



The Downey Patriot



Church pays homage to troops
See Page 3



Kids run all the way to N.Y.
See Page 8

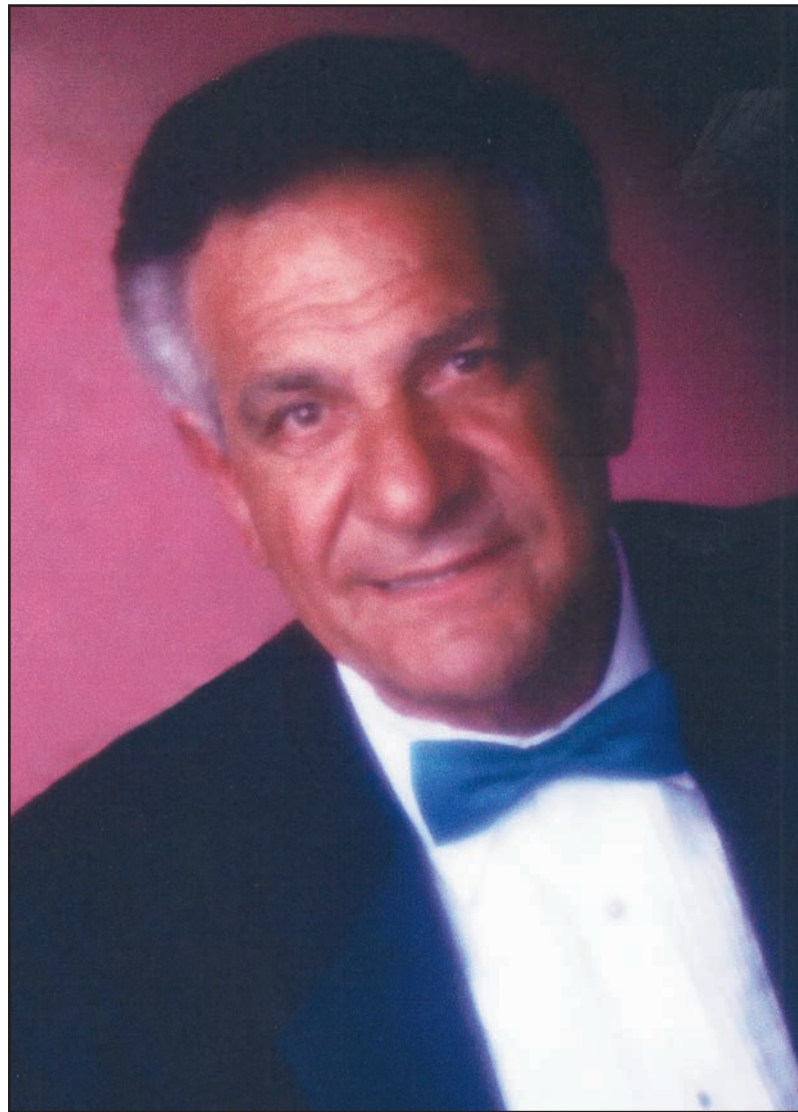


Local obituary announcements
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Friday, June 27, 2008

Vol. 7 No. 10

8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240



Alfred D'Alessandro was a giant in the building industry, having served as president of D&H Construction in Downey. He died June 20 of suspected heart failure.

1928 - 2008

D'Alessandro mourned by family, friends

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—Alfred Anthony ("Del" or "Fred" to his friends) D'Alessandro, who over a concentrated span in the 1980s etched his name in construction circles as perhaps the premier developer in Downey while winning the hearts of countless grateful at-risk youth through his sustained work with the Optimist Club of Downey's Boys/Girls Home project, died June 20. He was 80.

The suspected cause of death was heart failure.

D'Alessandro underwent knee replacement surgery, according to his wife of 29 years, Johnnie, in October of last year, which effectively immobilized him and from which he never fully recovered. He was treated at various hospitals, including Whittier Presbyterian, Long Beach Memorial and Rancho Los Amigos, spending the last three weeks of his life at the Southland retirement home.

A funeral service is scheduled at 11 a.m. today, June 27, at the Rose Chapel (Gate 1) at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier. Graveside services will then be held, followed by a Celebration of Life in his honor at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Born in Hartford, Conn. on April 20, 1928, D'Alessandro was a member of the L.A. Fire Department for 25 years, retiring from the department in 1978, before devoting his energies full-time as president of D & H Construction of Downey. He estimated that he, at one point, built half the homes in Downey.

He had moved to Downey in 1949, together with his parents Antonio and Theresa D'Alessandro, along with his brothers Joseph and James, all of whom have predeceased him.

He brandished a 7-handicap at one time, and missed playing golf in later years due to a bad back, but among his legacies was his leading role for many years in an annual golf tournament for the benefit of the Optimist Club of Downey, Downey Fire and Police Association and U.N.I.C.O.

He was also a member of the Downey Elks, Lions Club, and many other community organizations. He also served Downey through various appointed positions on key committees and commissions (he served two terms with the Planning Commission, broaching the idea of a Design Review Board where he served as a member).

Wife Johnnie says he made regular trips back to Connecticut, to the delight of family, friends and schoolmates. He loved to take those Mediterranean cruises, and made several trips to Italy (his immigrant parents hailed from there—his father from the little Calabrian mountain town of Mormano, his mother from Reggio).

An avid collector of firefighter memorabilia, D'Alessandro's love for Notre Dame football was total. The greeting on his cell phone was the Notre Dame fight song.

Survivors include: wife Johnnie; children Lisa D'Alessandro of Irvine, Michael (Caryl) of Costa Mesa, and Sandy D'Alessandro of Irvine; stepsons Steven (Katya) Warner of Riverside, and Bruce Vannarin of Canyon Lake; grandchildren Brittany, Ciera, Ashley, Haley, Kyle, Natasha and Giana; brother, Frank D'Alessandro of Connecticut; and eight nieces and nephews.

Donations in his honor can be made to Optimist Club, P.O. Box 794, Downey, CA 90241, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

For more information on services, call Rose Hills Memorial Park, (562) 699-0921.

Officials warn against illegal fireworks, promise to issue hefty citations

■ Seventy-three citations were issued last year, fire officials say.

DOWNEY – Downey residents are being reminded to celebrate Independence Day in a safe manner, and that means no illegal fireworks.

Illegal fireworks – including bottle rockets, mortars, firecrackers and Roman candles – pose serious safety threats, city officials said.

Extra police officers and firefighters will be patrolling Downey streets July 4, and anyone caught using, selling or possessing illegal fireworks will be subject to fines up to \$1,000.

"Our goal is for the community to enjoy a safe fourth of July holiday," said Downey Police Chief Roy Campos. "To ensure the safety

of the public, we will deploy additional officers in our neighborhoods to aggressively enforce all violations of our fireworks laws, from illegal possession to misuse of legal fireworks."

Only "safe and sane" fireworks can legally be detonated in Downey on July 4, and only from 3 to 10 p.m.

Fireworks sales begin Tuesday at noon and end July 4 at 8 p.m. Residents must be at least 18 years old to purchase or possess fireworks.

Last year, 73 citations were issued for fireworks-related offenses, with a 100 percent conviction rate, said Downey Fire Capt.

Darren Moon.

"The city asks residents to be supportive of police officers and firefighters as they tour and patrol neighborhoods to protect the community," said Juddy Cenicerros, public information officer for the city of Downey. "It is also recommended for people to stay out of the streets during the hours of fireworks lighting. The smoke and bright lights emitted from fireworks can interfere with a driver's vision of the road and pedestrians."

The city offered the following safety guidelines when using "safe and sane" fireworks:

•Always read the directions before using fireworks.

•Always have a responsible adult present.

•Don't allow children to light fireworks.

•Light fireworks outdoors, away from buildings, vehicles, grass and other flammable objects.

•Light one firework at a time, then move away quickly.

•Keep a safe distance away.

•Do not alter or modify fireworks.

•Never point or throw fireworks at another person.

•Never attempt to re-light or fix malfunctioning fireworks.

•Have a bucket of water nearby to douse spent fireworks.

Residents will be paying more for city services

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The City Council this week voted to either increase or create new fees for 155 services provided to residents, a move some officials said was long overdue.

The fee increases are part of an annual review conducted by city departments and are expected to raise more than \$200,000 for the city, which finds itself in the midst of tightening its financial belt as real estate and automobile tax revenues slump.

"The reason for the annual review is to ensure that the fee for each service is equal to the cost to perform each service," Assistant City Manager Lee Powell wrote in a staff report. "Many of the fees are, in fact, specifically set to be based on the actual costs of the service."

The majority of the fee increases are related to services provided by the building, recreation and

fire departments.

Building permit fees will increase 7.7 percent for projects with a value greater than \$500,000, while permit fees for projects worth between \$50,000 and \$500,000 will jump 22 percent.

Grading permit fees will increase between 53 and 131 percent, and electrical permit fees for residential construction are increasing 150 percent.

The cost to rent park facilities will spike 8.9 percent, and rental rates for the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center are jumping an average of 27 percent.

Rental rates at parks were last increased in 2006, while the community center hasn't raised their rates since 2004.

"None of the fees residents pay cover all of our expenses, with the exception of the golf course,"

Powell told the City Council.

Powell said the city could not legally profit from fees imposed for city services, which include building assessments, safety inspections and a myriad of permit applications.

Councilman Kirk Cartozian called the fee increases "long over-

due," and Councilman Rick Trejo called them "nothing major."

Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra said he would like to see the Downey Police Department follow the lead of the fire department and start imposing fees for responding to multiple false alarm calls.

City creates new management position

DOWNEY – The City Council this week approved the creation of a new management position at City Hall to help oversee the operation of the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, expected to open this September.

Assistant to the City Manager Scott Pomrehn will receive the new title of Assistant Deputy City Manager, and will also be

responsible for monitoring the city's public relations and coordinating media events.

The promotion comes with a moderate pay increase over Pomrehn's current salary, paying between \$8,228 and \$10,193 per month.

The City Council also approved a 5 percent pay raise for Patricia Wild, secretary to the police chief.

Drivers reminded to use hand-free devices beginning this Tuesday

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Beginning this Tuesday, all cell phone conversations must be transferred to a hands-free device at the turn of an ignition, thanks to a law that prohibits the use of a cell phone in a moving vehicle unless the driver is using a hands-free device.

The law allows drivers of commercial vehicles to use push-to-talk phones until July 1, 2011, and lets drivers make emergency phone calls without using a hands-free device.

Drivers of emergency response vehicles will still be allowed to use cell phones without a hands-free device.

"The simple fact is it's dangerous to talk on your cell phone while driving. CHP data show that cell phones are the number one cause of distracted-driving accidents," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said in a statement. "So getting people's hands off their phones and onto their steering wheels is going to make a big difference in road safety."

Although drivers are strongly urged not to dial or text message while driving, the new law does not prohibit a driver from doing either one. The law also allows for drivers to use a Bluetooth or other earpiece as long as both ears are not covered, and allows drivers to use the speaker phone function on their wireless phone.

Schwarzenegger passed another law last year that prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from using all electronic devices, including hands-free devices, while behind the wheel. (The only exception would be an emergency situation to call police, fire or medical authorities.) That law also takes effect Tuesday.

According to a statement released by the governor's office, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among 16- to 20-year-olds and account for 44 percent of teen deaths in the U.S.

Another study conducted by Ford Motor Company found that teenage drivers are four times more distracted than adult drivers by cell phone use.

"The simple fact is that teenage drivers are more easily distracted. They are young, inexperienced and have a slower reaction time," Schwarzenegger said. "We want to eliminate any extra distractions so they can focus on paying attention

to the road and being good drivers."

According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, violation of either of these laws is a

See DRIVING, page 2



Clean-up at Johnnie's Broiler could begin as early as next week, according to Deputy City Manager Gilbert Livas, who made the announcement at this week's City Council meeting. Livas said the city was awaiting final approval from the AQMD to begin clean-up at the site, which was illegally demolished January of last year. The Bob's Big Boy franchise has agreed to take over the site and construct a new carhop restaurant. Photo by Eric Pierce

Council approves renewal of contracts with Washington, D.C. lobbyists

■ Lobbyists said to be instrumental in acquiring federal grants.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—The City Council Tuesday approved the drawing up of separate contracts with Washington, D.C. lobbyists Edington, Peel & Associates, Inc. and Carpi, Clay & Smith, the former (in the person of James H. Dykstra) to continue representing the city in its dealings with NASA, Smithsonian, and Congress members in relation to multi-million dollar funding for its Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center project, and the latter to help with its further additional quest for grants (e.g., EDA funding for the Lakewood Boulevard street-widening project, etc.).

Both lobbyists, it was agreed by the Council, have been effective in gaining funding grants from pertinent government appropriations sources.

Dykstra is said to also be able to help Downey with anti-gang and storm water cleanup funding, and the like. Smith also has enlarged its funding repertoire benefiting Downey's interests to include Homeland Security funding.

City Manager Gerald Caton

said the maximum potential annual consulting fee of \$50,000 allotted to Dykstra, and the maximum fee of \$35,000 per annum extended to Smith, are "well worth it."

In other action, the Council:

*After a public hearing, adopted the proposed 2008-09 budget as reviewed during the June 3 study session, adjusted to reflect a) the approved CDBG program, b) a change in the Police School Resource Officer Program related to the funding available from Gangs Out of Downey, and c) carrying forward the \$2 million EDA grant amount for the Lakewood Boulevard project; all of this is without prejudice to amendments via Council action at future City Council meetings; the revised budget figure is \$128,315,677;

*Awarded a cash contract of \$549,500 to Tony Painting, Inc. of Fountain Valley to repaint the exteriors of the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, and the buildings utilized by the Housing Division, the Plaza de la Raza Head Start pre-school, the Aspire program, the dance studio, and the leased offices and outbuildings occupying the north "campus"

at Apollo Park;

*Approved the plans and specifications for, and granted authority to advertise for bids on, a cash contract for the Fire Station No. 1 Perimeter Wall Project, whose object is the replacement of sub-standard facility perimeter wall and vehicular gates at the station;

*Appropriated \$65,000 from the Water Fund to purchase a variable frequency motor drive for Water Well No. 11; it is an electronic device (to replace an obsolescent VFD) which is more efficient and can then save on energy costs;

*Renewed the agreement with Stephen Wright, with 38 years of experience as an inspector for the County of Los Angeles and whose proven level of expertise is required for the continued success of the Downey Landing development, for building inspection services for the Discovery Sports Complex, the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, the Kaiser site, and Downey Studios;

*Renewed the contract with Interwest Consulting Group for building inspection services, and added Plan Review services;

*Adopted a resolution approving and adopting the annual appropriations limit for FY2008-09, which amounts to \$79,438,891. This basically means that certain aspects of the adopted budget cannot exceed this amount.

Using the 2007-08 appropriations limit of \$69,664,905 as a starting point, a price factor of 13.06 percent based on the percentage change in total assessed valuation due to non-residential new construction in the city, and a population factor of .86 percent based on a percentage change in the population of the County of Los Angeles, which yielded a combined factor of 1.1403, were employed, to get at the appropriations limit; and

*Approved the appointment of Betty Logan to the Art in Public Places Advisory Committee, representing Council District 4 (Anne Bayer).

The next regular public meeting of the City Council will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave., Downey.



The St. Raymond's Catholic Church Italian Catholic Federation recently awarded \$200 scholarships to eight graduating students from St. Raymond's at their annual Scholarship and Awards Night on June 3. Two high school students were each given \$400 scholarships and donations were made to PTA HELPS, Foley House and the Rio Hondo Temporary Home. St. Raymond's church, school and sports program also received a total of \$11,500, and Cooleys' Anemia and St. John's Seminary received a total of \$1,000.

Driving: Base fines total \$20 for first offense, says DMV.

Continued from page 1

reportable offense, but the conviction will not appear on a driver's driving record. If convicted, base fines are \$20 for the first offense and \$50 for offenses thereafter, with the addition of penalty assessments, according to the DMV.

The Automobile Club of Southern California offers the following tips to help drivers get to their destinations safely while avoiding possible traffic violations:

- Plan your route in advance to reduce the likelihood for calling for directions.
- Wait until you reach your destination to accept or make cell phone calls.
- Ask your passenger to take your cell phone call while you remain focused on the road.
- If you must take a cell phone call, pull into a parking lot and shut your engine off.
- Suspend all cell phone con-

versations during hazardous traffic and weather conditions.

"It's the conversation that is the most important distraction for the driver, not the device itself," said Rosa Salazar, the Auto Club's Downey district manager. "Advance planning will help toward being prepared for adapting to these new laws. But remember, hands-free is not risk-free."

The Auto Club reminds drivers that some vehicles and cell phones offer a way to hold a conversation hands-free through the vehicle's on-board electronics and speakers, while other ways to go hands-free include using the phone's speaker phone feature, using a dash-mounted cell-phone cradle, or using a wireless headset or speaker.

For more information on California cell phone laws, visit www.dmv.ca.gov, www.aaa.com, or www.drivinglaws.org.

Enrollment into DUSD's Aspire program July 19

DOWNEY – The Downey Unified School District, in partnership with the city of Downey, will host an Aspire program orientation for open enrollment at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center on July 19.

The Aspire program is offered at Alameda, Carpenter, Gauldin, Lewis, Old River, Price, Unsworth, Ward, and Williams Elementary Schools, and Griffiths, Sussman, and West Middle Schools. Students participating in the program receive homework assistance and participate in academic enrichment activities, as well as a variety of recreational activities after school.

The program is funded through a grant from the State Department of Education and operated on school days from dismissal to 6 p.m.

Those interested in registering their child for the 2008-09 Aspire program are asked to attend the program orientation. General program guidelines are as follows:

- Aspire serves students in grades first through eighth.
- Program meets Monday through Friday (school days only) from school dismissal until 6 p.m.
- Students must attend five days per week until 5:30 p.m.
- Student must attend school where Aspire program operates.
- Parent or Guardian must attend program orientation.
- There is a \$10 registration fee for the program. Fee waivers are available upon request.

The program orientation times are as follows:

Alameda and Ward	8 a.m.
Carpenter and Sussman	9:30 a.m.
Gauldin and Lewis	11 a.m.
Price and Griffiths	1:30 p.m.
Williams and Old River	3 p.m.
Unsworth and West	4:30 p.m.

For more information on the Aspire program or orientation, call (562) 904-8145.

Library urges kids to 'catch the reading bug' this summer

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library's summer reading program for children up to age 12, "Catch the Reading Bug," will run through Aug. 2.

During that time, children may check out books and read them at home to earn prizes. Children who read 20 books, or 1,000 pages, receive a free book, as well as additional prizes for every five books they read.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library and community donations, the program also features "Wonderful Wednesday," which discovers the world of insects every Wednesday at 2 p.m. for children ages 5-12. Middle school students may attend "Monday Madness," which will include crafts from June 30 – July 28.

"Children who participate in a summer reading program make more reading gains during the school year," said Children's Librarian Gina Orello. "This program is an exciting way to incorporate reading into your family fun this summer."

For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

Christian Club gets patriotic

DOWNEY – "America the Beautiful" is the theme of the Downey Christian Women's Club July 9 lunch meeting at the Los Amigos Country Club.

Led by Aaron Chartier, the club will discuss "Personal Emergency Reporting System."

Judy Kertes will provide the meeting's music and Yrena Friedman will be the guest speaker. Her topic is "Rx for Peace."

Men are invited to the 11:45 meeting. Price is \$12 and includes a buffet lunch. Reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Delores at (562) 868-7135.

Warren band camp starts in August

DOWNEY – The Warren High School Band and Color Guard will be hosting band camp Aug. 11 – 15; Aug. 18 – 22; and Aug. 25 – 29.

The camp is mandatory for all students participating in band or color guard. The camp will take place at Warren.

The Warren Band and Color Guard will also host a preview concert on Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. at Justice Stadium.

The community is invited to attend and will get a preview of the 2008 field show, "Winter Sketches."

For more information, call Band Director Dave Niemeyer at (562) 869-7306.

Rabbi leading service and study session

DOWNEY – Rabbi Len Muroff will lead a service and study session at Temple Ner Tamid of Downey tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The community is welcome to attend. For more information, call (562) 861-9276.



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*2008 EPA fuel economy estimates of 23 city/32 highway for Altima 2.5-L with manual transmission. Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions – use for comparison only. **2008 EPA fuel economy estimates of 25 city/33 highway for Sentra equipped with Xtronic CVT transmission. Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions – use for comparison only. ***2008 EPA fuel economy estimates of 27 mpg city/33 mpg highway for 2008 Versa equipped with Xtronic CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) (24 mpg city/32 mpg highway with automatic transmission). Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions – use for comparison only.



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Army Chaplain Lt. Col. James Milburn will speak at Downey Seventh-day Adventist on July 5, when he will help the church honor local military personnel and their families. The community is invited.

Chaplain helping church to honor military personnel

DOWNEY – The community is invited to hear Army Chaplain Lt. Col. James Milburn speak at Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church on July 5 at 11 a.m., when he will honor and support the dedication of the church's military personnel and their families.

Milburn is assigned to the 352D Combat Support Hospital and has served as an Army chaplain for 17 years. He has also served at the U.S. Army hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, where injured military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are treated before coming home. In addition to his duties as chaplain, he carries the dual role of senior pastor at Visalia Seventh-day Adventist Church. He will share some of his personal experiences in a sermon during the worship service.

Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church is located at 9820 Lakewood Blvd. in Downey.

For more information, call (562) 869-6013, or visit www.downey-church.org.

Senior center getting new paint job

DOWNEY – The Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center will soon be spruced up with a new exterior paint job and interior stucco repair.

The city accepted a \$49,500 bid from Tony Painting, Inc. of Fountain Valley, which has completed similar work for the city of Beverly Hills and the Long Beach Unified School District.

The bid was the lowest of six submitted, and includes repainting the exteriors of the community and senior centers, the Housing Division, Plaza de la Raza Head Start pre-school, the Aspire program, the dance studio, and an assortment of leased offices at the north end of Apollo Park.

City employees will replace rotted and termite-infested wood trim inside the buildings, and patch loose stucco wall surfacing.

Football registration at fireworks stand

DOWNEY – Downey Youth Football will continue its ongoing registration at its fireworks stand located in the Ralph's supermarket parking lot at 8626 Firestone Blvd. from July 1-4. Registration time will coincide with the sales hours of fireworks.

Downey Youth Football is open to boys and girls ages 5 to 14 that meet age and weight requirements. Cheerleaders follow only age limits.

Cost is \$185 for tackle football, \$130 for flag football, and \$100 for cheer. Waiting lists will be established on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information on age and weight requirements, or to volunteer as a coach, call Louis Morales at (562) 928-6081.

Help available for residents facing possible foreclosure

DOWNEY – The community is invited to a free foreclosure prevention workshop being hosted by Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) and Linda Sanchez (D-39) at West Middle School on July 19.

Credit counselors and lenders will be available for on-site assistance, one-on-one counseling, and to offer information on viable options for your mortgage.

Presentations will also be conducted on topics including: Understanding Your Mortgage Options; Fraud Prevention and Awareness; and Improving and Restoring Credit. Visitors are encouraged to bring their loan and other relevant financial documents to the workshop.

The event is being held in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, L.A. County Neighborworks Centers for Foreclosure Solutions, and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call (213) 628-9230.

Guild taking daytrip to Harrah's

DOWNEY – The OLPH Women's Guild is sponsoring a daytrip to Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort on July 22.

The cost of the trip is \$10 and includes a \$5 voucher to be used at the casino, gift shop or buffet. Free bingo will be played on the bus.

For reservations, call Anna at (562) 923-2988. Be prepared to give your birthday and/or Harrah's card number. An emergency contact phone number and valid California ID will also be needed.

Temple ushering in newest members

DOWNEY – Temple Ner Tamid of Downey will welcome its new members with a home-cooked Mexican dinner tonight at 6 p.m.

The community is welcome to attend, at a cost of \$10 per person.

The temple will also install their new officers for 2008-09, which include: president David Saltzman; vice presidents Marc Mandel, Miriam Brookfield, Jane Hansen and Howard Brookfield; financial secretary and treasurer Mildred Mandel; and recording secretary Jim Hansen.

The Sisterhood Officers include president Ruth Beck; recording secretary Dora Silvers; corresponding secretary Edie Baker; and financial secretary and treasurer Mildred Mandel.

For more information, call (562) 861-9276.

Insurance agents honored for sales

DOWNEY – Five local Farmers Insurance agents have been inducted into the company's "Topper Club" for being top sales producers.

Rebecca Chapman, Lorena Ramirez, Isabel Rodriguez, Evelyn Cortez and Guadalupe Diaz, all of Downey, were each honored for their sales.

"Farmers congratulates these individuals on qualifying for this year's Toppers Club," said Jerry Carnahan, executive vice president of field operations. "They are committed to providing quality insurance coverages and industry-leading service to Farmers's customers."

Downey parks hosting summer activities

DOWNEY – The city of Downey Department of Community Services is offering free activities to kids ages 6-12 until Aug. 15 at parks located throughout Downey.

"Let's Go Play" will be offered Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Furman, Golden and Rio San Gabriel Parks. Programs will also be offered at Brookshire and Crawford Parks Monday through Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There are approximately eight activities per day and a daily schedule of activities is available at the Community Services Department.

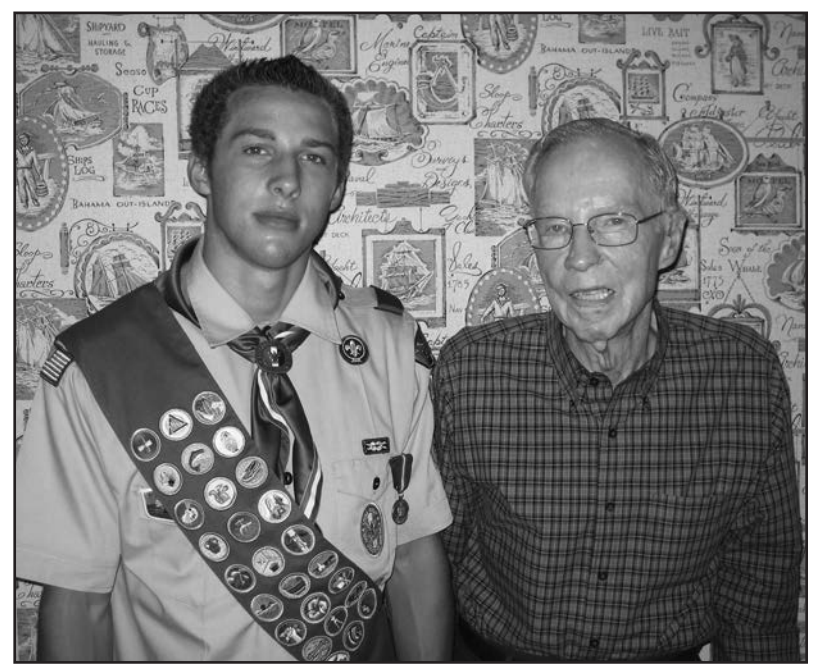
For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Annual Golf Classic set for August 11

WHITTIER – The Rancho Los Amigos Foundation's 18th Annual Golf Classic will take place on Aug. 11 at the Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier.

The event is in need of corporate sponsors, foursomes, individual players, tee sponsors and auction/door prize sponsors.

For more information, call the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation Office at (562) 401-7053.



Andrew Iglesias, pictured here with his grandfather Frank Hall, was recently named a Boy Scouts Eagle Scout. Iglesias is the son of Downey High School graduates Rafael and Susan (Hall) Iglesias. He attended Our Lady of Guadalupe School and graduated with honors from Sonora High School in La Habra this month. He will be attending Loyola Marymount University this fall.



Karaoke singer Robin Deming is now performing Wednesday nights at the Nordic Fox restaurant in Downey.

Karaoke nights at Nordic Fox

DOWNEY – Accomplished karaoke artist and longtime Downey resident Robin Deming will be performing Wednesday nights at the Nordic Fox restaurant from 6 to 10 p.m.

Deming, who has been performing karaoke the past 17 years, attended Downey High School and is a former Miss Downey. Her catalog of songs stands at over 35,000, including oldies, country, rock, pop, hip-hop, Spanish, gospel and Disney.

Shows are intended for the entire family and children are welcome. The Nordic Fox is located at 10924 Paramount Blvd.

Deming also plays at Granata's Italian Villa on Downey Avenue on Thursday nights, starting at 8:30 p.m.

ALL ABOUT DOWNEY.COM

This informative website has been created for the people of Downey

SENIOR CITIZENS:

The City of Downey's
Housing Division offers an opportunity for eligible
Downey homeowners to participate in the

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THE CITY PROVIDES ALL MATERIALS AND THE LABOR OF A PROFESSIONAL CITY CREW TO REPAINT THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOUSE AND GARAGE, AS WELL AS PERFORMING MINOR REPAIRS.

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If you're a Downey homeowner at least 62 years young, you've not yet participated, and your income does not exceed the limits listed below, you're eligible for the Senior Paint & Fix-Up Program.

# OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD:	1	2	3	4	5	6
ANNUAL GROSS INCOME LIMIT:	\$42,450	\$48,500	\$54,600	\$60,650	\$65,500	\$70,350

IF YOU QUALIFY AND WOULD LIKE AN APPLICATION MAILED TO YOU, CALL THE CITY OF DOWNEY'S HOUSING DIVISION AT (562) 904-7167.

What's the difference between a real estate agent and a REALTOR®?

Most people use the names interchangeably, but defining the difference between a Real Estate Agent and a REALTOR® can be important to the consumer. Holding a real estate license or real estate broker's license does not make a REALTOR®.

In addition to a major emphasis on ethical behavior, membership in the local Association allows REALTOR® opportunity to affect important industry issues and community interest through participation in a variety of Association-sponsored programs. These might include Political Action Committees or PACs, which protect the interest of homeowners and private property rights through diligent attention to laws and proposed changes with local and national politicians.

Many REALTORS® also work behind the scenes on committees that provide ongoing education for their members, technological research, and community service work such as affordable housing and charitable fundraisers. These REALTORS® strive to become and remain informed on issues affecting the real estate industry, maintain and improve the standards of their chosen profession, and take responsibility for its integrity and honor.

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Trinidad Sandoval awarded bronze stars

DOWNEY – Decorated World War II veteran Trinidad (Tony) F. Sandoval died at his Downey home on June 18. He was 88.

Sandoval was born in Long Beach on May 29, 1920. He served in the Army's 406th Infantry, earning two bronze stars for infiltrating enemy lines in Germany in 1945.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Sandoval; children, Richard Sandoval and Vivian Lineberg; grandsons, Victor and Ronnie Contreras; sisters, Andrea Sandoval and Cecilia Evanchich; brother, Gus Sandoval; and many nieces and nephews. Services were held June 25 at Rose Hills in Whittier.



Maria Angelina Gallo was longtime teacher

DOWNEY – Former Downey resident Maria Angelina Gallo passed away May 25. She was 52.

She was born on Aug. 9, 1955 in Artesia. A 1973 graduate of Downey High School, she was an educator for over 22 years.

Gallo was teaching second grade at Reynolds Elementary School in Oceanside this year. The entire school celebrated her in ceremony and song on May 30.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elma and Joseph Gallo Jr., and her brother, John Henry.

She is survived by her sisters, Joanne Gallo, Debbie (Steve) Chacon; brothers, Michael (Donna) Gallo and Joseph Gallo; nieces, Kailyn Chacon, Jordan Chacon and Nicole Gallo; and nephews, Nicholas Gallo and Jonathan Chacon.

Services were held June 2 at All Souls Cemetery in Long Beach. Donations in Gallo's name can be made to Habitat for Humanity and Gateway for Cancer Research.



Alfederina Perez was active with seniors club

DOWNEY – Alfederina Perez, a retired seamstress and active member of the Downey Senior Citizens Recreation Club, died in Norwalk on June 17. She was 92.

Perez was born in San Nicolas, Cuba on Aug. 3, 1915. She moved from Cuba to Caracas, Venezuela and then to New York City in 1953. She moved to South Gate in 1977, and finally settled in Downey in 1990.

Perez enjoyed visiting friends at the Downey Senior Citizens Recreation Club and the Downey Nutrition Program.

She is survived by her daughter, Amparo (Hector) Rosen of Downey; niece, Virginia of Tanermier, Fla.; sisters, Tomasa, Julia and Juana; and many nieces and nephews who all reside in Venezuela.

Services were held last week at Miller-Mies Mortuary Chapel. Burial took place at Mount Sinai Memorial Park.



Rosendo Martinez headlined fight cards

DOWNEY – Rosendo Trejo Martinez, a Mexican-born prizefighter who once headlined fight cards at the Grand Olympic Auditorium, has died.

Martinez was born on March 3, 1922 in Mexico City. He immigrated to the United States as a prizefighter at the age of 21, fighting under the name "Battling Rosendo."

After retiring from boxing, he worked 35 years in construction as a cement mason, and was a union member of Cement Mason Local 600 for 56 years.

Martinez met and married Cora Gutierrez, his wife of 62 years. Together, they moved to Downey in 1979 and put all of their children through Catholic schools.

Martinez is survived by his wife, Cora; six children, Yvonne Ham, Sandra Scharnhorst, Lorraine Reyes, Anthony Martinez, Robert Martinez and Richard Martinez; 15 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Burial services were scheduled at All Souls Cemetery in Long Beach.



Pictured are Japanese American World War II Military Intelligence Service veteran George Fujimori; Japanese American WWII veteran and Downey resident Henry Ikemoto; Roybal-Allard; Christine Sato-Yamazaki, CEO and president of the Go For Broke National Education Center; and Japanese American WWII Military Intelligence Service veteran Ken Akune.

Organization celebrates Japanese-American vets

LOS ANGELES – Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34) met with Christine Sato-Yamazaki, CEO and president of the Go For Broke National Education Center, and several World War II Japanese-American veterans to discuss the organization's plans to build an educational center. The organization's mission is to teach and preserve the American story and legacy of American veterans of Japanese ancestry whose heroism and sacrifices during WWII triumphed over racism and intolerance.

Incorporated in 1989, the organization was established by Japanese American WWII veterans who worked to build the Go For Broke Monument, which is a tribute to their fellow soldiers. The monument, unveiled in 1999 and located in Downtown Los Angeles at Temple and Alameda Streets, is the first of its kind on the mainland U.S.

Today, the organization focuses on educating the public about the history of Japanese American WWII soldiers, the Japanese American incarceration, and the lessons about civil liberties that can be taken away from that time in our nation's history.

A supporter of the Go For Broke National Education Center, the congresswoman secured federal funds for its teacher training workshops and is working to secure additional federal funds to build the new education center next to the monument.

Downey resident Henry Ikemoto was part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the U.S. Army, which was an Asian-American unit composed of mostly Japanese Americans who fought in Europe during WWII while many of the soldier's families were subject to internment in the U.S. The 442nd was a self-sufficient fighting force and fought with uncommon distinction in Italy, southern France, and Germany. The unit became the most highly decorated military unit in the history of the U.S. Armed Forces, including 21 Medal of Honor recipients, earning it the nickname, "The Purple Heart Battalion."

Gloria Williams discusses lip reading

LAKELWOOD – The Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association invites the community to attend their next meeting on July 10, featuring Long Beach City College's Gloria Williams.

Williams is the interpreter coordinator of disabled student services for the college's liberal arts campus and will be discussing various programs offered at the school, such as lip reading.

The meeting will be held at the Weingart Senior Center, 5220 Olivia Ave. in Lakewood, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, call (562) 433-6509.

Isaac Carson Wright, Jr. was a longtime resident

DOWNEY – Isaac Carson Wright, Jr., longtime Downey resident, passed away on June 20. He was 79.

Wright was born in Barrack Field, Va. and worked as a building inspector for Los Angeles County for many years.

He is survived by his son, David; daughter, Nancy; brother, David; and numerous family members.

Visitation was Wednesday at Miller-Mies Mortuary from 6 to 8 p.m., followed by funeral services on Thursday at Miller-Mies Mortuary Chapel at 10 a.m. and burial at Riverside National Cemetery at 1:30 p.m.

The Poet's Corner

In Death We Part

Middlings of sort change their bad ways
To survive they have to change the case
Does bad end in horrible death?
And the good bare all the marks they left
Not that the good face no problems
but are victims, lest be emblems
Every death is hence a bad one
Good or bad, we need to have one
Old age doesn't mean you were good
It could mean what good or bad should
Gravity cares not for your deeds
Consequences will bother your seeds
Once dead, will one dare to give care
Only answers your death will share
– James Hernandez,
Downey

Twelve

Define yourself
Do you really want to know who you are?
And how disgusting or alluring you can be?
Or maybe, how inadequate you are compared to someone else?
Define: You.
Inside and out
See the person you've become and the person you will never be
All that you have
All that you want
That you need
And all that you don't.
Define this person.
Study her.
Is she beautiful?
Is she ugly?
Intelligent?
Socially accepted?
Find out who you are
And dive into confusion
Into the never ending struggle
Of pursuing self-sufficiency, self-esteem,
And the introverted happiness.
Good luck.
– Valerie Osegueda,
Downey

Poems can be submitted to *The Downey Patriot* at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240 or downeypatriot@yahoo.com

'Mystical fairy tea parties' for kids

BELFLOWER – During the months of July and August, the Youth Cultural Arts Foundation of SoCal will host tea parties for Girl Scout troops, Red Hatters with grandchildren, church groups, and any other group looking to throw a tea party.

Parties are fairy-themed and include a live stage show starring the guest of honor. Guests can dress up in fairy costumes and enjoy finger sandwiches, muffins, fruit, and tea. The cost covers eight children and two adults; additional guests cost extra.

Parties must be booked three weeks in advance and are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. A non-refundable booking fee of \$50 will also be charged at the time of booking.

All parties take place at the Mystical Fairy Tea Theatre, located at 9831 Belmont St. in Bellflower.

For more information, or to book a party, call (562) 867-3524.

SAT class gets underway July 7

DOWNEY – The Assistance League of Downey is offering SAT I/PSAT preparation classes the week of July 7 at Downey High School for sophomores and juniors in the Downey Unified School District.

Prerequisites for those wanting to participate include successful completion of Algebra I, with a recommended completion of Geometry.

A follow-up session will be held Oct. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Regular sessions will take place from 8 to 10:30 a.m.

All sessions meet prior to SAT I administration on Nov. 1 and PSAT administration on Oct. 18.

Cost is \$50, which includes materials. Students are asked to bring a photocopy of a report card that indicates his/her first semester or third quarter course grade in their most recent math class.

Enrollment is limited and registration will be accepted in the order received.

For more information, or to register, call Alice Yamada at (562) 861-2318.

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Letters to the Editor:

Mansion rumors

Dear Editor:
If the current rumors are true ("Code Blue," 6/20/08), please add my name to those who object to making it easier to ruin our city with the big ugly mansions that have so changed the look of Downey and added to the negative reputation.

We moved here over 40 years ago and loved the quiet streets and the homes set back with lovely front yards and lawns. We look around now at the huge ugly boxes being built and noticed how many are for sale. Maybe people are coming to their senses and know they don't want to live in something that looks like that and the economy will stop the builders from continuing to put them up.

Hope it's not too late to keep things from getting worse.
— **Shirley A. Lawrence,**
Downey

Dear Editor:
I was recently down south of Palm Springs and Indian Wells and I found these entire gated communities named Greg Norman and the like situation in La Quinta, near Indio. It was all mansion-like structures, much like we have here in Downey.

The one thing that separated them from our Downey specimens were the spacious lots they were built on, and the accompanying architectural theme throughout with uniform landscaping and winding streets. Most had three-stall garages.

Mansionization now exists all over this southland. I have seen it in Lomita, Harbor City and Culver City and elsewhere to our south. It is truly a character issue and it is the garages that concern me most. Cars on any street create urban clutter and take away from the original city design theme which is why code 9110.14 came into being. While this problem is not exclusive to Downey, this issue has far reaching impact all the way to Sacramento and the State Capitol. I've heard recently on news radio that this issue is now before our stage legislature and we all know what comes from there.

So rest assured your pleas for help have not gone unheeded. A higher power is at work. Stay tuned folks – the results may surprise you. City government will have to abide by their intervention no matter how they might maneuver with our Founding Fathers wishes and code 9110.14.

— **Jay Wells,**
Downey

Need more life

Dear Editor:
I was shocked when I read your article about the city's flexibility and willingness to bend the rules to make the Downey Dental building possible. ("Medical Office gets Parking Lot Exemption," 6/13/08)

I am not an urban planner or an architect, but what the city's downtown needs is not a dentist office (there are many suites for rent in the area) but the creative minds to bring stores, boutiques, bars, etc. Let's take a look at nearby Uptown Whittier; it looks good and you can see that what is there is what I have mentioned above.

Now that the old theater building and the Verizon building are in the hands of the city, let's have hope that something will be created for the present and future generations to enjoy.

— **Lucy Fernandez,**
Downey

What's the point?

Dear Editor:
For over 50 years I have religiously exercised my voting privilege at every election, even the last one where almost all I had to vote for were a bunch of judges that I knew nothing about. I consider the coming November election very important, and yet I know my vote for my representatives won't count. I expect to vote mostly for Republican candidates for office in a state and district that is sure to go Democratic. So what's the point?

We live in a representative democracy, and I have some very strong opinions on several important topics that I would like to see receive fair consideration. How do I do that? In my opinion, the current Congress is doing everything wrong with regard to energy and economy for starters. We can look forward to a tax-and-spend government in January with a totally inexperienced commander-in-chief who will lead us into a messed up economy worse than Jimmy Carter's.

I'm not enthused about how George Bush has led us the past seven years, but he seems to have learned in office. Lately, he has made some good proposals that the Congress is sure to ignore just for spite. Why can't they learn that it takes capital to create jobs? How can they expect to reduce our dependency on foreign oil without drilling and building refineries? Don't they realize that just the threat of the U.S. reducing its dependency on foreign oil would immediately result in a reduction in prices based on speculation?

Short term, since Bill Clinton vetoed the oil and gas drilling plan presented him 15 years ago, and since Congress has refused to authorize more nuclear energy plants for the past 30-some years, we're going to have to bite the bullet. We're only going to reduce our energy dependence and lift our economy some time after we start doing something.

How can I light a fire under those parasites in Congress who are supposed to be looking after the interests of the people? I'd like to put nine out of 10 of them to pasture permanently, but my vote doesn't count.

— **D.W. Niemand,**
Downey

Lower the voting age

Dear Editor:
I wish to commend the efforts of Assemblyman Gene Mullin (CA-19) to lower the voting age in California so that 17-year-olds can vote in primaries and special elections if they will turn 18 by the time of the November general election.

There are many compelling reasons for desiring a lower voting age, although I personally advocate abolition of the voting age. Furthermore, the reasons stated in opposition to lowering the voting age lack intellectual merit.

It is claimed that youth would simply copy their parents' vote under the threat of coercion. However, it is for this reason that we have secret ballots. I also find it curious that pundits would characterize persons in their mid-to-late teens as being rebellious contrarians who oppose their parents at every turn, and yet would easily yield to them on this issue.

In addition, I would point out that when female suffrage was being debated, it was argued that they would simply copy their husbands' votes. This is a similar civil rights issue.

Perhaps most importantly, youth pay billions of dollars in sales taxes, as well as income and payroll taxes if they are employed. Yet they are denied the right to decide what is done with that money. Our Founding Fathers called this taxation without representation and started a revolution because of it. I personally have registered in the Peace and Freedom Party (the members of which support a lower voting age) as an act of civil disobedience against an unjust law. I believe that the voting age violates my constitutional rights as a U.S. citizen under the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the 14th Amendment.

I encourage all interested parties to support Assemblyman Mullin's endeavor, and to research this issue further. Perhaps we can revitalize the nation by encouraging and supporting the efforts of those who would support expanding the virtue of democracy to all of America's citizens.

— **Julian Gutierrez,**
Downey

Spin city

Dear Editor:
Your article on the Downey Police Department's Annual Report was a classic case of "spinning" for the benefit of our beleaguered Chief Roy Campos. ("Violent Crimes and Car Thefts on the Decline in Downey," 6/20/08)

I especially enjoyed how you highlighted the only two positive statistics in the title of your article and then buried the alarming increase in crimes in the body of your text (for those readers who won't read the article in its entirety in order to get an accurate glimpse of crime in the city of Downey).

As usual, the following alarming facts about the Downey Police Department continue to be neglected: Downey PD is grossly understaffed, 2.) Downey PD would benefit from hiring a new chief of police with a new perspective to fight crime in Downey that does not rely on the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for help with air support, K-9, and murder detectives.

Keep spinning.
— **Byron Monson,**
Downey

Tree science

Dear Editor:
On the subject of "Looking for Green," (Letters to the Editor, 6/20/08), it was my understanding from what I learned at school and since, that trees take CO2 out and put oxygen back into the atmosphere. This is more important during the hotter months, especially with higher smog levels.

It has always mystified me as to why the city (and other cities) lop trees outside the early winter period. Maybe we all need to do a refresher course in tree science!

— **Richard Broomfield,**
Downey

Challenges in redeveloping downtown

Contributed by the Downey Redevelopment Project Area Committee (PAC)

With the City Council's acquisition of the Avenue Theater and the Verizon building on Second Street, Downey is in the midst of a long-awaited opportunity to transform the downtown area. These appear to be the first steps in a broader reimagining of Downtown Downey that will lead to significant changes in land use and density.

While the new developments can – if thoughtfully conceived and implemented – mend the shortcomings of downtown, we must also be mindful of the challenges entailed and the risks of further compounding the area's problems. The development of the Avenue and Verizon properties will require a comprehensive approach to the downtown area, and perhaps the best way to manage these difficulties is to consult with neighboring property owners and the public at large on how to integrate these projects into the neighborhood.

To that end, the Redevelopment Project Area Committee solicited the input of local landowners and other interested Downey citizens in order to convey their concerns and suggestions to the City Council. This dialogue was held at the PAC's June 3 meeting. Those in attendance understood that they could not dictate how the Avenue and Verizon properties were used but desired to shape a philosophy for their redevelopment and to ensure that their own concerns were recognized and accounted for by the city.

Together, we achieved consensus on a series of recommendations that we believe should guide or factor into the redevelopment planning for these properties. Those recommendations have already been shared with City Hall, and we reprint them here to share them with the public. Because they are too lengthy to appear in full, we will explore the first three categories of concern this week and more will follow.

Parking Issues: Parking stands out as the greatest challenge facing downtown. Any new development, be it housing or commercial, will require considerable parking without being able to provide new spaces, and there are already too few. This shortage can be partly alleviated with another parking structure; the community agrees that another structure is necessary for the downtown area – albeit one that is more conveniently placed. But additional measures will also be necessary. Business owners stress that more stringent parking enforcement is required, citing instances in which cars had been left in a storefront space for several days. Towing may therefore become a necessary component of maintaining parking availability.

Local business owners also offered an innovative suggestion to ease the parking situation that received strong endorsement from the other attendees. During peak business hours, downtown businesses could be collectively tended by a valet service that ferries vehicles to the top floor of the currently under-utilized parking structure. This would afford



Judges had no right

Dear Editor:
I don't like being critical of *The Downey Patriot* as they have been very kind to print most of the letters I've written. However, in this instance, I feel the article by Brooke Karli was not properly researched. ("Community Split on Gay Marriage Ruling," 6/20/08)

The article gave me the impression that Downey is pretty much equally divided on this issue. I don't believe this to be the case. You gave quotes of two homosexuals that said "getting married really doesn't give me more than I already have when it comes to benefits." They should be treated no differently than others – fair and equal, as we should be kind to everyone.

The problem I find with homosexual marriage is that people who believe, embrace and accept Biblical principles believe marriage should be between a man and a woman only.

There is a much deeper problem I see here, that being, three imperialist judges after centuries of marriage between a man and a woman, have all of a sudden discovered that the California constitution allows this. Laws are made, supposedly, by the legislative branch of government. These laws are for the benefit of their constituents. But, perchance, if the electorate does not agree with the lawmakers, in California, we have the right to petition to put an issue on the ballot in the form of an initiative. This we did with Proposition 22, which passed, but three California Supreme Court justices decided we had no right to do this.


These judges surely knew that a California constitutional amendment had qualified for the November election. Yet, to apparently glorify themselves, they decided they were above the law and made law rather than interpret law.

Back to my disagreement with the article. I'm happy the ministers stood up for Biblical principles, and I'm sure that most all church members would agree with them, as well as others. But interviewing only two people wasn't indicative to me that there is a lot of division. I realize that possibly there are quite a few, but I doubt that it would be anywhere near an equal division.

Just think of all the chaos those misguided, imperialist judges have caused.
— **Elsa Van Leuven,**
Downey

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to *The Downey Patriot*, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240 or by e-mail to downeypatriot@yahoo.com. Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.

The Downey Patriot

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 Phone (562) 904-3668 * Fax (562) 904-3124
 Hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
www.TheDowneyPatriot.com
 The Downey Patriot is published weekly by Jennifer DeKay-Givens.
 Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies printed. Distributed by
 Great Western Advertising Distributors, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For June/July

- Mon. June 30: **SAT/PSAT preparation classes begin**, Downey High School, 8 a.m.
- Tues. July 1: **Stroke and osteoporosis screenings**, Downey United Masonic Lodge, 9 a.m.
- Tues. July 1: **PAC meeting regarding downtown**, Downey City Library, 6:30 p.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

- 6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg.**, for information call 426-6786.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
- 1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
- 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.
- 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post 270**, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
- 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

Tuesdays

- 9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
- 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
- 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 928-2658.
- 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.
- 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 Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.
- Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.: **Los Companeros Service Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, for information call 869-8782.
- 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 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.
- 1st & 3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m.: **AfterCare Post Cencer Therapy Group**, for information call 923-4800.
- 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 a.m. - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC, Call 927-8488.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
- Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

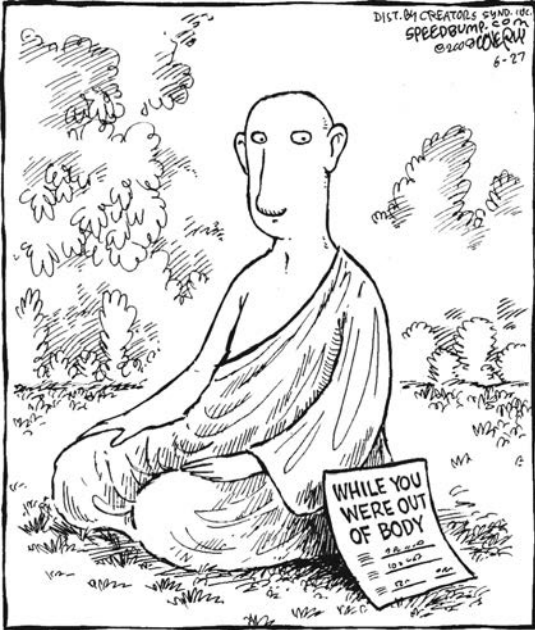
- 7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
- 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 12 p.m.: **Downey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

Fridays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618
- 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

Sundays

- 3rd Sun. Odd # Months 1:30 p.m.: **Aerospace Legacy Foundation**, at First Baptist Church Room 120.



On This Day...

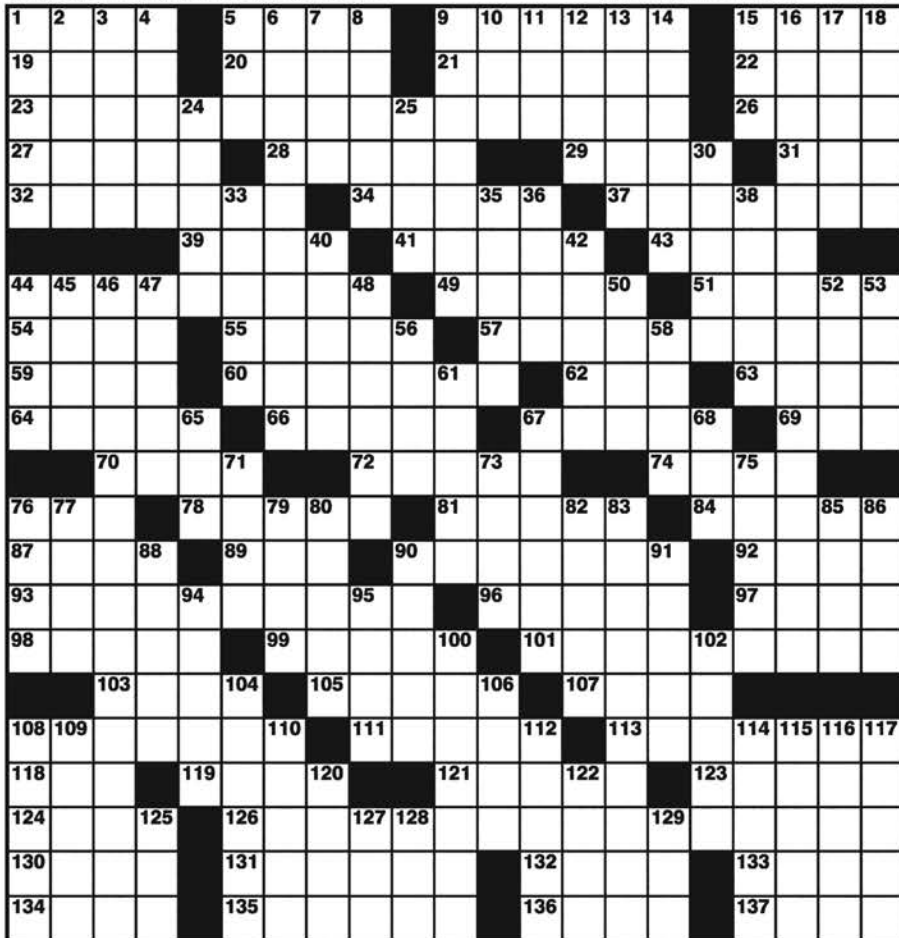
- June 27, 1893:** The New York Stock Exchange crashes.
- 1930:** Former presidential candidate Ross Perot is born. Also born June 27: Tobey Maguire (33), Jim Edmonds (38), Drake Bell (22), and Madylin Sweeten (17).
- 1957:** Hurricane Audrey tears through coastal Louisiana and Texas, killing more than 500 people.
- 1977:** Joseph Ratzinger is named a cardinal by Pope Paul VI.
- 1985:** More than 735,000 people sign up to be placed on a national do-not call list designed to disallow unwelcome phone calls from telemarketers.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
ALL-CONSUMING: Well, eight, anyway
 by Shirley Soloway

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- 9 Advertising rhyme
- 15 Mischief-makers
- 19 Agatha's contemporary
- 20 Impressive head-turners
- 21 Mexican wildcat
- 22 Bona fide
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- 34 Stands
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- 54 The like
- 55 Piano part
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- 59 Ocean menace
- 60 Seismic movements
- 62 Damage
- 63 "___ Be Cruel"
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- 66 Indy winner Tom
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- 92 Focal point
- 93 With 38 Down, rye alternative
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- 3 Tumbler
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- 114 Wooden pin
- 115 Adjust, as a sari
- 116 **Rosemary's Baby** author
- 117 Not slouching
- 120 Oral hand-me-downs
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- 125 Convened
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- 129 Firefighter's implement

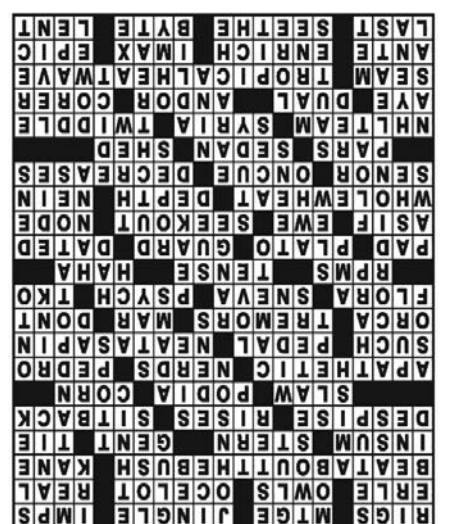
CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 6/22/08



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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.

OVIS (20 Across) can turn their heads about 135 degrees in either direction. Tom SNEVA (66 Across) was a school principal before becoming a race-car driver. Phillip JOHNSON (9 Down) was the first recipient of the Pritzger Architecture Prize.



Paging Dr. Alan Frischer...

BY DR. ALAN FRISCHER

So, you want to use steroids to bulk up like your favorite athlete or superhero? Read this first...

Just what are anabolic steroids? They are a man-made, stronger version of the natural male hormone testosterone. They are taken orally or by injection, and are legally available only by prescription and primarily to treat conditions that occur when the body produces too little testosterone, either from a congenital or acquired disease. Steroids are also used to treat patients wasting away from AIDS or other debilitating diseases. More than 100 different anabolic steroids have been developed, and the vast majority of these are used illegally and smuggled into this country.



Testosterone is the hormone that triggers the male reproductive system to mature during puberty, which includes body hair growth and voice deepening. Its anabolic, or building, effect aids in the development of muscle mass and strength, and therein lies the appeal. It is not, however, only the football player, weightlifter, or sprinter who may be attracted to anabolic steroids, and it is not only men and boys. Women and girls are using them at increasing rates as well, in order to look, feel or perform better – regardless of the risk.

The male body normally produces 10 milligrams of testosterone per day, and the female body far less. Some athletes, however, may use hundreds of milligrams per day, vastly exceeding natural levels.

What, precisely, are the risks of taking anabolic steroids? Even at prescribed doses, there is an extensive list of side effects, both physical and psychological, which can be irreversible. The dangers may not show up for months or even years.

The psychological effects of steroid use are significant. Most noticeable are increases in irritability, aggressiveness, and violence. Psychosis, paranoid delusions, and grandiosity can be seen along with severe mood swings, forgetfulness, confusion, and depression. Sometimes, feelings of invincibility are present, with euphoria, increased energy, and sexual arousal.

In men, even though anabolic steroids are derived from a male sex hormone, there is the possibility of a feminization effect: the decrease in normal male sexual function. This is because an increased level of testosterone can cause lowered levels of LH (luteinizing hormone) and FSH (follicle stimulating hormone), both of which are required to make sperm. The results are decreased sperm counts, shrinking of the testicles, development of breasts, and impotence.

Continued use can result in acne, bloated appearance, rapid weight gain, elevated cholesterol, clotting disorders, liver damage, premature heart attacks and strokes.

Women may experience a masculinization effect, including facial hair growth, deepened voice, breast reduction, and menstrual cycle changes.

In adolescents, steroids may affect growth and maturation. Rising levels of testosterone and other sex hormones normally trigger the growth spurt that occurs during adolescence. However, when these hormones reach certain levels, they signal the bones to stop growing and can result in early closure of the bone growth centers.

Because steroids can come in injectable form, needle sharing has transmitted HIV and Hepatitis B.

The latest data from the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) is shocking: 500,000 young Americans are currently using steroids, more than ever before, while fewer are worrying about the dangers. In 2007, steroid users ranged from 1.1 percent of eighth graders to 2.3 percent of 12th graders. Girls account for one-third of the high school student abuse; many of these girls have eating disorders, and use steroids to lose fat and gain muscle.

This is a growing crisis. What can be done?

- It is clearly critical to improve education and public awareness of the potential dangers of steroid abuse, both for adults as well as for young people.

- Support and utilize school psychologists and support groups: these are valuable resources for our students who are battling peer pressure, body image, and a whole range of issues.

- If you feel that you should use steroids, talk to your doctor and get a medical opinion as to their risks and benefits. Lab tests can reveal whether you have a valid need for anabolic steroids.

As always, become knowledgeable about your body, take care of it, and be well!


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

Heart rhythm screenings available

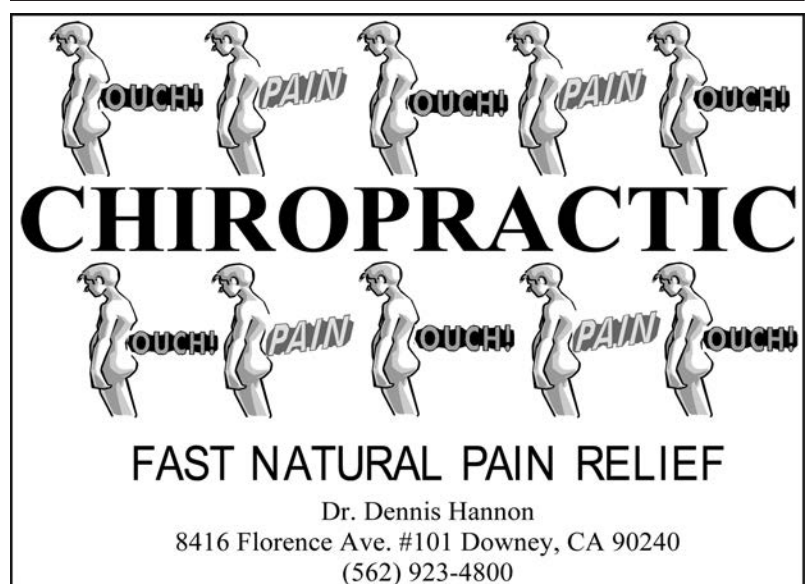
DOWNEY – Life Line Screening is offering stroke and osteoporosis screenings this Tuesday at the Downey United Masonic Lodge Post 220 beginning at 9 a.m.

All screenings take 60 to 90 minutes to complete. Pre-registration is required. The Downey United Masonic Lodge is located at 8244 E. 3rd St. in Downey.

To schedule an appointment, call (800) 697-9721.



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LivingHelp Center's 20th anniversary dinner celebration, hosted at the Rio Hondo Event Center, featured Ryan Dobson, center, and the Gutierrez Brothers.

LivingHelp Center offers women aid during times of crisis

BY GWYNN GUSTAFSON, KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNEY

DOWNEY – There is a jewel sitting in the middle of Downey that one hopes you never need to find, but there if you are a female in a crisis situation – the LivingHelp Center.

The LivingHelp Center formed 20 years ago as an alternative answer for women to whom pregnancy becomes a crisis.

“We do not want the abortion clinic to be the only solution for those facing a pregnancy crisis,” said Anne Bayer, director.

LivingHelp provides many resources and choices for women of all ages, even as young as 12, who find themselves in a crisis situation and need help. The free services, which have helped more than 13,000 women since 1988, include pregnancy testing, adoption referrals, counseling, and housing referrals. Thirty percent of pregnancies end in abortion and LivingHelp offers special counseling for families experiencing trauma from that choice.

All these services, offered with a volunteer staff of 17, are dependent on the generosity of the public. Patti Sharpe, president of the board of directors, said, “This is not an organization that can become stagnant.”

Donations are important and necessary so that LivingHelp Center will have its doors open – should you need their services.

Their annual fundraising dinner was well-attended this year, with 285 guests enjoying an evening of delicious food and wonderful entertainment. Ryan Dobson, son of Dr. James Dobson, was the fundraiser's keynote speaker, and entertainment was provided by the Gutierrez Brothers.

Whether you are new to Downey or a longtime resident, the LivingHelp Center invites you to get involved by volunteering and/or donating.

LivingHelp Center is located at 10642 Downey Ave. Ste. 107 in Downey.

For more information, call (562) 923-HELP.

Help prevent falls in older adults

BY CONGRESSWOMAN LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

Did you know that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the mortality rates from falls among older Americans have increased 39 percent between 1999 and 2005?



Falls are the leading cause of both fatal and non-fatal injuries for seniors 65 and older. Each year, one in three older adults falls. About 30 percent of those who fall require medical treatment. In fact, in 2005, more than 433,000 older adults were hospitalized for injuries from falls and nearly 16,000 died.

Whether you know or are caring for an elderly loved one or not, the problems stemming from these falls affects all of us. A staggering \$19.2 billion is spent treating the elderly for the adverse effects of falls each year, and it is predicted that failure to stem the rate of increase in older adult falls will cause annual direct treatment costs to reach \$43.8 billion in 2020.

In addition to being costly and widespread, falls often initiate a downward spiral that forces older adults to lose their independence and traditional way of life. But the good news is that there are many simple things that can be done to reduce the risk of falling. Safety improvements include home safety modifications, health maintenance activities such as regular exercise to improve muscle tone and balance, and regular vision, hearing and medication checkups.

In an effort to reduce the prevalence and severity of unintentional injuries such as falls, the U.S. House of Representatives on June 9 passed a resolution expressing support for the designation of June as National Safety Month. During the month of June, organizations such as the National Safety Council and Home Safety Council have been conducting public service campaigns to promote safety in all aspects of Americans' lives.

As part of this effort, the National Safety Council is focusing its activities specifically on fall prevention. The Council's fall prevention Web page offers links to numerous articles and resources for reducing the risk of a fall.

June is also Home Safety Month, and the Home Safety Council is emphasizing room-by-room safety awareness to prevent falls through its new “virtual home” and other online resources available online.

During this period of increased focus on older adult falls, I urge you and your loved ones to take advantage of community home assessment guidelines. Experts in senior falls also recommend regular visits to the doctor for routine vision/hearing examinations, as well as an assessment of potentially destabilizing medications. Together, by taking basic steps to reduce preventable fall-related injuries, we can help reduce the No. 1 cause of injury and death for older adults in our country.

On the Web: www.nsc.org/resources/issues/fallstop.aspx
www.homesafetycouncil.org

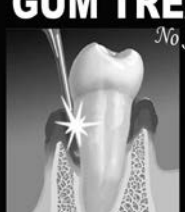
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Word of MOUTH
 by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.



Aside from all the other smoking-related health risks, research shows that smokers are more likely to develop gum disease and to have more serious cases than nonsmokers. Bone loss, gum recession, and tartar (hardened plaque) all contribute to gum disease and are common among users of tobacco. If the excessive plaque is not removed, the gums become infected and pull away from the teeth. Researchers believe that nicotine and other substances in tobacco may weaken the body's immune response to harmful bacteria and reduce blood flow to the gums. As the bacteria in plaque attack the tissues and bone that support the teeth, the stage is set for loosened teeth and tooth loss, also more common among smokers than nonsmokers.

For severe - and early - gum problems, the real bad guy is tobacco. Not only does smoking lead to bad breath and stained, yellowed teeth but recent research also shows that smoking is a leading cause of gum disease. Our goal is to help our patients reach their own unique and highest levels of oral health. All of our patients are individuals, and as such will achieve our goal in different ways and at different paces. No two patients are alike, so no two treatment programs will be the same. Our office is located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307. Please call (562) 923-3714 to schedule an appointment.

P.S. Over 90 percent of patients with oral cancer either smoke or chew tobacco.

Paid Advertising



The Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines will host an ice cream social July 12 at the Norwalk Masonic Lodge.

Chorus auditioning for new members

NORWALK – The Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines, under the direction of Jim Campbell, is now auditioning for new members.

The chorus, chartered in Downey, is a relatively new member of the Norwalk community, and a member of the Downey and Norwalk Chambers of Commerce.

The chorus is dedicated to promoting the art of singing barbershop-style harmony, one of the original American musical art forms. The chorus performs for local clubs, events, and produces an annual show. It also competes annually in the Southern California region with other choruses in the area.

Rehearsals are held every Tuesday from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Norwalk Masonic Lodge, 12345 E. Rosecrans Ave.

Anybody interested in joining the chorus is invited to attend an ice cream social on July 12 at the lodge. The event is also free to the public.

For more information on joining the chorus, call Judy Petrone at (562) 688-9359 or Joan King at (323) 567-6531.

Adult School recognizes outstanding students

DOWNEY – The California Council for Adult Education (CCAE) Downey Chapter, in partnership with Downey Adult School – Career and Education Center will be honoring students from various areas of studies and programs at the 17th Annual Student Award Luncheon on June 28 at Downey Adult School.

Students were nominated by their respective instructors and staff to receive the award as an “outstanding student.” The award recipients have demonstrated the characteristics and qualities of excellence and devotion to higher education and self-improvement while attending their classes in addition to living their busy lives or work and family.

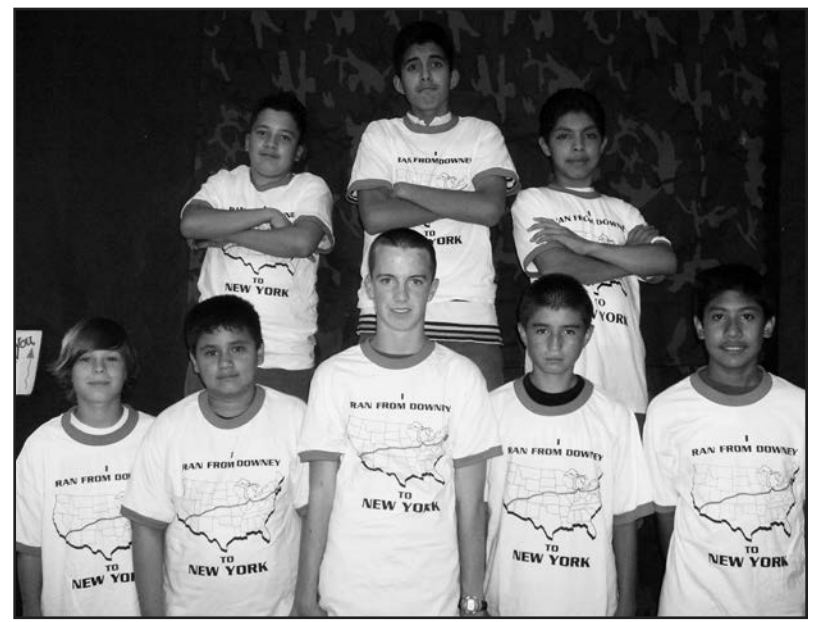
Downey Adult School and the Downey Chapter of CCAE would like to extend their congratulations to the following recipients: Olivia Navarro, Nancy Jo Watson, Carol Purcell, Rosario Alvarez, Ana Chavez, Edmundo Bonilla, Jennifer Tamoro, Santa Ruiz, Letty Vazquez, Lourdes Rodriguez, Victor Bernal, Brenda Fierro, Yesica Ortega, Rene Figueroa, Marcella Trader, Catherine Pingel, Karen Lucero, Dania Chavez, Arirta Franco, Socorro Blancaflor, Margarita Garcia, Tabatha Casas, Rosalba Quintana, America Cochoy, Magdalia Ortiz, Tommie Esparza, Amalia Gray and Deborah Pugh.

Warren coach hosting basketball camp

DOWNEY – Warren High School varsity basketball coach Brent Willis will offer his annual summer basketball camp July 1-24.

The camp will run Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Warren gym. Willis’s camp is open to all local students ages 8 to 14 as well as prospective incoming freshmen players.

On-site registration will be \$120. Fees include a Warren basketball jersey. For more information, call Willis at (562) 869-7306.



Eight students at East Middle School have been added to the Wall of Fame for running from Downey to New York, a program at the school that challenges students to run more than 400 laps while “making their way across the country.” Pictured are (top, left to right) Julio Garcia, Daniel Sandoval, and Joaquin Aguayo; (bottom, left to right) Diego Velarde, Juan Alvarez, Colin O’Connor, Faustino Diaz, and Brendan Guitron.

Discounted senior lunches available

DOWNEY – The Human Services Association provides nutritious lunch for seniors over the age of 60 Monday through Friday starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

The cost of the congregate meal is \$2 per person. Bingo is played each Wednesday and Friday from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. before lunch.

Lunch reservations are required by calling (562) 862-8800.

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Contact Dorothy Michael or Mary Forney
Phone: (562) 904-3668 or
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New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction:

- **"Certain Girls"** by Jennifer Weiner. Meet Carrie Shapiro, the smart, sharp-tongued but big-hearted heroine of this novel as she shares her views on life, love and raising a 13-year-old daughter.
- **"From a Distance"** by Tamara Alexander. Photojournalist Elizabeth Westbrook seeks to establish her career and find a cure for her illness, until one of her photographs becomes evidence in a murder charge.
- **"The Front"** by Patricia Cornwell. Massachusetts investigator Win Garano's job is to unearth information on an unsolved sexual homicide in this fast-paced mystery.
- **"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull"** by James Rollins. Author Rollins offers the official movie tie-in novel featuring the favorite globe-trotting, wise-cracking adventurer.
- **"Sundays at Tiffany's"** by James Patterson. A woman meets her imaginary friend from childhood - and falls in love with him.

Non-Fiction:

- **"Body Electric: Strong, Toned and Sexy in Just 3 Hours a Week"** by Margaret Richard. From the PBS exercise show, this is a complete workout to tone and strengthen muscles, improve bone density and increase metabolism.
- **"George Clooney: the Last Great Movie Star"** by Kimberly Potts. A biographer covers the life of the actor from his award-winning career to his political and humanitarian work.
- **"Partners in Command: George Marshall and Dwight Eisenhower in War and Peace"** by Mark Perry. This is an account of the evolving relationship between Marshall and Eisenhower during World War II and the Cold War.
- **"Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet"** by Mark Lynas. A science journalist explains how Earth's climate will be impacted by each degree of increase in global warming.
- **"Under Pressure: Rescuing Our Children from the Culture of Hyper-Parenting"** by Carl Honore. A book for parents, educators, and everyone who works with children, this work shows how our high-pressure society is taking the joy out of childhood.

Visit the library at 11121 Brookshire Ave. or www.downeylibrary.org or call (562) 904-7360 ext. 3 to check out or reserve these new titles.

Community Center plans busy summer

DOWNEY – The Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center invites the community to participate in their numerous events planned to take place this summer.

Family Fun Events

Tickets are now on sale for the 5th Annual Senior Follies on June 27 at 6 p.m., June 28 at 3 p.m., and June 29 at 3 p.m. Twenty-five performers will dance, sing and perform comedy at the event. Tickets are \$5 per person.

Pre-School (Ages 2-6)

Clap, sing and move is part of the "Rhythm, Rhyme and Fun" five-week class at the center for kids ages 2-4. The class starts on June 28 at and cost is \$28 per child.

"Tots of Fun – Parent & Me" is a five-week class that introduces preschoolers to numbers, colors, and children's literature and craft projects. Cost is \$30 per child plus a one-time material fee of \$5. The class begins on June 28 at 10:30 a.m.

The circus is in town at the Honda Center in Anaheim and registration is being taken for a pre-school trip for kids ages 2-6 and their parents to the "Greatest Show on Earth" on Aug. 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for children and \$18 for adults.

Youth (Ages 5-12)

"Painting for Kids" is a five-week class that introduces youth between the ages of seven and 12 to using acrylic and egg tempera to create still life, portrait and landscape painting projects. Cost is \$40 per student and class schedule selection is Mondays starting June 23 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., or Fridays starting June 27 from 4 to 5 p.m.

"Hands on Science: Investigating the Invisible" is a five-week class for kids ages 6-12 and will be held on Thursdays starting June 26, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$50 per student. The class will teach participants about physical and chemical properties of matter, atoms and molecules.

The city of Downey Licensed Child Care Program is offering summer full-day day care until Aug. 2 for all school-aged youth in grade kindergarten through fifth. Cost is \$105 per child per week, plus a one-time registration fee of \$20 and a \$6 T-shirt fee, which will be collected at the time of registration. To register, call Imperial Elementary School at (562) 904-7234, or Gallatin Elementary School at (562) 861-5052, Monday through Friday between 2 and 6 p.m.

Adult Classes (Ages 18+)

"Total Body Sculpting" is a new four-week class offered at the center on Mondays and Fridays from 5 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$56 per person.

An "Authentic Indian Cooking" workshop will be held on Aug. 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Older Adults (Ages 50+)

Registration continues for adult excursions for persons ages 50 and older to visit the Los Angeles County Fair. A Senior Ditch Day excursion to the Los Angeles County Fair on Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person and includes admission to the fair and lunch.

For additional information regarding any of the programs, call the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center at (562) 904-7227.



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Downey merchandise not just for tourists

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Tucked away in the deli department of the Ralphs grocery store on Lakewood Boulevard and Gallatin Road is a rack of cotton T-shirts, colorful beach cover-ups and embroidered baseball caps donning surfboards, tropical fish, and "Downey, Ca."

Yes, our very own supermarkets now sell merchandise proud of our location, Downey, Calif., for a small price, ranging from \$9.99 to \$12.99. Terry O'Neil, a spokesperson for Ralphs, said the merchandise is offered to individual stores as an opportunity to carry branded merchandise of their respective city.

"Selling hometown merchandise allows the stores to be a part of the local community," O'Neil said. "The items are unique, convenient and sell very well."

This particular Ralphs also sells merchandise branding our local high schools – Downey and Warren – and universities, such as UCLA and USC. "Our high school items tend to be very popular and are offered primarily from August to October, with the possibility of selling more items following the holiday season," he said.

The Albertsons located on Firestone Boulevard and Rives Avenue also sells merchandise bearing the names and mascots of Downey and Warren High Schools. Varying in price from \$7.99 to \$16.99, customers can pick up a plush teddy bear, cotton T-shirt, embroidered T-shirt, long-sleeve T-shirt, embroidered long-sleeve T-shirt, or cheer shorts to show pride in their favorite high school.

The company that distributes these items to the Ralphs and Albertsons in Downey is Ohiopyle Prints, which is under the brand name My Town Originals.

According to Steve Shideo, director of sales and customer service for Ohiopyle Prints, the company typically contacts the parent companies of each grocery store to see if individual stores would be interested in selling their merchandise. Then, a relationship is established between the corporate chain, individual stores and high schools.

The company, Shideo said, has been distributing to Downey grocery stores and working with Downey and Warren High Schools for almost two years. The company also works with the high schools in creating designs for the merchandise but only allows artists from their own company to complete each item's artwork.

In addition, Ohiopyle Prints donates seven percent of the proceeds gained from items sold to each high school. For example, seven percent of Downey High School items sold within a quarter goes to Downey High School, and seven percent of Warren High School items sold within a quarter goes to Warren High School.

"Our high school merchandise is very popular and sells quickly," Shideo said. "Customers love to buy our high school and hometown mer-



The Albertsons located on Firestone Boulevard and Rives Avenue is one of many local grocery stores that now carry merchandise branding our city's name and the mascots of our local high school. **Photo by Brooke Karli**

chandise and give them as gifts to those who have never been to Downey or to those that lived and Downey at one time and have since relocated."

For more information on high school or hometown merchandise sold at various grocery stores throughout Downey, visit www.mytownoriginals.com.

Cleo Latimer repeats as 2008-09 Friends president

DOWNEY—Installed at the annual Friends of the Library meeting and author luncheon June 7 is the 2008-09 slate of officers that features many familiar, and welcomed, repeaters: Cleo Latimer, president; Nora Szechy, 1st vice president/programs; Barbara Emry, 2nd vice president/membership; Hattie Jo Miller, secretary; Eunice Hammond, treasurer; Lucy Aguero, director of fundraising; Collette Stallcup, director of Book Store; Kathy Callahan, director of publicity; and Carol Woods, newsletter editor.

The 2008-09 Nominating Committee consisted of Kathy Callahan, Barbara Emry and Vicki Spearman.

Installing officer Mary Crawford, chairman of the Library Advisory Committee, elicited from each one—whom she likened to 'building blocks' that support the library's volunteer edifice—a positive answer to the pro forma question, "Do you promise to fulfill the

duties of this office?"

Emcee and Library Director Nancy Messineo lauded the past and incoming officers, as well as the entire membership of Friends, for their hardworking ways and being "so generous with their

time."

Lakewood's D. J. Waldie, author of *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir*; *Real City: Downtown Los Angeles Inside/Out*, *Close to home: An America Album*, and *Where We Are Now: Notes from Los Angeles*,

was the guest speaker. The award-winning author, whose day job is Public Information Officer for the city of Lakewood and Assistant to the City Manager, signed copies of his available books afterwards.

—**Henry Veneracion, Staff Writer**

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- ★ WANTED R (10:25, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:30)
- ★ GET SMART PG-13 (10:30, 11:15, 1:15, 2:00, 4:00, 4:45), 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:20
- ★ THE LOVE GURU PG-13 (10:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25)
- ★ THE HAPPENING R Fri to Sun: (10:05, 12:20, 2:50, 5:10), 7:40, 10:05; Mon: (2:50, 5:10), 7:40, 10:05; Tue: (10:05, 12:20, 2:50, 5:10), 7:40, 10:05
- ★ KUNG FU PANDA PG (10:00, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10)
- ★ YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN PG-13 Fri to Sun: (10:50, 1:45, 4:25), 7:15, 10:00; Mon: (4:25), 7:15, 10:00; Tue: (10:50, 1:45, 4:25)
- ★ SHREK THE THIRD PG Mon: (10:00 AM, 12:30 PM)
- ★ THE INCREDIBLE HULK PG-13 (11:05, 1:50, 4:40), 7:25, 10:15 (35MM)

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WALL-E G	(11:45 2:20 4:55) 7:30 10:05
WANTED R	(11:30 2:20) 5:10 8:00 10:50
GET SMART PG-13	(10:15 1:00 3:45) 6:30 9:15
GET SMART PG-13	(11:15 2:00 4:45) 7:30 10:15
THE LOVE GURU PG-13	(10:35 1:00 3:25) 5:50 8:15 10:40
THE INCREDIBLE HULK PG-13	(10:30 1:20 4:10) 7:00 9:50
THE INCREDIBLE HULK PG-13	(11:30 2:20) 5:10 8:00 10:50
THE HAPPENING R	(10:45 1:10 3:35) 6:00 8:25 10:50
DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN PG-13	(11:20 2:05 4:50) 7:35 10:20
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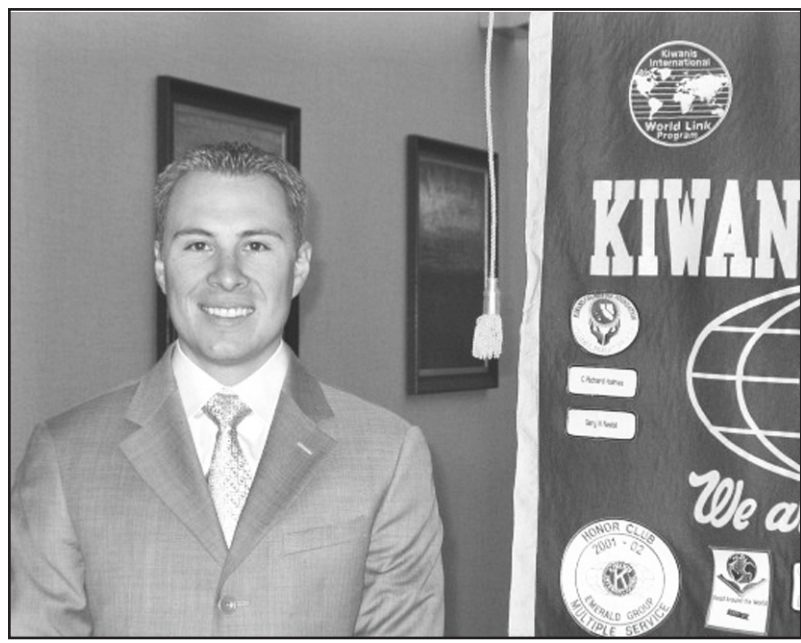
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Roberto Guzman, a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial, was a recent speaker at Kiwanis Club of Downey.

Planning and preparing for your retirement

By GWYNN GUSTAFSON, KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNEY

DOWNEY – Remember when you were 10 years old and you planned on driving at 16? Then you planned your future education, career and family. Did you remember to plan your retirement? Did you plan well enough to afford to retire? There's still time.

There are several key areas of planning that need to be considered before you retire. Let's review them now to see if you are on track with your financial goals.

"Right now your biggest asset is the ability to make money," said Roberto Guzman, financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial. "First and most important, take a look at your insurance coverage, both medical and personal." If you get laid up, a good disability policy will help cover expenses and protect your family from financial disaster. However, if you get laid off, there is no insurance that protects against that – so plan now.

Everyone wants to accumulate wealth. Ask yourself where your money is going now. Do you have money left over at month's-end, and did you save or spend those extra dollars? I know you want to treat yourself (that's called instant gratification), but you should think about planning for your future.

While a piggy bank is one way to save, you might want to talk with a financial planner in order to get a better understanding of your cash flow and discover a more effective way to save for the long-term. If you have a certified public accountant (CPA) preparing your taxes, they already know where your money is going so ask if they also offer financial planning. Your CPA can guide you to retirement so that you don't run out of funds and end up back at work when you are 70 years old.

You can be one of the five percent of Americans who can afford to retire.

"Be realistic when deciding your retirement goals," said Guzman. "And you will have a real paycheck each month after you retire."

Remember, in the state of California, a "Last Will & Testament" who gets what from your estate, but the "Living Trust" provides an orderly distribution without government or court intervention. Without a living trust, the state will send your estate into probate, delay the distribution to family members, and take a fee to do this.

Guzman offers complimentary consultations to clients to see if your plans are on track for financial security in retirement. For more information, call Guzman at (562) 608-4036, or email robert.e.guzman@ampf.com.

Contractor did horrible work - what now?

CONTRIBUTED BY

THE CALIFORNIA CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD (CSLB)

Q: The contractor I hired to re-tile our master bathroom did a horrible job. The tile he used is not what I had in mind and it doesn't seem to be of the best quality. The overall look is not what I had envisioned at all. How do I file a complaint against him?

A: Many complaints against legitimate contractors are based on a misunderstanding of what the homeowner wants and what the contractor thinks he or she has agreed to provide. One of the best ways to prevent these disputes is to make sure everything you ask for is in writing – in the contract – and is signed by both parties before the work begins. That way, there can be no dispute over what was agreed upon.

Check out the CSLB publication "Terms of Agreement" on the Web, which explains what should be included in a good contract. If you are unable to resolve a dispute with a contractor you can file a complaint with the Board online at www.cslb.ca.gov, or by calling (800) 321-2752 and requesting that a form be mailed to you. It is very important to document all the information relevant to your case; take pictures and save any receipts or notes.

Q: My friends and I were talking about how we could make some money off the housing foreclosure market. We were thinking of starting a business to clean-up the homes that were trashed by the former owner/occupants. My brother-in-law said we need a contractor's license. I told him it is basically just a cleaning business and doesn't qualify as contracting. Who is right?

A: Not to get into the middle of a family argument, but you both may be right. If you do any structural work, painting, carpeting or anything that can be considered "contracting" you will need a license for jobs valued at \$500 or more in labor and materials. If you plan to operate a simple cleaning business, without making repairs or physical improvements to the property, you do not need a state contractor's license.

However, you may need to meet other requirements through the city or county. So, check with your local government offices to see if a business license is required. It might also be a good idea to find out what other legal requirements are necessary, like insurance, payroll deductions, and partnership agreements for tax purposes.

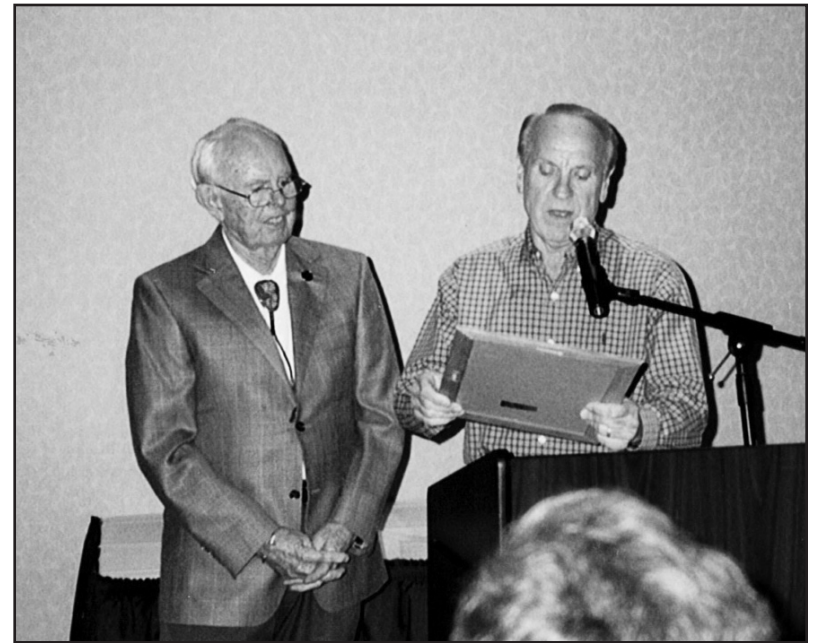
Q: I live in a mobile home park for seniors. It has been strongly suggested by the manager that we use the handyman that she recommended for repairs. I have not been impressed by the work he has done for neighbors. I am also uncomfortable with him as a person. How can I get repairs done without making waves?

A: You are absolutely right in not allowing yourself to be pressured into hiring someone you are not comfortable with. Any contractor performing work in California on jobs valued at \$500 or more must be licensed by the CSLB. It is not uncommon for unlicensed operators to have other problems with the law. You can see if someone is licensed by either calling (800) 321-2752, or look them up at www.cslb.ca.gov.

Friends and neighbors are good resources for getting references on contractors. You might also talk to your manager and neighbors about setting up a free consumer education event. CSLB provides speakers and holds Senior Scam Stopper seminars to talk about the risks involved with unlicensed operators, how to standup for your rights, and tips on hiring legitimate contractors.

Q: The parking lot at my church had all kinds of potholes and cracks. It seemed like an answered prayer when a man pulled up with a truck loaded with leftover paving material. He offered our pastor what sounded like a really good deal. As you can guess, it turned out to be a scam. The stuff he dumped on the lot is still gooey, parts of it are cracked or breaking away. We are now trying to raise more money to get it fixed. How can you tell when offers like this are legitimate and when they are scams?

A: That old adage about something sounding too good to be true is good advice. Watch out for people who go door-to-door or who approach



Downey YMCA board member Bob Earl, right, presented the YMCA Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Wilk Peery, a dentist in Downey, in recognition of his long-term dedication and continued support of the YMCA's mission.

you with materials that are supposedly left over from another job. Another red flag is a high pressure claim that the offer is only good right now. You can find out more information about transient operators and how to hire legitimate contractors by visiting CSLB at www.cslb.ca.gov, or by calling (800) 255-1395.

Q: I got a referral from a neighbor for a gardening service. The crews show up every week and seem to do a great job at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately, they are not licensed by the Contractor's Board. The head gardener said they don't need a license. Is this correct?

A: A standard yard maintenance service where they mow grass and clean up the yard does not have to be licensed by CSLB. They may need a city or county permit to operate, along with insurance and other standard business requirements.

However, if gardeners start installing sprinklers, putting in water features, or making other improvements or additions to the property that are more than \$500 in materials and labor, they will need a contractor's license. A license is also required if a gardener plans to trim a tree or shrub taller than 15 feet in height.

Q: We finally hired a contractor to replace a badly sagging wood shake roof. The contractor said he was licensed and insured. He got about halfway through ripping off the old roof, and then stopped showing up. He also took our 50 percent down payment and doesn't return phone calls. What should we do?

A: It is always a good idea to check out a contractor to see if they have a current, up-to-date license and if there are any complaints against them. You can visit the CSLB Web site at www.cslb.ca.gov, or call (800) 321-2752 for that information.

Contractors are only allowed by law to ask for 10 percent or \$1,000, whichever is less. Roofing contractors are also required by law to carry workers' compensation insurance since the roofing business usually requires additional labor to get the job done. Even though it is not required by law, we suggest you ask the contractor if they carry liability insurance, to cover accidental damage. And don't be shy about asking for proof of insurance.

Do you have questions about hiring and managing building contractors? The California Contractors State License Board has answers. For more information, or to check out a contractor's license, visit www.cslb.ca.gov.

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FEATURED PROPERTY

HOT BUY

Below Market Value
This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a great living room, den w/fireplace. Approx. 1,600 sq. ft. is in one of South Gate's nicest areas. But best of all it's in the Downey school district. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity! Priced to sell at \$399,000

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A Extra Large area for RV comes with this 2 bedroom, 2 bath home. New interior paint, new carpet, 2 eating areas, fireplace, approx. 10,740 sq. ft. lot. MOVE-IN CONDITION.

Looking For Location?
Spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath home located in a nice Downey neighborhood. Family room w/fireplace, enclosed patio, pool, 2 car garage, laundry area.

So Much... So Little
Family kitchen, formal dining area, built in china cabinet, enclosed patio, 4 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, and 2 car garage. Nice North Downey Location.....

SOLD

Downey-Short Sale
3 bedroom, 1.5 baths, large lot, large bedrooms, formal dining room, newer windows, corner lot, interior laundry. Very nice area in Downey, Short Sale and Reduced.

Excellent Guest Quarters
A great home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, with the kitchen and bathroom remodeled. The guest quarter has 1 full bath and a fireplace. Great traditional style home with a great price!

Brand New Construction
6 bedrooms, 4 baths with cathedral ceilings, spiral staircase, granite countertops, and state of the art appliances. The Master bedroom is equipped with a spa resort bath, double stink, walk-in closet and fireplace. Virtual Tour www.towncenter.com/7845

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Close To Stonewood Mall
This home is located in a nice north Downey area. 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths, nice size lot, priced with today's market in mind. Probate Sale.

SHORT SALE

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