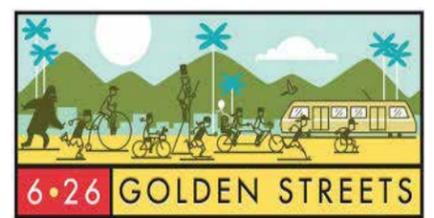
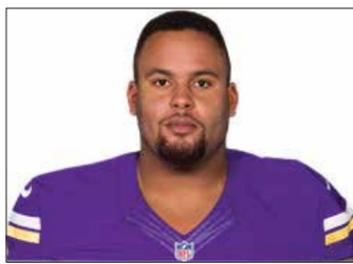




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NFL Pros host Youth Football Camp March 26 Page 9



Page 14

# Duarte View

MARCH-APRIL 2016

A bi-monthly community publication of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce In its 95th year of service to the community

## State of the City March 23



Duarte Mayor Sam Kang will present his assessment as well as future vision for our community at the annual State of the City Wed., March 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Duarte Community Center and Courtyard presented by the Duarte Chamber of Commerce.

With "Duarte: Our Kind of Paradise" as the theme the event begins with the Mayor's presentation followed by a reception, featuring festive Hawaiian food, beverages and entertainment. Hawaiian themed attire encouraged.

The Duarte Community Center is located at 1600 Huntington Drive and tickets to the event are \$10 per person.

Southern California Gas Company is Presenting Sponsor for this event. Other event sponsors include: Foothill Transit, Burrtec Waste Services, California American Waste, Rutan & Tucker, and City of Hope.

Food sponsors include: Thai



SAM KANG, DUARTE MAYOR

City, Sushi Fire, DMN Filipino Restaurant & Market, Wild Thyme Pizza, Federico's Bakery, D'Aquino's Italian Imports, and Duarte Lemonade Brigade.

For more information and reservations, call Duarte Chamber of Commerce, (626) 357-3333 or buy tickets at duartechamber.com.

## Neighborhood Watch update meeting on recent burglaries March 29

The City of Duarte, like every city in California, is experiencing a spike in Part 1 Crimes, particularly in the area of property crimes. This trend is the exact opposite of the rest of the country that continues to enjoy historically low Part 1 Crime rates.

What is behind this startling trend? Duarte Public Safety and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department have set a community wide Neighborhood Watch meeting to keep the public up-to-date on what the Departments are doing to collectively suppress, intervene and prevent property crimes in our City.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Royal Oaks School Cafeteria, 2499 Royal Oaks Drive. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Duarte Sheriff's Sgt. Tony Haynes, Director of Public Safety, Brian Villalobos, and City Manager Darrell George will discuss in depth recent property crime activities as well state and nation Part 1 Crime trends.

They will also provide an overview of the suppression, intervention, and prevention programs that the City and law enforcement are utilizing to help

keep Duarte neighborhoods safe. "Our number one priority is ensuring the safety of our residents, said City Manager George.

The City of Duarte saw an 8.53% spike in Part 1 Crimes during 2015. Although it is still too early to pin this solely on the voter approved Proposition 47, Public Safety professionals are drawing a correlation between allowing non-violent offenders and drug users out of jail without a mandatory, funded treatment and supervision plan.

In order to continue to be

See Watch on page 14

## Family Wilderness Day Sat., April 2

Duarte Parks and Recreation invites you to hike to one of the

most beautiful, natural waterfalls in the Angeles National Forest. The falls and streams should be more spectacular than usual. The original Fish Canyon Trail will be ready for you, your family and friends to enjoy.

Register at the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department, 1600 Huntington Dr., Duarte, 91010, Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Check in at Encanto Park, 751 Encanto Parkway: 7-10 a.m. and board shuttle to trail head.

Hiking Info: 4-mile wilderness trail to Fish Canyon Falls Park Activities Begin: 11 a.m. Barbecue Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Fee: Adults/Teens \$20, Children \$15 (age 8-12). Add \$2 if register after March 28. Entry fee includes shuttle to trail head, park activities, & BBQ lunch.

Commemorative t-shirts may be pre-ordered for \$12. Wilderness Day rain date is Saturday, April 9. For more information call (626) 357-7931.

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Take your Duarte receipts to the Duarte Chamber to receive a raffle ticket for an opportunity to win 2 tickets to

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May 25, 2016 • 5-8 p.m.  
Westminster Gardens, 1900 Huntington Dr., Duarte

\$10 minimum per receipt from a Duarte Business or Restaurant

Bring receipts to Duarte Chamber, 1634 Third St. May 2-5, 2016

Winner announced Thursday, May 5, at 4 p.m. ~ Winner need not to be present ~

Duarte Chamber (626) 357-3333 ShopDuarte.biz



Duarte Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 1438 Duarte, CA 91009-4438

# Paint Our World Purple



American Cancer Society's

## M.A.D. Relay For Life (Monrovia—Arcadia—Duarte Communities)

Santa Anita Park, Infield

April 16th-17th, 2016 11am-11am

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- ~ Survivors and Caregivers are honored with a celebration and the Opening Lap and activities throughout the day.
  - ~ The evening Luminaria ceremony honors our loved ones that have passed.
  - ~ Teams fundraise at their booths and take turns walking the path for the 24 hours.
  - ~ Fun entertainment— bands, activities and games for all ages, including the Kids Korner.
  - ~ Food available for donations. ~ Free water provided by Walgreens.
- Sign up today and start your Pre-event Fundraising!

For more information about MAD Relay For Life and meeting dates: [www.RelayForLife.org/Arcadiaca](http://www.RelayForLife.org/Arcadiaca)  
Or contact Ann-Marie Dodge at [Annmarie.dodge@cancer.org](mailto:Annmarie.dodge@cancer.org)

## 18th Cavalry National Guard serves Duarte

Captain Robert Parry is a great spokesperson for our local National Guard Unit. The 18th Cavalry musters in Azusa. They have become very engaged in the Duarte community. Most recently, they supported Duarte Community Service Council with their annual toy drive. Captain Parry spoke for a recent Duarte Kiwanis meeting and shared some of the focus the Guard has.



CAPTAIN ROBERT PARRY with Cheryl Reynolds, Duarte Kiwanis President.

They were part of the Rapid Reaction Force that went into the 2007 Wildfires in San Diego and they are preparing to be key support for this year's El Nino season.

For further information on the club, contact Dr. Diane Hernandez at [drdiane@drhernandezop-tometry.com](mailto:drdiane@drhernandezop-tometry.com)

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## Taste of Duarte.com and Business Expo

Wed., May 25  
5 to 8 p.m.

**\$30** Advance tickets  
\$40 at Door  
Available at various business locations starting April 1, or now at Duarte Chamber, 1634 Third St., Duarte or online at [www.tasteofduarte.com](http://www.tasteofduarte.com)



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### Duarte View Volume XXXIV • March-April 2016 • No. 2

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
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Deadline for articles and ads for the May-June issue is April 28, 2016.



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# Luz Porlier is DWC Woman of the Year

By Claudia Heller

Celebrating their 67th anniversary, the Duarte Woman's Club (DWC) recently bestowed its most coveted award "Woman of the Year" (WOTY), to Luz Porlier, a multi talented woman and active club member. Luz was presented with the traditional silver bracelet at the banquet which was catered by Skewers.



LUZ PORLIER

It was quite a journey that brought her to Duarte. Born and raised in the Philippines she earned her Master's Degree and began her teaching career in Kenya, Africa. Coming to the US she landed in Texas then on to California where she began teaching for the LA School District, now celebrating her 25 years there.

A Duarte resident, Luz is married to Bob Porlier who supports her love of gardening and growing a variety of flowers. Together they belong to the Tournament of Roses Committee and work the parade every year. Her expertise in crafting is a talent that has won many awards for the DWC in competitions at local, State and Federal levels

Luz joined DWC in 2011 and jumped in with both feet! She is an active member of the Board and has created several presentations on gardening, composting, growing herbs and spices, and cultivating worms for her gardens. Her talents extend to needle crafts such as beading, quilting and sewing. She knitted caps for the City of Hope and baked and delivered cookies to the local Fire Station. She has promoted the club with

exhibits at the Duarte Library and the Duarte Museum.

"She may be tiny, but she is energy plus," was the sentiment throughout the Club. She currently serves as membership chair and continues to execute special projects. Another favorite hobby is cooking such recipes as African stew, spring rolls and fish and rice.

When Luz takes a moment to relax from her many talents, she likes to watch the Denver Broncos play. She is a woman of many qualities and spends her time giving to others. The Club has recognized her for the amazing person she is and is proud to have her as a member.

The evening also paid tribute to the past presidents and past WOTYs, and bestowed milestone certificates. Nita Carey was honored as past WOTY for the year 1968 and past president for the years 1960-61 and again 2009-

# Foothill Gold Line now open



By Habib F. Balian, CEO, Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority

The March 5 opening of the Foothill Gold Line from Pasadena to Azusa was truly historic, with an estimated 30,000 riders and more than 100 elected officials from Washington DC, Sacramento and local cities taking part in the inaugural ride on the county's newest addition to the nearly 100-mile rail transit system.

The opening day was filled with city celebrations, following

10. Ruby Shiroma was named the Club's Kindness Angel for her volunteer work feeding those in need at "Cory's Kitchen," and her many other volunteer projects.

The DWC was organized in 1949, federated with the state in 1956 and incorporated in 1967. Women over the age of 18 are invited to join. For more information call (626) 357-0954.

ceremonies at the Duarte/City of Hope Station in the morning.

Congress Members Judy Chu and Grace Napolitano, State Senator Carol Liu, and Assembly Member Chris Holden joined Metro First Vice Chair and Duarte Council Member John Fasana at a morning kick-off event; followed by the ribbon cutting event, emceed by Metro Chairman and County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Joining the Supervisor in speaking at the ribbon cutting

was Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Second Vice Chair Eric Garcetti, fellow Supervisors and Metro Board Members Michael Antonovich and Hilda Solis, the five mayors from Arcadia to Azusa corridor cities, Construction Authority Board Chairman Doug Tessor and Metro CEO Phil Washington.

Current and past Construction Authority board members were all present, along with several other Metro Board Members and elected officials and key stakeholders representing much of the San Gabriel Valley.

On this historic day, Mayor Garcetti and others reiterated their commitment to completing the Foothill Gold Line to Montclair.



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# Guess what famous baseball player was in our neighborhood?

Dodger legend Fernando Valenzuela visited Duarte recently as he is the new and official sponsor for our friends and neighbors at Nissan of Duarte. Not only this but President Obama has appointed the legendary Los Angeles Dodgers left-hander as a presidential ambassador for citizenship and naturalization. Heroic icon Fernando Valenzuela's recent appointment is a representation of opportunity for our community. At Nissan of Duarte, Fernando gives opportunity to own a new or pre-owned vehicle regardless of your credit history, if you're a first time buyer or if you're looking to upgrade your current car. Remember to visit Nissan of Duarte located near the 210 freeway, exit Buena Vista if you are looking to service your vehicle or ready to replace your current vehicle for a new Nissan.



**LEGENDARY LOS ANGELES DODGERS** left-hander Fernando Valenzuela visiting Nissan of Duarte where he is the official sponsor for the dealership.

When he is not busy being a current broadcaster for Dodger radio, Fernando Valenzuela enjoys spending quality time with his family and golfing on the weekends. Nissan of Duarte is proud to have this iconic baseball legend part of their team because Fernando believes increasing opportunities for people looking to drive a safe, economical and reliable Nissan not only for pleasure but for work, giving

you peace of mind when you're on the road. Call (800) 639-6477 or log on NissanofDuarte.com and ask how you can get a free autographed ball by Fernando

Valenzuela, TODAY!  
*Information provided by Rebeca Galvan, Business Development Manager, Nissan of Duarte, rgalvan@nissanofduarte.com.*

## Adventure talk April 16

Authors Alan and Claudia Heller will present Curiosities of the California Desert: Historic, Offbeat and Forgotten Attractions at the Duarte Library, 1301 Buena Vista Street, on April 16 at 1 p.m. Admission is free.

Based on their recent book, the power point presentation will set forth unique sites "which are there for those with a sense of adventure to visit". Featured will be such exciting historical spots as Willie Boys Grave, Wyatt Earp's cottage and mine, the Mojave Cross, the pueblo of Cabot Yerxa in Desert Hot Springs and the unlikely story of Zzyzx.

The Hellers are also authors of Life on Route 66, and Duarte Chronicles. They have resided in Duarte since 1980.

For more information, call (626) 358-0329.

## Poetry reading April 30 at library

A poetry reading is scheduled for April 30, 1 p.m. at the Duarte Library, 1301 Buena Vista Avenue. The featured poet is Rick Whelan, a Monrovia resident, who will recite his poetry on local history. The public is invited to recite their poems and/or poems they have created.

Whelan's works cover many local events such as the collapse of the old Duarte "Hanging Tree," the recent passing of a well-known homeless man, the opening of the Duarte Metro Station, and the L.A. Dodgers.

For more information, call the Library at (626) 358-1865.

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## Sam Kang elected Duarte Mayor

The Duarte City Council elected Sam Kang as Mayor and Margaret Finlay as Mayor Pro Tem for 2016.

Other members of the city council are John Fasana, Tzeitel Paras-Caracci and Liz Reilly.

Sam Kang has a vested interest in seeing the City of Duarte become one of the best cities to raise a family.

This can be accomplished by being proactive with economic development to increase city revenue, supporting existing businesses, and developing both a Biotech Corridor



**SAM KANG**  
Duarte Mayor

## Ken Bell elected Duarte School Board President

The DUSD Board of Education elected Ken Bell as President and Tom Reyes as Clerk/Vice President for 2016.

The other three members of the Board are Reyna Diaz, Doug Edwards and Cheryl Taylor.

Ken Bell was first elected to the School Board in 1989. He has developed a reputation throughout the area for his commitment to the students in the Duarte Unified School District.

Ken is an enthusiastic advocate for quality educational programs for all children and a supporter of our culturally-rich and diverse community.

Ken is also a 36 year veteran



**KEN BELL**  
DUSD Board President

of law enforcement with experience in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation that includes being one of the original detectives assigned to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's "Hard Core Gang Unit."

Ken is a nationally recognized street gang expert, who continues to train and consult for law enforcement agencies, schools, community agencies and parent groups.

Within DUSD, Ken developed the "Yes We Can" and "The S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Action Responsibly) Retreat" programs that aim to assist students transitioning during middle school and to create mentorships and foster student connections.

Ken has enjoyed a very successful working relationship with his fellow school board members and district personnel, which has contributed to the tremendous achievements the district has attained during his years of service.



**NOW ENROLLING for 2016-2017 School Year**

**FIRST GRADE Information Night**  
Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7PM

**JR. HIGH Information Night**  
Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Food Festival**  
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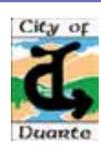
He says we also need to attract jobs for the 21st century; increase public safety; beautify our city; improve our

public schools and provide classes that are relevant to future emerging fields.

Sam believes the constituents' vision is Sam's mission. He is much honored to have the voters trust in him and he will be accountable to move Duarte forward.

**CITY OF DUARTE CONTACTS**

1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010  
(626) 357-7931 • [www.AccessDuarte.com](http://www.AccessDuarte.com)  
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.



**CITY COUNCIL**  
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Councilmembers:  
John Fasana • Tzeitel Paras-Caracci • Liz Reilly

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Darrell George, City Manager  
Kristen Petersen, Assistant City Manager  
Karen Herrera, Deputy City Manager  
Marla Akana, City Clerk • Jeff Melching, City Attorney  
Brian Villalobos, Director of Public Safety  
Craig Hensley, Director of Community Development  
Cesar Monsalve, Director of Parks & Recreation

## Real Property Advisory Committee Appointed

At the Regular Meeting of the Duarte Board of Education on Thursday, March 10, 2016, the members passed a resolution to appoint a school district advisory committee called the Real Property Advisory Committee.

The purpose of this committee is to review Duarte USD's school site facilities and the current and projected impacts of declining enrollment.

Prior to closing, selling or leasing real property, a school district must comply with the provisions of Education Code sections 17387 through 17391

which requires the governing board ("Board") to appoint a school district advisory committee whose purpose is to advise the Board regarding the disposal of real property that is not needed for school purposes.

This requirement is set forth in Education Code section 17388. The advisory committee appointed pursuant to Section 17388, often referred to as a "7/11 Committee," must consist of not less than seven, nor more than 11 members, and shall be representative of each of the following:

- The ethnic, age group, and socioeconomic composition of the district;
- The business community such as store owners, managers or supervisors;
- Landowners or renters, with preference to be given to representative of neighborhood associations;
- Teachers
- Administrators;
- Parents of students;
- Persons with expertise in environmental impact, legal contracts, building codes, and land use planning, including, but not limited to the knowledge of the zoning and other land use restrictions of the cities or counties in which surplus space and real property is located.

On Wednesday, March 16, 2016, the first in a series of public meetings of the Real Property Advisory Committee will take place at the Duarte USD Professional Learning Center (PLC) located at 1565 Central Avenue, Duarte, CA 91010 beginning at 6 p.m. For questions, please call (626) 599-5037.

For more information about the Real Property Advisory Committee, please visit the district website at <http://www.duarteusd.org/Domain/833>.

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Please mention ad.



## Senior Center Activities

The Duarte Senior Center is located at 1610 Huntington Drive. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to all residents 55 years of age and older and offers a variety of services and programs. The phone number is (626) 357-3513.

### HOT LUNCHES

The Duarte Senior Center serves hot lunches Monday through Friday to individuals over age 60 or the spouse of someone over age 60. You must call 24 hours in advance to reserve space for lunch. Reservations are requested by calling (626) 357-3513. The suggested donation is \$3.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

Eligible seniors can receive a hot lunch and cold dinner plate delivered each weekday, or seven frozen meals delivered once a

week by YWCA Intervale Senior Services. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at (626) 357-3513 or YMCA Intervale at (626) 214-9465.

### MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

If you possess a current CA driver's license, have access to a personal vehicle, and proof of insurance, you are eligible to volunteer to deliver to homebound seniors. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday, and no special training is required, just a compassionate individual who will brighten the days of the recipient. To become a volunteer please contact the YWCA Intervale at (626) 214-9465.

### ACCESS TRANSPORTATION

This program provides trans-

coverage. Call the Senior Center at (626) 357-3513 for an appointment. This service is FREE!

### AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE (4-HOUR REFRESHER COURSE)

Thursday, March 10, from 1-5 p.m., \$15 for AARP members, please have card present during registration and \$20 for non-members. Auto insurance companies are required by law to offer discounts to course graduates age 55 and older. Reservations and payment are required prior to class. Please call the Senior Center to make an appointment at (626) 357-3513.

### AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE (8-HOUR COURSE)

Tuesday, May 17, and Thursday, May 19, from 1-5 p.m., \$15 for AARP members, please have

card present at registration and \$20 for non-members. Attendance is required at both sessions. Auto insurance companies are required by law to offer discounts to course graduates age 55 and older. Reservations with payment are required prior to class. Please call the Senior Center for any questions at (626) 357-3513.

### FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

The 2nd Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Health Care Partners will provide a medical assistant to do free blood pressure checks. No appointment necessary.

### NOTARY SERVICE

The Center offers a FREE notary service. The only requirement is that you're a regular visitor of the Center. She is here the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Appointments required by coming in the center or calling (626) 357-3513.

### FREE LEGAL CLINIC

Sara Polinsky, elder law attorney, will be at the Center to provide free legal counsel. She is here the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Appointments required by coming in the Center or calling (626) 357-3513.

### TECH SUPPORT

On the 2nd Wednesday of the

month at 1 p.m. DLL Technologies, LLC, a local tech support business, will be offering FREE tech support. They will provide technical support for your computers, laptops, mobile devices and phones.

### FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

Now through April 12, trained volunteer counselors will assist seniors with income tax returns. This free service is by appointment only. We are making appointments now, so call the Center at (626) 357-3513.

### MOVIES

Two afternoons a month a top run movie is featured. FREE

### BINGO

Every Tuesday from 12:45-2:30 p.m. The fee is 25 cents per card.

### BUNCO

On the 1st Wednesday of the month, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Duarte Woman's Club. Win Prizes and meet new people. RSVP to (626) 357-3513. \$1 per person.

### CRIBBAGE

If you are interested in playing cribbage they play on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from

*See Seniors on page 7*

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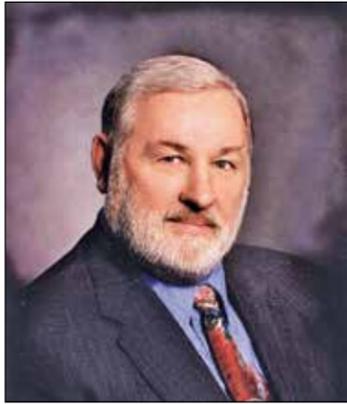
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# From high school to university, community colleges streamline the path to baccalaureate degrees

By Dr. Edward C. Ortell  
Citrus College Governing Board Member



DR. EDWARD C. ORTELL

For decades, the question “Where are you going now?” was a meaningful one for high school seniors and community college transfer students who hoped to one day earn a baccalaureate degree.

Having arrived at a pivotal juncture in their educational journey, the next step for many students was to follow a traditional path from high school to community college to a university, where they could earn a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree. While some students could complete high school in four years, community college in two, and university in two more, for many students it took much longer.

But that was then. Over the past few years, changes in California state law have been transforming the role of community colleges, shortening time to degree, providing guaranteed pathways from community college to the California State University (CSU), and even allowing some community colleges to pilot bachelor degree programs in limited subject areas. This shift in the traditional higher education model has been described as “the

beginning of the end of the middle for community colleges,” as they assume a new and unique role in higher education: the ability to provide an unbroken pathway from high school through junior college and senior college.

This evolution in higher education has been shown to have many benefits. Dual enrollment or early college programs, such as the one at Duarte High School, allow students to simultaneously earn credit for high school and college, ensuring they are ready to continue on with college-level work. Students need to take fewer classes in college, which means that both students and taxpayers save money. Students stay on track to completing their goals

in a reasonable amount of time. And, studies show that students at all academic levels do better in their classes.

Another major step forward in ensuring students’ ability to transfer smoothly and efficiently to four-year institutions was the passage of the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act. The new law enabled the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the CSU systems to work together to develop Associate Degrees for Transfer or ADTs. These transfer degrees provide students guaranteed admission with junior standing to the CSU system, and once admitted, students complete an additional 60 units to earn a bachelor’s degree. Citrus College currently offers 18 ADTs, and more are being developed. At commencement in 2015, the college awarded more than 500 ADTs.

Perhaps the most exciting development in streamlining higher education in California, was the passage of SB 850. To address the state and national demand for workers with baccalaureate degrees in vocational fields, this groundbreaking bi-partisan legislation authorized community colleges to launch baccalaureate degree pilot programs, starting in January 2015. The pilot program allowed 15 community colleges statewide to offer one degree. The law also requires that participating community college districts meet specified requirements, including, the baccalaureate degree programs and program curricula must not be offered by the California State University or the University of California, and the degrees must be in subject areas with unmet workforce needs.

The first year of the pilot program has now concluded, and the California Community Colleges Board of Governors recent-

ly stated that the colleges currently piloting bachelor’s degree programs will not have priority in the future, and that programs from other colleges could be considered. Citrus College has several outstanding programs that might be good candidates in the future, providing all legal requirements for the degree could be met.

These new pathways that allow students to earn baccalaureate degrees in less time and at lower

cost pose exciting prospects for the future. With every California economic forecast indicating that the state will need more workers with baccalaureate degrees than it is currently on track to produce, leaders in higher education must continue to streamline and improve the process, putting the state’s future workforce on the fast-track to success. It’s a win-win-win for students, the business community and taxpayers.

## Seniors

Continued from page 6

12:30-2 p.m., please sign up at the front desk or call the Center at (626) 357-3513 to get your name on the list.

### CHESS

On the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Instructor is Les Fuji Moto. FREE!

### PING PONG

We have a Ping-Pong table set up in the poolroom. Invite a friend to play, or meet new friends who share a similar interest. Stop by the Center and play a game today!

### BOOK CLUB

The Senior Center’s Book Club promotes enjoyable reading and lively discussion. Please join them on the 3rd Monday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Center. Please call the Center at (626) 357-3513 to see what book they are currently reading.

### ON THE MOVE RIDERS CLUB

Join Duarte’s “On the Move Rider’s Club” for one of their upcoming trips. It’s a great way to learn more about public transportation systems. Reservations required and forms must be filled out prior to trip. Come by the Senior Center and grab a flyer to see where their next destination will be or call the Center at (626) 357-3513.

### TRAIL TREKKERS HIKING GROUP

The Trail Trekkers meet once a month to go on local hikes. Come by the Senior Center and grab a flyer to see where their next destination will be or call the Senior Center at (626) 357-3513 for more information.

### PAPER CRAFT CLASS

Two greeting cards are made each month for a fee of \$5. Bring scissors, adhesive, and colored pencils. Sign up at the front desk where you can see samples of the cards.

For more information, please call (626) 357-3513.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING IN DUARTE

Enjoy some conversation with Duarte Councilmember Liz Reilly at the Senior Center. Liz is at the Senior Center once a month. Call the Senior Center at (626) 357-3513 to find out the next time she will be there.

### “RAMP UP DUARTE”

Rebuilding Together San Gabriel Valley Foothills (RTSGVP), in association with Duarte Councilmember Liz Reilly and the City of Duarte, are looking for seniors who may need a safer way of entering and exiting their home with a ramp or railing installed to their home. This is a free service to all homeowners in Duarte. For more information call David Gooler (626) 794-9218 or Manoj Patel (626) 215-8742.

See Classes on page 8



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# Classes

Continued from page 7

## FEE AND CHARGE CLASSES

The Senior Center offers a variety of classes for adults 55 years and older. Classes offered this winter include:

Classes with Fee: Ballroom Dance, Belly Dance, Cross Fit, Exercise with Shelly, Health is Our Greatest Wealth, Intro to Computers, Piano/Keyboard, Sewing, Strength Training, Western Line Dance, Yoga.

Free Ongoing Classes: Cardio Dance, Ceramics, Chess, English as a Second Language, Guitar, Knitting, Spanish (beginner or advanced beginner) and Tai Chi/Qigong.

## ADULT EXCURSIONS

Registration for excursions will be held at Duarte City Hall, beginning March 14 at 7:30 a.m.

### A Really Big Shoo

Wednesday, April 13, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Fee: \$86 (Lunch Included). Resident Discount Price: \$78, Non Resident Discount Price: \$82 (currently taking registration for this excursion)

The day begins with a drive to beautiful Palm Springs with a stop for lunch at Sherman's Deli featuring a sandwich with a choice of soup or salad. Then, we're off to A Really Big Shoo! The Ed Sullivan Show was the longest running variety show in television history. While it showcased comedians, circus performers and more, the show became famous for its cutting-edge musical performances. A Really Big Shoo takes place at the magnificent Annenberg Theater in downtown Palm Springs. Host Bill Johnson as Ed Sullivan, will be joined by tribute artists including the Beatles, Elvis, Tina Turner with some special guests from the Palm Springs Follies!

### California Gold

Wednesday, May 18, 10:50 a.m.-5 p.m. Fee: \$18 (lunch on your own). Resident Discount Price: \$10, Non Resident Discount Price: \$14

Our first stop will be in the City of Orange's Old Town Historic District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. The one square mile area includes more than 1,300 homes and buildings making it the largest National Register District in California.

The district provides a feeling for life in Orange from 1888 to 1940 showcasing over 50 different architectural styles.

The complete stock of buildings includes churches, schools, the old Santa Fe Depot, the Post Office, a packing house, historical buildings, clubhouses, and parks. Old Town Orange also has great antique shopping and plenty of restaurants to choose from.

The next stop is Chapman College for a self-guided tour of the new Huell Howser Exhibit. When the late Huell Howser moved to Los Angeles in 1981 from his home state of Tennessee, he became a reporter for KCBS-TV. Here, Howser fell in love with California. The exhibit depicts his love of the state through images, text, and artifacts, outlining Howser's legacy.

### Skyspace and LA Central Library

Tuesday, June 16, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Fee: \$38 (lunch on your own). Resident Discount Price: \$30, Non Resident Discount Price: \$34

Experience the newest view in Downtown Los Angeles. The new OUE Skyspace is California's tallest, open-air observation deck and the premier destination for a panoramic, 360-degree view of Hollywood, Dodgers' Stadium, and the Pacific Ocean. The new Skyspace is located 1,000 feet above the City in the iconic U.S. Bank Tower where you can experience multiple interactive exhibits including an infinity mirror and a shadow wall. For lunch, choose from the 505 Flower St. Food Court, upscale restaurants or bring your own lunch and enjoy plenty of seating.

Then we're off for a docent-led tour of the L.A. Central Library. Enjoy both the art and architecture of the 1926 Bertram Goodhue Building with its distinctive sphinxes and rooftop pyramid. Wander through the high tech, 1993 Tom Bradley Wing, designed by architect Norman Pfeiffer, while gazing at the 8-story atrium. Please note: this tour includes a lot of walking.

**NO REFUNDS:** In the event of a participant cancellation, an attempt will be made to fill the spot from the waiting list. If successful the participant will receive a gift certificate equal to the amount of the trip minus a \$10 service charge.

### EXTENDED EXCURSION

#### Spotlight on Washington D.C.

October 20-25, 2016, 6 days, 8 meals (5 breakfasts, 3 dinners). \$2,399 per person double occupancy; \$2,899 per person single occupancy; \$2,369 per person triple occupancy

Included in price: Round trip air from Los Angeles International Airport, air taxes and fees, and surcharges.

Not included in price: Cancellation waiver and insurance of \$240 per person.

The trip offers "Single Hotel Stay" with every night at the same hotel, so you only unpack once!

Highlights: U.S. Capitol Building tour, World War II Memorial, White House Visitor Center, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institute, the Washington

National Cathedral, and the Ford Theatre.

### Special Travel Presentation

Please join us for a special travel presentation on Tuesday, March 22, at 1 p.m. at the

Duarte Senior Center, 1610 Huntington Drive.

To RSVP for presentation, please call (626) 357-3513.



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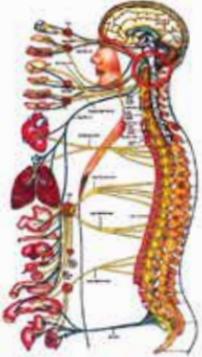


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# NFL Pros to host Football Camp for Duarte youth March 26

Michael Harris of the Minnesota Vikings and Eric Rogers of the San Francisco 49ers, two of the NFL's finest athletes and former Duarte Unified School District students, will come back home on March 26.

They are providing a Free PRO Day Football Camp offering professional drills open to all youth in Duarte and the surrounding community in conjunction with Duarte High School and the Duarte Junior Falcons.

These famed athletes maintained strong community ties, and have decided to come back to share their inspirational experience with our youth.



MICHAEL HARRIS

The event will take place at the Duarte High School football stadium on Saturday, March 26, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The event is free and the first 50 kids, grades kindergarten through high school seniors, will receive free T-shirts.

Flyers about this event will also be distributed at school to all Duarte Unified students, but all youth in the area are welcome to attend.

For more information or questions, please contact the Duarte Unified School District at (626) 599-5019 or via email to jowen@duarteusd.org.



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## College admissions change in the works

Dr. Allan J. Mucerino, Superintendent,  
Duarte Unified School District

The college admissions process is about to undergo a dramatic shift in emphasis, and students from Duarte Unified School District will likely be among the beneficiaries.

Admissions deans and top academic leaders from many of the nation's leading colleges and universities have signed on to a report by the Harvard Graduate School of Education that should essentially alter the way colleges assess incoming freshmen.



DR. ALLAN MUCERINO

The report is titled: Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions (<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/16/01/turning-tide-inspiring-concern-others-and-common-good-through-college-admissions>). Issued at Harvard in January, the report makes recommendations to overhaul the current process which emphasizes standardized tests, advanced placement classes, and student brag lists of activities.

"Too often, today's culture sends young people messages that emphasize personal success rather than concern for others and the common good," said Richard Weissbourd, senior lecturer at Harvard and co-director of the project called Making Caring Common. "As a rite of passage, college admissions play a powerful role in shaping student attitudes and behaviors. Admissions deans are stepping up collectively to underscore the importance of meaningful engagement in communities and greater equity for economically diverse students."

That's where the changes recommended by this report could favor communities and school districts like Duarte, where only about one-fourth (26.8 percent) of students from the Class of 2015 enrolled in four-year colleges and more than half will start their educational journeys at community colleges.

This sea change in the college admission process is among the reasons we have been overtly focused on building both service-centered and academically rigorous programs that not only support the social and economic needs of the community and the local region, but also give our students an advantage in the college admission process.

Our partnerships with a variety of civic and non-profit organizations, including City of Hope, Kiwanis and Rotary International, and the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership provide our students with mentors and internships that help them develop both marketable 21st Century skill sets and values such as teamwork and the importance of giving back to the community. Making life-changing differences, whether it be finding the cure for cancer or advocating for systemic changes to end homelessness, Duarte schools believe in the power of transformation.

Turning the Tide takes a major step in pushing for change in the college admissions process to make it more humane, and removing the focus on students presenting a side of themselves as super human. That's especially true for those who apply to the universities that have the lowest percentage of acceptance, including Ivy League schools and the prime University of California campuses.

More than 80 of these schools have endorsed a list of changes that include moving away from long lists of extra-curricular activities and trips to exotic locales in favor of meaningful community service near home. The current intense focus on personal achievement highlights the unfair advantage of more affluent students in the college admissions process, according to the report. Students in schools and districts in high socio-economic regions often have the advantage of more AP classes and more training towards improving SAT and ACT scores.

The future, according to the report, will include a focus on the student's commitment to meaningful projects and outside activities, including their efforts to assist a low-income family, rather than personally embossing a college application form with fill-in-the-blank activities.

"Colleges spend a huge sum each year sending signals that influence the behavior of millions of students," said the report, which suggests a sea-change in determining what those signals are.

"It's really time to say 'enough,' stop wringing our hands, and figure out some collective actions," said Weissbourd of Harvard. "It's a pivotal point." The report stressed the importance of colleges and universities working collectively to improve the process for high school seniors. That starts by making the requirements more realistic.

Weissbourd of Harvard summed up the vision the report creates of a viable student applicant. "It's not about a long brag sheet. It's not about racking up accomplishments," he said. "It's about being a caring person from day to day and being meaningfully involved in school."

This will be very important as we move forward with our strategic planning process to develop our 5-year Competitive Advantage Plan.

## Keith Urban donation to Duarte USD aids to expand modern band



The sound of music is a positive force at schools in the Duarte Unified School District, thanks to donated instruments and the efforts of a young teacher.

In January 2016, Duarte USD received 20 guitars from country singing legend Keith Urban in partnership with the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation.

Combined with the other instruments already on hand, first-year music teacher Cuyler McDonald was challenged to take advantage of the largesse and help bring music into the curriculum at Northview Intermediate School, as well as Valley View and Andres Duarte Elementary Schools.

"Music has gone through a few ups and downs the last few years in education," said McDonald, "so it's nice to see we have a chance to do something positive. The kids are very excited."

Music and the arts have struggled to retain their place in education during recent waves of focus on the core subjects, but have always been important to a well-rounded education.

McDonald arrived in Duarte USD after completing his master's degree in education and his bachelor's in music education and music theory from Azusa Pacific University. He came to Duarte at a time when the district was striving to re-introduce music into the educational program for the younger students.

"The district decided to start music programs earlier, including exposing 5th and 6th graders to band classes, which previously didn't start until 7th grade, and we've opened up more opportunities at Northview for kids interested in music," he explained.

The arrival of the donated acoustic and electrical guitars also



KEITH URBAN

allowed McDonald to take his teaching program in a wider range of directions.

"With the guitars, we are moving towards Modern Band, which can include rap and other types of music, not just the traditional setting, and we've been able to interest more kids in the program."

McDonald's work schedule allows him to work with students at the two elementary schools, as well as Duarte's intermediate school, and to offer various levels of music to the students.

McDonald's professional music background was primarily percussion, "but I'm familiar with all types of band and string instruments."

For students who arrive at Northview with an interest in music, there are auditions for several types of bands, including symphony and a winds ensemble. There are also entry-level opportunities, as well as chances for students with specific skills to pursue higher level projects. At the elementary campuses, he offers beginning classes, primarily focused on the guitars.

"We'd like to find as many opportunities as possible for kids to pursue their interest in music," he explained. "That can involve getting into a modern band group, where kids know

they have a chance to progress to higher levels. We'd like to expose them to festivals where their work is judged and where they can see other bands. It's a good experience for young musicians. They can also work on writing songs and perfecting their skills, delving into music composition. When they have a composition, they can submit it to a competition where they have chances to win instruments and other prizes. A kid might write a rap song on the guitar, and then win in the competition."

Most importantly, according to McDonald, students with a creative interest in music now have an outlet to focus their efforts.

"They have the creativity and I just give them opportunities to channel it. Music doesn't have to come out of theory. A lot of it comes from experimentation and just having a good time on their own. That's all part of the creative process."

Thanks to the donated instruments, students at Duarte USD are getting a chance to pursue that creative process.



## Northview students will debate that point

The first lesson in Teresa George's elective Debate class at Northview Intermediate School is the toughest to master: There are two sides to every argument.

Northview students are arguing some of the most challenging issues of our time as part of their participation in the Debate class, and in the voluntary competitions held on Saturdays as part of the high-level

Rancho California Debate league competition against eight other schools: Westridge, Poly, Sequoyah, Chandler, New Horizon, Mayfield and Clifton.

Debate, defined as a structured discussion, is a formal academic pursuit, and includes communication skills, independent learning, critical and creative thinking, personal and social values and

skills, and an appreciation for passionate discourse.

At Northview, George teaches 25 7th and 8th graders about the art of the debate. It's an elective class, and one the veteran English teacher enjoys sharing with her students.

"The best debates include strong arguments on both sides of the question," she explained. "You love the topics where you don't feel there is a wrong side."

In debate competitions, students are given the topics several weeks in advance, and spend time researching independently and collaboratively to learn as much as possible about the topic.

Then, when they arrive at the event, they learn which school they are paired against, and which side of the topic they will be arguing.

"After the postings, we learn our pairing and whether we are the proponent or the opponent," said George. "Then the kids start running to begin their preparation and feverishly writing their notes. They are so 'in the zone' for the competition, that there's really



MEMBERS of the 2015-2016 Northview Debate Team.

See Northview on page 12

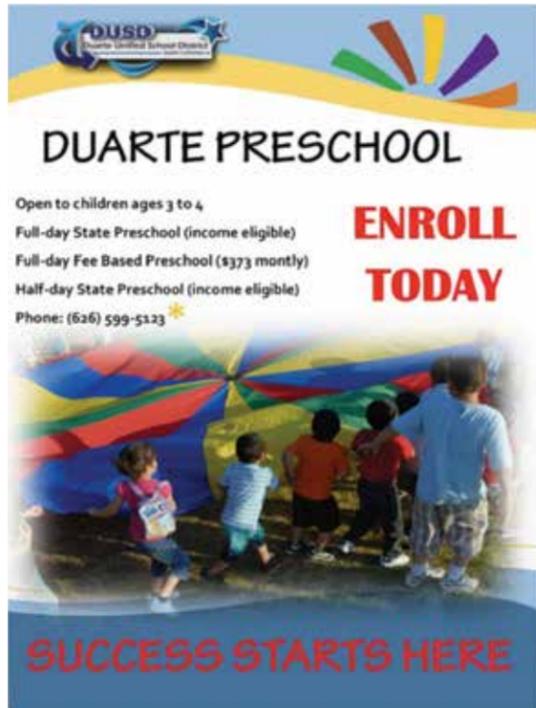
# Preschool, Transitional-Kindergarten (TK), Kindergarten & new student enrollment

Enrollment for Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten (TK), Kindergarten and new students entering 1st-6th grade in the Fall of 2016 who are planning to attend Duarte USD next school year begins March 1, 2016.

Preschool Programs offered for children ages 3 to 4

- Full-day State Preschool- (income eligible)
- Full-day Fee Based Preschool- \$373 monthly
- Half-day State Preschool (income eligible)

Enrollment packets are available at the Child Development Center located on the campus of Andres Duarte Elementary School, 1433 Crestfield Drive, Duarte, CA 91010. For questions or more information, please contact Annabelle Lopez at (626) 599-5123 or by email to [alopez@duarteusd.org](mailto:alopez@duarteusd.org).



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**DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Kindergarten**  
 roundup  
 TK, KG & New Student Enrollment Begins MARCH 1, 2016

### Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

- Birth Certificate indicating 5th Birthday between September 1, 2016-December 2, 2016
- Proof of up-to-date vaccinations
- Proof of residence from two sources such as a utility bill, rent receipt, escrow paperwork, or bank statements

### Kindergarten

Full-day Kindergarten is offered at all Duarte Unified elementary schools.

- Birth Certificate indicating 5th Birthday prior to September 2, 2016
- Proof of up-to-date vaccinations
- Proof of residence from two sources such as a utility bill, rent receipt, escrow paperwork, or bank statements

### New students to the district entering 1st-6th grades

- Proof of up-to-date vaccinations
- Proof of residence from two sources such as a utility bill, rent receipt, escrow paperwork, or bank statements

Enrollment packets for TK, Kindergarten and new students are available at all Duarte USD elementary schools. To set up a school tour or for further information, please contact Joilyn Campitiello, EdLeader21 Coordinator, at (626) 599-5015 or by email to [jcampitiello@duarteusd.org](mailto:jcampitiello@duarteusd.org).

# Duarte USD Competitive Advantage Plan update

President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on December 10, 2015. In a nutshell, ESSA replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and contains key provisions that advance the vision of local control and community schools. District leaders are expected to rethink strategies to support all students to succeed and to engage our communities in that effort.

Our process of “rethinking” what we do at Duarte USD also started on December 10th, when the Board of Education approved moving forward with a vision to create a 5-year strategic plan known as the Competitive Advantage Plan (C.A.P.). We aspire to reinvent ourselves in the image of the community that we serve, and we plan to be the best school district in the San Gabriel Valley.

An important step in the process was to survey our students, parents, staff and community to assess exactly how you feel about us. Specifically, we requested three things you think we do well and three things that you wish we did better.

We asked and you answered! The Duarte USD Survey window was open February 1-12 and by the last day, the district had received over 4,500 responses. Thank you to everyone that took the time to participate, you sent a powerful message that our community is engaged in this process and your voice was heard.

Independent evaluator Dr. Nazanin Zargarpour, Director of the Claremont Graduate University Educational Evaluation Program, and her team are now pouring over the data and codifying the information. Preliminary results are projected to be released to the public in May.

Thank you also to our 3-12th grade students, parents and staff who took the BrightBytes Survey. The results of this survey will serve as a tool to measure the impact of technology in our schools. Over the course of the last few years we have created 21st Century classrooms and provided virtually all of our students with computers, thanks to our 1:1 laptop initiative.

Now, we will look to the feedback provided to examine the impact of all of that technology. During February, an independent evaluation of the survey data and focus group meetings with teachers and students were also conducted by Jon Corippo, CUE Director of Academic Innovation, and Michael Morrison, Chief Technology Officer for Laguna Beach USD.

Their expert recommendations will help to inform whether

or not our investment is returning a high yield as it relates to positive student outcomes. The data from the BrightBytes Survey and independent expert evaluations will provide us a baseline and inform our 5-year strategic plan moving forward.

In addition to these surveys, the district is also gathering valuable feedback from our all of our stakeholder groups. On February 27, 60 members of the Duarte USD school community came together and spent the day examining the District’s strengths and weaknesses; while proposing ways to eliminate threats to the District’s long-term stability due to declining enrollment.

This exercise was an integral part of the strategic planning process. The objective was to identify opportunities that will strengthen the District and provide a competitive advantage for our students. Representatives present, included the Duarte Community Education Council, an advisory group representing the City, business, service organizations, schools, and even neighboring communities, as well as students, parents, and school administrators. This group will meet again in April to continue this important work.

In addition, over the course of the next couple of months we will begin the next phase of the strategic planning process, that includes releasing the survey results and meeting with focus groups to dig deeper into those results.

Throughout, the Board of Education will conduct study sessions prior to Board meetings to ensure the public is actively engaged (not simply involved) in the entire process. These study sessions will be held on March 10, March 24, April 14, and May 19 from 4-6 p.m. in the Duarte Community Center. Preliminary data, survey results and other information related to the development of the Competitive Advantage Plan will be shared and discussed. All members of the community are encouraged to attend.

The final product, the Competitive Advantage Plan (C.A.P.), will be an action plan, a mandate for change, and a guiding document that we fully expect will alter the direction of our District beginning with the start of the 2016-17 school year. For more information about the Competitive Advantage Plan process and ways you can get involved, please visit the district website at [www.duarteusd.org](http://www.duarteusd.org).



# Duarte students focus on film making

Two afternoons a week on the campus of Beardslee Elementary, 4th grade students are projecting their ideas onto the big screen through the art of film making.

For Duarte students, like those in a handful of other districts, the chance to learn film making and cinematic story telling has come through a partnership with the Latino Film Institute’s Youth Cinema Project.

For about 90 minutes on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, students working in groups of 4 to 6, and under the direction of teacher Micah Green are working on projects that will end up being films that will be screened throughout the district and perhaps even to larger audiences.

“We’re not looking to create the next Steven Spielberg,” said Kevin Morris, director of college, career and community services for Duarte USD, “but that would certainly be a positive.”

More importantly, the Duarte students are learning how to use the skills taught through Common Core educational concepts to make an artistic product and

tell a story. As the school district and its teachers continue to refine their skills in an effort to improve the educational process, students learn through participation in a variety of innovative projects.

“This is not just a film program,” said Rafael Agustin, executive director of the Latino Film Institute’s Youth Cinema Project. “We’re teaching kids to become story tellers at an early age, and arming them with the ability to tell their stories. They have to learn how to write a story before it can become a film, and they have to learn how to pitch their ideas to one another.”

Agustin coordinates the program for the Institute which was started by legendary actor Edward James Olmos, who maintains an active role in the project. “This is the same mission Mr. Olmos has stressed for years, making sure that Latino and African-American kids are not forgotten in the schools. We’re working to engage and excite them about the things they are learning in schools.”

Olmos’ most famous role was that of Garfield High educator

Jaime Escalante, and that helped the famed actor develop a strong commitment to education. His foundation works with a number of school districts.

In addition to the Duarte students at Beardslee, the film project is working with elementary, middle school and high school students in Santa Ana, Montebello, Bassett, Lynwood and Pasadena districts. Most have an elementary-based project, while other districts are adding programs for middle and high school classes.

“While this is our first year with Duarte, the program has been in development for seven or eight years, thanks to Mr. Olmos,” said Agustin. “We started the original pilot program with two districts, Bassett and Santa Ana, and the program doubled in size in the first year, which led us to other districts. Our goal is to create a pathway which leads from elementary through high school, and could lead to community colleges.”

The vision begun by Olmos includes two academicians, who create curriculum and plan a course of study for the students. A board of advisors, including Duarte’s Morris, works with LFI to evaluate and add projects.

But for the kids at Beardslee, the first thing was to start creating the ideas, and eventually the scripts, which will become movies of 10 to 12 minutes in length by the end of the school year. The first semester’s work was focused on turning ideas into scripts. The second semester is devoting to taking the scripts to the screen.

“This is an exciting way to get the kids engaged in writing and expressing their ideas,” said Morris, the Duarte administrator. “You watch these 30 kids and they

are 100 percent on target, listening to one another, expressing themselves, and arguing their points. You listen when Mr. Morse gives the writing prompt, and they go right after it.”

Each district supplies a teacher for the project, and he or she trains with the teachers provided by the project for the first couple of years. All along, the concepts of turning ideas into cinematic expression are woven into the standards-based teaching and the project-based learning.

“It was exciting to get involved and work with a lot of kids who were generally hesitant to write,” said Green, the teacher, in a video produced by LFI. “Suddenly they are excited about

writing and are actually arguing with other students about who gets to do the writing.”

While students at the 4th grade level are nurturing ideas, writing scripts, casting their films, creating the videos and editing the final projects, they are learning skills which will be important to them as they move through the school system and into future careers.

“It would be great if we created actors, producers, writers and directors for the film industry,” said Agustin, “but more importantly, we are closing the achievement gap and the opportunity gap for the students in districts like Duarte.”

See Film making on page 13



# Duarte High students master job skills

More than a dozen students from Duarte High School will be competing for state honors in the annual SkillsUSA competition in San Diego.

The Duarte students were invited to the statewide tournament after achieving championships or placing highly in two SkillsUSA regional events in January and are part of a program that allows students to compete in skills they learn in Career Technical Education (CTE) classes on their high school campuses.

"Our students are learning skills that will be important for them in industry or the workforce," explained Amy Bustos, CTE teacher at DHS and coach of the SkillsUSA competitive teams. "This program gives many kids who have not competed in sports or other areas a chance to focus their competitive instincts and push for a challenging goal."

SkillsUSA offers competitive activities in which students strive to achieve in a variety of occupational skill and leadership areas. Competition in skill and personal achievement is encouraged at all levels.

Leadership contests include public speaking, parliamentary procedure, safety, and job interviewing.

Occupational skill contests include the building trades, health occupations, automotive technology, the electronics/computer industries, and personal services. There are also competitions for outstanding SkillsUSA chapter, community service, entrepreneurship, and customer service.

For the Duarte students,



SkillsUSA offers a structured competition in non-traditional disciplines.

They competed in Skills competitions in Broadcast News, Introduction to Woodworking, Technical Computer Applications, Culinary, and Web De-

signs. In a separate leadership event, they competed in an event called Chapter Display.

Bustos, who teaches business, computer and entrepreneurial skills, is in her second year coordinating the teams for the competition and receives support from Michelle Trail, career guidance counselor at DHS.

"At the beginning of the school year, all of our CTE teachers talked to their classes about the chances to design a project and present it for competi-

tion," she said. "They know that by succeeding at the regional level, they get invited to the state championship March 31-April 3 at San Diego. And some of the winners there will advance to the nationals in June at Louisville, Kentucky.

"After they formed their teams and started working on their projects, it was a matter of learning to manage their time to finish their project and be ready for the event."

The skills learned by Duarte's students are workforce and college relevant. The students followed a theme determined by SkillsUSA to showcase their work, then present it to adult judges and answer questions about their decisions. They also prepare a project notebook including design sketches, pictures, work schedules, cost analysis, and a breakdown on the contributions of each of the team members.

DHS seniors Joanna Rodriguez, Jadira Gonzalez and Danyelle Caguin collaborated to win the gold medal in Chapter Display, in which they created a promotional table-top exhibit of a theme.

For these students, the competition was a reward for hours of hard work.

"When they were announcing the winners, we thought it was



between us and another school," said Gonzalez. "Then they called the other school for the silver, and we were all quiet, and then they called out Duarte and we screamed a little."

The victory came after the students created their display on the theme "SkillsUSA: Champions at Work," then defended it under questioning.

"Creating a display and then



talking to the judges about it was a great experience for all three of us," said Rodriguez. "The skills we used in this are the skills we'll need for college and careers in the future."

In addition to the three young women, another Duarte entry also earned a gold medal.

Junior Daniel Tejada demonstrated his abilities in the field called Technical Computer Applications, including knowledge of the installation, configuration and use of various operating systems, and involved an oral presentation focusing on the computer expert's communications skills. He competed as a



one-man team.

"I felt pretty confident in my project before the event," said Tejada, "but I was also feeling a little nervous. I just had to focus that into a positive," he said. "This is the first time I've been in a competition like this."

Bustos, the instructor, said one of the many positives of the regional competition was watch-

ing the students learn to work together and produce a collaborative project that was competitive with other schools in the region.

"Like any team, they didn't always agree on everything and they had disagreements, but because they were focused, they made their points, argued when they needed to, and moved on to keep working on the project."

## DUARTE HIGH SCHOOL'S COMPETITORS FOR THE SKILLSUSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS BY EVENTS:

### Gold Medals

**Chapter Display:** Joanna Rodriguez, Danyelle Caguin, Jadira Gonzalez.

**Technical Computer Applications:** Daniel Tejada.

### Silver Medals

**Web Design:** Kyle Morris and Michael Hoo.

### Others invited to the state competition:

**Broadcast News:** Miles Moore, Alyssa Renskers, Daniel Ranjel, Patricia Morris.

**Entrepreneurship:** Mary Jane Guillen, Jadira Gonzalez, Anthony Gonzalez, Alonso Beltran

**Intro to Woodworking:** Vahe Aroyan

## Northview

Continued from page 10

nothing I need to do but supervise. They are very focused and know what they have to do to prepare."

While pre-debate preparation is limited only by the ambition of the team, the actual on-site work before the question is contested is limited by the rules. Students are allowed only 20 minutes to transcribe their notes onto designated debate stationary which they can take into the competitive arena.

"Debate is very extemporaneous," said George. "You don't get a chance to write speeches. Plus you have to be a good listener, because each speaker has to advance the argument of their side, and refute the other side's argument. The last speaker on the team has to weigh the debate and argue that the points on our side have more impact and we should receive the points."

And these are not Debate Light events, either. The discussions range from national to international topics, not just subjects that might be of interest to young teens.

"We've debated the Citizens United case, handguns, Fracking, the use of drones, artificial intelligence, whether the U.S. should use force against ISIS, and whether we should move to a national primary."

While those are weighty topics, indeed, one of the most hotly contested by Northview recently was topical and asked whether tackle football should be banned because of the incidence of brain injuries at all levels.

"With football, our team felt all the weighty points came down on the side of banning tackle football," said George. "We talked a lot about CTE, and the moving 'Concussion,' and the fact that brain injuries can occur at all levels of the sport."

Even events tied to the death of a famous person are fair-game in the Debate Class, George said. "We talked about the death of (Supreme Court Justice) Antonin Scalia, and the fact he was the key vote in a lot of 5-4 decisions, including Citizens United."

Northview has been competing in a debate league for about 10 years, and was recently moved to a higher performing league, where they swap arguments with students from seven private schools as well as one other public school.

They show up wearing Cardinal ties and dressed for success in the Saturday competitions, which the schools take turns hosting. Northview was host of the first debate of the year and many school staffers and parents helped as volunteers.

Students in the class do not have to participate in the competitions, but many enroll for that reason. "The ones who love it have a passion for learning and debating," said George. "Most of them realize they are getting a chance to research so many different topics that they wouldn't if they weren't in debate."

Among the top debaters this year is the two-man team of Alexander Renskers and Colin George. "They have the highest win rate of anyone on our team,

See Debate on page 13



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# Duarte Teen Center

The Duarte Teen Center is located at 1400 Buena Vista Street in Duarte. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 3-7 p.m.

All Duarte teens grades 9-12 with school ID are welcome. Participation is free, but Teen Center registration packets must be filled out and returned.

For more information, please call (626) 303-0863.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Hip Hop Dance Classes

(2-week intensive sessions at the beginning of each month)

Come learn the latest dance moves, hip hop techniques, meet new friends and showcase your talent! Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

### Art Exploration Classes

(3-week intensive sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays in April and June)

Students will learn the fundamentals of painting, sculpture, and much more!

## Cesar Chavez Essay Contest

Students grades 9-12 can compete in an essay-writing contest on why they are inspired by the life of Cesar Chavez. Prizes will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Entry Deadline is Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m.

## Youth Employment Workshop

Youth between the ages 15-18 will participate in an employment workshop on Wednesday, April 6, 3:30-5 p.m. The workshop will include tips on finding a job, gaining employment experience, resume writing, filling out job applications, interview tips, and how to be successful once you land a job. There will also be local employers on site to speak with the participants about employment opportunities. Please register in advance at the Teen Center. Space is limited. Free!

## Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at the Teen Center on Thursday, May 5, at 3:30 p.m. There will be

traditional Mexican food for all to enjoy for \$1 per person.

## Summer Kick Off BBQ/ Graduation Party!

On Tuesday, May 31, at 3:30 p.m. the Teen Center will have a Summer Kick Off BBQ/Graduation Party. Enjoy cheeseburgers, chips, fresh fruit, and a beverage for only \$1. Graduates eat free!

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

**Boys Night Out** – This program is for teen boys grades 9-12. Come join this club just for guys! Fun trips, group discussions, sports and much more! The group meets Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. March 22, April 12 & 26 and May 10 & 24.

**Drama Club** – The drama club meets once a week. Club members will participate in poetry jams, oratory, skits, and improvisation. Class meets Fridays from 3:30-5 p.m. Membership fee is \$5 every 6 months

**Nutrition/Cooking Class** – Learn to make quick and easy nutritious meals, while having fun with friends! Class meets once a week. Wednesday at 3:30-5 p.m. Fee is \$2 per class.

**Girls Night Out** – This free program is for teen girls grades 9-12. Discuss vari-

ous topics ranging from peer pressure, goals, self esteem, relationships and much more. The group will meet Fridays: March 25, April 8 & 22 and May 6 & 20 from 3:30-5 p.m.

**Work it Out!** – Come join Teen Center staff for “Work it Out” a fitness program for teens! Video workouts, walking excursions, circuit training, and nutrition tips! Come get fit with friends! Class is held Wednesdays from 3:30-5 p.m.

## TEEN EXCURSION

### Six Flags Magic Mountain Excursion

On Tuesday, March 29, the Duarte Teen Center will be heading to the mountain for Spring Break fun at Six Flags! Trip leaves the Teen Center at 8:30 a.m. and returns to the Teen Center at 7:30 p.m. The fee is \$45. Meals on your own.

## YOUTH BOXING PROGRAM

Join the fun and excitement with Duarte Boxing Program at the Duarte Teen Center! Boys and girls ages 8-18 years old are welcome! You’ll learn all of the fundamentals of boxing and get in incredible shape! Make new friends, feel more confident about yourself and have lots of fun!

You will gain flexibility, stamina, and coordination as

well as make new friends. Our knowledgeable trainers provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for all levels of youth. You can train for fun and physical activity or for a chance to compete against other youth in the United States and at our annual Boxing Show. The Duarte Teen Center Gym is open Monday through Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. There is a \$10 monthly fee for each participant. Non-residents are welcome for \$20 per month. Register now at the Duarte Teen Center. Call (626) 303-0863 for more information or just stop by to see if you are interested.

# Film making

*Continued from page 11*

Districts that have been involved with the Youth Cinema Project are already starting to see results that can be quantified, said the executive director.

“In districts that have been working with us, we are finding some pretty amazing results. We believe this is a literacy program as much as it is about film making. We’re covering the Common Core subjects while also teaching the pillars of film making: collaboration and communication.”

The Latino Film Institute’s Youth Cinema Project is also offering other avenues for high school students to learn about the industry, including internships, opportunities to visit screenings, and movie sets, and take part in workshops and training sessions.

“We’re helping the schools and the students invest in skills that will help them through the rest of their lives,” said Agustin.

And their families and other members of the community will get to watch the results when the films are screened in the spring.

# Debate

*Continued from page 12*

so far,” she said.

Others who have had success include Tirath Shah (personal best for number of wins), rebuttal specialist Joshua Avila, researcher Tyler Spicer, plus Abraham Cervantes, Jason Talavera and Donovan Popp.

“Our debate teams have always done well, over the years, and when they moved us to a higher level, that just increased the challenge,” said Rick Crosby, principal of Northview. “We are competing against 7 private schools and one other public school, and our kids have done very well.”

Debate becomes a family activity at Northview, as parents and other volunteers are trained to become judges in the debate competitions.

Students adapt their research skills to the specifics of debate, including the structure of the discussion, how to maximize their 3-to-5 minutes at the microphone, and how to rebut their opponents.

The class includes those skills and many others, and focuses on practice debates and the chance to run their arguments against formidable opposition from their classmates. That’s how they hone the skills that allow them to argue either side of a topical question.

For more information about the Northview Intermediate School Debate Class or Team, please contact Teresa George at (626) 599-5600 and visit the Northview website at [www.NorthviewIntermediate.org](http://www.NorthviewIntermediate.org).



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## 626 Day June 26

Designed to celebrate and highlight the Foothill Gold Line extension, 626 Golden Streets presented by Metro will link 7 distinct Foothill cities and 6 Gold Line stations, providing participants a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk, bike, run, skate, scoot, dance and play on over 17 miles of streets open for healthy, active recreation. Fittingly, the event has been scheduled for “626 Day” – Sunday June 26 – and will touch much of the 626 area code.

As with any “open streets” event, Golden Streets will not feature a start or finish. Attendees will be able to come and go; stop and explore; traverse as much or as little of the route as they wish. Along the way there will be distinct activity hubs adjacent to Gold Line stations (e.g., Duarte, Monrovia, Irwindale, Arcadia) featuring activities such as live music, free fitness classes, pop-up art exhibits, family-friendly play zones and more.

The event will kick off at 7:30 a.m. with the Train Run ([www.thetrainrun.com](http://www.thetrainrun.com)), a point-to-point half marathon from South Pasadena to Duarte. Finishers will receive a complimentary TAP card to use for the train ride back to the start. While the official run requires registration (free for youth 17 and under), the general event does not, all you need to do is save-the-date! For more information on this very special day including opportunities to support this special day, please visit [www.626goldenstreets.com](http://www.626goldenstreets.com).

- **WHAT:** 626 Golden Streets presented by Metro - Free community “ciclovía”
- **WHO:** All ages, family-friendly event
- **WHEN:** Sunday June 26 (8 a.m.-2 p.m.)
- **WHERE:** Azusa, Irwindale, Duarte, Monrovia, Arcadia, San Marino, South Pasadena

## Watch

*Continued from page 1*

proactive in the City’s approach to this crime trend, the Public Safety Department is studying the introduction of another patrol unit to the Sheriff’s Department contract and have also initiated talks with the City of Bradbury to possibly share the cost of this additional patrol car.

“The importance of the community’s role in helping to keep Duarte a safe place to live and work is vital,” said Villalobos. “We need the community’s help. Every Duarte neighborhood should be involved in Neighborhood Watch. It’s a program that works. We also want the public to know that if they have information about a crime, but may be concerned about ‘getting involved’, Duarte Public Safety has an Anonymous Tip hotline where they can leave a detailed message.”

The hotline number is (626) 359-5671, ext. 462. For information about starting a Neighborhood Watch program, call Aida Torres, Duarte Crime Prevention Specialist at (626) 359-5671, ext. 316.

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<b>SPECIAL SAVINGS</b>	
<b>\$250 OFF</b>	One full priced Adult Ticket. Offer & ticket valid Saturdays or Sundays, April 23 - May 22, 2016 only. DG
<small>Regular Adult Ticket Price is \$25.95. Offers cannot be combined. Children 4 &amp; under always admitted free. No pets or smoking, please. Limit one coupon per person. Not valid with any other offer. Not valid with online ticket sales.</small>	

The Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area is a United States Army Corps of Engineers Facility and a unit of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation System.



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VLI encompasses the belief that all members of our community should enjoy the same opportunities of employment as all others, and promotes the ideal that employment provides the self-worth and self-respect for which most of us strive. Given the right situation, all individuals, regardless of their ability or disability can be productive, contributing members of our society. The services that VLI offers have allowed this dream to become a reality to many of our community members who, despite disability, have proven to be great assets to local employers.



**SECRET BEAUTY SALON**  
**1317 Huntington Dr., Duarte, CA 91010**  
**(626) 358-1907 • www.secretbeautysalon.net**

Secret Beauty Salon is located in the Big Lots Shopping Center. We offer a wide variety of services including haircuts, tints, highlights, perms, up-do's, Make up, waxing, Skin Care, threading, manicures and more! So stop by for friendly professional service at a good price!



**PACO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT**  
**200 E. Foothill Blvd., Arcadia, CA 91006**  
**(626) 357-7270**  
**www.pacosmexicanrestaurant.com**

As I was growing up, this restaurant was known as La Pinata. Sometime in the eighties, the name was changed to Paco's. I had always wanted to buy it, and in 1996, my goal came true. We serve wonderful, home-made food in a festive atmosphere. Over half our current staff is the original staff from the 1980's – we have a VERY loyal team at Paco's, WE offer delicious Mexican food, love for our customers, in a Festive Atmosphere. Come join us or ask us about our Unique Catering.



**ATHREYA letsallbehealthy.com**  
**1807 Business Center Dr., Duarte, CA 91010**  
**(323) 909-2981 • www.letsallbehealthy.com**

Our purpose is to promote Aryurveda, the science of life, and serve the patients of Ayurvedic practitioners with the best quality natural and organic products that are sourced from reliable and conscious manufacturers and growers of your optimal health and well being. Each and every day we focus on customer care and satisfaction.



**MORRALITO MEXICAN GRILL**  
**1501 Huntington Dr., Duarte, CA 91010**  
**(626) 358-6398**  
**www.morrallitomexicangrill.com**

Under new management Morrallito Mexican Grill is proud to serve you our Authentic Mexican dishes. Stop in enjoy some chips and our fresh guacamole, enchiladas, caldos, tacos as well as our full bar. We are a family run restaurant and we invite you to stop in and get to know us. We forward to seeing you soon!



**MR. NICE GUY HANDYMAN SERVICE**  
**(626) 357-9253**  
**www.mrniceguyhandyman.com**

I am a licensed and bonded General Contractor! We pay all required State, Federal and Workers Comp Taxes and fees. We do plumbing such as water heaters, repairing leaks, copper systems, shower and faucet replacements and repairs. We can also do electrical work, drywall, tilework, custom cabinets, termite remediation and painting. Give us a call!

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

**Mary Virginia "Gini" Bickner**

Mary Virginia "Gini" Bickner was a versatile woman who met many challenges in her life. She was born in Pasadena in 1924, lived in Duarte much of her life, and died peacefully in Monrovia on January 23.



Gini was a private person and the challenges she met in her life were not even well-known within the family. She leaves two daughters, Cristy and Kerry, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She was active in the Arcadia Presbyterian Church where she served as director for the Children's Choir for years. She also wrote a social column for the Duartean Newspaper and for the Monrovia News Post.

She served as council president for the PTA at Maxwell Elementary School in Duarte as well as Duarte High School. She sang for the William Hall Corral. She was a long-time member of the Duarte Woman's Club until she moved to Mecca.

When she returned to the area she re-joined and served as the Club's inspiration chairman over the past several, authoring the inspirations and delivering them with a theatric flare. Gini also served as a docent at the Duarte Historical Museum for several years.

In 1975, while in her early 50s, Gini's husband, William Bickner, died. Following his passing Gini went back to school, earning her BS degree at Cal Poly Pomona. She worked as a buyer and coordinator for Robinsons Department Store and eventually moved to Mecca. "I think she was the happiest there than any other time. She loved it," says Cristy. During those years Gini was a volunteer at the Salton Sea assisting the rangers at the State Park and Recreation area. "She did everything the rangers did, except carry a gun."

Gini was a unique person who will be missed by her family and friends.

**Patricia Marie De Rose**

Throughout her life Patricia Marie De Rose was a busy business woman, but she knew how to enjoy life. Her first job with American Airlines instilled a love of travel in her and she visited China, Turkey, Italy, London and Africa.

Pat was born in New York on March 11, 1941 and came to California in 1975 taking up residence in Duarte in the 1980s where she raised her son, Paul. Always involved in the Duarte community, she loved helping people and promoting literacy. In 2008 she received the Outstanding Humanitarian Award by the Chamber of Commerce at the Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

For years she supported the Duarte Education Foundation and in addition to serving as treasurer, she helped with scholarships and fundraisers. "She was one of those people who volunteered for the jobs that most people would not commit to. She was dedicated, talented and a genuinely nice person," says Councilmember Margaret Finlay. "Duarte is a better place because Pat De Rose touched so many lives."



Pat served as Eucharistic minister at the City of Hope and attended Annunciation and Immaculate Conception churches. Serving as treasurer of Duarte's Public Access Channel ("DCTV") was another of her commitments. "Pat always had a smile for everyone," says Manoj Patel, President of DCTV. "As treasurer of DCTV, she was organized, responsible and kept us in check. A simple, humble person, she brought a great deal of experience and knowledge to our Board."

"The Friends of the Duarte Library group would not be where it is today, without the commitment and energy of Pat De Rose," says Wendy Wright. "She held just about every office on the Executive Board." One of Duarte's crowning achievements has been the widely respected authors' festivals which took place at Westminster Gardens. Pat worked diligently with the committee to assure its success including her work to procure grants from large corporations and to contact and book authors.

She was always on hand to lend support to the library whether it was to volunteer to assist for a Children's Program, pack up donated books, man a table for the FDL at a city event, or lend a hand in decorating. "We will miss Pat De Rose, as she was our friend," says Wendy. She loved reading and enjoyed discussing books with fellow members of the Duarte Reading Circle.

A sharp business woman, a dedicated volunteer and a champion of literacy, Pat will probably be best remembered for her kindness, dedication, easy-going manner and steadfast friendships with many residents of Duarte. She leaves her son, Paul, daughter-in-law Jennifer and grandchildren Nicholas and Emily. She died on January 16.



**DUARTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
*Open for Business*

1634 Third St., Duarte, CA 91010 • [www.DuarteChamber.com](http://www.DuarteChamber.com)  
 (626) 357-3333 • [info@duartechamber.com](mailto:info@duartechamber.com)

Stop by the Chamber and learn about networking events!

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY...**  
**RESTAURANT OWNERS & BUSINESSES**  
**INTERESTED IN HAVING A BOOTH AT**  

**TASTE OF DUARTE & BUSINESS EXPO ?**  
**Wednesday, May 25 – 5-8 p.m.**  
 Contact the Duarte Chamber (626) 357-3333

**Chamber Networking Events** 

**NETWORK BREAKFAST**

*Come meet new members and network your business!*

at Cabrera's Mexican Cuisine  
 1856 Huntington Dr., Duarte  
 Meets third Tuesday of the month

Tuesday, April 19 / May 17

**LADIES BROWN BAG NETWORK LUNCH**

For location contact the chamber office  
 Meets last Tuesday of the month,

Tuesday, March 29 / April 26

Make your reservations through the online calendar at  
[www.duartechamber.com](http://www.duartechamber.com)  
 or call (626) 357-3333



**Wild Thyme Pizza**



**Dickey's Barbecue Pit**

Duarte Chamber Grand Opening for these two new restaurant's in town!  
 If you have a new business and would like to have a Grand Opening give us a call 626 357-3333  
 Put your business out in the community!

**Starting a business or already have a business but don't have a Website Domain Name?**  
**Call the Duarte Chamber**  
*It's FREE with your membership!*  
**We're here to help!**  
 (626) 357-3333  
 1634 Third St., Duarte

**Join the Duarte Chamber of Commerce**

- \* Business grand opening & ribbon cutting ceremony
  - \* Referrals to your business
  - \* Networking events
  - \* Free business seminars
- \* Free publicity in Duarte View newspaper
  - \* Website Traffic Catcher Site
  - \* Business and marketing counseling
- \* Duarte Chamber membership certificate

[www.duartechamber.com](http://www.duartechamber.com)

How does anyone know you're there? 

**Advertise in the Duarte View community newspaper!**  
**10,000 circulation!**  
**Delivered to ALL Duarte residents and businesses!**

Contact Diana Burckhard  
 (626) 357-3333  
[diana@duartechamber.com](mailto:diana@duartechamber.com)