

# The Downey Patriot



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Thursday, January 10, 2013

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

## Stretch of Paramount to be repaved

**DOWNEY** – An Orange County company has won the contract to repave a stretch of Paramount Boulevard.

R.J. Noble will repave a little more than a quarter-mile of roadway on Paramount Boulevard, between Florence Avenue and Lubec Street.

The \$753,894 contract was awarded to R.J. Noble Company, of Orange, on an unanimous vote by the City Council.

That particular stretch of road has “extensive” cracking and patches due to pavement repair and utility work, said public works director John Oskoui. It has deteriorated to a point that it cannot be repaired through routine street maintenance.

R.J. Noble will rehabilitate the street and curbs, adjust manholes and valve covers, and replace striping and pavement markings. They will also install a conduit for a future upgrade of the traffic signal communication system, Oskoui wrote in a staff report.

The firm has completed similar projects in Long Beach and Westminster.

On the recommendation of Mayor Pro Tem Fernando Vasquez, the city will negotiate to have the work completed during nighttime hours to minimize traffic delays.

Vasquez also reiterated the need for street work on Lakewood Boulevard, north of Florence Avenue.

Funding for the project comes from a federal transportation program and Prop. C funds.

## FEMA GRANT PAYING FOR 9 NEW FIREFIGHTERS



Photo by Eric Pierce

Engine 61, pictured above at Fire Station 1, was taken out of service last summer due to budget cuts. It is expected to be back in operation by July 1.

## Little league installing scoreboards

**DOWNEY** – Northwest Downey Little League will install two electronic scoreboards at Furman Park in time for opening day on Feb. 23.

According to the terms of a memorandum of understanding approved by the City Council on Tuesday, NWDLL will pay for the LED-lighted scoreboards and installation.

The scoreboards become property of the city but NWDLL is responsible for their maintenance and liability insurance.

Plans call for the scoreboards, which each measure 4 ft. by 8 ft., to be installed in right-center field on the north field, and in left-center on the south field, four feet behind the home run fences. They would be powered using electricity from the snack shack and operated with wireless remotes.

No advertising is allowed on the scoreboards and the only acceptable logo is that of NWDLL.

Other sports leagues can use the scoreboards but must reimburse the city for electricity costs, according to the MOU.

The MOU doesn't include a construction start date, but NWDLL is paying the city a refundable deposit worth 50 percent of the construction costs in the unlikely event that city crews need to complete the work themselves.

NWDLL has operated at Furman Park since 1957. The organization's predecessor, North Downey Little League, donated a baseball diamond and bleachers to Furman Park's original development in 1956, said parks and recreation director Arlene Salazar.

## Fire engine going back into service

• FEMA grants Downey \$1.8 million to hire firefighters, restore engine.

By Eric Pierce  
Editor

**DOWNEY** – Downey officials announced Tuesday that a fire engine shut down last summer due to budget cuts will be put back in service after the city secured a \$1.8 million FEMA grant.

The money will be used to hire nine firefighters to man Engine 61 out of Fire Station 1 on Paramount Boulevard. The city is also filling three previously open positions for a total of 12 new firefighters.

All new hires will be EMT-Ps,

meaning they are cross-trained as firefighters and paramedics.

The fire engine is expected to be back on Downey streets no later than July 1, officials said.

News of the grant approval broke Tuesday afternoon and Mayor Mario Guerra made the announcement at that night's council meeting to loud applause.

Facing an \$11 million budget deficit, council members shut down the fire engine July 1, a move that saved Downey \$1.8 million but increased firefighter response times throughout the city. It also prompted the fire union to begin a push to disband the Downey Fire Department and bring in the more robust L.A. County Fire.

Budget cuts had reduced total fire personnel from 63 in 2011 to 54 today, union leaders said. The union

also agreed to reduced medical and retirement benefits.

Firefighters are gathering signatures for a potential charter amendment that would take away residents' right to decide a move to L.A. County fire and police services. Instead, the fire union prefers the decision be made by the city council.

It's unclear if this latest news will change the fire union's stance.

“Public safety is and will remain a high priority for our city and I want to extend my gratitude to Fire Chief Lonnie Croom and his staff for their hard work in securing this grant,” Guerra said in a statement. “During my swearing-in last December, I stated that one of my goals as mayor was to find a way to bring back our fire engine and I am proud that we will be able to accom-

plish this.”

“We are extremely pleased to have been successful in being a recipient of this FEMA grant and look forward to providing the quality of service that our community deserves,” added Croom.

City officials admitted the FEMA grant is only a stop-gap and council members will need to find additional revenue sources to continue funding the fire engine heading into the next fiscal year.

The giant Tierra Luna retail development at Downey Studios will include a new fire station and is expected to generate several million dollars in additional yearly tax revenue but that project is still in its early stages.

## Traffic signal planned near East Middle School

• Officials hope traffic light will protect kids walking to East Middle School.

**DOWNEY** – Plans are moving forward to install a traffic signal at Woodruff Avenue and Via Amorita to protect the hundreds of neighborhood kids who walk to East Middle School.

School administrators asked the

city for help due to the daily crush of students and cars that create gridlock for local residents before and after school.

“We’ve had several kids injured at that location,” said Councilman Roger Brossmer.

A survey by public works staff found that about 8,100 vehicles travel Woodruff Avenue near East Middle School on weekdays, in addition to about 700 pedestrians,

mostly school-age children.

City and school officials hope a traffic signal better protects students as they cross the intersection and from school. A crossing guard will remain in place.

The traffic light will include video detection cameras allowing city workers to monitor traffic from City Hall and LED pedestrian countdowns. Crews will install curb ramps and new striping as well.

The total cost is estimated at nearly \$195,000 and will be paid for using federal highway safety funds.

Construction is expected to start in March after the city selects a contractor. The traffic signal should be fully installed before the new school year begins in September.

–Eric Pierce, editor

## Downey seeks \$3M loan to build shuttle housing

**DOWNEY** – With the city's full-size space shuttle mockup still sitting under a temporary tent on the Downey Studios parking lot, the City Council this week authorized a \$3 million loan application with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to construct permanent housing for the shuttle.

If the loan is approved, the money would be used to build an approximately 18,000 square foot “neighborhood center” adjacent to the Columbia Memorial Space Center to house the 128-ft. wooden shuttle replica. The facility would also provide public meeting space for residents in the low-income Elm Vista neighborhood directly next to the space center.

The shuttle replica – officially named “Inspiration” and built by Boeing engineers several decades ago – is not expected to be a regional draw because a real space shuttle, the Endeavour, is only 10 miles away at the California Science Center.

In addition to the mockup, the facility would house “lesser-known artifacts” from Downey's extensive role in the Apollo and space shuttle programs. City officials are also trying to secure items from NASA's shuttle landing facility in Orlando.

A decision on the loan application is expected within 3-6 months. If the loan is approved, the city could have cash on hand by fall.

The interest rate is expected to be about 2.54 percent on the 20-year note. Downey officials are proposing to pay down the interest in years 1-4, followed by 15 annual payments of \$187,500 to cover the principal.

The debt would be paid using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money, which has historically been used to help fund social programs and reduce blight in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods.

CDBG funding, however, has been reduced by the federal government over the last several years, including a recent \$400,000 cut, from \$1.5 million in 2011 to \$1.1 million last year. If the program is eliminated entirely, city leaders would have to find another way to pay down the debt and “this could include using general fund dollars if no other funding source can be identified,” community development director Brian Saeki wrote in a report to the City Council.

In its loan application, city officials said the neighborhood center “is intended to inspire neighborhood pride and unity, in contrast to the blighted conditions that the property has exhibited for the last decade.”

“A portion of the neighborhood served by the proposed center is the Elm Vista neighborhood, a long-time focus of intense Police Department enforcement and preservation efforts,” the application states.

Priority for the center's use would be given to area residents and “partnerships are already being developed” to provide space for after-school childcare programs to benefit low-income residents.

City officials also envision using the center for neighborhood watch meetings and as a cooling center for the elderly during hot summer months.

–Eric Pierce, editor

## IRS will begin processing tax returns Jan. 30

• Tax season starts later than usual this year due to delayed fiscal cliff deal.

**WASHINGTON** – Following the January tax law changes made by Congress under the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA), the Internal Revenue Service announced this week it plans to open the 2013 filing season and begin processing individual income tax returns on Jan. 30.

The IRS will begin accepting tax returns on that date after updating forms and completing programming and testing of its processing systems. This will reflect the bulk of the late tax law changes enacted Jan. 2.

The announcement means that the vast majority of tax filers -- more than 120 million households -- should be able to start filing tax returns starting Jan. 30.

The IRS estimates that remaining households will be able to start filing in late February or into March because of the need for more extensive form and processing systems changes. This group includes people claiming residential energy credits, depreciation of property or general business credits. Most of

those in this group file more complex tax returns and typically file closer to the April 15 deadline or obtain an extension.

"We have worked hard to open tax season as soon as possible," IRS Acting Commissioner Steven T. Miller said. "This date ensures we have the time we need to update and test our processing systems."

The IRS will not process paper tax returns before the anticipated Jan. 30 opening date. There is no advantage to filing on paper before the opening date, and taxpayers will receive their tax refunds much faster by using e-file with direct deposit.

"The best option for taxpayers is to file electronically," Miller said.

The opening of the filing season follows passage by Congress of an extensive set of tax changes in ATRA on Jan. 1, 2013, with many affecting tax returns for 2012. While the IRS worked to anticipate the late tax law changes as much as possible, the final law required that the IRS update forms and instructions as well as make critical processing system adjustments before it can begin accepting tax returns.

The IRS originally planned to open electronic filing this year on Jan. 22; more than 80 percent of

taxpayers filed electronically last year.

### Who Can File Starting Jan. 30?

The IRS anticipates that the vast majority of all taxpayers can file starting Jan. 30, regardless of whether they file electronically or on paper. The IRS will be able to accept tax returns affected by the late Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) patch as well as the three major "extender" provisions for people claiming the state and local sales tax deduction, higher education tuition and fees deduction and educator expenses deduction.

### Who Can't File Until Later?

There are several forms affected by the late legislation that require more extensive programming and testing of IRS systems. The IRS hopes to begin accepting tax returns including these tax forms between late February and into March; a specific date will be announced in the near future.

The key forms that require more extensive programming changes include Form 5695 (Residential Energy Credits), Form 4562 (Depreciation and Amortization) and Form 3800 (General Business Credit). A full listing of the forms that won't be accepted until later is available on IRS.gov.

As part of this effort, the IRS will be working closely with the tax software industry and tax professional community to minimize delays and ensure as smooth a tax season as possible under the circumstances.

Updated information will be posted on IRS.gov.



Photo by Eric Pierce

Mayor Mario Guerra has lost 26 pounds since starting his "Healthy Downey" initiative last month. Guerra, pictured weighing-in at Tuesday's City Council meeting, is sponsoring a series of community walks, the first of which to be held this Wednesday on the Downey High School track starting at 6 p.m.

## Mayor releases community walk schedule

**DOWNEY** – As part of his "Healthy Downey" campaign as mayor, Mario Guerra will begin hosting twice-monthly community walks to encourage healthy eating and an active lifestyle.

Walks will be held Wednesdays at different parts of town. The first two walks – Jan. 16 and Jan. 23 – will be held on the Downey High School track.

Residents are invited to walk while sharing their ideas and concerns with the mayor.

Walks start at 6 p.m. and are expected to last about an hour.

"I'm excited to be able to begin the first ever 'Mayor's Walking Wednesdays' and look forward to interacting with our residents and sharing with them all of the great things that are going on in our city," Guerra said.

Future walks are scheduled for Feb. 6 and 20 (Columbia Memorial Space Center); March 13 and 27 (Civic Center); April 10 and 24 (Downey schools, exact locations TBA); May 8 and 22 (Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center) and June 12 and 26 (Apollo Park and Wilderness Park, respectively).

For more information or a detailed list of the walking schedule, go online to [downeyca.org](http://downeyca.org) or call (562) 904-7274.

## Soroptimist looks to honor working women

**DOWNEY** – Soroptimist International of Downey is now accepting nominations for its Women's Opportunity Awards recognizing women who go to school and are the primary breadwinner for their family.

The awards are issued annually

by Soroptimist clubs in 19 countries and territories to assist women who are working to better their lives.

Award winners can use the cash award to help them finish school, including paying for books, childcare and transportation. The cash award varies from club to club.

Award winners also become eligible to receive region-level awards, which are granted through Soroptimist's 28 geographic regions.

Applications are due Tuesday and can be downloaded from [soroptimistdowney.org](http://soroptimistdowney.org).

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# 2013 LIST

A LOOK AT DOWNEY'S LEADING DOCTORS

### MEET SOME OF DOWNEY'S FINEST NEIGHBORHOOD PHYSICIANS

More than 16 years ago AppleCare Medical Group was formed right here in Downey. At the time it was known as Downey IPA and most of its physicians worked in Downey and had privileges at Downey Regional Medical Center.

Over the years AppleCare has worked hard to improve the way that it delivers care to its members. It has expanded its network of specialists, embraced the latest technology like Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and has increased its ability to provide options for its members by contracting with most of the commercial and Medicare health plans in the area. Most recently AppleCare became a Medicare approved Accountable Care Organization (ACO).

But the one thing that hasn't changed is the commitment AppleCare physicians have to their community. Many of their more than 800 primary care and specialist private-practice, independent physicians still practice medicine right here in Downey and the surrounding cities. They are dedicated to providing you and your family members with the highest level of health care possible. And they hold on to one simple philosophy: "The patient's needs come first."

Here we have listed some of the physicians in the Downey Area. If you are looking for a new doctor or are trying to find a way to get back to one of these doctors, please contact AppleCare Medical Group and they can guide you on how to do that. AppleCare is composed of independent physicians who run his or her own practices. We've indicated those physicians that can only be accessed through AppleCare Medical Group with a small apple like this one.

Please call (800) 460-5051 for more information on our network of physicians or visit [AppleCareMedical.com](http://AppleCareMedical.com)



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*Internal Medicine*

11525 Brookshire Ave., Ste 400, Downey  
(562) 869-4497



**RITA GLOR, DO**  
*Family Practice*

11903 Downey Ave., Downey  
(562) 869-1121



**SEEMA HANAMSAGAR, MD**  
*Family Practice*

11525 Brookshire Ave., Ste 400, Downey  
(562) 869-4497



**MARK SCHNEIDER, DO**  
*Family Practice*

10800 Paramount Blvd., Ste 402, Downey  
(562) 923-8333



**MARTIN SECHRIST, DO**  
*Family Practice*

10800 Paramount Blvd., Ste 402, Downey  
(562) 923-8333



**LINA SHAMMAM, DO**  
*Family Practice*

11525 Brookshire Ave., Ste 400, Downey  
(562) 869-4497



**ROBERT WIELENGA, MD**  
*Family Practice*

10835 New Street, Downey  
(562) 923-9100



**DONNA WONG, DO**  
*Family Practice*

10800 Paramount Blvd., Ste 402, Downey  
(562) 923-8333

## SPOTLIGHT ON DIVERSITY



AppleCare doctors reflect the communities they serve. They speak different languages, come from different ethnic backgrounds and have a variety of different interests.

They do their best to accommodate their patients' needs, such as providing extended office hours, accepting walk-ins and often make the time to see patients in settings outside of their offices. To find out who those doctors are that may help you and your specific needs, contact AppleCare today.



## Anaheim woman vanishes taking a walk in Downey

• Friends and family search for Lacey Brooks, missing since Nov. 29.

By Christian Brown  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Mike Brooks hasn't seen or heard from his daughter Lacey in what seems to be the longest 44 days of his life.

"She left a note saying she was going for a walk – she didn't come back," he said fighting back tears.

"It's very frustrating not knowing where she is...she hasn't contacted any of her friends, which is unusual for Lacey," Brooks added. "We don't know what else to do."

Hoping to broaden their search effort, friends and family of Lacey Brooks are calling on the public to help check local hospitals, post flyers, and report any leads concerning the whereabouts of the 35-year-old Anaheim resident who mysteriously vanished in Downey on Nov. 29.

"We are trying to stay positive and find her, but some days are better than others," said Linda Kricfalusi, Lacey's mother, who filed a report with the Anaheim Police Department the day her daughter went missing.

"Lacey had been living with me, but she was staying with her dad the morning she left to go for a walk," Kricfalusi said. "She loves to travel and does like to be off by herself, but she would always send a text or give me a call. For her not to come back at Christmas is out of character."

According to police, Brooks was last seen leaving her father's home in Northeast Downey on foot around 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 29. Taking her I.D., but leaving her cell phone behind, Brooks, who is 5'5" and about 100 pounds, wrote a note saying she was going for a walk and would return home later.

Lacey had recently spent time at Dennis the Menace Park in Downey and may have gone to the park to walk.

"I thought she was in her room resting," said Mike Brooks.

Family members think she might be wearing a grey fleece sweatshirt, dark blue or light grey leggings, and grey tennis shoes. She may also have a cream-colored ski hat on.

Police have not found any reason to believe there was foul play involved.



Lacey Brooks, 35, disappeared Nov. 29. She left a note saying she was taking a walk near Dennis the Menace Park and has not been heard from since.

Last month, it was falsely rumored that Lacey had been found, but the mistake occurred when Downey Police closed the case internally before passing it to Anaheim Police Department.

"She could be north, west, east, or south – we don't know," said Mike Brooks. "The biggest problem is getting information from the hospitals. Phone records are extremely difficult to get too. It hampers our search."

Nonetheless, Kricfalusi thanked those who have volunteered their time to forward missing posters and contact local media about Lacey's disappearance.

"Lacey's friends around the

world have been tremendous. Their help gives us a lot of support," she said.

Mike Brooks, a lifelong resident of Downey, said the family has also hired a private investigator to comb through e-mails and phone calls in search of any clues.

"This is very, very difficult...we don't know where to go from here," Brooks said. "I don't know what everyone could do, but prayers would help."

To report any information regarding the disappearance of Lacey Brooks, please contact the Anaheim Police Department at (714) 765-1900.

## Residents may qualify for home improvement help

**DOWNEY** – The City of Downey's Housing Division is offering grants and rebates to help eligible residents pay for home improvement projects.

These incentives are federally funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis until funds are spent.

The city is offering two grants: the grant program and the rebate program.

Under the grant program, residents may be eligible for up to \$10,000 for home improvement projects that may be used for exterior painting, the correction of code enforcement violations, accessibility improvements for the physically disabled and to fix health and safety concerns.

The rebate program offers residents a rebate of up to \$10,000 for the improvement of their home. Based on household income, residents may qualify for a fifty percent (50%) or an eighty percent (80%) rebate. The rebate will be given after the approved scope of work has been completed and the proof of payment has been confirmed.

Some of the eligible improvements include plumbing, heating/cooling systems, exterior painting, insulation and driveway repair.

More detailed information regarding eligibility for these Home Improvement programs can be obtained by visiting the city's website at [downeyca.org](http://downeyca.org) or by calling the City's Housing Division at (562) 904-7161.



Enrique Aranda, Mario Trujillo, Dennis Saab and Leonard Mata (pictured from left) took a copy of *The Downey Patriot* to Machu Pichu, Peru.



Warren High School's girls varsity basketball team took *The Downey Patriot* to the Nike Tournament of Champions tournament held in Phoenix during winter break. Nearly 100 top teams from throughout the country participated in the tournament. The photo was taken in front of the fountain circle at the Arizona Grand Resort, the tournament's official resort hotel.

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PROFILE

## Larry McGrew knows how to enjoy the fruits of his labor

• Owner of McGrew Construction is active in Downey Rotary Club.

By Henry Veneracion  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Larry McGrew is either a naturally friendly person or has cultivated a friendly persona. Either way, he is easily one of the most popular members of the Downey Rotary Club, and one of the most dynamic: never at a loss for words, he's ever ready with a quip or a joke, or variations of it, not to shock but to amuse. In a normal social setting, he can easily fill the role of life of the party.

One of nine children (6 brothers, 3 sisters), Larry apprenticed at his dad's Bell Gardens-based construction business at age 14, and, three years later, started working as a painter. He liked doing construction work better than attending his 11th grade classes at Bell Gardens High, so he quit school altogether.

Larry has never looked back. He worked hard at everything—he learned the trade, he learned the business, and when he finally took over the enterprise in 1995 after his two older brothers successively ran it after their dad's death in 1988, he gave it everything he had.

"I wanted to succeed. I was driven by the prize—a life of fun with my family, the ability to spoil myself," he says. "Working never bothered me. It didn't matter if it was Friday or Tuesday. If there was work [to do], I did it. I worked six, seven days a week."

"I learned a lot from my par-

ents," adds Larry. "I went to church as a kid. My dad was a very good and honest businessman. He gave us direction, and then some. If we came up with a good idea and needed his support, we were never turned down if it made sense. My mother was of course a good influence as well. My parents came here from the midwest in 1940, and settled in Bell Gardens. Dad was originally from Kansas and is of German descent, while mom was from Missouri, whose folks came from Scotland."

"I got the mean part of me from my dad, the good looks from my mom," he jokes.

Divorce from his first wife in 1981 left Larry with two young kids to raise. He narrates what happened in his own words: "The most important thing that happened to me was when I married Chris, my second wife, in 1982. She took the responsibility of raising my two kids. Of course my parents watched over them too anytime I asked them to. Chris worked at Northrop and as soon as we had the other kids [they were to have three], she became a home mom. She works for our business and does any and everything that needs to get done. Today the most important thing is that we all stay healthy and have lots of fun. We love the grandkids."

They are Troy and Tyler—offspring of Larry's oldest, Larry Jr., who works at Downey's Coca-Cola plant; Lindsey, Gavin and Melanie—children of Brenda (Maloo), homemaker; and Brynn, child of Amanda, who has her eyes set on nursing school (she already has her LVN license). The other two kids—Kevin (who works for his

dad at Larry McGrew Construction, Inc.) and Sean (who works for DRMC)—don't have kids.

The five all went to Downey schools.

By most measures Larry has not done too badly for himself. Today, he says, "We have rental properties, 12 in Fullerton, 10 in Cudahy, one in Bell Gardens, and one here in Downey. We also have the old unit in Bell Gardens, and our residence (a 4-BR, 5-bath affair) here on Sanford-Bridge and Lubec. I bought my first house in 1976."

His annual fishing sojourn to Alaska (Kodiak, Prince of Wales Island, Sitka, etc.) for the past twenty years is impressive to say the least. He goes fishing regularly as well in Cabo San Lucas. He also enjoys pheasant and pig hunting.

Last year, in the company of close fellow Rotarian-friends Dale Self and Rich Strayer, he got to play both the old and the new course at St. Andrews. He has a perpetual tan because he seemingly plays golf more often than a pro, particularly at the Los Amigos golf course where he's a club member; the club plays at other courses as well. Occasionally, he says, he gets invited to play at a private course like Old Ranch in Seal Beach.

In addition to Scotland, he has been to Great Britain, the Greek Isles, Spain and Gibraltar, Morocco ("I didn't get close enough to a camel to get spat upon"), and visited the pyramids in Egypt. Closer to home, he has visited La Paz, Mazatlan, Cancun and Puerto Vallarta, Jamaica, the Caribbean, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

"We've had a good 2012," Larry says, "and it looks like it's going to continue this year. The strength of the economy seems to be returning.



Larry McGrew, right, with fire chief Lonnie Croom.

Interest rates are great right now. As long as you've got good credit, you really have nothing much to worry about. You'll be able to borrow money [at good rates]."

"[Federal Reserve chairman] Bernanke has said the federal funds rate (the rate banks charge each other for loans) will remain near zero until the unemployment rate drops below 6.5 percent. This situation is expected to prevail in the next two years."

"In any case, we're watching the financial situation all the time. Right now, everything (i.e., houses) is selling. Right now, we're in a wait-and-see mode."

"My sources of economic/business information are the computer and close business friends. I only get the Sunday Times and two magazines, AOA (Apartment Owners Association) and Golf."

He has this advice for anyone about joining a community organization/service club: "I never thought I would ever belong to a

club. Now that I have and been an active member of the Rotary, which I like, I would encourage anyone that feels the need to give back to join it, or any service club, and get involved as much as you can. I myself love taking the Arc consumers to the park for a bit of fishing in May. The pictures do not justify the enjoyment they experience...You need to see them reeling in the fish and hear what they're saying."

McGrew has been chairman for four years of Community Services, a board function that includes overseeing such Rotary activities and programs as Habitat for Humanity projects, Arc fishing at the park, sprucing up the neighborhood, the ARC/Rotary golf tournament, pancake breakfast, etc.

Larry has just completed doing the finishing touches (painting, stonework, etc.) on the exterior of the Arc's 3rd building, his latest project ("We buy, we sell, we keep, we remodel, we build, we rent out properties").

Optimistic about the housing industry's outlook, he says, "In the meantime, we continue to keep active with our paint and remodeling jobs. This is our basic operation anyway."

He has seen good times and bad in the industry, he says, and he has successfully weathered them: "I wouldn't trade my street smarts for anything."

## Two soloists to perform at symphony concert

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Symphony presents its first concert of the new year on Saturday, Jan. 26, with music that bridges the old and the new, sort of like what we're doing with our calendars and our lives these days.

One work on the program was written 300 years ago. It will be played by an emerging talent, trumpeter Conrad Jones, born 22 years ago. It's a very good fit.

Under Music Director Sharon Lavery, the concert titled "Simple Pleasures" features the orchestra's strings, and includes a delightful divertimento by Mozart, Benjamin Britten's Simple Symphony and Aaron Copland's Quiet City. The Copland calls for two virtuoso soloists, and we have Conrad on trumpet and the orchestra's Catherine Del Russo on English horn, a twofer made in heaven.

Downey's fine theater is the site, at 8435 Firestone Blvd., where tickets are available at the box office, \$35, \$30 and \$10 for students. Performance time on the 26th is 8 p.m., and you will enjoy the pre-concert discussion of the evening's music at 7:15. Wine will be served in the lobby and Symphony Guild refreshments at intermission on the patio.

Parking is close to the theater and free. For more information, call the box office at (562) 861-8211 or visit the symphony's friendly website at downeysymphony.org.

## Dentist moves to new location

**DOWNEY** – Vahid Babaeian, DDS, will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 25 for his new location at 12102 Paramount Blvd.

The ceremony is being organized by the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

Babaeian offers orthodontics for kids and adults, metal and ceramic braces, a patient game room, and more.

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The Downey Symphony Society presents  
**Downey Symphony Orchestra**  
**Simple Pleasures**  
January 26, 2013  
8:00 PM  
Downey Civic Theater

Mozart: Divertimento K. 136  
Neruda: Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra  
Conrad Jones, Trumpet (winner of the 2013 DSO Young Artist Concerto Competition)  
Copland: Quiet City  
Conrad Jones, Trumpet  
Catherine Del Russo, English Horn  
Britten: Simple Symphony, Op. 4

For tickets, please contact the Downey Theater Box Office at (562) 861-8211 or visit www.downeysymphony.org

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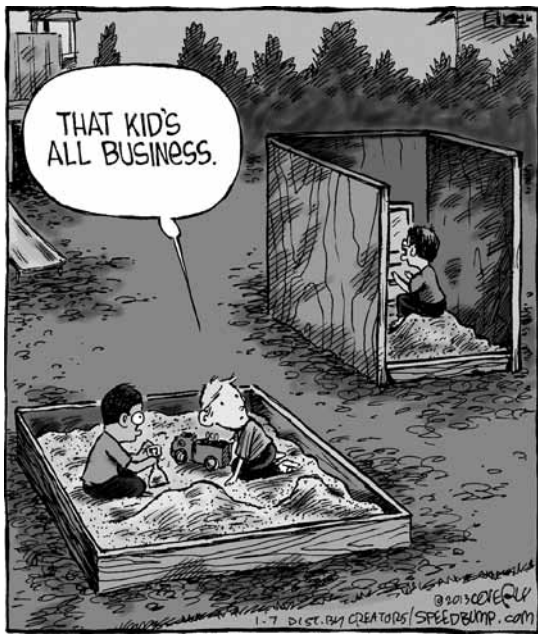
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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### Events For January

Sat. Jan. 12: **Open house**, St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy, 1 p.m.  
Wed. Jan. 16: **Community walk with the mayor**, Downey High School track, 6 p.m.

### City Meetings

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 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 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee**, at Fire Station No. 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.  
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: **City Council**, Council Chamber.  
3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Library Advisory Board**, at Downey City Library.

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### Mondays

7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.  
2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church.  
3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post #270**, at Rio Hondo Event Center, for more info. call 806-2100.  
4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

#### Tuesdays

9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.  
10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.  
12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information e-mail Diane Davis at ddavis87@me.com.  
6 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call Raul Castillo 400-2561.  
6:15 p.m.: **Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo**, at 11231 Rives, for info call 923-1932.  
1st Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Gangs Out of Downey**, at City Hall training room.  
2nd Tues., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7117.  
2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Cafe 'N Stuff, for information call 927-6438.  
2nd Tues., 6 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 425-7936.  
3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: **Community Emergency Response Team meeting**, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.  
3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at at Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.  
Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for info. call John Fiorenza 652-4399.

#### Wednesdays

7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.  
1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call Marie Puch at 869-4366.  
7 p.m.: **Out Post 132 Royal Rangers**, at Desert Reign Church, for info call 928-8000.  
1st Weds., 11 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.  
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.  
2nd Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, call Anita 861-3414.  
2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.  
2nd & 4th Weds., 5:30 p.m.: **Lions Club**, at Sunrise Realty, for information call 577-1104.  
3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club**, at Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.  
3rd Weds., 10 a.m.: **Los Angeles County Quilters Guild**, at Women's Club, for information call 426-2418.  
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 Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.  
Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

#### Thursdays

7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.  
7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.  
9:30 a.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at Barbara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.  
12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.  
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.  
1st Thurs., 12:00 noon: **Downey Christian & Professional Luncheon**, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call James Vanlengan 310-1335.  
2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.  
3rd Thurs., 4 p.m.: **Public Works Committee**, at City Hall Training Room.  
3rd Thurs., 6 p.m.: **Downey CIPAC**, at Sizzler's Restaurant, for information call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.  
4th Thurs., 10 a.m.: **Assistance League**, at Casa De Parley Johnson. for information call 869-0232.  
4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.

#### 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. 622-3785.

#### Saturdays

9 a.m.: **Farmers Market**, Downey Avenue at 3rd Street, for information call 904-7246.  
2nd Sat., 12:30 p.m.: **AAUW**, Los Amigos Country Club.

## On This Day...

**Jan. 10, 1776:** Thomas Paine published the pamphlet "Common Sense."  
**1863:** London's Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the public.  
**1964:** The Beatles' first album in the United States, "Introducing the Beatles," was released.  
**2007:** President George W. Bush announced he would send a "surge" of 21,500 U.S. forces to Iraq.  
**Birthdays:** Singer Frank Sinatra Jr. (69), rocker Rod Stewart (68), rocker Donald Fagen (65), retired boxer George Foreman (64), rocker Pat Benetar (60), singer Shawn Colvin (57), wrestler Buff Bagwell (43) and boxer Felix Trinidad (40).

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

**GOOD LUCK!** In other words, break a leg

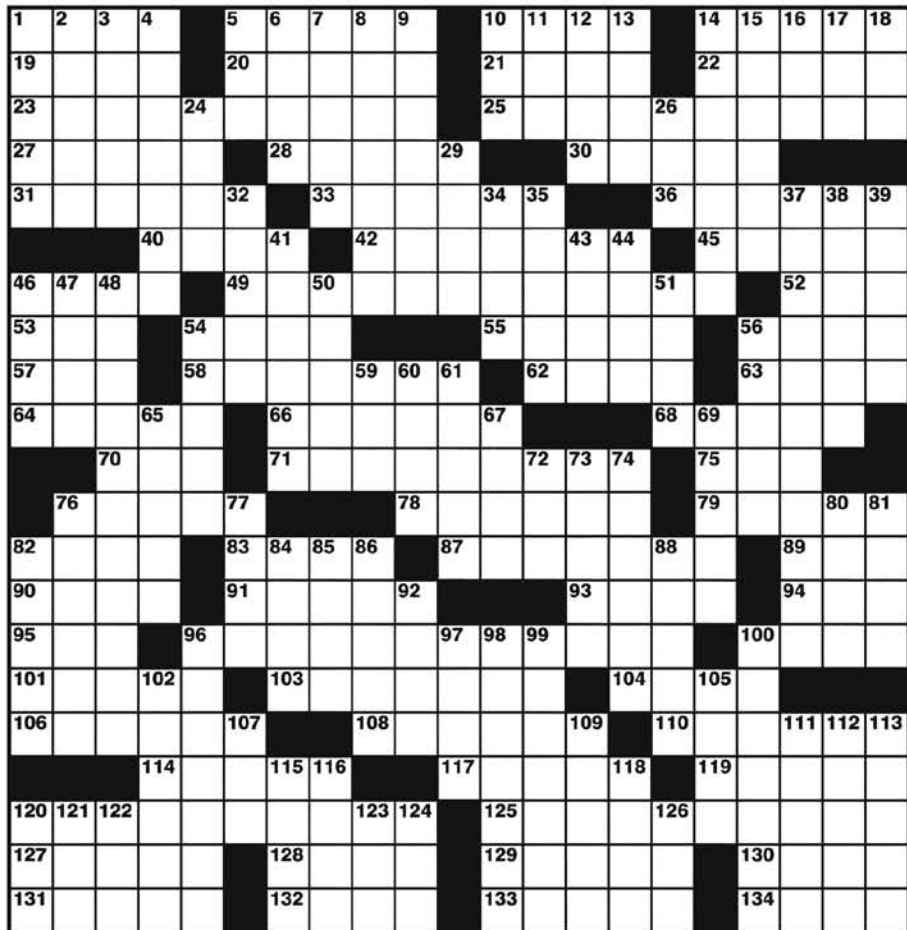
by Gail Grabowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Swampy grounds
  - 5 Pass, as legislation
  - 10 Artist's digs
  - 14 Show satisfaction
  - 19 Tremendously
  - 20 Gymnast Rigby
  - 21 Vivacity, in music
  - 22 Part of USNA
  - 23 Water-cooler talk
  - 25 Playground structures
  - 27 Like some waves
  - 28 Spiral; Pref.
  - 30 Paradise Lost villain
  - 31 Make watertight
  - 33 Li'l Abner cartoonist
  - 36 Halloween decorations
  - 40 Time in office
  - 42 Least taxing
  - 45 Novelist Zola
  - 46 Per piece
  - 49 Place for compromise
  - 52 ...chi (martial art)
  - 53 High-tech med. scanner
  - 54 Prepare for takeoff
  - 55 The Lion King cub
  - 56 S&L conveniences
  - 57 Debussy's sea
  - 58 About .035 ounces
  - 62 Grasslands
  - 63 Dollar, so to speak
  - 64 Regatta entry
  - 66 Removed suds
  - 68 Pasture measures
  - 70 Mauna
  - 71 Carpentry tool
  - 75 Oil-drilling equipment
  - 76 Beauty and the Beast girl
  - 78 Appear that way
  - 79 Decree

- 82 Violin pins
  - 83 Paint layer
  - 87 Immediately adjoining
  - 89 Line of seats
  - 90 Luggage carrier
  - 91 Speedy
  - 93 "Let us know," initially
  - 94 Luau souvenir
  - 95 Airport alternative to JFK
  - 96 Concorde, for example
  - 100 "Winning everything"
  - 101 Frat letter
  - 103 Outstanding
  - 104 Go like hotcakes
  - 106 Gazed upon
  - 108 Makes the first move
  - 110 Garth Brooks, by birth
  - 114 Olympic symbol
  - 117 Southwest scenery
  - 119 Neutral tone
  - 120 Reporter's reference
  - 125 Armor, shields, etc.
  - 127 Look forward to
  - 128 Palm, for one
  - 129 Trojan War epic
  - 130 All fired up
  - 131 Football plays
  - 132 Long footrace, for short
  - 133 Shelters with stakes
  - 134 Microscope part
- DOWN**
- 1 Worms and flies
  - 2 Any Buddy Holly tune
  - 3 Meir of Israel
  - 4 Furtive movements
  - 5 "Green" prefix
  - 6 Poet Ogden
  - 7 Far from land
  - 8 On ice
  - 9 Hardly surprising
  - 10 JFK's successor
  - 11 Oklahoma sch.
  - 12 Goldfish propellers
  - 13 Julius Caesar costume
  - 14 Moved furtively
  - 15 Large wine bottle
  - 16 Climbing plant
  - 17 On the ... (fleeing)
  - 18 2012 British Open champ
  - 24 Sticky stuff
  - 26 Sgt.'s superiors
  - 29 Bulk buy
  - 32 Image consultant
  - 34 Pen pals, perhaps
  - 35 Danger
  - 37 Young ladies
  - 38 Alpaca relatives
  - 39 Earthquake
  - 41 Kitchen appliances
  - 43 Vague quantity
  - 44 Sousaphone, for one
  - 46 Tube trophy
  - 47 Neck of the woods
  - 48 Pie chart, e.g.
  - 50 Finger or toe
  - 51 Curiosity org.
  - 54 Wreck completely
  - 56 Pungent-smelling
  - 59 Single-strand molecule
  - 60 African snakes
  - 61 Free-for-all
  - 65 The Planets composer
  - 67 Paula's Home Cooking host
  - 69 Move slowly
  - 72 Baseball execs.
  - 73 Take forcibly
  - 74 Creaks and squeaks
  - 76 Tricolor pooch
  - 77 Neutral tone
  - 80 Producer brothers' surname
  - 81 Tease
  - 82 Techie's campus hangout
  - 84 Dinghy movers
  - 85 Calendar notation: Abbr.
  - 86 Ceramic squares
  - 88 Sports bar fixture
  - 92 Shoulder muscle, for short
  - 96 Warehouse platforms
  - 97 Glitzy, briefly
  - 98 Cheese dish
  - 99 Gallery event
  - 100 Not sanctioned
  - 102 Airport actor Van
  - 105 Garage job
  - 107 Bumstead's nickname
  - 109 Glossy fabric
  - 111 Strainer
  - 112 Once more
  - 113 Geeks
  - 115 Mixed breed
  - 116 Word on Irish euro coins
  - 118 Numerical datum
  - 120 Unfortunate
  - 121 Seasaw complement
  - 122 Go off course
  - 123 Room for relaxation
  - 124 "A spider!"
  - 126 Mormons' grp.

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

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## Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer



ter stopping the medication.

The FDA recently issued a warning that taking a statin may increase the risk of developing **type 2 diabetes**. Some studies show as much as a 12% greater risk than for non-statin users. While the statistical benefit of reducing heart attacks far outweighs the risk of developing diabetes, you can bet that this issue is receiving more research attention.

About 10% of patients see **liver enzymes** rise after starting a statin, but these eventually return to normal. Due to this side effect, your doctor will periodically check your liver enzymes. Interestingly, these mild elevations do not appear to lead to long-term liver problems, and some researchers are even investigating using statins to treat mild elevations resulting from a condition known as **fatty liver**.

The most recent area of concern is **memory loss**. Studies suggest that memory loss or changes in thinking skills is a risk mainly among older statin users, that it has been observed for some within days of starting treatment with statins, and that the problem seems to disappear after stopping the drug. There is no evidence to suggest that statins lead to permanent memory loss.

So, why should anyone take a statin? The possible benefits depend on your cholesterol level as well as other cardiovascular risk factors. If your only risk factor is high cholesterol, you may not need this medication because your risk of heart attack and stroke could still be low. Note that high cholesterol is only one of a number of risk factors for heart attack and stroke, which also include family history of heart disease, hypertension, having diabetes, obesity, smoking cigarettes, and living an inactive lifestyle.

In conjunction with these other risk factors, however, it is very clear that high cholesterol levels do have a direct impact on heart attack or stroke risk. We can lower cholesterol levels (as well as **triglycerides**, another form of lipid in the bloodstream) in a number of ways:

Eating a heart-healthy diet can reduce LDL ("bad" cholesterol) levels by 10%

Losing 5 to 10% of body weight can reduce LDL by 15% and reduce triglycerides by 20%

Exercising for at least two and a half hours per week can further reduce triglycerides by 20% to 30%

Quitting smoking, managing stress, and making other lifestyle changes can lead to further reductions

My patients and my regular readers won't be surprised to hear me preach that exercise and other lifestyle measures are the cornerstone to reducing cholesterol levels. However, it still may be necessary to take a statin or some other cholesterol-lowering medication. Statins can quickly reduce LDL (bad cholesterol) by 50% or more. They can also boost HDL (good cholesterol) by as much as 15%. These changes typically occur within the first month!

But more important than simply lowering cholesterol numbers, statins have been shown to reduce the risk of coronary events by 25% to 40%. If a patient has existing coronary artery disease, statins can decrease atherosclerosis and stabilize plaque already formed in arteries (heart attacks start with plaque rupture).

Statins are not meant to be a cure-all. They are potent medications with some potentially significant side effects. They don't benefit all who take them. When used for the appropriate patients, along with significant lifestyle changes, they offer enormous benefits to those with heart disease. Your doctor will guide you.

Enjoy good heart health during this New Year!

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

## Eye surgeon offers new type of cataract surgery

**DOWNEY** - Dr. Brian Brown has become the first physician in Downey to offer a new type of cataract surgery known as LenSx.

LenSx utilizes a laser designed specifically for refractive cataract surgery. Using a customizable 3D surgical platform, it allows surgeons to visualize, customize and perform many of the most challenging steps of cataract surgery.

Brown said he studied the technology for several years before employing it in his office.

"I wanted to make sure it would be safe and effective before I offered it to my patients," he said.

LenSx is the first femtosecond laser approved by the FDA for use in cataract surgery, bringing image-guided computer precision to refractive cataract patients during surgery.

"Today cataract removal is at an entirely new level," Brown said. "It's performed as an outpatient procedure under local anesthesia, allowing patients to resume their normal activities in no time."

For more information on LenSx cataract surgery, go online to [briandbrownmd.com](http://briandbrownmd.com).

## Tips for choosing a physician

There's a crisis in primary health care. In some cities, almost 90 percent of primary care physicians are not accepting new patients because their practices are full. And it's only going to get worse, warns noted physician and emeritus professor of medicine Dr. Paul Griner, author of "The Power of Patient Stories: Learning Moments in Medicine."

"In 2014, 32 million people currently without health insurance will become insured and there will be nowhere near enough primary-care physicians to meet their needs," Griner says. "Less than 20 percent of new physicians are entering primary care, which includes the specialties of family medicine, general internal medicine and general pediatrics."

Griner, an internist and longtime advocate of physician-patient relationship as the first and most vital diagnostic tool, says it's important to find a doctor who will take the time to listen to you. But first, you need to decide what kind of primary care physician will best meet your needs. For instance, a family physician can care for both you and your children. A general internist is trained for the care of adults. A geriatrician has additional training in the care of older patients. A gynecologist may also have an interest in primary care.

Once you've made that decision, he offers these suggestions for qualities to look for:

- Someone who is interested in knowing the whole patient -- not just the illness. As the great Sir William Osler, Regis Professor of Medicine at Oxford, once said, "The good physician knows the disease the patient has. The great physician knows the patient who has the disease."

- A patient-centered atmosphere in the office

- Someone who is a good listener. Most diagnoses can be made or suspected by letting the patient tell his or her story

- Someone who is willing to say, "I don't know," but does know where to go to get the answer, such as referring you to another doctor or using medical knowledge bases such as "Up To Date."

- Readiness to use the latest technology for communicating with patients, such as the I-phone, e-mail or Skype.

- Someone who values team care and values the role of advanced practice nurses or physician's assistants.

"Ask around," Griner says. "Get recommendations from friends and colleagues; the experience of other patients is always helpful. Ask your county medical society for names of physicians who are accepting new patients, or ask the premier hospital in your area, then check their credentials and look for feedback

about timeliness, friendliness, etc., on-line."

If you want to do something about the primary care physician shortage, there are ways the public can help, Griner adds.

- Advocate for more support for primary care through your state and U.S. representatives. "Support" can include more money for primary care training grants; better compensation for primary care physicians; and expansion of sites that qualify as physician shortage areas

- Support the development of local "accountable care organizations" or networks by your local hospital, health system or group practice. The goal of these new organizations is to guarantee comprehensive, continuous care with the primary care physician as the manager of a team of health professionals.

- Support community initiatives to recruit primary care physicians through incentives such as loan relief.

*Hematologist/internist Paul Griner has had a 59-year career in medicine. He is a professor of medicine emeritus at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and was a consultant at the Massachusetts General Hospital, senior lecturer at Harvard Medical School, and consultant to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) in Cambridge, Mass.*

By now, most of us have heard of the class of drugs known as **statins**, medications prescribed for those with high levels of cholesterol. About 35 million Americans take them regularly. Some in the medical community even recommend that all adults take them, much like aspirin, for prevention of atherosclerotic diseases like stroke and heart attack. Is that a good idea? Let's explore.

Statins inhibit the action of an enzyme (HMG-CoA reductase) made in the liver, which is necessary for the production of cholesterol. The human body needs cholesterol in order to function, but high levels lead to atherosclerosis, a condition that causes plaques that clog the arteries and increase the risk of stroke and heart attack.

The challenge with statins is to weigh their benefits against their undesirable side effects. There is no question that statins are relatively safe drugs, and they've saved thousands of lives over the past 20 years, particularly in men with established heart disease. But like any drug they can cause problems for some, including muscle aches, increased risk for diabetes, liver enzyme fluctuations, and, gaining recent attention, memory loss.

The most common negative side effect is **musculoskeletal**, ranging from mild muscle pain (**myalgia**) to actual damage to the muscles. This happens to 5 - 10% of those taking statins. These symptoms appear to be dose related - the higher the dose, the greater the side effects. Most begin about a month after starting statin therapy or increasing to a higher dose, although these symptoms can take as long as six months to appear. Pain may be widespread, but is more common in the lower extremities.

Another musculoskeletal issue with statins is **tendon** complications. Approximately 2% of those on statins develop this, ranging from tendonitis to tendon ruptures. These types of symptoms generally occur within eight months of starting therapy. The Achilles heel is the most common tendon affected, with swelling, warmth, stiffness and pain. Aside from ruptures, symptoms clear up af-

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Dora Alvarez, a Downey High graduate and scholarship recipient from the Woman's Club of Downey, recently visited the club to thank them in person for their \$4,000 scholarship. Alvarez is in her third year at UC Berkley with plans for medical school. "I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart," Alvarez told the club. "I could not do this alone and your care and support will always be with me. Thank you so very much." The Woman's Club awards an academic scholarship to one outstanding Downey High student each year. The grant is paid out at \$1,000 per year for four years. Seven students have benefited from the scholarships thus far. Alvarez is pictured above with her mother (left) and scholarship chairperson Shirlee MacDowell.

### Woman to speak about cerebral palsy

**DOWNEY** – Maria French, a parishioner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, will be guest speaker when the OLPH Women's Guild hosts its first meeting of the year Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the OLPH School auditorium.

French's topic is "The Many Colors of Faith." She will speak about living with cerebral palsy.

The public is welcome. A donation of \$10 is asked to cover the cost of lunch.

OLPH School is at 10441 Downey Ave.

### Vendors, crafters wanted for boutique

**DOWNEY** – Local vendors and crafters are invited to take part in Downey Emblem Club's first annual Sweetheart Boutique taking place Feb. 9 at the Downey Elks Lodge.

Cost is \$25 per vendor. Vendors are also asked to provide one item for a raffle.

The sale is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. but vendors are allowed inside at 8:30 to set-up. A table is provided.

For more information, contact Susan Colasurdo at (562) 743-4300 or e-mail scolasurdo@hawksbay.com.



Downey Newcomers Club has installed its new officers for 2013. They include (from left) Laura Coble, Jeanne Beleckas, Nancy Anna (president), Estela Mendoza, Kim Yeager and Mary Hammerle.

### County settles for Rancho death

**DOWNEY** – The L.A. County Board of Supervisors this week authorized a \$150,000 settlement in the case of a woman who died while receiving treatment at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

Supervisors also waived the county's medical bills as part of the settlement.

Eva Partida was admitted to Rancho on Dec. 16, 2010 for an undisclosed surgery. During the course of her hospitalization, Partida's condition deteriorated and she was eventually placed on life support, county records show.

She died Dec. 27.

Partida's family sued, claiming she died due to negligent care.

In a staff memo, county officials did not admit fault but said "all appropriate personnel corrective actions have been taken" and that classes were held at Rancho "regarding the management of pulmonary complications."

### Weekly cardio class at Downey High

**DOWNEY** – Downey Adult School's new Cardio Plus class starts this Monday.

The class meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, at Downey High School. Cost is \$79.

For more information, visit a class or call Downey Adult School at (562) 940-6200.

### Free prom dresses for Downey girls

**DOWNEY** – The Assisteens, a youth service organization affiliated with the Assistance League of Downey, is giving away complete prom and winter formal outfits to girls who cannot afford one.

Girls can receive a free dress, jewelry, make-up, purse, shoes and discounts to local hair salons.

The giveaway will take place Jan. 26 from 12-2 p.m. at the Parley Johnson house at 7749 Florence Ave.

Girls who cannot attend that day can make an appointment by calling Stacy Brabant at (310) 991-3757.

### Nine arrested at Pico Rivera checkpoint

**PICO RIVERA** – Three people were arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, and another for allegedly driving while high on marijuana, during a checkpoint last Friday night in Pico Rivera.

Sheriff's deputies also took into custody two people for illegal possession of narcotics and one person for allowing an unlicensed driver to drive a car.

Authorities nabbed one person for driving on a suspended license and another driver for having no license at all.

The checkpoint was held on Rosemead Boulevard, just south of Mines Avenue.

Future checkpoints are planned for Super Bowl Sunday next month and again on St. Patrick's Day weekend in March.

### Miss Downey applications now available

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Rose Float Association is now accepting applications for the 2013 Little/Jr./Teen and Miss Downey Pageant.

Applications can be found at the Downey City Library, Downey Chamber of Commerce, Mambo Grill, schools in the Downey Unified School District or online at [missdowney.com](http://missdowney.com) or [downeyrose.org](http://downeyrose.org).

Please bring an application and the \$18 application fee to orientation on Jan. 19 at Trinity Baptist Church at 2 p.m..

Applications can also be mailed (postmarked by Jan. 16) to DRFA, Attn Pageant, PO Box 765, Downey, CA 90241.

For more information, contact Gary DeRemer at (562) 260-8503.

### Students invited to JSA convention

**BELL GARDENS** – Constitutional lawyer, lecturer, writer and political activist Stephen Rohde will give the keynote speech when the Southern California Junior State of America hosts its first Tri-Regional One-Day Conference this Saturday at Bell Gardens High School.

Rodhe is founder and chair of Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace and chair of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California.

The conference is intended for high school students. JSA is the largest high school student-run organization in the country and supports civic engagement among youth.

The conference starts at 10 a.m. Admission is \$5 for students.

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A board-certified cardiologist, Dr. Floro received his undergraduate degree from USC and attended medical school at Vanderbilt University, completing his training at Vanderbilt and Harbor General – UCLA Medical Center.

Dr. Floro practices at PMG's Lakewood and Downey locations. To schedule an appointment, please call (562) 904-8144.

The January 2013 issue of the magazine features the top 5% of doctors in Los Angeles and Orange Counties as determined through peer nominations (with ballots mailed to more than 30,000 doctors in Los Angeles and Orange counties), a blue ribbon panel review process, and independent research on candidates. The listing also appears online at [www.superdoctors.com](http://www.superdoctors.com).

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## Downey gets best of Warren in soccer league opener

• Bears fall to last year's league champions, 1-0, in SGVL opener.

By Mark Fetter Contributor

**DOWNEY** – The Warren High School girls' soccer team opened up their league season with a 1-0 loss to cross-town rival Downey at home on Tuesday night. The Lady Bears are currently 0-1 in league play and will travel to Dominguez today and play the Lady Dons.

The Lady Bears competed in the North Orange County Classic Tournament over the Christmas Break where valuable game experience was gained. The Lady Bears tied Cabrillo 2-2 on Dec. 27, lost to South Torrance 5-0, also on Dec. 27, and lost to Arroyo Grande 2-0 on Dec.

28. The Lady Bears have been playing a tough preseason schedule in order to prepare themselves for league play. The Lady Bears were the third place finishers last season from the San Gabriel Valley League behind C.I.F. and league champion Downey and second place finishers Lynwood, respectively. With the success of San Gabriel Valley League teams last season, the S.G.V.L. will compete in Division IV this year.

The Lady Bears return ten players from a young squad last season and also add several junior varsity payers from a 6-3-1 team. Key varsity returners to this year's squad include Celinna "the woman" Montano, Vicky Hernandez, Elli Spain, Sarah McGarry and Laura Aquije. Several standout players that have moved up to varsity from the junior varsity squad include Briana Mira,

Karina Mendez, Mariana Rodriguez, Samantha Sandaval and Clarissa Alvarez.

The Lady Bears are looking to improve upon last year's 15-8-4 overall record 6-3-1 league record. The Lady Bears defeated Desert Mountain League champion Lancaster 2-1 in the first round of the C.I.F. Division V playoffs before losing to Woodcrest Christian on penalty kicks in the second round. Coach Taracena continues to work hard with her team and is hopeful for a nice run in league play and into the C.I.F. Division IV playoffs.

### Boys Soccer

The Warren High School boys' soccer team currently has an overall record of 1-6-6 and a league record of 0-0-1. The Bears traveled to cross-town rival Downey on Tuesday night in the league opener for both schools and played to a 1-1 tie.

The Bears outshot the host Vikings 21-6 but only managed to get one shot on goal "past the white line." Downey currently has an overall record of 6-2-3 and have the same 0-0-1 league record due to the tie.

The score stood 0-0 at halftime. Downey struck first in the second half when Ernesto Patino scored on a left footed shot past Bear goalkeeper Christopher Dominguez in the 59th minute. In the 63rd minute, the Bears answered back when senior captain Brandon Herrerias scored the equalizer goal to make it a 1-1 game. The score stayed that way until the final whistle blew.

Downey Coach Steve Barber was happy with his team's play and was pleased his team "defended their home turf." Barber maintains that his squad is "going in the right direction" and will continue to work hard. Despite his frustration with the shot on goal differential, Coach Pena was pleased with his team's effort and the fact that his Bear squad continued to play hard to come back.

The Bears are coming off losses to St. Augustine 3-1 and Ballantine 4-1 both on December 27th at the Nike Tournament of Champions Tournament held in San Diego over the Christmas Break.

## Joy Miley selected for PT's 'Dream Team'

**DOWNEY** – The Downey High School girls' volleyball season has been over since the Lady Vikings lost in the C.I.F. Division II-AA quarterfinal round to Los Osos on Nov. 10. The Lady Vikings finished their season with an overall record of 26-8 and league record at a perfect 10-0.

The Long Beach Press Telegram has released its annual girls' volleyball "Dream Team" selections and Joy Miley, the senior setter, was the only S.G.V.L. player selected to the First Team.

Senior Lindsey Ray of Long Beach Poly was selected as the Dream Team Player of the Year.

For her outstanding effort during the 2012 season, Miley was selected co-MVP of the San Gabriel Valley League and First Team All-CIF Division II-AA. Miley helped lead the Lady Vikings to another S.G.V.L. title and to the quarterfinal round of the C.I.F. Playoffs. Joy Miley will be a 49er next fall as she will be attending Long Beach State.

Lady Viking and senior teammate Makayla Taylor was selected to the Second Team of the Dream Team. Taylor worked her way back from a serious knee injury she suffered during the Lady Viking soccer season to earn this honor.

Taylor also played an instrumental role in leading the Lady Vikings to another San Gabriel Valley League title and C.I.F. run.

Miley and Taylor provided a solid 1-2 punch after Taylor returned to the lineup for the Downey-Warren match. Coach Andrea Sims was quoted as saying "we are now whole again" after Taylor's return.

Besides Taylor, senior Brianna Cervantes of Warren and senior Aaliyah Heckard of Gahr were the only other S.G.V.L. players who shared Second Team selection honors.

–Mark Fetter, contributor

## Downey wrestlers win John Glenn team title

**DOWNEY** – The Downey High School wrestling team participated in their third wrestling tournament in the past five weekends.

The Vikings competed in the Long Beach Poly Jackrabbit Tournament Dec. 8 and followed that up by hosting the Downey Viking Invitational Dec. 14-15. The Vikings were getting geared up for cross-town rival Warren and the rest of the San Gabriel Valley League with a final tune-up at the John Glenn Tournament in Norwalk this past weekend.

The Vikings competed in and won the John Glenn team title with a score of 195.5. The Vikings had two individual champions and two runner-ups. In other words, Downey had four wrestlers wrestling in their respective weight class finals.

Daniel Martinez (126) and Anthony Florido (220) were both tournament champions and Antonio Santana (145) and Juan Soto (152) were both finalists who finished second.

Daniel Martinez defeated Charles Ibo of Channel Islands 4-0 and Anthony Florido defeated James Rivera of Arroyo 2-0 to take their respective weight class titles. Antonio Santana was defeated by Clancey Baker of Long Beach Poly 8-1 in the 145 pound final and Juan Soto was also runner-up at 152.

–Mark Fetter, contributor



The Downey Diamonds cheer squad will host a fundraiser at So Cal Pizza in Norwalk this Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to help cover the cost of attending the National Cheer Competition later this month in Las Vegas. Fundraiser tickets will be sold at the door.

## Little league sign-ups Saturday

**DOWNEY** – Northwest Downey Little League will hold final in-person sign-ups for the 2013 baseball season this Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Furman Park.

Kids ages 4-18 (as of May 1, 2013) are eligible to play.

For more information, go to [nwdll.org](http://nwdll.org).

## Real Estate Expert in your Corner

### Congress Extends Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act through December 31, 2013

On January 1, 2013, Congress passed an extension of the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act through the end of the year. Originally passed in 2007, this act exempts homeowners from paying federal taxes on debt forgiven in a short sale, foreclosure, or loan modification.

#### What does the Extension mean for you?

For distressed homeowners, the extension of the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act is great news.

Can you imagine negotiating with your lender for several months on a short sale, finally getting the bank to accept a payoff of \$350,000 for your \$500,000 note, and then paying taxes on \$150,000 "income"? Or losing your home altogether and still paying taxes on the bank's loss?

If you are struggling with your mortgage payments and facing the possibility of foreclosure, short sales provide a number of advantages over foreclosure:

- **Potential Relocation Assistance**—At closing, home owners may receive \$3,000 for a HAFA short sale and up to \$35,000 on select short sales through Bank of America, Chase, Citibank, and Wells Fargo.
- **Credit Scores and History**—Short sales are not reported as a foreclosure on your credit report, which may limit the negative effect on your credit score and which will allow you to buy your next home sooner.
- **Current and Future Employment**—It is very common for companies to run credit checks on potential employees. In many cases, clean credit history is required for security clearance.

If you are thinking about doing a short sale, keep in mind that short sales can take several months to negotiate. If you start now, you increase your chances of closing the sale on your home before this extension expires.

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## Agatha Christie mystery in Long Beach

**LONG BEACH** – When it comes to “who done it,” nobody does it better than Agatha Christie. And even amongst Christie’s work, “And Then There Were None” holds top billing as her bestselling book – ever.

The book will be performed on the Long Beach Playhouse mainstage, opening Jan. 19 and continuing until Feb. 16.

“It is a book where everyone who gets it, deserves it,” said Andrew Vonderschmitt, the playhouse’s producing artistic director. “Eight people are invited to a remote and desolate island for a weekend. They don’t know who their host is or why they are there. The tie that binds them is each has committed a murder for which he or she has never been caught or punished.”

With a cast that includes eight marooned murderers, house servants and a mysterious voice from the gramophone, “And Then There Were None” offers many plum roles that are expertly played by an ensemble of actors that is a mix of Long Beach Playhouse veterans and those making their first appearances on our stage.

Tickets are \$24 general admission, \$21 for seniors and \$14 for students, and can be purchased online at lbplayhouse.org or by calling (562) 494-1014.

## LB Symphony targets younger audience

**LONG BEACH** – The Long Beach Symphony Orchestra is “bringing back the classics” with a performance Jan. 12 featuring guest violinist Elmar Oliveira.

The performance marks this year’s debut of the Balcony Club, inspired to attract a younger generation to symphony concerts. The Balcony Club features a bar, drink specials, and a casual, friendly environment suitable for networking and socializing.

“Going to a Classics concert doesn’t have to be a formal or expensive affair,” said Rick Berry, director of marketing for the Long Beach Symphony. “The Balcony Club is a great way for people to check out our orchestra without some of the barriers that people may have perceived in the past. The price is right and the atmosphere is casual and friendly. Plus, the music actually sounds best from the balcony.”

On Saturday, music director Enrique Arturo Diemecke will conduct Rossini’s Barber of Seville: Overture, Saint-Saens’s Violin Concerto No. 3 featuring Elmar Oliveira, and Debussy’s Nocturnes and La Mer.

Tickets to the Balcony Club are \$20 (or two tickets for \$35) and can be purchased at the box office or by calling (562) 436-3203, ext. 1.

## Fundraiser to benefit symphony

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Symphony Guild is hosting its annual gala fundraiser in support of the Music in the Schools program Feb. 1 at the Embassy Suites.

The program includes dinner, entertainment and live and silent auctions.

Cost is \$65 if reservations are received before Jan. 28. Checks should be made out to Downey Symphony Guild and mailed to Marie Eckstrom, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey CA 90240.

## Conductor offers preview of concert

**WHITTIER** – The Rio Hondo Symphony Guild will present its third concert preview of the season on Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at First Friends Church in Whittier.

Dr. Stephen Gothold, founder of the Chorale Bel Canto and its conductor and music director since 1981, will be the guest speaker. His topic will be “Teutonic Titans,” music by composers Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Brahms and more.

The concert preview is free and open to the public.

## First class of SolidWorks students graduate

• Cerritos College began offering CSWA certification last fall.

**NORWALK** – The Cerritos College Engineering and Design Technology Department honored 34 students who successfully passed the Certified Solidworks Associate (CSWA) Certification Exam.

Beginning the fall 2012 semester Cerritos College became a CSWA certification exam provider. In the engineering industry CSWA certification is regarded as a proof of SolidWorks expertise - proficiency in operating the latest edition of the SolidWorks 3D parametric CAD software and performing complex tasks of creating parts, assemblies and drawings.

The first generation of Cerritos College CSWA professionals successfully passed the rigorous three-hour examination, and joined the pool of 40,000 professionals nationwide who distinct themselves with this certification.

The 2012 Class of CSWA consisted of students of various age, educational background ranging from high school students to master’s degree holders, and with a variety of work experiences ranging from none to senior-level professional engineers. The youngest CSWA in the first generation of Cerritos College students who took the exam was 12-year-old Abanoob Teddavis who plans on completing his associate degree in engineering design technology at the same time



he graduates from high school.

“The Cerritos College Department of Engineering Design Technology is one of a few community colleges in Southern California where you can earn this internationally recognized certificate with no additional costs. We have developed new curriculum for our parametric modeling courses which prepares students for the exam,” said Dr. Miodrag Micic, Sc.D., Ph.D., M.T.M, engineering technology instructor at Cerritos College and vice president of MP Biomedicals, LLC.

In the spring 2012 semester Cerritos College will offer an advanced SolidWorks class in which

students will work toward passing an advanced certification, Certified SolidWorks Professional certification exam, and earned a title of CSWP.

“In the near future, we would like to offer standard certifications for other popular CAD systems, such as CATIA, Inventor and AutoCAD as well,” said Dr. Yannick Real, Instructional Dean of Technology Division at Cerritos College.

For more information visit cms.cerritos.edu/engt or contact Dr. Micic at mmicic@cerritos.edu or (562) 860-2451 ext. 2910.

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**PROMISED LAND** R (5:00), 9:50

**TEXAS CHAINSAW** R (10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:35), 7:55

**TEXAS CHAINSAW 3D** R 10:10 PM

**DJANGO UNCHAINED** R (11:50, 3:25), 7:00, 10:25

**LES MISERABLES** PG-13 (11:30, 3:30), 7:30

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE** PG (12:10, 2:45, 5:20), 7:50, 10:20

**JACK REACHER** PG-13 (10:40, 1:35, 4:35), 7:35, 10:35

**THIS IS 40** R (10:50, 1:45, 4:40), 7:35, 10:30

**THE GUILT TRIP** PG-13 (12:10, 2:35), 7:25

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For information on this Dining Section Call Dorothy or MaryAnn at the Downey Patriot (562) 904-3668

MAYOR'S CORNER



Photo by John Zander/Courtesy Mayor Mario Guerra

## Surgery not slowing down the mayor

Dear Downey Family,  
Happy New Year to all! I hope 2013 brings much happiness to you and your loved ones. As many of you know I started the year out with an emergency eye surgery. The operation to attach my retina was a success and I am on the road to recovery. With the exception of driving and full vision I am almost completely back. Thank you for all your well wishes and prayers. They were much appreciated.

This new year is definitely going to be an exciting and great one for our City. I can tell you this because we've already started the year right with big news for our Fire Department. At Tuesday's Council meeting I was excited to announce that the City has received over \$1.8 Million in grant funding from FEMA. Folks, with this funding we will now be able to bring back Fire Engine 61, which was eliminated during this current fiscal year due to budget cuts. This means that we will be hiring a total of 12 firefighters to staff this Engine and put it back in service. And the fact that they will all be crossed trained as paramedics will continue to enhance our Fire Department. Public Safety has always been a top priority for our City and I am glad that we will have our Engine fully operational before July 1st of this year. And thank you to our fine Fire Department for their great efforts in minimizing the impact last year. They did more with less and showed we have one of the best Fire Departments around. I hope this will let everyone know how important it is to have and keep Downey Fire local. I want to sincerely thank Fire Chief Croom for his hard work in securing this grant money. This is wonderful news for our community and the future of Downey Fire.

At this week's Council meeting we approved to move forward with the submission of a \$3 million loan application from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to build a new neighborhood center next to the Columbia Memorial Space Center. This new center will help provide a much needed community space for the surrounding neighborhood and will offer programming for this area. In addition, this facility will help to preserve our historic Space Shuttle Mock-Up, Inspiration. This community center is going to be great for the community and will also help us keep our one of kind Shuttle Mock-up.

I invite all of you to join us for a very special event on Friday, February 1st. On this day, we will be commemorating the 10th anniversary

of the Columbia Shuttle tragedy. The ceremony will take place at our very own Columbia Memorial Space Center, which in fact serves as the official national memorial to the Columbia Shuttle and its crew STS-107. A tragic event that needs to be remembered.

The demolition of Downey Studios is pretty much now complete. It was a bit sad to watch the last of the buildings fall to the ground, but I am excited for what's to come. The Tierra Luna project is expected to begin construction in the coming months and the impact that this 1.5 million square foot development will have to our region is remarkable. Tierra Luna is expected to produce more than \$4.2 million dollars in revenue to the City and will help create more than 3,000 permanent jobs, 1,200 of which will be high paying medical jobs.

Another exciting project that is almost nearly complete is the Downey Gateway. If you've driven down Firestone Blvd, across from Porto's, you've probably seen construction underway. Pretty soon we will have a Starfish Sushi, Yagurtland, Round Table Pizza, Waba Grill, Fresh Cutt, Pacific Fish Grill, and a few more restaurants. Downey Gateway is expected to open next month, so stay tuned! More things to come in Downtown Downey and I will be excited to announce next month.

I hope you can join me next Wednesday, January 16th at the Downey High Track for the kick-off of my "Mayor's Walking Wednesdays" series. As part of my Healthy Downey Initiative, I will be walking two Wednesdays a month in an effort to meet my goal towards living a healthy life. These walks will also allow me to meet members of our community and provide them with an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns about our City. I encourage you to join me. The full schedule is posted on our City website at [www.downeyca.org/about/healthydowney](http://www.downeyca.org/about/healthydowney) or you can call 562-904-7274 for more details.

We have a great year ahead of us and I am eager for the many great things to come. As your Mayor, I feel honored and privileged to be serving this great City of ours. This is my community, my home...your home, OUR home...Feel free to call me about our City on my personal cell number 562-706-4114. Let's continue to work together to keep Downey moving forward. Here's to a great 2013!

All my best, God bless,  
**Dn. Mario A. Guerra**  
Mayor

## Ex school official gets prison time

**LYNWOOD** – A former official of the Lynwood Unified School District who admitted diverting more than \$700,000 in public money over four years to pay for personal expenses was sentenced last week to eight years in state prison, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Superior Court Judge Michael Tynan also ordered William Douglas Agopian, 61, of Santa Ana, to pay \$700,000 in restitution to the Lynwood Unified School District and \$121,220 to the Franchise Tax Board, said Deputy District Attorney Dana Aratani of the Public Integrity Division.

Agopian pleaded guilty in November to one felony count each of misappropriation of public funds and filing a false tax return.

Agopian, the district's former chief business officer, admitted taking the money from a bank account that had been established to facilitate a sister-city trip to Mexico for Lynwood students, the prosecutor said.

## Lynwood hosting 10K run, walk

**LYNWOOD** – More than 500 runners and walkers are expected to take part in the first annual My Lynwood: Healthy Cities 2013 5K/10K Run and Walk taking place Feb. 9 at Lynwood City Park.

The event is co-sponsored by the city of Lynwood and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Century Station.

"We've done marathons and walks in the city before, but none have gotten as big as this one is expected to get," said Deborah Jackson, public relations director for Lynwood. "This is a great way to start the year off right. Not only will this event help put the city of Lynwood on the map for hundreds of people from across the Southland who have never even heard of Lynwood and will be running in this race, but we're also hoping that it strengthens the bridge of communication the city of Lynwood has been building between its residents and law enforcement. Crime in the city is at an all-time low and law enforcement credits community policing and neighborhood watch for those low numbers. That in itself has a lot to do with communication between residents and law enforcement."

Jackson and several other city employees will be among the participants.

The walk and run will start at Lynwood City Park and winds its way through major streets including Imperial Highway and Atlantic Avenue. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m.

On-site registration is \$30 for the 5K and \$35 for the 10K and includes an official event T-shirt, race bib and sponsor gifts.

For more information, call (310) 603-0220, ext. 501.

## Bingo luncheon at St. Raymond's

**DOWNEY** – A bingo luncheon will be hosted inside the Msgr. Robert Gipson Hall at St. Raymond's Church on Jan. 20 at 12:30 p.m.

Cost is \$10 and includes one bingo card, lunch and door prizes. Proceeds will benefit the church's Italian Catholic Federation.

For tickets, call Aline Amatista at (562) 693-9430.

## South Gate police chase suspects to L.A.

**SOUTH GATE** – A 17-year-old boy was shot by police after leading officers on a pursuit that ended in a south Los Angeles housing project.

South Gate police were investigating a carjacking that occurred at about 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Tweedy Boulevard and Montara Avenue. During the carjacking, the victim was stabbed and pulled from his GMC Sierra by a male Hispanic.

Police officers found the vehicle abandoned about a 1/2 mile away and watched as four male suspects began to remove items from the SUV. As police moved in, the suspects got into a Ford Taurus and sped away, authorities said.

The pursuit ended at 97th and Grape streets in Los Angeles when the suspects' vehicle crashed into a residential fence. The four suspects fled on foot.

One suspect ran east on 97th Street through the Jordan Downs housing project, where he was shot by police. The suspect, a 17-year-old boy, was hospitalized in unknown condition.


Police did not find a gun but located a black-handled screwdriver.

Meanwhile, police fired at another suspect but missed. The suspect continued running westbound through yards toward Anzac Avenue where he was confronted by another South Gate police officer, who also fired his gun. He missed also.

The suspect stopped running and was taken into custody, police said. He was described as a 25-year-old white man.

The two remaining suspects, identified as Hispanic men, got away.

Authorities said they don't know if the suspects were involved in the earlier carjacking.



### CRIME REPORT

**Thursday, Jan. 3**

At 4:45 p.m., officers arrested a 51-year-old man after he exposed himself to 2 young girls at Wilderness Park. Officers located the suspect in the park and arrested him for immoral conduct.

At 10:30 p.m., officers arrested a suspect for drunk driving after he drove his vehicle into a building in the 13500 block of Lakewood Boulevard. The driver fled the scene, but officers located him nearby. No injuries were reported.

**Sunday, Jan. 6**

At 7:15 p.m., a male on a bicycle attempted to rob a female walking in the 9300 block of Telegraph. The suspect knocked the victim to the ground, but was unsuccessful in stealing any of the victim's property. The victim received a minor injury and the suspect fled the scene on his bicycle. Detectives are investigating.

**Wednesday, Jan. 9**

At 11:00 a.m., officers responded to Check-N-Go located at 8724 Imperial Highway regarding a robbery. When officers arrived they spoke with the employees who reported 2 males had entered the store and robbed them of US currency. No injuries reported and detectives are investigating.

*Information provided by the Downey Police Department*

## Man gets 11 years for killing father


**LOS ANGELES** – A 27-year-old Sylmar man who pleaded to manslaughter and attempted manslaughter in the death of his father and injury of his brother in 2011 was sentenced to state prison Monday.

Deputy District Attorney June Chung said Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Clifford L. Klein sentenced Martin Casares Martinez to 11 years and six months in state prison in exchange for the defendant's no contest pleas last month.

On June 7, 2011, Martinez argued with two of his brothers at the family home in Sylmar. He later drove a vehicle at one of his brothers, hitting him and their father. The father, Francisco, was killed. The brother, Luis, suffered fractures to both legs.

The defendant was arrested by Los Angeles police the next day and a case was filed against him on June 10, 2011, by the District Attorney's Family Violence Division. He has remained in custody since that time.

Early last month, Martinez pleaded no contest to voluntary manslaughter and attempted voluntary manslaughter with great bodily injury and use of a deadly weapon – the car.




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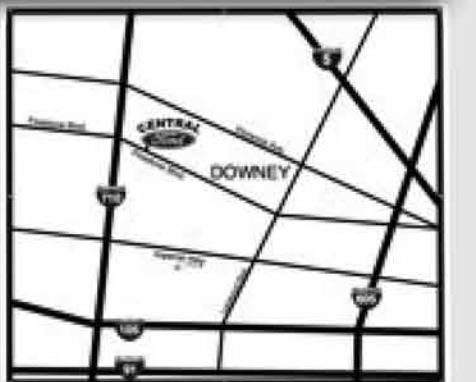
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## Downey cardiologist named 'Super Doctor'

**DOWNEY** – Dr. Jerry Floro, a board certified cardiologist who practices out of Downey and Lakewood, has been named a 2013 Southern California "Super Doctor" by Los Angeles Magazine.

The magazine's January issue features the top 5 percent of doctors in Los Angeles and Orange counties as determined through peer nominations, a blue ribbon panel review process and independent research. Ballots were mailed to more than 30,000 doctors throughout Southern California.

It is the fourth consecutive year Floro has earned the "Super Doctor" designation.

Floro received his undergraduate degree from USC and attended medical school at Vanderbilt University. He completed his training at Vanderbilt and Harbor General-UCLA Medical Center.

He practices out of Pioneer Medical Group's Downey and Lakewood offices.

## Cerritos candidates set for forum

**CERRITOS** – Candidates for Cerritos City Council will appear at a forum Feb. 5 at City Hall.

Hosted by the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce, the event is free and open to the public.

The event is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Invited candidates include Carol Chen, Alejandro Estella, James Kang, K.Y. Ma, Gerard Valencia and Frank Aurelio Yokoyama.

For details on sponsorship opportunities, call the chamber at (562) 467-0800.

# Downey endorses local control of Ontario airport

• City Council throws support behind effort to localize Ontario airport.

**By Henry Veneracion Staff Writer**

**DOWNEY** – Downey has added its voice to the rising chorus calling for the Los Angeles World Airways (LAWA), which calls the shots at Ontario International Airport (ONT), to shift control of ONT operations to a local entity so LAWA can focus its energy more on modernizing Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

It has been shown that for some time now, passenger patronage at ONT has been on the decline.

The resolution passed Tuesday by the City Council is in support of increasing efforts to better address the ONT patronage decline and regional service demands.

Both the Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion (ARSAC) and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation have strongly urged the proper policy authorities—with ARSAC especially urging the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners—to transfer ONT airport management decisions to the local Ontario area.

In its resolution, the City Council acknowledged that local control of airports in Southern California has been shown to be conducive to development of successful regional

airports because the airport sponsor has a vested interest in the airport making the greatest contribution to its economy, as well as the fact that local control of ONT will help ensure that all of Southern California will have sufficient airport capacity to meet the long-term demand for air travel in the region.

According to the resolution, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council (of which Downey is a member) had already enacted its own resolution on Sept. 2, 2010 recommending the transfer of ONT to local control as being in the best interests of Los Angeles and the Southern California region.

SCAG was also quoted as saying that under local control, ONT can recover from the economic downturn of the past several years while positioning itself for long-term growth, and this is consistent with the reorganization of air traffic contemplated in SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan.

The resolution further affirms that, after transfer to local control, ONT can operate on the same basis as airports in Burbank, Orange County, Long Beach and Palm Springs—as low-cost secondary airports under local control.

The City Council's resolution further requests the cities of Los Angeles and Ontario to commit the necessary resources and effort to affect the transfer of ONT to local control at the earliest possible date.

# Environmental morality: a personal view

• Keeping environmental issues in the public consciousness for moral reasons.

**By Lars Clutterham Contributor**

**DOWNEY** – We've been discussing recycling in this column since the Christmas season dropped its usual load of trash and recyclables upon us, with all the gifts and their attendant wrapping and packaging. Following that, as always, New Year's brings its own tradition of setting resolutions to do things a little better this year.

It occurs to me that the topics of my articles may be of little interest to many people for whom recycling and numerous other environmental issues addressed in this space over the last year and a half are merely blips on the changing screen of their own personal lives. But I write every week because I believe these are moral issues which need to be kept in the public consciousness, as well as my own.

That's not because I have nothing better to do. My calling happens to be music. I compose and play the piano, and I would like nothing better than to spend about five hours a day writing a symphony or a piece for jazz band and another five hours every day "tickling the ivories." This goes back to my childhood when, in the early 60's, my folks decided to buy a Steinway baby grand instead of building one of the bomb shelters that were all the rage back then. That Steinway was a cherished part of my life for many years.

Bear with me while I cut to present day, and two reports I heard yesterday on National Public Radio

which for me put the issue of environmental morality in perspective.

The first story had to do with car-sharing, a relatively new practice that is developing a following in some of the world's vastly overcrowded countries, as well as closer to home in places like San Francisco, for example. With car-sharing, you don't need to own a car; you just rent one that's permanently parked somewhere close by for an hour or two with a credit card. One of the troubling statistics reported in this NPR story was the fact that 700 out of every 1,000 Americans own a car, where the ratio in China is a mere 46 to 1,000. In India, with some of the most crowded cities on the planet, the ratio of car owners to cars is only 12 to 1,000.

Now I grant that in our culture—particularly in suburban Downey—it's hard to imagine a world where you don't just jump into your automobile at the drop of a hat. But it gives me pause to think of the incredible cost in natural resources that comes with the culture we've adopted in this country.

The second NPR story dealt with the slaughter of an entire family of eleven elephants in Kenya just two days ago. These elephants were killed for their ivory tusks, which are sold on the black market in Eastern countries, especially China, where the ivory is used to craft religious icons. This is not a new problem. National Geographic ran an article this past October with the cover headline that 25,000 elephants were killed in Africa last year.

It would be nice if I were able to dismiss this as someone else's problem, but it comes back around to a

very personal significance in the following way. My wife and I spent a weekend this November—after the aforementioned National Geographic article had arrived in the mail—in the charming pre-Colonial coastal town of Essex, Connecticut. I learned while we were there that Essex had become the center of the American ivory trade beginning in the 17th and continuing into the 20th centuries. Ships bearing ivory tusks, and the African hunters who were enslaved after transporting them, dumped their cargo at the port of Essex, just a short distance up the mouth of the Connecticut River.

But here's where it gets personal: because the Steinway piano factory was also in Essex. And for many years, even up to the 1980's when ivory became internationally illegal, Steinway manufactured pianos with ivory keys. So in some way, the blood of those slaughtered elephants is literally on my hands.

Obviously I can't change the course of environmental injustices that were set in place centuries ago. Maybe they weren't even unjust back in those days. Today, piano keys are made from plastic, and plastic, as I've mentioned numerous times in these articles, brings its own environmental problems, made as it is from petroleum.

So I'll keep writing, because for me, environmental morality is personal.

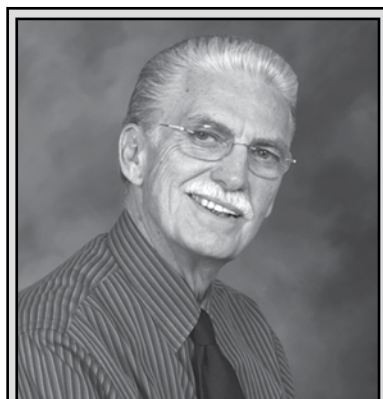
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**NORWALK** – Starting Jan. 30, the State Board of Equalization will offer income tax preparation at its Norwalk offices.

Residents can stop by the BOE office at 12240 E. Imperial Hwy., Suite 200, every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. between Jan. 30 and April 10.

Residents will receive tax preparation help from trained and certified volunteers, as well as information on low cost and free medical services, job preparation help, food and nutrition service, discount telephone service, low-cost auto insurance and more.



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**Immaculate!**  
Immaculate single story condo! This home features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and an updated kitchen with granite counters and tile floors. It is on a corner location with an extra private garden. One year home warranty also included with the sale. The HOA amenities include pool, spa, tennis, gym, woodshop, club house, billiards and a putting green. WOW!!! Call today for more information.

**Amazing!!**  
This custom built 2 story home is located on a corner lot on a tree-lined street in a very desirable neighborhood. This beautiful property features 4 bedrooms with 2 master suites, 6 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, 2 balconies and a gourmet kitchen. The backyard is perfect for large parties with a covered patio, pergola, built-in seating and a secluded dog run. This is a MUST SEE!!!

**Spectacular!**  
This fantastic home is ready for you! The property features a newer kitchen, granite counters, newer cabinets and newer flooring. This home also has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, laundry area and a custom iron fence in the driveway. There is a fireplace in the living room, outside brick bbq and central air and heat. Priced to sell at \$398,000.

**A Must See!**  
This is a beautiful tri-level home. It features wood 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with each of the bedrooms having their own full bath. Also, this home has a patio, wood floors and a 2 car garage. If that's not enough, it also features a fireplace in the living room, beautiful wood shutters and a balcony off the kitchen. Call today for more information on this great opportunity!

**Turnkey**  
Welcome to this beautifully updated 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home. It features refinished wood floors, an updated kitchen with quartz counter tops and newer cabinets. Both of the bathrooms have been remodeled as well as the 2 car garage. This is a must see! Call for more information today!

**Spectacular!**  
This beautifully remodeled condo is spectacular. The kitchen features custom white shaker-style cabinets with Carrara marble counter tops, new stainless-steel appliances, a breakfast nook and brand new stackable washer/dryer in their own discreet closet space. The incredibly large master suite includes an oversized walk-in closet, master bath with a double sink vanity, designer shower and finishes, and a double door entry. Call today for more information.

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**Downey \$205,000**

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**Downey \$289,000**

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Great Home



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**\$1036**  
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**Pico Rivera \$235,000**

GREAT HOME! FEATURES TWO BEDROOMS, WITH ONE FULL BATH, AND A TWO DETACHED CAR GARAGE IN DESIRED AREA OF PICO RIVERA.


**\$1124**  
Great Home



**Pico Rivera \$255,000**

CONVENTIONAL HOME FEATURES 2 BEDROOM WITH 1 FULL BATH, A COZY FIRE PLACE WITH HARDWOOD FLOORS. WILL SELL FAST!

**\$1477**  
Great Home



**Pico Rivera \$335,000**

NICE 3 BED 2 BATH PROPERTY LOCATED IN AN EXCELLENT AREA CLOSE TO SCHOOLS, SHOPPING CENTERS, AND PARKS.


**\$1494**  
Great Home



**Pico Rivera \$339,000**

NEW CONSTRUCTION 2012! THIS READY TO MOVE IN HOME IS EQUIPPED WITH 3 BEDROOMS 2 BATHS.


**\$1119**  
Great Home



**Whittier \$254,000**


TURN-KEY WHITTIER HOME! 3 BEDROOMS / 2 FULL BATHROOMS PLUS DEN OR 4TH BEDROOM OR OFFICE WITH IT'S OWN ENTRANCE.

**\$1631**  
Great Home



**Whittier \$370,000**


THIS AMAZING 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOM HOME COMES WITH FIREPLACE, HARDWOOD FLOORS, AND A DETACHED GARAGE.



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Quarter	Price Change
Q1 2011	-4.6%
Q2 2011	-5.4%
Q3 2011	-3.6%
Q4 2011	-3.7%
Q1 2012	-1.3%
Q2 2012	1.1%
Q3 2012	3.6%

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