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GOOD gets check See Page 4

Friday, February 17, 2006

City should take lead on 2 critical issues

By Harold Tseklenis

DOWNEY—Arguably, two areas which warrant the greatest attention of government and the public, after security and education, are energy and the environment. And Downey has the opportunity to play an important role in both these areas through its Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center now under development.

At a status report presented to the City Council a few months ago, the architectural firm engaged for the design of the Learning Center responded with a vague statement to the question as to whether the building will employ solar energy, with words to the effect that the issue would be addressed in the final design. It would be a mistake to wait for the decision to be made in the final design stage and by the architects. The Learning Center presents a unique opportunity not only to employ solar energy to power the building from economic considerations, but more importantly, to serve as a platform to demonstrate, to experiment, advance and showcase solar energy applications. The Learning Center has the potential to contribute to the advancement of solar energy technology. It has the opportunity to play a leadership role in the development of this emerging science as it did in the development and advancement of space science. Moreover, the opportunity is there to engage Downey's students in this most important technology field through volunteering via school science clubs to participate in the "solar technology program" at the Learning Center.

Increased demand

Application of solar energy technology has been growing at the average rate of more than 30 percent per year in the last ten years. Application of solar energy leads in Japan, followed by Europe, with the U.S. third with less than one fourth of that in Japan and half of that in Europe. Decline in oil and gas reserves worldwide with the attendant increase in prices, concern over greenhouse gases and recent advances in the efficiency and reduction of manufacturing costs of photovoltaic cells and panels have prompted the increased demand and use of solar energy. The efficiency in photovoltaic cells has more than doubled in the last few years, while unit costs have come down substantially. The recently announced \$300 million in subsidies by the California Public Utilities Commission and the approval of the \$3.2 billion California Solar Initiative, together with the declared support by the federal government, would provide a further boost to the advancement and application of solar energy. And the Learning Center has the opportunity to play a lead role in that advancement by becoming truly a beacon in demonstrating it, not only to Southern California, but to the nation and the world. Imagine Downey being known,



OFF TO A RUNNING START – Five employees of Re/Max Online in Downey plan to compete in the Los Angeles Marathon on March 19. The group is led by marathon veteran Victor Lopez.

Real estate agents running for success

By Eric Pierce

DOWNEY – Victor Lopez, Alex Chavez, Fabricio Alfaro, Lissette Martinez and Edna Melendez, all associates of Re/Max Online, are all in training to compete in the 2006 Los Angeles Marathon, scheduled for Sunday, March 19.

They're off to a running start.

The team has been training two times a week since September 2005, in addition to long runs every Saturday. By the time the actual marathon rolls around, the team will have run over 500 training miles.

"Our agents are known not to run away from a challenge," said Phil Limon, broker/owner of Re/Max Online. "Whether it's a challenging real estate market or a physical challenge, like the Los Angeles Marathon, they

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

City may be close to limiting 'mansions' Second hearing set for March

By Henry Veneracion

DOWNEY—After a public hearing that consumed almost two hours, during which some 24 speakers expressed their views, the Downey City Council tabled an ordinance that would limit the current trend of buying up homes on single family lots and building a structure of maximum capacity which does not fit the scale of the neighborhood.

Another public hearing on the matter was scheduled at the first City Council meeting in March.

The subject of "mansionization" has elicited much contentious debate. Those opposing it cite similar voices of protest coming from other areas such as the San Fernando Valley and the like. They say the huge homes that result are often used to get past existing codes dealing with population density. Its advocates, on the other hand, say it would be foolish to halt the "march of progress," pointing to the enhanced property values it fosters.

Last year the City hired a consultant, Mark Brodeur of Downtown Solutions, to do a study and develop recommendations. As part of the process a series of public hearings were held to glean input from both sides.

The issue was also addressed before the Planning Commission. Brodeur's recommendations to

the City include:

*Establish a dual floor area ratio (FAR) that allows a single-family home to have a greater FAR than a two-story structure.

*Remove the maximum lot coverage requirement from the Zoning Code.



once again, as the place where science and technology advancement is demonstrated, as space technology was, once.

Downey has the opportunity to make an important contribution in research and development of solar technology by making the Learning Center building(s) available to the solar energy application industry as an experimental and demonstration site. Downey should aggressively pursue the solar industry to use the Learning Center building(s) to showcase and demonstrate photovoltaic panels, their application, methods of installation, efficiencies, economics and other variables. Have the Learning Center become the place where industry, academia, government and all those interested in the subject would come to see and learn solar energy at work. There are a great number of parties who may be interested in entering into partnering with the Learning Center in a "solar energy program" including state and federal governmental entities, utility companies, industry associations and solar energy companies and educational institutions. A number of them are listed at the end of this article.

Of course, wishing alone, or simply "putting the word out," will not make things happen. The first step should be the appointment of a special committee of members of the City Council, City staff and community volunteers, appointed by the City Council, with the participation of the architects/planners of the Learning Center, and charged with pursuing the realization of this opportunity -- a step that should be taken without delay. Making the program a reality will take some time and dedication and a lot of hard work by the special committee. But it would be worth it. A "solar energy program" would elevate the Learning Center above other space and aeronautics science-related museums/learning centers by making it relevant not only as a source of information of past scientific achievement, but also as a contributor to achieving progress in the important field of solar energy technology and its application.

Environmental needs

The environmental area is equally pressing and provides the second opportunity for the Learning Center to play an important role in serving the Gateway Cities area and ultimately the City of Downey. There is incontrovertible evidence that the southeast area of the Los Angeles Basin is suffering from the worst air pollution and is subject to the greatest hazards for pulmonary, cancer and heart diseases because of the air pollution generated mostly by dirty fueled ships and the diesel fueled truck traffic engaged in the goods moving industry from imports into the LA-Long Beach port complex and the I-710 corridor. An inspection of the air quality maps of the basin shows Downey to suffer among the worst in air contaminants because of its location relative to the port complex and the I-710 corridor and the prevailing winds.

Commitments by state and local authorities call for drastic air cleanup programs. And yet, there is no air monitoring station installed and programmed to demonstrate if promised improvements are taking place. The Learning Center provides an excellent location and thus the opportunity to set an up to date comprehensive air monitoring station designed to monitor and report progress and effectiveness of the programs to clean the air. AQMD/the Air Resources Board and the responsible state and area run head on to meet it." *Restrict th

Victor Lopez, a 27-year-old licensed real estate agent, has competed in the Los Angeles Marathon before, in addition to a marathon in Hawaii. He's taken on the role as team trainer.

Alex Chavez is a 23-year-old Marine at home after fighting in Iraq – this will be his first marathon attempt.

Lissette Martinez, 23, works as a transaction coordinator for Re/Max Online and Edna Melendez, also 23, is the advertising coordinator.

"It was Victor's idea," said Melendez, explaining how the idea of a marathon run came to be. "He's run marathons before and he said 'Hey, we should get a group going.' It was something I knew I wanted to do right away."

The group started training by running three miles twice a week. By December, they were running four miles twice a week and 10-20 mile runs on Saturdays.

As the marathon veteran, Lopez has been teaching the runners proper stretching habits, breathing techniques and nutrition tips.

And although the team members are running for fitness, they all agree that a lot of their motivation stems from the sense of personal accomplishment they hope to attain by completing the 26.2-mile race.

"They are definitely on the right track when it comes to keeping fit and healthy, but more than that, their dedication to staying on task and accomplishing a goal is carried over into their business life," said Limon. "They are busy professionals and their perseverance in completing a task as well as their enthusiasm for life carries over into their professional careers. They do what it takes to get a task done, no matter what the challenge." *Restrict the second floor area to a percentage of the first floor area and limit how much of the second floor can be situated over the first floor footprint.

*Limit the height of covered porches, covered entryways, etc.

*Prohibit all architecture, except eaves, from encroaching into the side yard setbsacks.

*Maintain the current minimum setbacks for single-story homes while increasing side-yard setbacks for two-story homes.

*Increase side-yard setbacks on lots over 15,000 square feet.

*Require specific architectural design standards to protect privacy among neighbors.

*Reduce maximum height of homes to 28 feet in R-1 5,000 and R-1 8,500 zones.

*Prohibit new two-story construction when at least 80 percent of the new homes there are single story.

Brodeur also suggested the City face dealing with density by requiring a third covered parking space for homes with more than three bedrooms, limiting length of curb cuts for driveways, and barring on-street parking in early morning hours.

Staff felt the Planning Commission should have input before final recommendation to the Council.

And staff additionally prepared a Negative Declaration stating that the code changes do not significantly effect the environment.

When the proposed FAR ratios were scrutinized further, with Councilmember Kirk Cartozian saying the ratios seemed to him like "shots

See MANSIONS, page 5

Economic forecast identifies growth factors

ARCADIA—Economic experts presented a cautiously optimistic outlook for economic growth in Southern California at the 9th Annual Regional Economic Forecast Conference, held last month at the Santa Anita Racetrack and sponsored by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

Despite relatively strong job growth figures, however, several participants cited the importance of addressing critical transportation infrastructure and housing needs to bolster Southern California's position as a global gateway. More than 125 local elected officials and staff, public agencies, private sector executives and academics were on hand as experts reported on the region's economic future. The forecast, compiled by SCAG in partnership with CSU-Fullerton and CSU-Long Beach, are the only projections to focus on the short-term economic outlook (2006-2007) for the entire region (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties).

Earlier this month, SCAG's 2005 State of the Region report gave Southern California's transportation network an "F" grade for the first time, citing increasing congestion problems that could eventually hinder the economy by slowing the flow of goods to and from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The State of the Region also cited ongoing chal-lenges in terms of housing affordability and availability, and per capita income continues to rank last among the nation's largest metropolitan areas.

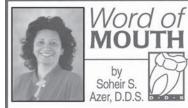
However, optimism for long-term economic growth was expressed throughout today's conference, particularly in the wake of Gov. Schwarzenegger's announcement to undertake a historic infrastructure bond measure that will alleviate traffic congestion, facilitate the flow of goods, and encourage housing and economic development around transportation corridors. Many of the conference speakers spoke to the importance of state and local governments working with the private sector to implement an integrated transportation, land use and housing strategy that supports the region's economic strengths. With the ports handling more than 40 percent of the nation's container traffic, the trade and transportation sectors continued to post some of the region's strongest job gains this past year, but future job gains in the area could be impacted if congestion worsens or if the workforce can no longer afford a home.

"We need a concerted effort to invest in infrastructure, craft public-private partnerships, and focus housing and economic activities more strategically around our transportation network if we are to sustain our economy

'Relay for Life' meeting March 2

DOWNEY—Interested team leaders and event planners for the upcoming American Cancer Society-sponsored *Relay for Life* scheduled June 10-11 in Downey are invited to the meeting Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Downey Rio Hondo ACS Unit, 9901 Paramount Blvd., #245, in Downey.

More than 200 Downey residents on June 10 and 11 will take turns walking or running around a track to raise funds for cancer research, community education, legislative advocacy and patient service programs. *Relay for Life* is a 24-hour event.

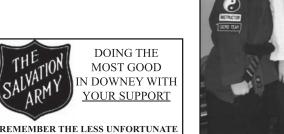


Amoxicillin is an antibiotic that is commonly prescribed for children to combat problems such as ear infections and other bacterial illnesses. A new study suggets that parents and doctors should be aware that the potential exists. The study suggests that this treatment may be linked to tooth-enamel damage. While the finding is preliminary, parents and doctors should be aware that the potential exists. This study followed 579 children from birth to age 39 months. Everv3-4 months, the researchers asked about fluoride intake and amoxicillin use. At the end of the study, researchers found that 75% of the children had been given amoxicillin by 12 months and 91% had received the antibiotic by 32 months. Even after adjustment to account for fluoride intake, 24% of the children had dental fluorosis (permanent damage to enamel-forming cells).

Once fluoride is part of the tooth enamel, it can't be taken out. But the appearance of teeth affected by fluorosis can be greatly improved by a variety of treatments in esthetic dentistry. Do you have concerns about antibiotics? At your next appointment we'll be happy to discuss all your dental options in detail with you. we are highly qualified and experienced team of professionals who want you to look and feel your best. Please call (562) 923-3714 to schedule an appointment. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307.

P.S. Dental fluorosis, which is characterized by staining and discoloration ranging from white flecks to pits and brown stains, can be caused by excessive ingestion of fluoride during early childhood years.

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A FAMILY AFFAIR - Allison Wood, daughter of Bill and Jeannie

Wood, received her 2nd degree black belt at the ultimate Karate

Center's Extravaganza last week. Allison's sister, Anna Wood, a Blue

Top instructor, received her advanced 1st degree black belt. Brother

William Wood, also an instructor, earned a 2nd degree black belt and

Daneeka Wood received her advanced black belt. The family is pic-

tured with Master Schwinge, who received her 3rd year master;

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Soroptimists' Academy Awards gala March 5

DOWNEY—Major attractions at the upcoming Academy Awards gala fundraiser Sunday, March 5 sponsored by Soroptimist International of Downey include being able to view the awards ceremony on a 15-ft. projection screen and the chance to win prizes for guessing the winners of many of the categories, as well as bid on a silent auction.

The event will be held at the Rio Hondo Event Center, starting at 4 p.m. with appetizers and drinks. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. Cost for what organizers say will be a 'night to remember' is \$60 per person.

Soroptimist International of Downey is a women's service organization that is part of a larger, worldwide organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and children.

For more information, call Dorothy at 927-9908 or Carol at 904-7159 or Jan at 806-3701.

Grand opening of The UPS Store set

DOWNEY—The UPS Store, located at 8504 Firestone Blvd., across the street from Downey High School, will have its grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, Feb. 22 at a 10 a.m., with assistance from the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

UPS Store locations are independently owned and operated by licensed franchisees of Mail Boxes Etc., a UPS company. Downey UPS Store owner Don Anderson says The UPS Store is a one-stop shop for shipping, postal and business services and he looks forward to serving the Downey community. It offers black, white and color duplications, document finishing (binding, laminating, etc), full-service packaging, freight crating and shipping, mailbox and postal services, office and packaging supplies, and otherwise geared to "providing personalized and convenient business solutions with world-class customer service."

The UPS Store's hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.





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Dr. Michael J. Harris

Date: February 21, 2006 **Time:** 6:00 – 6:30 pm Registration 6:30 – 8:00 pm Presentation, Q&A

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel

8425 Firestone Blvd. Downey, CA 90241

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Refreshments will be served.

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HIGHLIGHT-Of Worshipful Master Rory Richardson's first business meeting recently of Downey United Masonic Lodge #220 was the presentation of a 50-year continuous membership pin to Past Master William Dusatko, seated. Bill's wife, Jacquie, right, had the pleasure of pinning Bill with the pin. Witnessing the occasion, standing, from left, were family members Rick, Bill's son; and Kathy and Don Bowers. Bill was Worshipful Master in 1963 and is a member of several fraternal organizations.

The joys of reading celebrated March 2

DOWNEY-"Read Across America," the national celebration of reading which was started 9 years ago by the National Education Association to promote literacy by encouraging adults to read to children and to help students improve their academic performance, will be celebrated in California Thursday, March 2 in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. On this day, the California Teachers Association (CTA) and local teachers' associations will orchestrate reading events in schools and communities across the state.

Theme this year continues last year's theme of "Happy Readers Come from California...got books?'

Corporate support

Among the dedicated partners and supporters working in tandem with CTA to promote the 'joys of reading' are Barnes and Noble, the California Library Association, California Professional Firefighters, the California School Library Association, the Dairy Council of California, the Dodgers Dream Foundation, Hilton Los Angeles Airport, the Los Angeles Times, Northland Publishing/Rising Moon, and Scholastic.

All subscribe to the notion that 'learning to read is one of the most important things a child will ever learn to do." Moreover, they agree that "the more children read, the better they read. And the more they read outside of school, the better they do in school. Continued exposure to reading and vocabulary encourages learning and the expansion of new ideas."

Keys they recommend to helping a child become a good reader include: starting them early, surrounding your child with a reading-rich environment, talking with your child, and teaching your child while you read aloud.



IT'S RIGHT THERE! - Downey Chamber of Commerce President Steve Hoffman points something out to the new Executive Director of the Chamber, Sue Nordin, as President-Elect Steve Allen looks on. Nordin replaced Joan Warner-Plettinck after serving the Chamber for 12 years as administrative assistant.



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Energy

governmental authorities should be invited, pressured if necessary, to establish such an air monitoring station at the Learning Center site. It would establish the Learning Center as the official source of air quality data for time to come. Once again our schools' science clubs should be encouraged to volunteer to participate in this important "improvement of our air environment program" of the Learning Center, and provide them with the motivation to pursue this area of science.

Both these two areas provide a unique opportunity for the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center to continue to be relevant to currently important science areas equal to the science which it is the Learning Center's mission to commemorate and provide learning opportunities. The important science and technology fields of solar energy and clean air, both vital to keeping the environment and the economy healthy, are suitable and appropriate program areas for the Learning Center, and an opportunity to put Downey back in the forefront where important technology progress takes place.

In consideration of the value of the two proposed additional Learning Center programs, and to spark the interest of our school students in participating in the "solar energy program" and the "improvement of our air environment" programs, funding has been offered for prizes of \$1,000 per year for annual essay contests on the subjects of solar energy and clean air for 9th and 10th grade students. The proposed funding is being made available for the next five years at least, after adoption of these programs by the Learning Center administration.

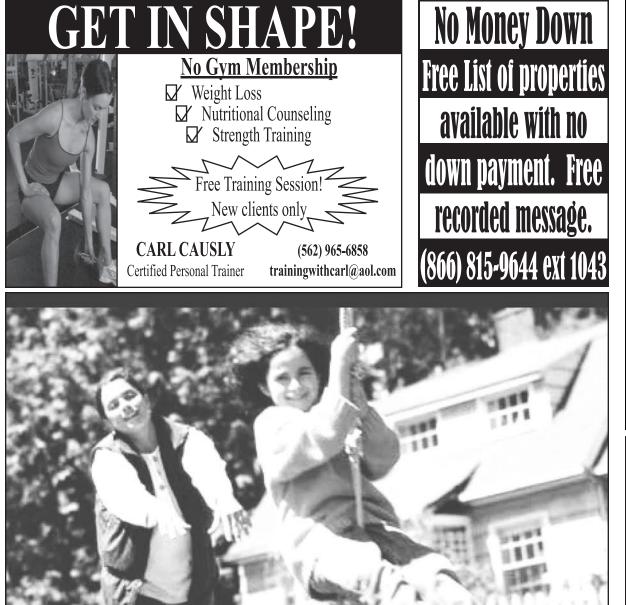
It is hoped that the city authorities will recognize the opportunities addressed in this article and give them timely consideration. It is hoped that the proposal will receive due discussion and deliberation of what adoption of the proposed programs may mean for the Learning Center and Downey. It comes to mind that in spite of the merits and the value that the Learning Center presents as now planned, it will find itself in competition for attention with other similar institutions already in place and proposed. We have to come up with more to offer and what would be considered of more relevance, of more current value, to the larger community.

(Potential solar program partners include: 1) state and federal entities-California PUC, U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Air Force Research Laboratory, National Science Foundation, JPL; 2) utility companies-Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas and Electric Co., Solar Energy Program of LA DWP; 3) solar industry-Solar Energy Industries Association, Solar Electric Power Association, the American Solar Energy Society, United Solar Systems Corporation, Energy Conversion Devices Inc., United Solar Ovonic Corporation, First Solar, BP Solar, Shell, Sharp of Japan and many other companies; 4) local engineering/science universities-USC, Long Beach State, UCI).

Forecast

and lay the foundation for Southern California to become a truly global gateway," stated Toni Young, Port Hueneme City Councilmember and SCAG President.

"When trade and other institutional barriers are lowered and an integrated transportation system is developed, this region will function as one of the most powerful economic centers in the global economy," stated Jon Edney, event moderator, El Centro City Councilmember and SCAG Regional Councilmember. "But to get to that point, we need to act now to start improving Southern California's road and rail infrastructure."





SUPPORT FOR GOOD—A check for \$1,000 from Downey Federal Credit Union is welcome news to Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD), the pro-active organization dedicated to helping local youth. From left, Downey City Councilmember and GOOD member Kirk Cartozian; Downey Councilmember and GOOD member Dave Gafin; FPCU CEO Nader Moghaddam; and East Middle School principal and **GOOD** president Brent Shubin.

GOOD gets support from familiar source

DOWNEY-Downey-based Financial Partners Credit Union, previously known as Rockwell Federal Credit Union, recently made its third annual donation to GOOD (Gangs Out of Downey), the community-based, pro-active organization that has since its inception in 1989 enjoyed the support of the Downey Unified School District and the city of Downey, especially the DUSD Superintendent and the Police Department.

"We share a rich history with the city of Downey and are committed to preserving the communities we serve," stated FPCU CEO Nader Moghaddam. "It is through our joint community action that we see a shining example of selfless service and good citizenship."

GOOD Board Committee member and DUSD Asst. Superintendent Stan Hanstad said: "It's with the support of community leaders such as Financial Partners that we are able to continue to fund GOOD programs to help our youth. The GOOD Committee thanks Financial Partners Credit Union for its support."

Nurses needed for disaster preparedness

WHITTIER—The Red Cross Rio Hondo Chapter in Whittier, which serves the communities of Bell Gardens, Downey, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier and some unincorporated service areas, needs nurses to volunteer toward preparedness for a major disaster.

Free orientation classes will be provided; sessions are held every other month with a program (two CEU's may be earned). To help, contact Rosina Smith, RN, NP (Disaster Health Services Lead) at (562) 864-7842, or leave a message at the Red Cross Chapter, (562) 945-3944. The American Red Cross is a non-profit organization.



The poets' corner

And Suddenly Chablis

In the Upper Midwest we grew up On beermaybe Mogen David at Christmas. Beer even for weddings it tends to foam better. Westering we discovered wine. We learned to love tawny port, tokay, sangria then suddenly chablis. Merlot ushered in old age Then chardonnay filled center stage. Now it seems to be losing out to white zin. -John Vincent, Downey

Warren grad finishes Army course

DOWNEY-Army Pvt. Peter A. Pena, son of Maria Pena of Downey and a 2005 Warren High alumnus, has graduated from the metal worker advanced individual training course at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Pena was trained in all phases of welding, including ferrous and nonferrous metals using oxyacetylene, electric, arc, and inert gas welding equipment. Class training included repairing, repainting, installing, and inspecting metal body components, radiators, fuel tanks, and modification of related items. He also learned to repair hulls and accessories of Army watercraft.

Abundant Hope Christian fellowship

DOWNEY-Abundant Hope Christian Center will be holding a Community Christian Fellowship event Sunday, Feb. 26 at the church, 10335 Paramount Blvd., Downey. There will be a prayer booth available from 9 a.m. - noon.

For further information, call Pastor Don Waggoner or Pastor Glenn Koons at 928-8651.

Downey native named to Dean's List

DOWNEY - Jamie L. Hauer, a native of Downey and current Pepperdine University student, has been named to the 29th annual edition of "The National's Dean's List, 2005-06."

Hauer is one of approximately 200,000 high-achieving students, representing nearly 2,500 colleges and universities, to earn the recognition.

Temple Sisterhood meets Feb. 22

DOWNEY-The Sisterhood of Temple Ner Tamid of Downey, 10629 Lakewood Blvd. in Downey, will hold its regular monthly board and general meeting Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. Luncheon will be served after the business meeting.

The community is welcome; donation for the luncheon is \$6.

City Life Deli adds tortilla soup

DOWNEY - The City Life Deli, 11006 Downey Ave., has added Mexican tortilla soup to its menu. The soup will be available on Mondays. For more information, call 923-8627.

Appointments taken for local blood drive

DOWNEY - Century 21 My Real Estate, along with Treadway, umsdaine & Doyle, is hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 21 from - 7 p.m. in the real estate company's parking lot at 7834 Florence Ave. "The need for donations continues to rise year after year," said Rob Torres of the American Red Cross. "The only way we can meet this need is by the generosity of individuals." To set up an appointment, call Laurie Mac Isaac at (800) 641-2111.

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PRIME MIN



Thank you, Downey..." for 20 Wonderful Years!

When Gregory's Restaurant opened its doors in Downey 20 years ago – in December of 1985 – it was a time for new beginnings and new neighbors.

It is with a heavy heart, and heartfelt thanks to our many Downey friends, that the Gregory's family says "good-bye" to two icons of Gregory's Restaurants: our namesake, Gregory, and his beloved Gregory's of Downey. A very special 'thank you' to the Downey Symphony Guild, the Downey Chamber of Commerce, the City of Downey and our many, many loyal customers.

Our Embassy Suites lease has not been renewed and our last day of business in Downey will be February 26, 2006. If you have Gregory's Gift Certificates... come in and use them! Or visit us in Anaheim.

In Tribute..

Gregory J. Andro 1935 - 2005



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Editorial Page 5 Friday, Feb. 17, 2006

Single guys feel the Valentine's Day blues

By Eric Pierce

Oh, the pains of being a single man on Valentine's Day, watching couples stroll down a moonlit beach, hand in hand, forever in love. The one day where all men are guaranteed a little lovin' when they come home... Unless, of course, you're single.

One of my friends signed up to work a double-shift last Tuesday, with plans to head straight home and to bed, wanting to put the day quickly behind him. My friend, as you can see, has deep psychological issues.

Another one of my friends is in a relationship, so he had a whole day lined up with a trip to the zoo, dinner at a fancy pasta house where even the waitresses wear ties, and homemade dessert back home, presumably involving chocolate strawberries. I told him I scored courtside seats to the Clippers game that night, which wasn't true. But it brought him down just a little, and that made me happy.

You see, to be single on Valentine's Day is to feel like the loneliest person on Earth. Television shows are all airing their Valentine's Day specials and even the evening news is bound to have a story on some geezer couple still together since the days of the Depression. (Bet: the reporter will ask the couple what their "secret" to longevity is, who will in turn reply with some remark about keeping the "home fire burning." Gross!)

ABC will probably air "A Charlie Brown Valentine," the one where Snoopy seduces that cute little French poodle down the street and the two end the night sharing a Milkbone.

Me? I visited my best friend's house and delivered two bright red Valentine's Day goodie bags to my friend's little sisters. Because, if you ask me, Valentine's Day is a day dedicated to love of all kinds, not just romance.

But as a single guy talking on love, what the heck do I know. I'm off to check the personals.

Mansions

in the dark," Brodeur admitted that the proposed ratios encouraged the construction of single-story vs. two-story homes. In any case, Councilmember Dave Gafin agreed that the FAR ratios should be studied further.

Cartozian also expressed his leaning toward submitting house construction proposals to some sort of a citizens design review board acting within code/zoning guidelines, especially if they would impact their future neighbor. He said he now saw the wisdom of George Redfox's ideas on "design guidelines."

Councilmember Anne Bayer said it seems that, as good a piece of work the proposed ordinance is right now, it still obviously "hasn't touched everything."

Mayor Meredith Perkins said the matter of "parking" for residential homes should be more fully addressed, too.

In other action at Tuesday's regular meeting the City Council:

*Approved work thus far on demolition and abatement at 9255 Imperial Highway, formerly known as Spartan Liquors, and granted authority to advertise for bids on the project, phase 2, underground storage tank removal.

*Approved an agreement for acquisition of 60,321 square feet of land at Woodruff and Stewart and Gray Road from Union Pacific Railroad for an estimated sum of \$520,390 by appropriation of \$555,000 in Prop A funds for land acquisition and related costs.

*Appropriated \$2,000 to host a Regional Watershed Informational Meeting.

*Adopted a resolution granting special salary adjustments to specified employees.

*Considered expense reimbursement policy for City officials, includ-



Letters to the Editor:

Illegal immigration stance faulted

Dear Editor:

I have been reading the letters in the Downey Patriot regarding the influx of illegal aliens who cross our borders in large numbers.

I would like both Mr. Daniel Sanchez and Mr. Jorge Montero (and those who support the entry of illegals) to stop to consider two things. 1. The former "immigrants" from early times referred to in Mr. Monetero's letter came to this country legally. I believe most of us would be much more welcoming should the same be true of the current (and not so current) influx of illegals. 2. Our entire social services structure is in danger of collapse because we are providing services to people who are in this country illegally! I don't think it was ever planned by any of the governing bodies in this country to support people who have either entered this country illegally or entered on a visitor or student visa and remained long after the visa expired.

The only answer to illegal immigration is to deport anyone in this country without proper papers.

We are a wealthy, stable country. I can readily understand the desire to immigrate here. What I cannot understand or approve of is our country

ing a written policy for reimbursement of certain expenses to Council Members and Council-appointed commissioners.

*Appropriated \$16,000 to enclose three offices in the Planning Division.

*Appropriated \$30,352 in the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds for fiscal 2005-06 and 2006-07.

*Authorized the unscheduled purchase of a forklift for \$29,000 and transferred \$12,734 from the Water Fund.

The next public meeting of the City Council will be Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

Norwalk Health Center open for business

NORWALK - Nearly four years after County budget cuts forced its closure, the Norwalk Regional Health Center is now back in business. Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe led the clinic's re-opening with a ribbon cutting and dedication February 15th.

The re-opening of the Health Center was made possible by contributions from Knabe, JWCH Institute, L.A. Care Health Plan, Kaiser Permanente, and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

The newly-renovated Health Center will be operated by JWCH Institute, Inc., a private, non-profit health agency founded by a group of prominent Los Angeles-area physicians in 1960.

The Health Center, which is now accepting patients, provides free and low-cost medical care and social services to the residents of the surrounding communities. JWCH is collaborating with numerous agencies to provide the patients a wide range of services, including ALMA Family Services, Intercommunity Child Guidance Center, Los Angeles Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project, and Helpline Youth Counseling.

The Downey Patriot



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The Downey Patriot is published weekly by John Adams. Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies printed. Distributed by Great Western Advertising Distributors, Inc., Los Angeles, CA allowing another country (or many other countries) to expect us to support their poor, underprivileged people at the expense of our own legal residents.

The crux of the matter is legality. The U.S. needs to close the loopholes in the laws and the holes in the border. That is not racist or xenophobicit's common sense.

-Sharon Banta,

Downey

Roybal-Allard rallies against underage drinking

The following is the text of a speech given by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard at a recent alcohol and substance-abuse prevention rally at Capitol Hill:

"Thank you for inviting me to be a part of this Forum to celebrate 'the power and the passion' of coalitions.

I am delighted that there are over 100 community leaders here from California, and I proudly welcome you to our nation's capitol.

I also understand that there are 12 California youth leaders here and I especially thank you and the other youths for participating in today's rally.

Your participation is invaluable to advancing our important message about the dangers of underage drinking.

In its thirteen-year history, CADCA has done an outstanding job of creating powerful community coalitions to promote safe and drug free communities. And I deeply appreciate CADCA's support of my efforts in Congress to address the public health crisis of underage drinking in our country.

I also appreciate the fact that our efforts are strengthened by the bi-partisan coalition we have in the House and Senate. This Congressional bipartisan coalition has had important successes in our fight against underage drinking.

Our first achievement took place a few years ago when we successfully commissioned the Institute of Medicine to study the extent of underage drinking in the U.S., and to provide strategies on how to address it. As a result of this 2003 landmark study, we initiated an Interagency Council to coordinate and enhance federal efforts for the first time, and we secured funding for a national media campaign directed at parents which began airing across the country in December of 2005.

In spite of these successes, however, we unfortunately have a long way to go to address this public health crisis.

I'm sure you share my concern that the alarming statistics on underage drinking have essentially remained unchanged since 2002. The consequences are that nearly 11 million youth between the ages of 12 and 20 reported drinking alcohol in the past month. That number includes nearly one in five 8th graders, one in three 10th graders, and half of all 12th graders. These unchanged statistics mean that today, as many celebrate

with valentines and gifts of love, at least three teenagers will die from drinking and driving, six more will die from other alcohol related causes such as homicide, suicide and drowning, and 7000 youth under the age of 16 will have taken their first drink. These 7000 young men and women will be four times more likely to become alcoholics than those who wait until age 21, 22 times more likely to use marijuana, and 50 times more likely to try cocaine than youth who do not drink. Equally as alarming is the recent finding by scientists that heavy drinking negatively impacts adolescent brain activity and development. One study found that youth who drink alcohol could lose as much as 10 percent of what they learn compared to those who don't drink. This loss of memory can significantly affect an adolescent's academic performance and future success.

These statistics are the tip of the iceberg in the compelling crisis of underage drinking. When one adds to these tragic deaths other problems associated with drinking before the age of 21, such as car accidents and injuries, violent crime, unsafe sexual activity and teenage pregnancy, one begins to sense the enormity of the problem and its tragic consequences.

To address this serious public health crisis, my colleagues and I have sponsored the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking, better known as the STOP Act. The STOP Act makes permanent the anti-underage drinking national media campaign directed at parents, makes permanent the coordination of federal efforts through the interagency council, mandates extensive reporting requirements by HHS, and establishes a report card to track the efforts against underage drinking by states. The Stop Act also makes available community grants to help stop underage drinking, and research grants to develop more effective strategies to curb underage drinking.

The passage of the STOP Act is a critical step towards addressing this national health crisis facing our youth. To make sure the STOP Act becomes law, we need you to continue your work and your advocacy in Washington, D.C. and in our communities back home.

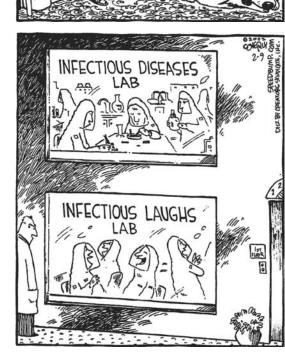
The first-hand stories you bring to your representatives and senators are exactly what we need to take the crisis of underage drinking out of the shadows and into the light of a national priority. By working together, we can and will successfully confront this public health crisis. Your presence on this Valentine's Day is truly a gift of love to the youth of our country.

I sincerely thank you for coming to Washington to carry your message to Congress."



Page 6 Friday, Feb. 17, 2006 Comics/Crossword ______ The Downey Patriot

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Downey Community Calendar

Events For February

Fri. Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m.: Shawn Morgan entertains at the keyboard with popular hits at Granata's restaurant, 11032 Downey Ave. Also Saturday night. For information call 861-2997. Fri. Feb. 24, 8:00 p.m.: <u>"Nunsense</u>" musical comedy presented by Downey Civic Light Opera at the Downey Theater, Firestone at Brookshire. Also Saturday and Sunday. For tickets and information call 923-1714.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

9 a.m.: Downey Bocce Club, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439. 9:30 a.m.: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422. 9:30 a.m.: Adventure with the Bible, at the First Baptist Church Call 928-4153. 12 p.m.: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo, for information call Carol Pearce at 622-1425. 12:00 p.m.: Exchange Club, at Sizzler Restaurant. Call Don Hollister 927-5871 7 p.m.: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478. 7 p.m.: Boy Scout Troop 441, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659. 7:30 p.m.: Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines, at Downey's Woman's Club, for information call 947-6802. 1st and 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: Quota International Southeast Cities, for information call (323) 569-2854. 2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers, at Nordic Fox. for info. call (562) 923-2191. 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: Sertoma Club, at Bakers Square. for information call (562) 927-6438. 2nd Tues., 7 p.m.: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, for information call 943-3904 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: Writer's Workshop West, at 9968 Lakewood Blvd., for info call 862-3106. 3rd Tues., 1:30 p.m.: Huff and Puff Respiratory, at DRMC Support Group, call 904-5355. Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.: Los Companeros Service Club, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

Wednesdays

7 a.m.: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626. 1 p.m.: Women's Bocce Club, for information call 869-8782. 6 p.m.: Downey Space Toastmasters Club 513, at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, for info. call Mark at 803-5203. 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: Woman's Club of Downey, for information call 927-0271 or 861-3493. 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: Downey Coordinating Council, for information call 927-9790. 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028. 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Emblem Club #309, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386. 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132. 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Sister Cities Ass'n, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197. 2nd Weds., 11:45 - Downey Christian Women's Club, at Los Amigos CC. Call 927-8488. 3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m.: Diabetes Support Group, at DRMC, for more information call 622-2088. Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

7:30 a.m.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534. 7:30 a.m.: Connections Networking, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414. 9 a.m.: Senior Californians of Downey, (a social activities club for senior citizens), for information call 803-6887. 12 p.m.: Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee, for information call 928-4153. 12 p.m.: Optimist Club of Downey, at Sambi's, for information call Steve Allen at 806-3701. 12:30 p.m.: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at United Methodist Church, call (626) 965-9991. 6:30 p.m.: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176. 7 p.m.: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388. 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center. Call 862-2777. 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

PATRIOT CLASSIFIEDS!

IT FAST

CALL LINDA LARSON AT (562) 904-3668

7:30 a.m.: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Joe Becker at 869-1414 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: Women's "In His Glory" Ministry at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com) PASTA SALAD: The Ital by Fr

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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.

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PUZZLE PRIZE CONTEST! Try Stan Newman's new weekly WordWit Puzzle™ at www.StanXwords.com

Fridays

Entertainment Page 7 Friday, Feb. 17, 2006

Preparations for Street Faire now in full swing

DOWNEY-The Downey Chamber of Commerce's 13th annual Street Faire scheduled from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 6 is shaping up to be an exciting event, according to Street Faire chairman Jan Scott of Pacific Western Bank. "Once again Brookshire Avenue from Firestone to the Civic Center Drive will be jammed with crafters, businesses displaying their wares, tempting foods, entertainment for all ages, demonstrations, a classic car show, and a kid's zone," said Scott.

Colin Clarke, Century 21-Jervis & Associates, is the Platinum Sponsor this year. "This is a wonderful community event and I am pleased to be a sponsor this year," he said.

Other sponsors include: Diamond Sponsor Downey Regional Medical Center, Gold Sponsor CalMet Services, Inc, Silver Sponsor Talbert Medical Center and Bronze Sponsors Pacific Western Bank and World of Décor.

There is only one Platinum Sponsor but openings are still available for Gold Sponsors, Silver Sponsors and Bronze Sponsors. "The monetary support of our sponsors," stated Scott, "will guarantee that this Street Faire is the biggest and best we have had."

"We are also happy with the in-kind services we receive from Supervisor Don Knabe, the Downey City Council, Dr. Wendy Doty, Downey Unified School District, and the various city departments, Community and Recreation Services, Police, Fire and Public Works, that all help to make the Faire happen," Scott continued.

"The committee has been working since the last Faire to continue to make this a fun event for the whole family, and we will have something for everyone to enjoy," she added.

Applications for vendors have been mailed and signups have begun. Cost for a 10 x 10 space is \$95, and food vendor spaces are \$105. For further information about applications, call the Chamber office at 923-2191.

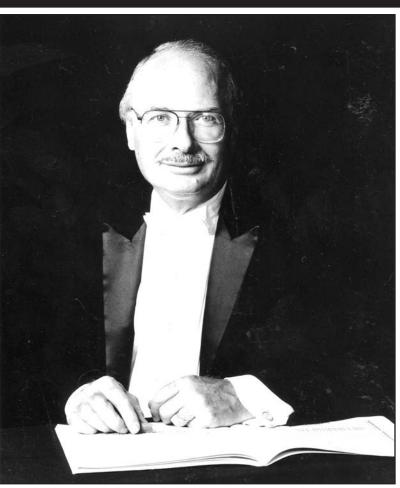
'Bark!' making noise at Coast Playhouse

LOS ANGELES-"Bark!", about man's best friend, told and sung from the dog's point of view, has again extended its stay at the Coast Playhouse, 8325 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood, this time through Feb. 19.

Since opening in September 2004, the world premiere musical is said to have received critical acclaim and has continued to play to sell-out audiences. A second production, in Chicago, has been enjoying an equally successful run since last October.

For tickets (\$45 for all performances), access www.tix.com or call (800) 595-4849. For more information, visit www.barkthemusical.com.





ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – Thomas Osborn will conduct the Downey Symphony Orchestra in the final concert of the current season Saturday, March 25 at 8 p.m. in the Downey Theater, Firestone at Brookshire. The event will feature Downey Symphony horns as soloists and will present music by Dvorak, Kurka, Schumann and Brahms. For tickets and information, call 403-2944.



Residents getting a 'Taste of Hollywood'

DOWNEY-Downey Adult School's Great Western Tours stops first at the Fashion Institute of Design when it goes on its "Taste of Hollywood" tour Wednesday, March 1.

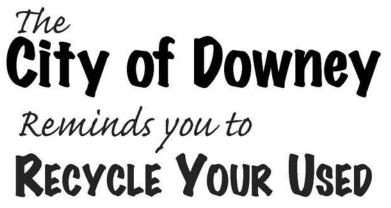
After a one-hour guided tour of the institute's campus and another special one-hour guided tour of the Gallery of Academy Award Gowns, participants will visit the Biltmore Hotel, home of the first Academy Award events. Lunch at Smeraldi's Restaurant and shopping at It's a Wrap round out the tour.

Tour escort is Harriett Paine. Cost is \$49 per person. Tour registration coupons are available in the Downey Adult School main office, 12340 Woodruff Ave., or mailed upon request.

To register, call 940-6213.

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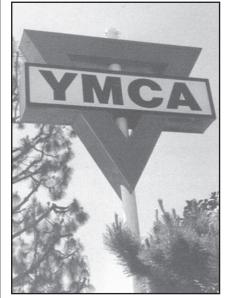


Regular Games start ~Prizes, Suprises Galore~ Benefits Rancho patients

Woman's Club of Downey

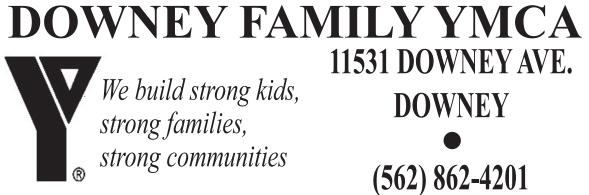
📥 Early Birds 12 noon 📣

9813 Paramount Blvd

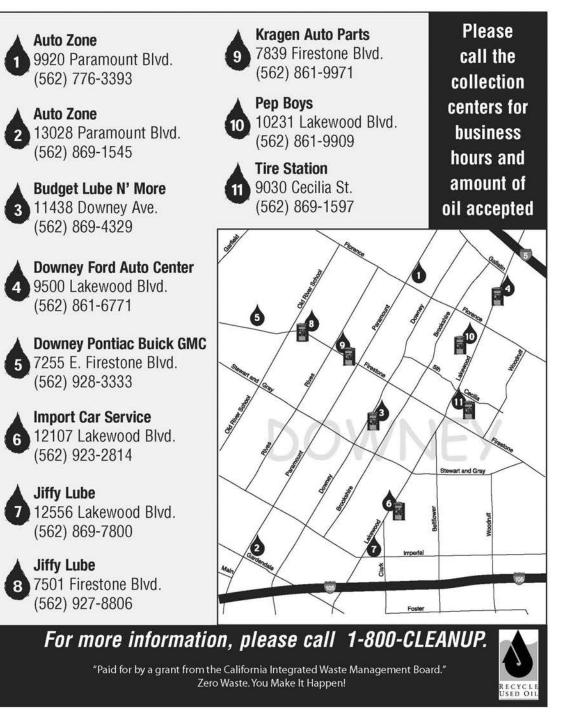


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Funeral mass held for Elizabeth Sawickis

DOWNEY—A Funeral Mass was held on Feb. 11 in the Holy Redeemer Chapel at the Holy Cross Cemetery for Elizabeth Cecilia Sawickis, who was born to Raymond and Adela Espinoza in Los Angeles Nov. 22, 1952 and died on Feb. 7. She was 53.

She attended Huntington Park High School and graduated from Cal State University with a bachelor's in fashion marketing. She worked for the Vernon Police Department as assistant records manager, and belonged to the Corvette Super Sports of SoCal and the Los Angeles Quilters. Her extensive travels took her to Hawaii, Canada, Europe, and other places.

She is survived by her husband, James; mother, Adela; sisters, Lillian, Ann Marie and Desiree; and nieces Cynthia, Christina, Angela, Lauren, Katie, Noel and Mary.

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Steven Dominguez, MD, MPH

Arrangements were by Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary.



GIVING THANKS – Rotary International District Governor Ingo Werk thanked the board of directors of the Rotary Club of Downey for its service to the community and international projects. Pictured left to right: Assistant District Governor Doug Wilson, Darren Dunaway, Stan Carmichael, Mary Werk, Ingo Werk, Robert Freeman, Carol Pearce, Jim Boyd, Jorge Montero, Nick Adams, Doug Baker, Bonnie Kehoe and Matt Knox. For information on Downey Rotary, call Pearce at 622-1425.

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Chief Roy Campos is luncheon speaker

DOWNEY—The annual GOOD (Gangs Out of Downey) luncheon highlighting the work being done by the award-winning community-based organization to combat gang activity here in Downey, takes place Wednesday, April 12 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center, located at 10627 Old River School Rd.

This year's keynote speaker will be Downey Police Chief Roy Campos. Emceeing the affair is Supervisor Don Knabe.

The luncheon sells out each year with over 400 in attendance, so the organizing committee urges everyone to make their reservations early. This year's event costs \$25 per person or \$250 per table for a table of 10.

Sponsorships are available: Platinum sponsor (donation of \$5000 or more); Gold sponsor (\$2000-\$4999 donation); Silver sponsor (\$1000-\$1999); and Bronze sponsor (\$500-\$999). All proceeds are used to fund anti-graffiti programs; "at-risk" student programs; 10-20 Club program for gang suppression; special activities for at-risk troubled youth and the high school policing program. Among recipients of funds raised by GOOD are the Downey Unified School District (DUSD), City of Downey, and the Downey Police Department.

For more information and/or reservations, contact Stan Hanstad, DUSD Assistant Superintendent at (562) 469-6541; or Brent Shubin, Principal, East Middle School at (562) 904-3586 ext. 4080.



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Obituaries

Louise Jones heavily involved with church

DOWNEY - Louise B. Jones, a former Downey Woman of the Year who dedicated her life to the Catholic Church, died Feb. 11 at home surrounded by her children. She was 89.

She was born Gyneth Luella Nunez on Nov. 6, 1916 in Hahira, Georgia to John Barney Nunez and Myrl Viva Folsom. She was adopted by Louis Silver and Maude Jane (Browning) at age 3 in El Paso, Texas, but Louis's sudden death forced Maude to move the family to Los Angeles. There, Maude met and married Charles Henry Flory and together they raised Jones as their own child.

She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1935. She wed Richard Henry Jones in 1940 at Santa Barbara Mission and began a union that would last 43 years and produce 11 children, ending with the death of her spouse on March 10, 1984.

She is survived by all 11 of her children and was predeceased only by two daughter-in-laws, Mardel (Clark Jones) and Carla (Dan Jones). Survivors include Tim and Lois Jones; Sr. Mary Richardlyn, SND; Clark Jones; Sr. Mary Domnic, SND; Robert and Rosie Saldivar; Steve and Linda Taylor-Jones; Ray and Midge Jones; Bill and Lyn Jones; Ten and Ruan Jones; Dan and Lilliam Jones; Tracey and Karen Jones; 25 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Former Downey QB Pete Yoder dies at 65

DOWNEY-Pete Yoder, who quarterbacked Downey High in the 1956 major-division championship against Anaheim-a 13-13 tie at the Coliseum before 41,383, still a record for the largest crowd in the state for a playoff game-died Jan. 30 of brain cancer in Austin, Texas. He was 65.

A graduate of Long Beach State and an assistant at Long Beach Poly before going to Pasadena's Blair, which he led to the 1969 4-A title behind running backs James McAlister and Kermit Johnson, players who would go on to play in the National Football League, Yoder's other stints included coaching football under John McKay at USC. He lived in Texas after he retired seven years ago from the Tustin Unified School District.

Laura; and grandchildren.

GATEWAY CITIES



LOUISE B. JONES - A resident of Downey since 1950, died Feb. 11. William D. Hutchinson memorial service Feb. 25

DOWNEY-A Memorial Service will be held at the Hutchinson residence at 14467 San Dieguito Drive in La Mirada Saturday, Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. for William D. Hutchinson, who was self-employed and lived in Downey for 15 years.

Born in Canton, Ohio, he died on Feb. 10 in Whittier. He was 65.

He is survived by his sons Bill D. Hutchinson and Guy E. Hutchinson; brother, Jack Hutchinson of Covina; and sister, Shirley Crews of Canton, Ohio.

Burial will be private. Miller-Mies Mortuary of Downey is assisting with arrangements.



Gonzalo Ortega passes away in Downey at 87

DOWNEY - Downey resident Gonzalo Ortega, a retired Xerox employee and member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, died Feb. 1 in Downey. He was 87.

Ortega was born April 19, 1918 in Texas. He resided in Downey the past 10 years.

Visitation was held Feb. 8 at Miller-Mies Mortuary. Services were conducted at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Hacienda Heights and burial was at Riverside National on Feb. 9.

He is survived by his wife, Rose; sister Lillian Shewman and nieces and nephews.

Bereavement seminars at First Christian

DOWNEY-Downey First Christian Church will present a bereavement seminar series titled "GriefShare" starting Sunday, March 5 and will continue for 13 weeks from 6-8 p.m. Sunday evenings.

The seminar is open to all those in the community who have experienced a loss. A \$15 donation for the workbook materials is requested.



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The Gateway Cities Council of Governments has extended the application period for transit consumers to apply for a position on the Gateway Cities METRO Service Sector This Council helps Governance Council. oversee METRO bus services in Southeast Los Angeles County.

Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. March 7, 2006.

The Gateway Cities Council of Governments will nominate the member. Emphasis is on consumers of transit. These could include bus riders, or families, businesses and institutions that depend on or subsidize transit services for family members, students, customers or employees.

Get your application form at www.gatewaycog.org or by calling 562-663-6850.

(In accordance with the Americans Disability Act, you may also call this number to obtain the information in alternative format).



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Union Bank	2.17%	APY
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Page 10 Friday, Feb. 17, 2006 Real Estate



ACE REALTY **Open House**

Come see this model condo- walking distance to the beach. Two bedrooms, two baths, two parking spaces, includes C/air & heat. Open this weekend, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. 1525 appleton st., Long Beach

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Gorgeous 3 bedroom, 2 baths, with formal dinning room, and family room, w/fireplace. Includes travertine tiles, granite counters, jacuzzi, waterfall in patio, custom landscaping and much more. \$649,700. Call to see.

Custom Home

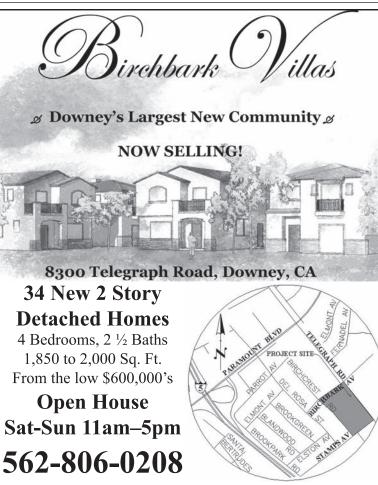
Attractive 2 bed, 2 bath Downey home plus 15'X30' pool, with newer heater and filter. Has beautiful glass paneled front door with black slate hall way, wood burning stone fireplace, new built-in appliances, micro wave/convection oven, and much more. Can show anytime. \$651,500.

Corner 4-Plex

Split level apartment, has owner's unit 3 bed, 2 bath, 2-2bed, 1-1bed with 4 car garage of alley and separate laundry. All units are presently leased. Groos annual income \$48,420. Call for location to drive by. \$899,900.

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NEW RE/MAX ONLINE SALES ASSOCIATE-Martin Lopez, shown here with wife Betty, shares his real estate orientation: "Our pride in this community for helping people with real estate needs shines through in the way we approach our clients. We understand that a home is much more than four walls and a roof. We are very aware that every customer is unique, so we take the time to custom tailor our approach to each client's unique needs and requirements."



Martin Lopez joins Re/Max Online

DOWNEY-Phil Limon and Minnie Gaspar, co-owners of Re/Max Online in Downey, announced that Martin Lopez, who has been a licensee for over nine years and has lived in the Downey area for over 17 years, has joined the company as a sales associate. He is assisted by his wife, Betty, who provides administrative and support services. The couple has four children: two boys aged 13 and 15, and two girls aged 9 and 11.

According to Lopez, who is bilingual, his decision to join Re/Max Online was made because of the company's strong brand name recognition, as well as the training and technology tools offered by the real estate network. "I know I can grow and advance my career by being affiliated with the most productive and professional agents in the business," he said. "Re/Max Online is a progressive company that is rapidly growing and gaining market share. I wanted to be affiliated with the best and most advanced real estate office in the area and I believe I found that with Re/Max Online."

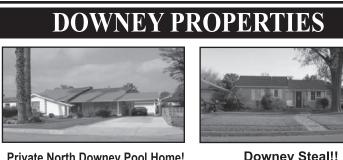
Lopez can be contacted at (562) 824-3216 or via e-mail, martin@martinandbettyhomes.com.

Hospital cited for mercury reduction

DOWNEY-The Downey Regional Medical Center has been commended by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) for its exemplary work and efforts in reducing its use of mercury. In presenting the safety award, L.A. County Sanitation District project engineer Preeti Ghuman, P.E., called DRMC "progressive" and "a good neighbor." She added that DRMC was one of just seven hospitals in the region to achieve this level of compliance.

The Mercury Elimination Program, begun in October 2002, challenged California hospitals to eliminate mercury-containing products in their facilities. DTSC sponsored this initiative to make California a national leader in mercury elimination. It is a joint effort of DTSC, DHS, the California Healthcare Association, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region IX, Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E), California Water Environment Association (CWEA), and Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). This joint effort is supporting the national goal set by the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the U.S. EPA to virtually eliminate healthcare wastes that contain mercury.

When fever thermometers, blood pressure cuffs, and other products that contain mercury become waste, the mercury can re-enter the environment through the gases released from landfills and by leaching into the ground water. DRMC has met stricter wastewater treatment discharge limits for mercury.



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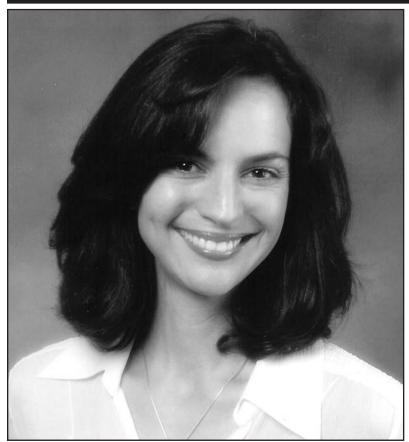
- The first time people look at an ad, they don't usually see it.
- The second time, they don't notice it.
- The third time, they are aware that it is there.
- The fourth time, they have a fleeting sense they've seen it somewhere before.
- The fifth time, they actually read the ad.
- The sixth time they thumb their nose at it.
- The seventh time, they start to get a little irritated with it.
- The eighth time, they start to think, "Here's that confounded ad again."
- The ninth time, they start to wonder if they may be missing out on something.

- The tenth time, they ask friends and neighbors if they've tried it.
- The eleventh time, they wonder how the company is paying for all these ads.
- The twelfth time, they start to think it must be a good product.
- The thirteenth time, they start to feel the product has value.
- The fourteenth time, they accept the fact that they will buy it sometime in the future.
- The seventeenth time, they make a note to buy the product.
- The eighteenth time, they curse their poverty for not allowing them to buy this terrific product.
- The nineteenth time, they count their money very carefully.
- The twentieth time, they see the ad, they buy what is being offered.

Original source of this information unknown



Real Estate Page 11 Friday, Feb. 17, 2006



MAITE GARCIA - A new agent with Century 21 My Real Estate, is a former Miss Cerritos and a graduate of Cypress College. She is also bilingual. "This highly motivated and dynamic young woman is a real asset to our office," stated Angie Pierce, office manager. To contact Garcia call (562) 927-2626.

Be proactive with computer protection

By Steve Sande, Aim High! Inc.

As a computer consultant I'm often called in to help someone recover from a disaster that's destroyed a computer. We've discussed backups in other articles in this column, but there are other ways to protect your computers from a horrible fate.

First, get some surge protection. Here in Colorado we get some amazing lightning storms. While rare, sometimes a direct lightning hit on a power line can cause power surges that can literally fry the circuitry of your computer. Even in urban areas inconsistencies in power to your computer can cause slight damage, which over time can wipe out your computer.

A surge protector is cheap insurance against this possibility. APC, Belkin and other manufacturers make multiple outlet surge protectors that also filter out power surges in phone and DSL lines. You can find these devices at most office supply or computer stores for as little as \$9.99. Some manufacturers even offer a replacement policy for your equipment if it's damaged while connected to one of their surge protectors.

Second, consider locks for your equipment. Most laptop owners have cable locks that keep their hardware from walking off, but homeowners never think that their desktop PCs and monitors may be stolen. Most PCs, printers and other peripherals now have the standard lock slots on them and Kensington would be happy to sell you locks for all of your devices. At \$37.99 to \$73.99, locks are an inexpensive way to deter computer theft.

Finally, never operate a computer without security software. This means not only having virus protection, but anti-spyware and firewall software as well. While spyware isn't a big issue on Macs, it is rampant on the Windows platform. Fortunately, Microsoft has made their Windows AntiSpyware package available free of charge while it is being tested.

Great Western Tours includes Nevada trip

DOWNEY-On the current Great Western Tours schedule sponsored by Downey Adult School is an extended tour of Las Vegas and Lake Mead Tuesday-Thursday, April 18-20, which will take tour passengers to a springtime Lake Mead Cruise aboard the Desert Princess (the pride of the Lake Mead Cruise fleet), taking the group right along the top of Hoover Dam, topped off by a visit to the Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum, located in the historic Boulder Dam Hotel.

Hotel accommodations are at the 4-Diamond (AAA) Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino located in downtown Vegas. Tour escort is Harriett Paine.

The three-day, two-night (\$209 double per person/\$269 single) Nevada tour includes: transportation, two-nights hotel accommodations, one breakfast buffet, welcome cocktail, Lake Mead cruise with boxed lunch, self-guided tour of Hoover Dam, admission to Boulder/Hoover Dam Museum, driver's gratuity, tax, and baggage handling.

Tour registration coupons are available in the Downey Adult School main office or mailed upon request. Call 940-6213 for additional tour information.

2nd Century Foundation meets Mondays

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

DFCU earns another five-star honor

DOWNEY-Downey Federal Credit Union (DFCU) has once again achieved BauerFinancial's highest five-star superior rating for financial strength and stability. BauerFinancial Inc., based in Coral Gables, Florida, is the nation's leading independent credit union rating firm.

The rating indicates that DFCU is one of the safest credit unions in the country, and has been for 60 consecutive quarters. In addition, having attained this highest rating consistently for 10 years or longer, DFCU has garnered a spot in the even more impressive group of Exceptional Performance Credit Unions.

"Earning a five-star rating is in itself an outstanding achievement - evidence of consistently sound management, financial strength and performance," said Karen L. Dorway, president of the research firm. "Earning 5-Stars 60 consecutive times is really something to be proud of."







Steve Sande is an Aim High!, Inc. associate and can be reached at steves@aimhigh.net.



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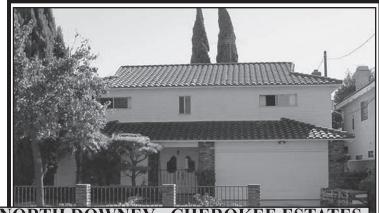


DOWNEY - MOVE IN CONDITION

Completely remodeled home in immaculate and move-in condition. Spacious open floor plan with room to expand. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, family room with fireplace plus central air. Drive thru 1 car to 2 car garage. Plus a bonus room. Priced right at \$729,000. Call Carol today

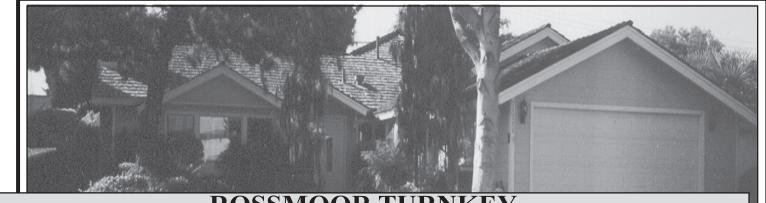
LYNWOOD- MOVE IN CONDITION

Completely remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with 1,000 sqft of living space. Family kitchen, 2 car detached garage plus large play yard with room to expand. Listed at \$425,000. Call Carol for information.



- CHEROKEE ESTATES

Spacious custom 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath home with 2,275 sq. ft. of living space. Sparkling pool and spa, formal dining room and family room open to kitchen. Granite counter tops throughout and picture perfect family kitchen. Direct access from garage. Large master suite with private bath and walk-in closet. Listed at \$885,000. Call Carol for the best deal.



ROSSMOOR JRNKEY

No need to preview this completely remodeled custom home situated in the heart of Rossmoor. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, and over 2,700 sq. ft. of living space, 2 fireplaces, formal dining room, central air, plantation shutters and hardwood floors throughout. Master suite with private bath double sink, and huge walk-in closet. Granite counter tops throughout and picture perfect family kitchen. All it needs is you! Asking \$1,195,000. Call Carol now for a private showing.

Page 12 Friday, Feb. 17, 2006 Classified/Real Estate _____ The Downey Patriot

GARAGE SALE

SAT. 2-18, 8AM-2 PM Drexel furn, Karastan rugs, dinning chairs, custom bedding, treadmill, etc., excel-

lent. condition. 7834 Via Amorita, Downey



Real estate agents are not necessarily mortgage specialists. However, we all know that financing is an integral part of any real estate transaction, and buyers often look to agents for some guidance relating to their loan options. It is for this very reason that agents maintain strong relationships with local lenders and mortgage specialists. With all the issues involved in coordinating the sale and purchase of property, many agents simply don't have the resources to become experts in such an ever-changing field as mortgage products. There are now more choices than ever in terms of documentation, payment options, and loan terms. Just as examples, some of the most popular loans are Fixed-Rate Mortgages, Adjustable-Rate Mortgages (ARMs), and Interest-Only loans. "Fixed" are just that - regular principal and interest payments for an established period of time. ARMs fluctuate, but new "hybrids" offer a fixed rate after a certain number of years. Interest-only loans are uncertain if you choose not to pay any principal in the early part of the loan, but can work out if you need short-term cash flow or intend to move or refinance shortly. Every buyer has a best mortgage match and there are literally hundreds of options. It can make your head spin! Have an agent recommend another professional who can help get you into the home of your dreams.

I'll be pleased to help you with any of your real estate needs. Call Colin (562) 904-6652



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DOWNEY HOME HUGE LOT

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DOWNEY

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Pride of ownership in Sierra Lakes Golf Club 3 bd and 3bath, Family room with fireplace, Brand new spa with gazebo and patio. Double door entry to Master suite with walk-in closet. This home is what we call MOVE IN CONDITION!!!! Great house with a great community. Abraham Garnica (562)755-7696



Condo in Paramount Condo in Paramount 2-bed 3-bath listed at \$320,000

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Move Right In 2 Units built in 2002. Property looks Immaculate. Pride of Ownership. Both units are 3 bedrooms 2 baths, property measures over 2400 Sqft. Good opportunity to gain some extra income. Perfect for two families to raise kids and much more Alex Chavez (323) 236-1497www.AlexChavezTheRealtor.com





Marcy & Monica(562)400-3121(562)5721197



Downey Steal!! Body: 3 bedrooms, 2 baths excellent North of Gallatin locale, home is over 1400 sqft., on a large lot, Move in condition shows beautifully. Seller's are highly motivated. Wilson Ruiz (562) 869-4111











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The Downey Patriot



\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar 1



Home of Distinction!

ifficent, colonial-style home includes a 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath .e. large guest house, 3-car garage, and huge backvard with a on an impressive 11,625 sq. ft. lot. The home features ar mail living room with crown holding & fireplace, spacious format ... large tamily room with wet bar & fireplace, spacious format ... arge tamily room with wet bar & fireplace, spacious format ... with the start of the start of the start of the start ... with the start of the start of the start of the start ... with the start of the start of the start of the start ... with the start of the start of the start of the start ... with the start of the start of the start of the start ... with the start of the start of the start of the start ... with the start of the start of the start of the start ... with the start of the start of the start of the start ... the start of the start of the start of the start of the start ... the start of the start of the start of the start of the start ... the start of the start ... the start of th spa on t formal I solarium. Yo Solarium Yo Sloset, large r, can be used year round. Price: \$1,1 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



Spanish Style Beauty Beautiful 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home rebuilt in 1993 in the wonderful NE section of Downey. The property has a 2 car det. garage and large pool-size yard that's perfect for entertaining. The custom-built home has an impressive living room with vaulted ceiling, formal dining room and deen cerd or downgrive menter, bedreroen with home hortheroen. The den, and a downstairs master bedroom with large bathroom. The upstairs has another master bedroom, 2 other bedrooms with Jack-&-Ji ath. and bonus room (or 5th bedroom Price: \$1.099.000

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



A Rare Find! 5 bedroom, 3 bath Downey home built in 2001 set on a very large 9,150 sq.ft lot with covered patio and built in BBQ. The home opens into a large living room with a cathedral ceiling, marble floors, formal dining room with fireplace, remodeled kitchen with granite counter tops & built-in appliances & a cozy family room with fireplace. The master suite has a fireplace and a large bathroom with 2 showers & a separate tub. Price \$1,099,900.

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



Turnkey Home!

Remodeled 3 bedroom + office, 2 bath home in North Downey near Rio San Gabriel and East Middle School. Features new kitchen with granite counter tops and new cabinets, living room with fireplace, large family room, and beautiful master bedroom with new jetted tub and separate shower. In addition, the property has a great backyard, newe tile roof, copper plumbing, upgraded electrical panel, and a 2 car detached garage. Price: \$875,000

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111

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tral air and heat, newer roof & attached bonus room. Price \$699,950 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111

Mrs. Clean Lives Here

vith a spacious living room & formal dining area, well-kept kitchen wit vedroom with lots of closet space & a private bathroom with skyligh

Other amenities include hardwood floors under carpet, tile in kitcher

lar 3 bed, 2 bath NW Downey home on a large lot (8270 sq ft

Must See For Yourself! Funds Coce FOI FOURSEN! 3 bedrooms, 2 bath home in North Downey (Orange Estates) near Furman Park. The Home includes a master bedroom, living room, family room & enclosed patio. The property also includes a 3-car garage & guest room. Exterior has been freshly painted & has a new rod-iron fence, while the interior has a remodeled kitchen & bathrooms, hardwood floors, Italian tile, central air & heat, & copper plumbing throughout. All this for \$ 849,950

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



Light and Airy!

4 bedroom, 2 bath Downey home with 2 car attached garage, living room, family room with fireplace, and formal dining room. Home has a very open floor plan with tile floors, bright kitchen with tile counter tops, pantry, and inside laundry area in family room. The backyard has a covered patio and grass area. Price: \$699,000

New Construction in Northeast Downey new kitchen and bathrooms, travertine floors, granite counter to in kitchen and baths, dual central air & heat, copper plumbing, recessed lighting, curved/texture-coated walls, and professionally landscape front/back yard. The home includes a very large master bedroom w/ walk-ir closet & private bath and a spacious family room. (Completed by February 006) Price: \$1.349.000.

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111

★ ★ ★ ★



bedroom 2.75 bath pool home near Furman Park and Rio Hondo The living room and family room with fireplaces & newer Elementary. Elementary. The living room and family room with fireplaces & newer sliding doors overlooks the large covered patio, pool, and gazebo. Some of the amenities include solar heated pool, water softener, central air & heat, and hardwood floors. You won't find too many homes like this with it's large lot and circular driveway, a rare find in Orange Estates. Price: \$875,000

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111