these terrific young people is through a four year university, community college or trade school, focusing on caring for others will definitely make our world a better place.

“Barb and I are so impressed by the heartfelt words these kids use to express their desire to serve, that we can’t help but feel that their future, and ours, is headed in the right direction”.

2019 winners are:



Greg Welch, right, with the five Warren High School scholarship recipients.

La Serna High School:
Chelsi Hall
Allison Kataoka
Luke Garcia
Johanna Ortuno

Santa Fe High School:
Eliana Touch
Seoleen Lee

Montebello High School:
Jacqueline Candela
Fernanda Jimenez

Schurr High School:
Kia Harlan

Downey High School:
Mona Makhloof
Kaila Vasquez

Warren High School:
Issac Munoz
Karen Travieso
Vianna Ramos
Dariel Leflore
Thalia Panerio

Columbus High School:
Shamiyah Campbell
Justine Reyes

St. Pius/St. Mathias Academy:
Mariana Nunez
Darwin De Castro



Downey High senior Alyssa Rose Nevarez was presented \$500 and the 2019 Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award by the Stauffer Foundation.

Nevarez is a four-year letterman and ranks second in her class of 1,043. She was recently named the San Gabriel Valley League girls basketball All-League selection at center, and was chosen as a member of the Press-Telegram’s girls basketball Dream Team.

Nevarez will attend UCLA in the fall. She is pictured at right with her father, Robert Nevarez, an AP U.S. history teacher.



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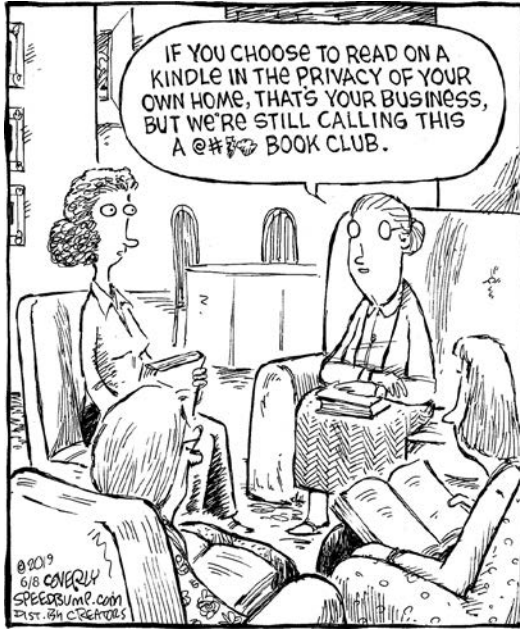
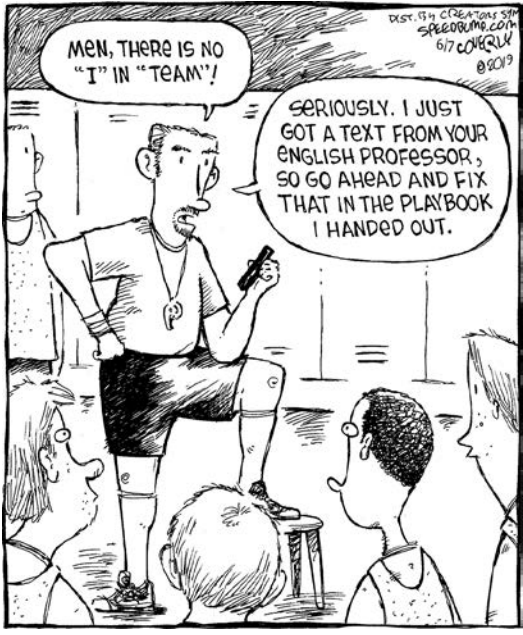
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SPEED BUMP

DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

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.
4:30 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 New St, 2nd Floor, call 213-545-6810.
2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, call 304-3439.
3rd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

TUESDAYS

9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Irene Vallini at 328-7039.
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 Greg Welch 323-816-4532.
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.
7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.
1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.
2nd and 4th Tues., 6 pm: Sertoma Club, at Rio Hondo Event Center, 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 Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.
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, call Marilyn 928-2623.
2nd Wed., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.
2nd Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 928-4132.
3rd Wed.: Downey Dog Obedience Club, for information please call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call 860-8821 or 927-3635.
3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Melodie Santana, (562) 806 3102.
3rd Wed., 6 pm: Sister Cites of Downey, at Downey City Library, call Gloria Nezahualcoyotl (562) 776-6136.
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 am: Crafters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barbara 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.
7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.
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., 6:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Mimi'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...

June 6, 1944: The D-Day invasion of Europe took place during World War II as Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France. German casualties on D-Day have been estimated at 4,000 to 9,000 men. Allied casualties were at least 10,000, with 4,414 confirmed dead.

1966: Black activist James Meredith was shot and wounded as he walked along a Mississippi highway to encourage black voter registration.

1968: Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, a day after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

1978: California voters approved Proposition 13, a ballot measure calling for major cuts in property taxes.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
IT'S A SIGN: With a little twist
by Greg Johnson

- ACROSS
1 Soul singer LaBelle
6 City between Sioux City and Kansas City
11 Proverbial best friend
14 Having the jitters
18 A second time
19 Put a new label on
21 Half of dos
22 Days long gone
23 POUND SIGN
25 Classification above species
27 Vibration sound
28 Swimming motions
30 Sch. near Hartford
31 Don't quite make it
35 Not fond of mingling
36 Small cave
37 "That's a surprise!"
38 Potation with pub grub
39 Scrabble one-pointer
42 Pursue relentlessly
43 PLUS SIGN
47 Helpful info
50 Common quote tag
51 Labyrinth king of myth
52 Japan's region
54 Traffic court attendee
57 Big blow
59 Two foursomes
60 Submarine designation
63 Hathaway of film
64 First step towards a patent
66 Positive shift
67 Unspecified degree
68 STOP SIGN
72 Elvis' big-break record label
73 Yours-for-mine deals
75 Sports gear to wax
76 Caesar's phrase of surprise
77 Drink, informally
78 Sparsely populated
79 Showily stylish
81 Chart topper
84 Picnic bring-alongs
86 Changed the decor of
87 Tabula (clean slate)
91 First opened: Abbr.
92 DOLLAR SIGN
97 "the thing..."
99 Totaling
100 Manhattan sch.
101 Fabric flaw
102 station (brunch setup)
104 Dashboard letters
105 Hamiltons
107 Nest on a cliff
108 Amorous rogue
112 Common '50s headline nickname
113 Made no changes
115 CALL SIGN
120 Persia, presently
121 Buffer area: Abbr.
122 Fancified, with "up"
123 "Rubber Duckie"
Muppet
124 Puts down grass
125 GI address
126 Carlo wine
127 Approach sneakily

- DOWN
1 What a pet leaves a print of
2 Actuarial figure
3 chi (martial art)
4 Too small to be comfy
5 Remorseless
6 F (certain test choices)
7 Board, in hospitality
8 Pre-deal payment
9 Reagan cabinet member
10 In a frenzy
11 Rather dark
12 Burden
13 Big dollop
14 Public speaker's concern
15 PEACE SIGN
16 Straining-to-lift sound
17 Two-choice question
20 Set apart
24 Selfie expression
26 Yoga master
29 Menu master
31 iPhone mastermind
32 "Nope"
33 Tofu bean, to Brits
34 Talk-show subdivision
36 Travels (to)
39 Reader (all-press mag)
40 Not worth the gamble
41 Shoo- (sure things)
42 Preliminary race
44 Pointer-to-thumb gestures
45 Feathery pillow filling
46 Irish actor Stephen
48 President before Buchanan
49 GPS system
53 Hotshot pilot
55 Solar energy collectors
56 Genesis grandson
57 Sandy souvenir
58 Once cost
60 "That's a lie!"
61 Walks with attitude
62 EQUALS SIGN
65 Printer resolution letters
66 Golden Rule preposition
69 D.C. setting in winter
70 Take effect
71 "Time to take out the roast"
74 Weeds used for wines
79 "C'est la vie!"
80 Weblog feed format: Abbr.
82 Pastoral poem
83 Exam for college seniors
85 "Cool" rapper
86 Single-strand molecule
88 "Height" prefix
89 Short comedy
90 Slithery reptiles
93 Roof angles
94 In stock
95 Glass-half-empty type
96 Sled dogs
98 Marsh grass
102 Retreat in a desert
103 City newspaper section
104 Sort of brittle bread
105 Chaucerian creations
106 dish (lab container)
108 Workplace for counselors
109 Former Jordanian queen
110 Munch Museum city
111 Tennessee team
114 Smartphone predecessor
116 Oscar role for Forest
117 Where Ft. Wayne is
118 Nonexistent
119 "Imagine that!"

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Crossword grid with numbers 1-127 indicating starting points for across and down clues.

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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.

Small crossword puzzle with clues: (6 Across) is the only major city between Sioux City and Kansas City on Interstate 29. UCONN (30 Across) is located in Storrs, Connecticut, which was named for the brothers who donated the land on which the school is located. The two varieties of wax for SKIS (75 Across) are "glide wax" (to minimize friction) and "grip wax" (to improve traction).

Debating government's role in aiding the homeless

Continued from page 2

Changing the subject for a minute, I asked if there were philosophical discussions on the council. On the one hand, there might be those who hold the idea that the best government is the one that governs least, and that social problems should be left to private enterprise and faith-based organizations.



Roy Anthony Shabla

The opposing point of view would be the idea that social problems are the responsibility of the citizenry. The government should be the social safety net, and also the employer of last resource, so there would be no jobless.

Taxes pay for social benefits, and like most other civilized countries we should offer more social welfare programs, and accept a higher tax rate to pay for it.

"I am a Democrat," said Sean, "I put that right out there. I'm a teacher, and I believe in paying my fair share. Government is for the protection of the people."

"But I don't believe in heavy taxes, and I want an accounting of how the money is spent."

Does Downey have a coordinated program, or is it being developed piecemeal? What is Downey actually initiating as a new program? What can I tell Julie and Jennifer at the post office, and the man who lives in the hedges, or the man with the deeply weathered face, who silently glared at me as he pushed a shopping cart filled with all his possessions past my car where I was parked at In N Out, where Lakewood crosses Firestone?

Is there an action plan in Downey for helping the people who have congregated in the riverbed, or for those who stand at the post office or outside Marie Calendar's, rain, wind or shine?

If you are a vet, yes, there will be a shelter and counseling. If you are a family with school age kids, then TLC and PTA HELPS provide help. Our police take sensitivity training, have psychologists with them when they approach the homeless, and they can put the homeless in touch with social workers and social services.

So then, does it follow that a homeless person should go to the police station to apply for help?

By now it was 7:20 and 17 people had arrived. Carol and Frank Kearns, he a poet and she a writer for the Patriot on local concerns, were in the audience, as well as poet Clifton Snider, coordinator of the evening's program.

"What about places for people to park, if they are living in their cars?" asked Carol. "What about church parking lots?"

"The parks permit all day parking, but they do close at 10," Sean noted. "And the police enforce that."

Once again, are there any specific plans to build a structure in Downey with, say, public toilets, and showers, that the homeless could use?

"There are free public toilets in the parks," Sean said, "and in the library." But he admitted that park-goers do not like to see their facilities taken over by the homeless. And without a car, getting to these spread-out facilities is hard.

"What about portable showers?" asked Roy. "There are already volunteers who give haircuts, and a place on Imperial, Clothes the Deal, where someone who wants to return to the work force can get a free outfit to wear for an interview. But what about social services for the homeless who are too old or too handicapped to work?"

"I can get anyone a place to sleep, for one night, just like that," said Sean, snapping his fingers.

But I wondered, will that help 64-year-old Julie, nearly blind, who for a year and a half has spent rainy nights moving from a hospital waiting room to inside a Jack in the Box?

Sean reminded the gathering of the unique point of view of the council person, who is responsible to the voters.

"We have to think how we are going to fund these projects," he said. Besides compassion and energy to help one's fellow human being, there has to be the dollars and cents considerations.

Right now, city budgets for places like Downey allot about half for protective services, like fire and police, and almost as much for infrastructure - street repair, traffic lights, parks, the Library. The balance pays the staff and the employees who make things happen in Downey.

By now it was 7:40, and 20 or more sat listening while a few preferred to stand. This was an informal affair, and musicians were waiting to perform, poets were ready to read. We were still trying

to figure out the question, does Downey have a master plan, that coordinates existing programs, or is it a patchwork that does not fit all sizes?

The Downey Unified School District supports TLC - True Lasting Connections -- for families with children in our schools. There are programs for seniors that the homeless can attend, in Apollo Park and at the Barbara J. Riley Senior Center, with an occasional free meal provided.

"Mayor Rick Rodriguez has organized a Council of Clergymen," Sean said. "They meet monthly and coordinate services they can offer."

But that goes into faith-based, not government-offered aid.

"What about the skate park," Scott, the 24-year-old painter, asked. "I thought that was terrific when it was built. Doesn't that help keep at-risk kids active and out of gangs?"

"Yes, and Downey was the first to have something like that," said Sean, "thanks to former Mayor Meredith Perkins. It's a great success."

The city also works with PATH, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, which funds services for people with serious mental illness (SMI) who are experiencing homelessness. Again, those grant funds are restricted to those with SMI.

By now it was nearly 8 o'clock, and about 25 had gathered, their interest in the interview unbroken. Sean offered the insights that the homeless tend to congregate where they can get help, and they tend to be where things are familiar.

"The homeless in Downey probably grew up here, went to school and worked here."

"I am very accessible," Sean said. "Please get in touch with me by email and I'll try to get answers to your questions. And that email is sashton@downey.ca.org."

The world now has this problem, not just the United States. And in the United States, they look to California because California is progressive and innovative, and many situations have had their solutions begin here. Maybe California will look to Downey, to see if we have found any answers.

As Sean said, it's all the situations contributing to homelessness that must be resolved, and then homelessness will go away. But until that time, people are suffering acutely from physical and emotional want.

Councilman Sean had intended to leave early, but he stayed after he left the mike, and talked to questioners. Music and poetry flowed long into the evening, several cartons of food donated by participants waited to be taken to the First Christian Church in Downey.

Sharing of another sort, initiated by tonight's host Roy Shabla, at another special kind of Downey Doing.

Non-profit planting 3,000 trees in Downey

DOWNEY - More than 3,000 trees will be planted throughout Downey as part of a year-long initiative to increase the city's greenery, officials announced.

The trees will be planted by Tree People, an environmental nonprofit organization. Different tree species will be planted, including crape myrtle and strawberry.

Trees will be planted in the city's right-of-way -- not private property -- on streets and parks. Tree People will care for the trees for the first 24 months.

The planting will be done in two phases: the first stage began in April and wrapped up in May; the second phase is scheduled to begin this September and be completed by May 2020.

The work is part of a larger program in which Tree People will plant 11,000 trees in Downey,



Photo by Pam Lane

Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, Commerce and La Mirada over the next five years.

Funding for the project is coming from the California Department of Transportation.

Residents with questions about tree plantings in their

neighborhood should contact Juan Solomon, project manager with Tree People, at (323) 649-0736 or jsolomon@treepeople.org.

Warren High students earn college credits at Mt. SAC

DOWNEY - In early May, a group of 11 animation students from Warren High School (WHS) traveled to Mount San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) to partake in an opportunity that would better prepare each for higher education and/or technical careers post-graduation.

Preparing each to be college and career ready, these students participated in the yearly animation test which would award them college credit, enabling them to opt out of Mt. SAC's introductory animation course, while also giving them the title of "continuing student" if they decide to enroll in that animation program.

Seven students participated and all seven students passed; this

is WHS's third consecutive year of having student take this test and pass without a single fail.

Warren High established this articulation agreement with Mt. SAC in the fall of 2011 and Mr. Austin's animation class had a total of 45 students take and pass this animation test in the last five years, not counting this latest cohort of students.

The WHS students that have overcome this large feat and will be receiving college credits are: Israel Alvarez, Destiny Castillo, Ella Garcia, Erica Garcia, Mia Mira, Jeannette Ramirez, Natalia Rodriguez, Isabelle Rojas, Dean

Silva, Jade Tamayo and Melody Zatarain.

"Our vision is to have all students graduate with a 21st Century education that ensures they are college and career ready, globally competitive and citizens of strong character," stated Board of Education President, Nancy Swenson.

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Downey eagerly awaits a renovated library



Mario Guerra and Dorothy Pemberton. Photo by Lorine Parks

Downey officials hold a ceremonial groundbreaking for Downey's new forthcoming library.

By Lorine Parks
Society Columnist

DOWNEY – An imposing Case front-loading tractor stood in front of the Downey City Library, facing an impressive 10-ft.-long pile of earth.

In the background stood the Downey Theatre which also is up for rehab this summer (including a long-needed elevator to take patrons with disabilities to the second floor balcony and the newly expanded art gallery).

Since the contract for the

hat for the digging to come. Ben also directs Downey's Columbia Memorial Space Museum, and he emceed the afternoon, which turned out to feature a clear blue sky and a hot sun, a relief after the clammy May gloom we've been having.

First Ben thanked the Friends of the Library, "the fundraising arm of the library," as he said, and its many volunteers, headed by Virginia Yoshisayama.

"My colleagues on the city staff deserve our appreciation too," said Ben. City Manager Gilbert Livas was there. And former mayor Dave Gafin, as well as the many "dignitaries" who all supported Measure S, the self-imposed 20-year sales tax which Downey voted for, to fund these city improvements.

The City Council was represented by Mayor Rick Rodriguez and council members Sean Ashton, Claudia Frometa and Alex Saab, all of whom donned the plastic safety hats and bright yellow safety vests.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for a director," Ben said, "the culmination of many months of planning, and the beginning of a brand new start for the library."

After welcoming remarks from Mayor Rick, standing in front of an orange "Measure S" scrim, the ceremonial diggers went to work, from the littlest on up.

A many-tiered group including Michael Calvert, executive

director of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, posed behind the mounded heap of dirt, with shovels in hand: council members, civil servants, interested adults, children and their parents. The whole community was involved in the celebration.

Girls dig too. A contingent of happy pre-schoolers all wore the hard hats and enthusiastically filled their shovels with the fresh Downey dirt.

Seen in conversation were former Mayor Mario Guerra and Dorothy Pemberton, Soroptimist and head of PTA Helps's Pantry, that gives food to help needy school families when they need emergency food supplies.

"Canned donations are always welcome," said Dorothy, who was wearing a city-approved navy knit cotton dress with the large round patch of the city seal and the legend stitched below it that says she is a Parks Commissioner too.

Mario has been so busy in his appointment as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army that he hasn't had time to miss being mayor.

"Two weeks ago I was at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and next week it will be Ft. Sills, Oklahoma," said Mario. "Before, there were so many places I never knew about. Now each one is special to me."

Mario is doing just what the Army wants, telling the Army's story as he learns it. He was first appointed by President Obama and re-appointed by President Trump.

No one could ever pay Mario to be as enthusiastic as he is: that is his gift to his country. We own him thanks for what he does.

"The library has been such a big part of our family," said Lana Joy Walkquist. "For the children's books, and the story time. And the books I use for research."

Lana's three children — Peer, Leif, and Mary — were enjoying the goings-on and were well

supplied with bottles of water on a day which turned as hot as this one.

"I work at home, which means, I don't work at home but at Starbucks or the library," said Lana. "But why should I have to pay to sit at Starbucks and work? I pay my taxes, and I'd rather be at the library. We can't wait till it opens again."



Warren High School graduating senior Cheyla Farias received the scholarship from Rockview Family Farms' Tatiana Rodriguez at an assembly on May 23.

Rockview Farms grants two \$1,000 scholarships

DOWNEY – Downey-based Rockview Family Farms gave two deserving graduating seniors scholarships of \$1,000 each.

One student from Downey High School and one from Warren High School received the award last week after winning an essay contest hosted at each school.

Alyssa Lascano (Downey) and Cheyla Farias (Warren) shared their "Raised on Rockview" experiences in 500-word essays. Both winners maintained a 3.8 GPA and volunteer in the community in their spare time.

Downey High School's Alyssa Lascano shared in her essay, "I have really special memories and now looking back, during almost all of my memories I am consuming some type of dairy product—it's something that really did bring my family and friends together."

Each young lady recalled drinking chocolate milk from a small carton in elementary school, a tradition that continues as Rockview Family Farms supplies milk to Downey Unified Schools and many other southland school districts.

"We mean it when we say 'Raised on Rockview,'" said Curt DeGroot, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Rockview Family Farms. "We help these children grow from kindergarten into adulthood and we want to congratulate all the hometown graduates."

Rockview Family Farms was established in 1927. Growing from supplying fluid milk to other dairy manufacturers, the family added drive-thru dairy stores, a residential delivery system, and a wholesale division.

From left: Library Director Ben Dickow, City Manager Gilbert Livas, Councilman Sean Ashton, Mayor Pro Tem Blanca Pacheco, Mayor Rick Rodriguez, Councilman Alex Saab, and Assistant City Manager John Oskui.

Photo by Claudia Gomez



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July 27 Salsa Festival (Ages 18+)
Residents: \$40 & Non Residents: \$44
Time: 12:15 pm - 8:15 pm

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Lessons My Dad Taught Me



By Gail Earl
Contributor

I know that I have written many stories about my dad; how he was the most warm-hearted, tender, amazing man I have ever met.

I'd also like to tell you about how fun he was too. My entire life was filled with his adventures and the special ways he shared them with his kids. Here are just a few of my favorite everyday memories.

"STILTS". Dad built a pair of stilts for my best girlfriend and myself. They were made from 2 x 4's with crutch tips on the bottom. They were very tall and we had days and days of fun racing up and down the street with them.

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me to be adventuresome.

"WATERMELON SEEDS". Dad loved to entertain us and make us laugh. He was a pro at shooting watermelon seeds across the yard and hitting a target. He was so accurate, he would just tell us what he was aiming for and a spit second later, the seed would be sitting bulls eye.

I'll never forget the look on my sister's face when he shot one across a picnic table and it landed right in the middle of my sister's forehead. We all knew this was no accident!

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me to enjoy being silly.

"PVC". My dad loved PVC. He made many everyday inventions. If anything needed to be made or modified, he found a way to include PVC. He made many Christmas lawn decorations with millions of lights strung in and around the PVC.

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me to think outside the box.

"LIBRARIES". Dad took us to the library on Saturday mornings. I'll never forget the happy comfort I felt sitting on his lap and sharing books.

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me about the many adventures awaiting just inside a book.

"CLACKERS". Dad had a game that he called "Clackers." All it was was each of us running to get an empty soda can, laying it flat on the ground, and smashing our foot down (in tennis shoes) on top of

the can.

When you smashed it, the can would wrap around the bottom of our shoe and hold in place. Then there would be a mad scramble to the corner and back to the porch. As you ran, the cans made this "clickity-clacking" sound, thus the name of the game.

At any given moment, Dad would yell "Clackers!" and everyone would run for a can. This game went right through my childhood.

When I was 17, my family and I were at a hotel in Pismo Beach. Dad yelled "Clacker!" and without skipping a beat, the game was on. Dad and I were circling the pool so many times and laughing so hard we were quite surprised to see that the manager had been called to make us quiet down.

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me the value of laughter.

"FLASHLIGHTS". Dad loved flashlights. He was just fascinated with them. Every time he went to the store, he'd buy another one.

Every night after dinner, the whole family would go for a walk around the block. Everyone had to have their own flashlight. This tradition was a family favorite and continues today with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me the value of tradition.

"WHISTLES". My dad loved to whistle. It was a constant around my house and all through his life. It just made him happy. He even made a family whistle that was used very often when we were trying to locate one of the other family members.

I have always been a whistler and it, too, puts me in a happy mood.

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me not to be afraid to express my happiness.

"HANKY HAT" My dad always had a neatly-ironed white handkerchief in his pocket. It never stopped amusing us kids to see him pull it from his pocket, tie little knots in each corner, and plunk it down on his scalp to make a perfectly adequate hat to protect him from the sun.

We have many photos of him at picnics, parks and many other occasions with his "hank hat" on.

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me to be inventive.

Dad taught me to understand that the prize in life is one's own happiness. He taught me to have a happy life and not be stifled by what anyone else might be thinking. He taught me to be memorable. He taught me to celebrate being funny. He taught me to celebrate me being me.

Gail Earl is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.



Steve Roberson will provide the entertainment at a June 30 gala marking the conclusion of the Downey Symphony's 60th season.

Downey Symphony hosting party for 60th anniversary

DOWNEY - The Downey Symphony will celebrate the end of its successful 60th season with a gala barbecue at the Downey Woman's Club on Sunday, June 30, from 3-7 p.m.

Combining with the Downey Symphony Guild, the event offers delicious food and complimentary wine or beer with music by Three's Company and country music by Steve Roberson and his band.

Silent and live auctions along with displays of historic items from the Symphony's storied past provide additional entertainment.

Tickets are \$60; for reservations, call Joyce Sherwin at (562) 928-4122.

Memorial Day at Green Hills

By Gail Earl
Contributor

This Memorial Day celebration was a little different for us this year but it was truly special.

We generally honor our veterans at Riverside National Cemetery. That's where both our mom and our dad are buried. This year we decided to take our observance to Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes. They had the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall displayed and we had many close friends' names to locate on it. The grounds were completely decorated with flowers and flags on every gravesite, placed by the Boy Scouts of America.

The Patriot Guard Riders opened the procession with motorcycles followed by the Cabar Feide Bag Pipe Band. Congressman Ted Lieu welcomed everyone and then we had a presentation of colors. It was very moving.

Next there was The Fallen Soldier Tribute. The flags were raised and we pledged allegiance. We sang the national anthem and many dignitaries and VIP speakers were introduced and gave heartfelt tributes.

There was a very impressive aerial presentation of colors where the 21st Century Skydiving team jumped from their planes and each man was carrying a flag representing a different branch of service. It was amazing watching them steer their way down and land right in the middle of our celebration.

The Palos Verde's Symphonic Band did a salute to each branch. We were told to stand when we heard the hymn of our family member's service. I'm very proud to say that we stood honoring our immediate family members service in the Marines, the Air Force, the Army and the Navy. They even honored the service of our fire and police departments. I once again got to stand. I was very proud.

The benediction was given and then there was a 21-gun salute. Taps were played which has always been a very emotional moment for us because it takes us right back to our father's funeral.

The bag pipe band played "Amazing Grace" and dozens of white doves were released. They circled round and round above our heads. I'm happy to say they were all on good behavior. No bombs were dropped.

We had fly overs by the C-17 Globe master out of March Air Force Base, the CJ-4 Tiger Squadron, the P51 Mustang and the North American SNJ-5 "War Dog." They performed the "Missing Man Formation." It was absolutely stunning.

The ceremony ended with 5,000 of us singing "God Bless America."

Our hearts were filled on that day with the complete dedication and devotion of our men and women in service. Our hearts remain full!

Gail Earl is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.

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Schools already preparing for fall sports

Teams will begin practicing later this month after a CIF mandated rest period.

By Mark Fetter Sportswriter

DOWNEY – The Downey High School football program will be holding its summer football camp beginning Monday, June 24, through Thursday, August 2.

There will be no scheduled practices the first three weeks in June due to the C.I.F. mandated “dead period.” Once practices resume, varsity players will practice from 3-6 p.m. and incoming freshmen and junior varsity players will practice from 2-5 p.m.

There will be a mandatory

parent meeting on July 25 at 7 p.m. in the football stands at Downey High School. Any questions regarding Downey High School football may be directed to head coach Jack Williams at jwilliams@dusd.net.

DOWNEY BOYS WATER POLO: The Downey High School boys’ water polo program will run their summer practice schedule June 18 through July 27.

Practices will be held from 6-7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday and the cost will be \$40. There are no scheduled practices the first three weeks in June due to the C.I.F. mandated “dead period.”

Any questions regarding Downey High School boys’ water polo may be directed to head coach Uriel Villa at uvilla@dusd.net.

DOWNEY VOLLEYBALL: The Downey High School girls’ volleyball program is offering several summer volleyball camps.

Girls’ camp #1 will run from July 8-12. The cost is \$90 and meets from 7-10 a.m. each day.

Girls’ camp #2 is scheduled for July 15-18, also from 7-10 a.m. A third camp is set for July 22-25 from 7-10 a.m. as well.

All camps will be held inside the gymnasium at Downey High School.

The Downey girls’ volleyball program is hosting a camp July 15-18 for elementary and middle school students. The camp is designed for girls entering grades 3-8 and meets from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. daily. The cost is \$90 and includes a Downey volleyball t-shirt.

Tryouts for all levels will be held Friday, July 26, from 7:30-10:30 a.m. High school camps include strength training and conditioning on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Beach camp will be held July 8-12 and July 22-25 from 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Boys volleyball camp will be held July 15-18 from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the cost will be \$90.

Any questions regarding any summer volleyball camp may be directed to rmccarthy@dusd.net.

WARREN CROSS COUNTRY: The Warren High School boys’ summer cross country program held its informational meeting June 3 in the Warren Library and camp began two days later June 5.

It’s not too late to participate. For details, contact head coach Ramon Miranda at championshipyear@msn.com.

Warren High School girls’ cross country will hold their kick-off camp June 10-21 from 7-11 a.m. at Warren High School.

Summer Camp begins June 24 and will also run from 7-11 a.m. Any questions may be directed to head coach Jay Waldron at jwaldron@dusd.net.

WARREN WRESTLING: The Warren High School wrestling program will offer summer camps for boys and girls June 10 through July 18.

Practices will be held Monday-Thursday in the Warren wrestling room. Practices for boy wrestlers are scheduled from 8-10:30 a.m. and practices for girl wrestlers will be held from 6-7:15 p.m. The cost is \$50 per student-athlete.

Wrestlers are required to bring water, a t-shirt and running shoes for outside conditioning. Any questions may be directed to head coach Tim Brogden at tbrogden@dusd.net.

Data breach targets blood labs

An unauthorized user gained access to the personal information of millions of people.

Quest Diagnostics said the personal information of 11.9 million customers has potentially been compromised.

The clinical laboratory company said in a release that an “unauthorized user” gained access to a system used by American Medical Collection Agency (AMCA), a billing vendor hired by a Quest contractor called Optum360.

Quest said the information that may have been exposed included Social Security numbers and medical information, but not test results.

AMCA first notified Quest on May 14 of “potential unauthorized activity” on its payment page, Quest said. Two weeks later, according to Quest, AMCA then told Quest and Optum360 more about the breach, including the number of patients potentially affected and what information was accessed.

Quest said it has suspended using AMCA and that it was using “forensic experts” to examine the issue.

It also said that AMCA has not provided “detailed or complete information” about the hack, including which customers might have been affected. AMCA and Optum360 did not immediately respond to a request for comment from CNN Business.

“We are committed to keeping our patients, health care providers, and all relevant parties informed as we learn more,” Quest said in the release.

Quest’s stock was unchanged on the news. The company has roughly 2,200 locations across the United States, according to its website.

LABCORP: LabCorp Opens a New Window. said about 7.7 million customers’ personal information may have been compromised due to a data breach at a billings collections firm — a day after competing lab testing

company Quest Diagnostics also announced nearly 12 million patients were potentially affected by a similar security incident.

LabCorp said Tuesday that third-party collections firm American Medical Collection Agency (AMCA) discovered “unauthorized activity” on its web payment page that occurred between August 2018 and March 30, 2019, according to a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Opens a New Window. (SEC) filing the same day.

“AMCA’s affected system included information provided by LabCorp. That information could include first and last name, date of birth, address, phone, date of service, provider, and balance information,” the SEC document stated. “AMCA’s affected system also included credit card or bank account information that was provided by the consumer to AMCA (for those who sought to pay their balance).”

LabCorp said it did not provide AMCA with patients’ lab results and Social Security numbers and insurance information was not stored in the firm’s system.

The billings collections company is in the process of notifying about 200,000 LabCorp patients whose credit card or bank information may have been affected by the breach. A list of people whose information was compromised and more details about the incident have not been provided, the SEC document stated.

“AMCA has informed LabCorp that it intends to provide the approximately 200,000 affected LabCorp consumers with more specific information about the AMCA Incident, in addition to offering them identity protection and credit monitoring services for 24 months,” according to the filing.

“LabCorp is working closely with AMCA to obtain more information and to take additional steps as may be appropriate once more is known about the AMCA Incident,” it added.

POETRY MATTERS

Breakage

I go down to the edge of the sea.
How everything shines in the morning light!
The cusp of the whelk,
the broken cupboard of the clam,
the opened, blue mussels,
moon snails, pale pink and barnacle scarred—
and nothing at all whole or shut, but tattered, split,
dropped by the gulls onto the gray rocks and all the moisture gone.
It’s like a schoolhouse
of little words,
thousands of words.
First you figure out what each one means by itself,
the jingle, the periwinkle, the scallop
full of moonlight.

Then you begin, slowly, to read the whole story.

- Mary Oliver

“I don’t know exactly what a prayer is,” Oliver writes. “I do know how to pay attention. I don’t want to end up simply having visited this world.” Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

60 Words to celebrate the Downey Symphony Orchestra’s 60th anniversary

Appointed tuba player in 1976, Tom Carlson is the longest-standing member of the Downey Symphony. “I was in third grade when I first heard the sound of an orchestra. I liked the deep sounds especially.” He took up the big horn in 7th grade. And now, 43 years in, “It is a privilege to be part of this orchestral family.”

Conversation with Tom Carlson.

Compiled by Joyce Sherwin

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The Downey Patriot
Thursday, May 25, 2017
Vol. 16 No. 7

HEALTH Taking tetanus serious
FEATURES Perfect attendance
NEWS Commencement speaker
NEWS Gang member sentenced

City Council agrees to continue Stay Gallery financial support

Weekend at a Glance
Friday 70°
Saturday 71°
Sunday 76°

THINGS TO DO
Memorial Day Ceremony

FROM OUR FACEBOOK
City continues financial support of Stay Gallery

Downey Patriot wins 5 journalism awards

News and updates from Cerritos

LOS CERRITOS CENTER STORING VEHICLES: Beginning in June and continuing through October, vehicle inventory from various Cerritos Auto Square dealerships will be temporarily stored at the Los Cerritos Center in the parking lot area adjacent to the Sears property.

The City of Cerritos has issued a temporary use permit for this purpose.

The vehicles will be temporarily relocated from two lots located at Studebaker Road and Del Amo Boulevard, which will undergo resurfacing and restriping. The lots are owned by Southern California Edison and are currently being used by Cerritos Auto Square dealerships for storage of vehicle inventory.

Once construction is completed on the Edison-owned lots, the vehicles will be returned to the original storage location.

TARGET SUBDIVIDES PROPERTY: The Cerritos City Council has approved a proposal to divide the Target property located at 11525 South Street into two separate parcels.

The proposal entails splitting the property into two legal and conforming parcels in order to separate the existing vacant garden center and adjacent parking area from the main Target retail building. The Target garden center building will be converted into a retail, office and restaurant multi-tenant use.

The exterior appearance of the remodeled building will match the existing Target retail center, featuring various shades of beige walls, limestone and granite veneer. The new retail area will also feature building offsets and metal canopies above each storefront entrance. Both properties will maintain reciprocal parking and access.

The project is expected to be completed in Spring 2020.

SHOPPING CENTER UPGRADES: The Cerritos City Council recently approved proposed exterior upgrades for the Christensen Shopping Center.

Developed in 1970, the plaza, located at 11402 through 11434 South Street in Cerritos, is currently home to the Sleep Number store, Belle Vie Wellness and Medical Aesthetics, several restaurants, a liquor store and

other businesses.

The property owner, the Christensen Family Trust, plans to update and modernize the building's exterior with a contemporary look featuring brown paint, wood siding, brick veneer, simulated stone tiles and updated stucco finishes. There are also plans to upgrade existing signs located throughout the center to match the architectural design. Colorful accent trees, groundcover and shrubs will be added to the landscape as well as decorative paving.

The work is estimated to be completed by the end of the year.

SHREK THE MUSICAL: Round up the kids and enjoy 3-D Theatricals' family-friendly production "Shrek the Musical" at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA).

Based on William Steig's book "Shrek!" and the DreamWorks Animation film, this fun family affair tells the story of a swamp-dwelling ogre who goes on a life-changing adventure to reclaim the deed to his land. Joined by a wise-cracking donkey, the unlikely hero Shrek fights a fearsome dragon, rescues a feisty princess and learns that real friendship and true love aren't found only in fairy tales.

The characters of Shrek and other inhabitants of Far, Far Away come to life in "Shrek the Musical" with book and lyrics by Pulitzer Prize winner David Lindsay-Abaire ("Rabbit Hole") and music by Olivier Award winner Jeanine Tesori ("Thoroughly Modern Millie" and "Caroline, or Change"). Executive producer of 3-D Theatricals, T.J. Dawson, stars in the title role.

Show times are Friday, August 9, 16 and 23 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, August 10 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, August 17 and 24 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, August 11, 18 and 25 at 2 p.m.; and Thursday, August 22 at 7:30 p.m. Purchase tickets, which start from \$45, at the CCPA Ticket Office, cerritoscenter.com or by calling (562) 916-8500.

FORMER MAYOR DIES: Former City of Cerritos Mayor and Councilmember John F. Crawley passed away on Sunday, May 26, at the age of 77.

Crawley was elected to the City Council in 1990. He was re-elected in 1994 and served two terms as mayor, in 1993 and 1999. After

leaving the City Council in 1999 due to term limits, Crawley was re-elected in 2001 and served as mayor in 2005.

Crawley served honorably in the Navy during the Vietnam War from June 1964 to July 1966 on two barbel-class submarines - the Barbel and Blueback. A Cerritos resident since 1978, Crawley served as president of the Cerritos Optimist Club and vice chairman of the Cerritos Regional Park Commission. He was a member and first commander of the Cerritos-Artesia Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #1846.

Crawley was twice elected to the 63rd Assembly District Republican Central Committee, and served as chairman for two terms. In addition, he served as a voting delegate for the California State Republican Party. He also served as president of the California Contract Cities Association. He also coached a variety of youth sports teams in the City's recreation program.

Crawley was a self-employed financial consultant after retiring from an 18-year career as a senior financial analyst with Atlantic Richfield Company. He held a bachelor of science degree in business administration with a concentration in foreign trade from Woodbury University. He held teaching credentials in mathematics, business education and social science (world history, United States history, geography, economics, government and sociology) and taught full-time at Rivera Middle School in Pico Rivera. He is survived by his wife Pamela, his son Brian and his wife Kristin, and his granddaughters Kaely and Sarah.



Former Cerritos mayor John Crawley died May 26. He was a full-time teacher at Rivera Middle School in Pico Rivera.

NEW MAYOR: Naresh Solanki was selected as mayor of Cerritos and Frank Aurelio Yokoyama as mayor pro tem by their colleagues during the City Council's annual reorganization meeting and mayoral transition on April 17.

A resident of Cerritos since 1988, Mayor Solanki was elected to the City Council in 2015. He served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2016 and 2018. The owner and CEO of retail grocery supermarkets, Mayor Solanki previously served as a Cerritos Planning Commissioner from 2007 to 2015.

He is a member of the City Council's Budget/Finance, Performing Arts, Personnel, Auto Mall, Business and Industry and Legislative committees. He serves as the Council's delegate to the

Los Angeles County City Selection Committee, Gateway Cities Council of Governments, Gateway Cities Council of Governments - 91/605/405 Corridor Cities Committee, Sanitation Districts 2, 3, 18 & 19/Waste Management, Southern California Association of Governments and Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board. Mayor Solanki is the alternate delegate to the California Contract Cities Association. He is active in the Cerritos Chamber of Commerce, the Cerritos Optimist Club and Blind Start of America.

Mayor Pro Tem Yokoyama was elected to the Cerritos City Council in 2017. A Cerritos resident since 1976, he previously served on the Cerritos Planning Commission from 2011 to 2013.

Yokoyama is a member of the City Council's Performing Arts, Personnel and County Health Department/Health Insurance committees. He serves as the Council's delegate to the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority. Yokoyama is the alternate delegate to the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, Gateway Cities Council of Governments - 91/605/405 Corridor Cities Committee, League of California Cities, Sanitation Districts 2, 3, 18 & 19/Waste Management and Southern California Association of Governments.

Yokoyama is a local businessman, attorney and a youth sports coach.

Non-profit offers free help with citizenship applications

DOWNEY - Ferias Legales, a Downey-based non-profit, will be offering free legal assistance with citizenship applications and fee waiver applications this Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Center.

The event is in partnership with Downey Mayor Pro Tem Blanca Pacheco and is part of Ferias Legales' regular "Naturalize Now: Free Citizenship Clinics" program.

Two licensed immigration attorneys, Rocio La Rosa and

Leslie Reyes, will be providing free eligibility screenings and free assistance with citizenship applications.

Ferias Legales (Spanish for "Legal Fairs") is a Downey-based non-profit organization focusing on delivering free services to underserved communities and increasing diversity in the legal field.

The citizenship clinics are aimed at encouraging people to naturalize in an effort to help them

protect themselves, their families, and their futures by empowering them with the ability to vote and become civically engaged.

Appointments are not necessary but encouraged.

For more information, please contact Maria Torres, who serves as Executive Director, at (213) 842-6214 or mtorres@feriaslegales.org.

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Welcome to this charming home located in a highly desirable area of North/East Downey. Featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, indoor laundry, dining room, additional family room, and grand fireplace in main living room! This home sits on a large lot with beautiful landscaping and private back yard! Call Today!!!

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