

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2011

Duarte View

A bi-monthly community publication of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, in its 90th year of service to the community.

CHANGES IN DUARTE

Tzeitel Paras-Caracci elected Mayor, Pam Kawasaki Board President

Duarte City Council members voted unanimously to elect Tzeitel Paras-Caracci Mayor for 2010-2011 and Lois Gaston Mayor Pro Tem during the annual reorganization of the Duarte City Council in November.

Paras-Caracci is currently serving her third term on the Duarte City Council. She previously served as mayor in 2005-2006, and chairperson of the Redevelopment Agency in 2004.

Paras-Caracci is a past president of APAMO (Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials), a National League of Cities Constituency Group, and formerly served a two-year term on the board of directors of the National League of Cities and the League of California Cities. She is employed as an administrative director at the Santa Anita Family YMCA in Monrovia. In addition to her duties on the City Council, she also serves on the board of directors of the Duarte Community Service Council and as a member of the Duarte Education Foundation.

Gaston, a retired AT&T executive, was first elected to office in 2003. She served as Redevelopment Agency chairperson in 2004-2005, and was Mayor in 2006-2007, the first African American woman to hold that position in the City's history. She is immediate past president of the California Contract Cities Association and was appointed to the Los Angeles Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee in 2009. Among her many community involvements she has served as vice president of the Duarte Education Foundation since the early 1990's and on the board of directors of the nonprofit Foothill Unity Center since 1998.



TZEITEL PARAS-CARACCI



PAM KAWASAKI

Duarte Unified School District Board Members voted unanimously to elect Pam Kawasaki Board President for 2010-2011 and Reyna Diaz Vice President during the annual reorganization of the School

Board in December.

Kawasaki is serving her first term as President. She was elected to the School Board in 2003 and served as Vice President in 2006. For the past seven years she has served as an active volunteer in the Duarte schools.

Kawasaki is currently active on the Superintendent's Community Education Council and Royal Oaks and Northview PTAs. She received the Golden Apple Award in 2002 for her cross age tutoring programs and a variety of other projects. Her family has resided in the Duarte area for the past 45 years.

Diaz was first elected to the School Board in 1998. She served as Board President in 2001 and 2006, and as Board Vice President in 2000 and 2005. She is an active member of the California Department of Education Child Nutrition Advisory Council and is an advisor to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the California Board of Education.

Diaz is a recipient of the Award of Recognition from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for community collaboration and the 32nd Congressional District Recognition Award honoring exemplary women.



Dear Community Friends,
While we're celebrating our 90th year of service to our businesses and community your Duarte Chamber of Commerce is starting 2011 with some changes. Here are a couple of them:

* We have redesigned our logo (above) using bright colors, reflecting a positive change in the business climate, and yet retaining the charm of our heritage and community backdrop. We think it says a lot in a clean, bold way.

* "Taste of Duarte" is the new name for the old "Hats Off to Duarte" business expo and food sampling. We'll still have the over 20 restaurants and 30 business exhibitors, but this year we're changing the format a little and we're adding the regional band "Cold Duck" to perform during the evening. This will truly be the best event yet. See page 20 of this Duarte View issue for the latest information at press time. Up-to-date information is available 24/7 at www.TasteofDuarte.com.

This year promises to be exciting with many opportunities for members to network, promote your business, learn from free business seminars, and succeed.

We wish you the very best.

Sincerely,

Your Duarte Chamber of Commerce...
"We're here for you"

Jim Kirchner
President/CEO

Diana Burckhard
Marketing Director



Duarte Chamber Celebrating 90 Years in 2011

Jan Wight, former President/CEO of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, is writing a series of articles throughout 2011 for the Duarte View about the Duarte Chamber's 90 years of history in the Duarte community.

On January 28, 1921 the Duarte Chamber of Commerce became an entity that has survived throughout these years to celebrate 90 years of service to the Duarte community in 2011. This makes the Chamber 36 years older than the city of Duarte. Since there was no city council during those 36 years, the Chamber Board functioned like a council in that they addressed many different kinds of items concerning Duarte, not just business issues. Much as the Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte (MAD) Town Council does today in the unincorporated area of our three communities.

A call from a committee of citizens went out to the people of Duarte inviting them to a box luncheon for the purpose of forming a Chamber of Commerce. About 150 Duarteans answered the call. A unanimous vote was held to form a Chamber of Commerce. At that time Mr. Fowler stepped down as temporary chair and Mr. M. L. Clark was elected president for 1921. Oddly, for the times Mrs. Park Densmore was elected vice president. Two other women were elected to the board of directors at that time as well, Mrs. Chan Smith and Mrs. J. M. Shrode, while an additional 22 women appeared as members. Duarte seemed to be an area ahead of the times to accept and elect women in 1921.

Other things decided by the group as a whole that day were: dues would be \$2 per person with an initiation fee of \$1 and

meetings would be held the first Monday of the month, 12 months a year at 7:30 p.m.

Also at the meeting, Mrs. E. D. Northrup spoke up about the fine Civic Center they had in the Duarte School and suggested the school board be asked to fit up the extra room in the basement as a kitchen. Mr. Fowler, a member of the school board, spoke up immediately to say they would like to do that, but at the moment the shortage of money was a serious handicap. Some things never change, do they?

The second meeting of the chamber, held on February 7, 1921 in the Duarte School, they decided to become a part of the bigger whole and joined the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the San Gabriel Valley. They also decided the secretary of the board should be paid \$2.50 per

meeting.

It seems that most of the Friday evening meetings began with a box supper and local entertainment prior to the meeting being called to order. This was probably the only social network available at that time in Duarte.

At that time Duarteans and Arcadians went into Monrovia for high school, shopping on Myrtle Avenue, and I would imagine any concerts and plays. Duarte was very rural with farms and ranches and Arcadia was full of chicken ranches, the large city with amenities was Monrovia.

By the March meeting the Chamber had a grand total of \$95.15 in its treasury until they paid the dues of \$12 for the Associated Chambers of Commerce, leaving the grand total of \$83.15

See 90 Years on page 7



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

Huell Howser Visits Westminster Gardens

Huell Howser, creator and producer of the long running KCET hit show "California's Gold", conducted two 90-minute presentations February 1 at Westminster Gardens as part of an ongoing speaker series hosted by the retirement community.

Duarte Mayor Tzeitel Paras-

Caracci formally greeted the television host and presented him with a certificate commemorating his first official visit to the community. Three classrooms from Royal Oaks School were also in attendance and the fourth-graders were encouraged to ask questions during the presentation.

DUARTE Mayor Tzeitel Paras-Caracci presenting a certificate to Huell Howser.



HUELL HOWSER speaking at Westminster Gardens in Duarte (below).



"Biggest Loser" Weight Loss Challenge Youth Sports

Losers wanted. The Duarte Fitness Center is issuing a challenge to community members who would like to set a healthy new year agenda, shed some unwanted pounds, and win the title of Duarte's "biggest loser".

The contest is open to all Duarte residents 16 years of age and older. There is no entry fee to participate. The winner will receive a one-year total facility individual membership to the Duarte Fitness Center. As an extra incentive, Duarte is proctoring with TV's Biggest Loser Pound for Pound Challenge that has pledged to donate 11 cents for every pound lost to Feeding America® to provide groceries to local food banks. Duarte has selected the Los Angeles Food Bank to be the recipient of funds from the local weight loss challenge.

The eight-week contest started Jan. 3 with the final weigh-in on Feb. 28. Highest percentage of body, not number of pounds will determine the winner.

"Duarte's motto is 'The City of Health'. With the weight loss challenge we hope to motivate our community to begin living a healthier lifestyle," said Donna Georgino, Recreation Director.

Private and confidential weigh-ins will be every Monday at the Duarte Fitness Center. Only percentages of weight lost or gained will be shared.

For more information about Duarte's Biggest Loser contest contact the Duarte Fitness Center at (626) 357-6118, ext. 243.

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626-280-6510

Business pros to offer students insight into working world at 9th annual city-sponsored Groundhog Shadow Day

More than 130 Duarte High School students and business professionals will have the opportunity to spend a day both teaching and learning about a variety of jobs and careers in the working world during the upcoming 9th annual "Groundhog Job Shadow Day" slated for Wednesday, Feb. 16.

The program is sponsored by the City of Duarte, Duarte's Promise – The Alliance for Youth, City of Hope, Duarte Unified School District, and California American Water.

Students will shadow adult mentors as they go about their normal work day in careers including banking, healthcare, education, printing, real estate, automotive repair, retail, food industry and utilities, among others. City of Hope, Duarte Chamber of Commerce, JPL, Duarte Unified School District, RCS Heating and Air Conditioning, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Bassett Unified School District, SCE FCU Federal Credit Union, Santa Anita Family YMCA, Royal Coaches, Los Angeles County Library, Duarte Field Services, Duarte Public Safety, Seidner's Collision Center, the Foothill Unity Center and Old Town Signs Company are among some of the business and industry participants.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day will kick off with an opening ceremony and breakfast for students and mentors at 7:30 a.m. at the Duarte Community Center. After spending the next several hours together on the job, students and mentors will return to the Community Center for a luncheon and a talk featuring a guest speaker.

For more information or to become a sponsoring worksite, call Duarte's Promise – The Alliance for Youth at (626) 357-7931, ext. 267.

The Upper Room Stage Production at Duarte Performing Arts Center February 26

The Upper Room, a play about faith, family, and the gulf between men and women, will be presented at the Duarte Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m., sponsored by the City of Duarte and Second Baptist Church in celebration of Black History Month. The Duarte Performing Arts Center is located at 1401 Highland Ave.

The event brings together residents of Duarte and Monrovia of all races and ages, along with local businesses, organizations

and churches to celebrate the rich history of African Americans in the community.

Performed by the Ixthus Players of Second Baptist Church in Monrovia, the production also honors the 37th Jubilee of Bishop William LaRue Dillard of Second Baptist Church.

General admission is \$20. Children and seniors, \$10. Limited VIP ticket seating is \$25. For more information, call (626) 345-0867 or visit www.sbcmonrovia.org.

Duarte State of the City/ School District Talks at Duarte Chamber Luncheon March 1

Duarte Mayor Tzeitel Paras-Caracci will present her assessment of the State of the City and Duarte Unified School Board President Pam

Kawasaki will report on the State of the School District at a luncheon on Tuesday, March 1, presented by the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. The luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the new Maryvale Family Resource Center, 1217 Crestfield Dr. Tickets to the luncheon are \$20 per person.

For more information and reservations, call Duarte Chamber of Commerce, (626) 357-3333.

Duarte Chamber of Commerce

Executive Committee

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Maggie Pezeshkian, DC • *Duarte Family Chiropractic*..... **Chairman-Elect**
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Lisa Montanez..... *OneWest Bank*
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Ronald Smith..... *State Farm Insurance*

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Diana Burckhard..... *Director of Membership and Marketing*
Emely Carrillo..... *Administrative Assistant*

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Jim Kirchner..... *Editor*
Diana Burckhard..... *Advertising*

The Duarte View is an official publication of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. It has a bi-monthly circulation of 10,000 and is mailed to all residents and businesses of Duarte, Bradbury, and portions of surrounding areas. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without the expressed written permission of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Articles deemed of community interest and printed herein are received from many sources and do not necessarily represent the views of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce.

For advertising information and rates, please call the Chamber.
 Deadline for articles and ads for the March-April issue is Feb. 23, 2011.

 P.O. Box 1438 • 1105 Oak Ave.
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Duarte Chamber Upcoming Networking Events

February 9/ 11:30 am-1:00 pm
Business Seminar, Program : Social Networking (Includes lunch, Sponsored by Domino's Pizza, Duarte) at City Hall Community Center. 1600 Huntington Dr., Duarte **Open to the public**

February 15/ 7:00 am - 8:30 am
Good Morning Duarte, A Networking Breakfast at Cabrera's Mexican Cuisine 1856 Huntington Dr., Duarte

February 15 / 12 pm– 1:00 pm
Ladies Brown Bag Network Lunch-Join us! at Joe's Place restaurant 1345 Huntington Dr., Duarte.

February 23/ 5:00 pm– 7:00 pm
Networking Mixer, at The Village Restaurant, 1521 Huntington Dr., Duarte

You can make your reservation on line at www.duartechamber.com or call the Chamber office at (626) 357-3333

DUARTE WELCOMES . . .

Deputy Ulises Urbina

Duarte welcomes Deputy Urbina as our newest Special Assignment Deputy. He is a narcotic and gang expert and has extensive experience and training monitoring crime waves and violence created by gang and narcotic activity in the San Gabriel Valley. The City of Duarte is fortunate to have a Deputy with his expertise.

During his 11 years with the Sheriff's Department, Urbina served at North County Correctional Facility in Castaic for 5 years. He trained at Temple Station in the cities of Pasadena, Monrovia, and Rosemead. In 2007, he worked in the City of Duarte as the night crime car for a year. For the following two years he decided to transfer to a more challenging assignment and joined the Operation Safe Street unit who specialize in gang taskforce with the Monrovia Duarte Gang task force. During those two years he also joined the San Gabriel Valley Burglary task force for the Major Crime Bureau.

For the first part of 2010 before coming to Duarte, Urbina served as a training officer in Pasadena and Monrovia County areas. He has a Bachelors of Arts in Criminal Justice from Cal State Fullerton and a Master of Science in Emergency Service Administration from Cal State Long Beach.

Since November 2010 he has been assigned to special projects in the City of Duarte, he conducts surveillance, tracks local gang activity and seeks out information to arrest suspects. As a proactive component of the Duarte Team, he will continue to work closely with detectives, probation officers and specialized county and city task force units in the community to address crimes and conduct follow up investigations.

In this new assignment he also hopes to impact the youth in a positive way, guide them in order to avoid some of the problems they face and help them by offering positive life choices. He feels like he has a lot in common with some troubled youth in the community, as a first generation Mexican-American and San Gabriel Valley native. He tells us he "feels blessed to have gotten through life making the right decisions and not given into peer pressure." He also expresses his need to give back to his community whether it be as a mentor or join youth in different activities in the community.

He would like to ask residents not to give up on the City's and LA County's method of Public Safety in response to the on-going changes in the community. He feels like Duarte has a cohesive team between City, School, Sheriff Department and the many County specialized support teams. He describes our satellite station and its multi-dimensional approach to crime control as a model to other communities in the area. He also asked residents to, "Please approach us on the street, if you have any concerns feel free to contact us directly. Feel safe and confident that we are working around the clock to keep the community safe and content with our specialized services." Deputy Urbina can be contacted at (626) 359-5671 ext. 305.

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I am affiliated with Isagenix, as an Associate Consultant. Isagenix is currently a leader in the Health and Wellness industry. Isagenix researchers have years of product knowledge and experience in developing the highest quality products with totally natural, organic ingredients for Isagenix. Athletes of all levels report that Isagenix is superior to anything else on the market.

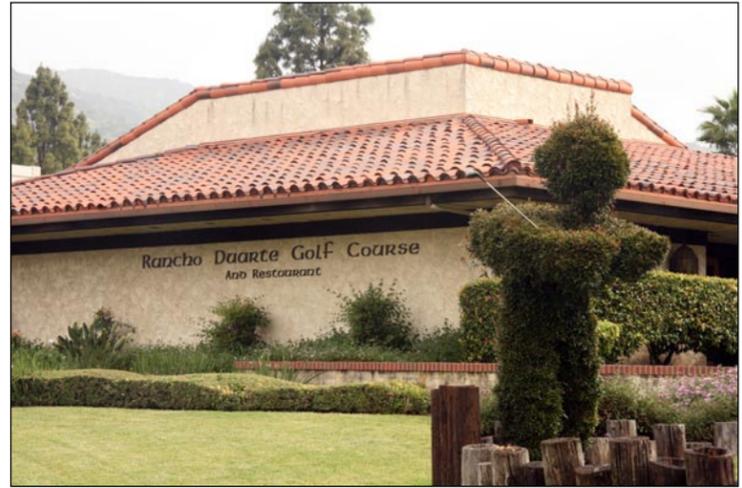
After experiencing the positive results for myself; the loss of 30 pounds in a 3-month period, the boost in energy and sleeping better, were only at the beginning. I soon realized that what was happening was not just "my results" but what thousands of others had experienced from the Isagenix Health and Wellness systems.



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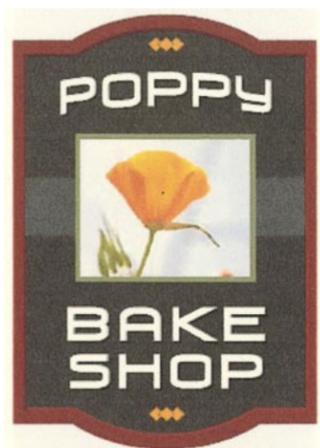


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Synergy softball was established on the principles, philosophies and ethics formulate by head Coach Paul Viteri and Manager/ Coach Alex Rendon who have influenced lives of many past softball players. Synergy Softball will provide a place where managers, coaches, and players come together to generate a safe, positive, energetic, and competitive environment while emphasizing on teaching softball fundamentals, the rules of the game, and life on general. Synergy Softball will serve as a vehicle for those student athletes who strive to attain physical prowess, determination, resourcefulness, integrity and sense of pride to compete at any level of the game or life in general.

Synergy Fastpitch Softball was started with a mission to provide the families in the Duarte community an opportunity for their daughters to play softball with a high level of training and teaching the fundamentals and rules of the game while at the same time creating responsible young adults on and off the field.

As a new member of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, it would be our privilege to represent the city of Duarte as their ambassador when the team travels to compete other Southern California cities as well as outside of the state to promote Duarte's businesses by advertising the businesses that recognize and support our mission for a girls fastpitch softball team. And hopefully, by working together, these ladies playing softball today will become out future leaders of tomorrow and they will look back at the Chamber of Commerce and City Leaders thanking all who supported them in making their dreams come true.



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Knowing Your Risks Can Stop the Sneak Thief of Sight

AFRICAN AND HISPANIC ETHNIC GROUPS AND OTHERS WITH A FAMILY HISTORY OF GLAUCOMA ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE

Glaucoma is a silent illness; most people have no early symptoms or warning signs as their peripheral vision diminishes or blind spots occur. It affects more than 2.3 million Americans age 40 and older. Another 2 million do not know they have the disease. January is Glaucoma Awareness Month, and Dr. Anders and Dr. Sanchez want to remind people that knowing your risk for the disease can save your sight. If untreated, glaucoma ultimately results in blindness. "Glaucoma can be a 'sneak thief' illness, and currently there is no treatment to restore vision once it's lost," said Dr. Sanchez. "But when we catch glaucoma early and closely monitor and treat people, we can significantly slow its progression and minimize vision loss."

Among Americans, higher-risk groups include those of African or Hispanic heritage and others with a family history of the illness. Elderly individuals with African ancestry are five times more likely to develop glaucoma and 14 to 17 times more likely to become blind than similar-aged individuals with European ancestry. The risk for Hispanic Americans rises markedly after age 60. Those of any ethnicity who have a family history of the illness are four to nine times more susceptible.

A national survey commissioned in 2007 by the American Academy of Ophthalmology for the EyeSmart campaign found that only 24 percent of people in ethnic groups at higher risk for glaucoma were aware of their risk; only 16 percent of those with a family history of eye disease, including glaucoma, could correctly identify the risk factors for those diseases.

Other glaucoma risk factors include aging, nearsightedness, previous eye injuries, steroid use and health conditions including cardiovascular disorders, diabetes and migraine headache.

For individuals with symptoms of or at risk for eye diseases like glaucoma, the Academy recommends that they see their ophthalmologist to determine how frequently their eyes should be examined. The Academy recommends those with no symptoms or risk factors for eye disease get a baseline screening at age 40, when the signs of disease and change in vision may start to occur.

ABOUT GLAUCOMA

Glaucoma damages the optic nerve, the part of the eye that carries the images we see to the brain. As glaucoma worsens, cells die in the retina — a special, light-sensitive area of the eye — reducing the optic nerve's ability to relay visual information to the brain. In the most common form of the disease, open-angle glaucoma, peripheral vision usually narrows, then other blank spots occur in the visual field. Symptoms of the less-common but more acutely dangerous form of the disease, closed-angle glaucoma, include blurred vision, severe eye pain and headache, rainbow-colored halos around lights and nausea and vomiting. Anyone with these symptoms needs to be seen by an Eye M.D. right away.

More information on glaucoma and how to preserve vision, as well as how to access care, is available on the Academy-sponsored website, www.geteyesmart.org. Additional information is also available at the American Glaucoma Society website, www.glaucomaweb.org, and at the Glaucoma Research Foundation website, www.glaucoma.org.

Dr. Anders and Dr. Sanchez are both Ophthalmologists or Eye Physicians and Surgeons (M.D.s). Our mission is to provide excellent eye care in a compassionate and nurturing environment. We offer many services that include subspecialty glaucoma surgery, cataract surgery, management of diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration and routine eye exams.

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Duarte Elks Casino Night & Charity Ball

The Duarte Elks Lodge will be holding a Casino Night on Saturday, January 22, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Proceeds from the evening will benefit lodge activities and charities. The cost of the evening

is \$20 per person. There will be raffles, concessions, snacks, and lots of fun for everyone.

Their annual Charity Ball is planned for Saturday, February 12. It's an evening of dinner and

dancing that benefits the lodge's many charities. Live music, a sit-down dinner, and a silent auction are scheduled for this fun evening. The cost is \$20 per person.

On Saturday, February 19 the lodge will be holding a swap meet/yard sale from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Spaces are available for rent for either inside the lodge or in the parking lot. Contact the lodge if you are interested in renting a space.

The Elks "Soup for Soldiers" program is an ongoing effort to support our returning service members. The lodge is collecting non-perishable food and toiletries which they are donating to the National Guard armory located in Azusa, which benefits those that are returning from service and are now unemployed.

Join Lodge members each Monday evening at 5 p.m. for their Monday Night Football Open House. They offer \$5 all-you-can-eat, and \$2 tap beer. Sunday mornings, they offer a Breakfast from 8-10:30 a.m. Check online at www.duarteelks.org for their schedule of Sunday dinners. Public is welcome to breakfast, dinner, Monday Night Football, and the events listed here.

Whether it is supporting local veterans; providing help to disabled children; supporting Boy and Girl Scouts; or providing assistance to needy families in the community, the Duarte Elks Lodge is a charitable organization serving Duarte, Monrovia, and Irwindale. The Lodge is located at 2436 Huntington Dr., Duarte.

Any donations to the Soup for Soldiers program can be made at the Lodge on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Sunday mornings from 8-10:30 a.m., or Monday evenings from 5 p.m.

Get to know the Elks and find out what the organization is all about. For more information about any of the activities listed here, please call (626) 357-6771.

STEM – the Key to America's Competitive Advantage

By Dr. Edward C. Ortell,

Citrus College Trustee, Duarte Area Representative

The nation's future economic vitality and competitive advantage will depend to a significant degree on the skill level of our workforce in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—otherwise known as STEM.

In recent years, concern has been growing that the United States is not preparing sufficient numbers of students for careers in STEM fields to maintain our role as a world leader in scientific innovation. The federal government has chosen to address this deficiency through grants designed to encourage and prepare students at all educational levels to pursue coursework in STEM areas and go on to acquire STEM postsecondary degrees.

In the fall of 2008, Citrus College was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the purpose of increasing the number and success rate of first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students in STEM fields and equipping them with skills they will need to succeed in the emerging professions of the 21st century. Since that time, our STEM program has grown and flourished, and our most recent STEM data is showing remarkable results.

Citrus College's "STEM Complex," which the college opened in 2009, deserves much of the credit. The complex includes a STEM Center where over 900 students each semester participate in study groups, access tutoring services or attend a Supplemental Instruction session—a national peer mentoring program that has proven to be tremendously successful at Citrus. The STEM Center also features a Math/Science Computer Lab and the Math Success Center, where over 800 students each semester are tutored in all levels of math.

Statistical analysis shows that Citrus College students who participate in these programs have higher rates of success in STEM courses than students who do not. Our most recent Annual Report to Washington, D.C. shows that since 2007, there has been a 56 percent increase in students who declare a STEM major.

Since 2008, Citrus College associate degrees in STEM majors have increased 68 percent, and the numbers of students who transfer into STEM majors at four-year colleges and universities have also gone up dramatically. At Cal Poly Pomona, the number of students transferring into STEM majors rose from 18 to 38. There will always be variables in these types of statistics; but we believe our STEM program has had a significant impact on our students' success and achievement.

While Citrus College is using our STEM program to help current students, we are also using it to prepare our future students—those attending local K-12 school districts such as Duarte Unified. In 2009, Citrus provided after school math tutoring to Duarte students at various grade levels, and Duarte High School students participated in Saturday Science Workshops at the college. Last summer, Duarte middle school students took part in "STEM Days" by attending science and math workshops along with over 400 middle school kids from throughout the area. The popular PAGE (Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry Enrichment) Program for 6-12th graders takes place at Duarte schools each summer.

As a board member, I am very pleased that Duarte students are helping the college fulfill its mission to deliver "high quality instruction that empowers students to compete globally and to contribute to the economic growth of today's society." Many of them take advantage of STEM Center programs each semester and some go on to become Supplemental Instruction leaders. Through their mentorship of other students, they not only help others achieve success, they continue to sharpen their own skills and develop leadership abilities that will last them a lifetime.

It is the responsibility of our community to ensure that our young people are prepared to compete in the workplace and global marketplace of the 21st century. To enable them to do so, we need to provide them with an education that includes a solid foundation in STEM.



DR. EDWARD C. ORTELL

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90 Years

Continued from page 1

after three months of organization.

In April the organization got down to real business of the community. Through a cooperative effort between the chamber and the school board (guess they found the money somewhere) it was agreed to fit a kitchen in the room currently being used by the janitor and to install a tennis court outside the school.

At the same meeting a committee of three was appointed to draft a protest against any further excavation by the Rock Crusher (their caps) north of the boulevard near the San Gabriel River. Now this seems to have been ongoing for the last 90 years plus, doesn't it?

In further issues of the View I will be writing about the Chamber's continued fight against the rock crusher, flood control, getting the dam built, automobile campgrounds, elimination of the Duarte train station, water and power, hog ranches, the years of WWII, desegregation, Rock Town, and building codes, all items the Duarte Chamber of Commerce faced as challenges throughout the early years.

You may contact Mrs. Wight at wightjb@aol.com.

CITY OF DUARTE CONTACTS

1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010 • (626) 357-7931
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
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Neighborhood Watch Toy Drive a success!

Thanks to generous contributions from the community, over 600 children in the City of Duarte received toys this holiday season. Despite tough times, the community seems to always come through for children in need.

Duarte's hardest working volunteers; our Block Captains in the Neighborhood Watch Program, the Duarte Elks, and the Emblem Club once again assisted the Public Safety Department and encouraged their neighbors to donate toys.

All toys were delivered to the Duarte Community Service Council – an all-volunteer organization that has served the community for over 50 years.

DCSC Director Dorothy Smith comments that Neighborhood Watch helps continue their support of those in need and every toy counts.

The City of Duarte would like to thank block captains, volunteer organizations, and specially Hollywood Sports Paintball Parks in the City of Bellflower for their generosity this holiday season:

TOY DRIVE PARTICIPANTS

Amberwood Homes, Azusa Eagles Club, Bashor Street, Del-ford Avenue, Duarte Elks, Duarte Emblem Club, Duarte Woman's Club, Duarte's Promise, Elkhorn Drive, Encanto Parkway, Fairwood Street, Greenbank Avenue, Hollywood Sports, Maynard Drive, Oakhaven Drive, San Pablo Way, Starcrest Drive, Sunnysdale Drive, Swiss Trails, Tocino Drive, Westvale Court, and Windsor Circle.

Star Night & Potluck Set for April 10

The Duarte Historical Society will sponsor a star night and potluck dinner on April 10 at the Museum, 777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte. Start off the evening by bringing a favorite dish of food to share at the Museum at 6 p.m. After dinner we will join the Monrovia Sidewalk Astronomers in Encanto Park for a look at the evening skies! We might even get a visit from an extra terrestrial for a great photo op. Let's hope the weather cooperates! For more info call (626) 358-0329. Admission free.

"If it's green, it's biology. If it stinks, it's chemistry. If it has numbers, it's math. If it doesn't work, it's technology."

– Unknown

"My mother always told me I wouldn't amount to anything because I procrastinate. I said, 'Just wait.'"

– Judy Tenuta, comedienne

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Seven Outstanding Community Volunteers Honored

Seven outstanding Duarte citizens were recognized for their outstanding community service at the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and Duarte Chamber of Commerce Community Service Recognition Awards on Nov. 24. More than 125 civic and busi-

ness leaders attended the event held at City of Hope's Cooper Auditorium, presided over by Duarte's newly elected mayor Tzeitel Paras-Caracci and Duarte Chamber Chairman of the Board, Sandi Mejia. Duarte resident and business-

woman, Sharman Warner was honored with the Outstanding Civic Service Award for her efforts in "organizing and sustaining the citizens concerned about Azusa Rock mining expansion above Duarte." Steve Nicholson, general

manager of Performance Nissan received the Outstanding Business Person Service Award recognizing his and Performance Nissan's many contributions to the community, including donating hundreds of basketballs for youth programs.

Josephine Tung, longtime resident and Duarte Senior Center volunteer, was honored with the Outstanding Service to Senior Citizens/Disabled Award. Tung volunteers with the lunch pro-

gram five days a week, is "an indispensable member of the kitchen team" and "a role model for all the Duarte Senior Center volunteers."

For her compassion and service to the community's needy, Sheree Curry was honored with the Outstanding Humanitarian Award. She helped to organize Love Our Children2, Inc., a community food pantry for the needy, coordinate a backpack distribution, Christmas toy distribution, and create a dance troupe for at-risk youth. She also help develop "Set for Life," a non-profit organization to assist the elderly.

Victor Valenzuela, who heads Duarte's Youth Boxing program, which has grown in number of youth involved and overall success of the program under his leadership, was honored with the Outstanding Service to Youth Award. Valenzuela was also recently inducted into the California Boxing Hall of Fame.

"With all his knowledge of boxing and talent for teaching, perhaps Victor's greatest ability is being a role model to young people. He models dedication and hard work by working full time at the City of Hope every day and then comes to the Teen Center to work with young people throughout the afternoon, weekends, and evenings."

Two Duarte teens were recognized as Outstanding Youth. Jasmine Castro, a senior at Duarte High School is the president of the school's Interact Club and a member of the Multicultural Club. She has also volunteered at the Duarte Senior Center, Westminster Gardens, Route 66 Parade, and the Festival of Authors while maintaining a 4.17 grade point average.

Mario Contreras, also a senior at Duarte High School is an excellent student and community volunteer. He serves as vice president of the Interact Club, and has given more than 100 hours of volunteer service to a variety of community organizations. He holds a grade point average of 4.07.

The Mayor's 25th annual Prayer Breakfast and 23rd annual Community Service Recognition Awards were sponsored by the City of Duarte, Duarte Chamber of Commerce, Duarte Kiwanis Club and Key Club, Duarte Church and Clergy Association, Royal Oaks Manor, Duarte Woman's Club, and Duarte's Promise - The Alliance for Youth.

Local Harvest

Apples, oranges, lemons or limes if you have an abundance of fruit growing in your yard, don't let them go to waste!

Call Local Harvest to have your homegrown fruit harvested by a team of supervised Duarte youth that will deliver the harvest to the Foothill Unity Center and Duarte Senior Center for immediate distribution to families in need!

Harvesters are equipped with bags, boxes, fruit pickers and a ladder to carefully pick fruit directly from your trees. Harvesters can also stop by your home to receive fresh fruit that has already been picked.

The Foothill Unity Center has been providing food and other necessities to local families in need for over 25 years. To request harvesters for the next Local Harvest Day, call (626) 359-5671, ext. 316.



RECIPIENTS AND PRESENTERS are (from back row left) Brian Mejia, Supervisor Michael Antonovich's Field Representative; Kristi Lopez, Assemblymember Anthony Portantino's Field Representative; Steve Nicholson; Mario Contreras; Chet Beeton, Duarte Chamber of Commerce Vice-Chairman; Victor Valenzuela; (from front row left) Jasmine Castro; Sharman Warner, Betty Walton, standing in for Sheree Curry; Josephine Tung; Mayor Tzeitel Paras-Caracci; and Sandi Mejia, Duarte Chamber of Commerce Chairman.



RECIPIENT Sheree Curry as unable to attend the Service Awards program.

ATTENTION

FORMER BANK of AMERICA EMPLOYEES

The Foothill Workforce Investment Board in the City of Pasadena has been awarded a \$400,000 grant to assist individuals who have been laid off from Bank of America offices in Los Angeles County between July 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010.

An informational meeting will take place:

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011
at 1:00 PM
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Conference Room A**

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**If you have any questions, please call
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Cub Scouting Returns to Duarte



In May 2010, a few Royal Oaks parents established a Charter for Cub Scouts in Duarte. The Cub Scouts of Pack 188 have enjoyed a fun filled first few months.

Activities have included: hiking, visit to the Fire Department, Bicycle Rodeo, and Fishing Derby. In the spring the Pack will host its 1st Annual Pinewood Derby.

Royal Oaks Elementary is the charter organization for Pack 188 and allows the pack to have meetings at the facility. Meetings are typically held at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria the first, second and third Monday's of each month. Boys 1st thru 5th grade from all schools are invited!

For more information, email duarte-pack188@gmail.com.



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Bird Walk March 12

Join Ornithologist Kimball Garrett, collections manager at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, on a bird walk leaving the Duarte Historical Museum at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 12. Donuts will be served before the walk at 7:15 a.m. Bring your binoculars and comfortable shoes. The walk will be easy and will generally remain around the Encanto Park area and trail along the river. "We will look for the earliest spring migrants, including swallows and maybe an oriole or two and check the San Gabriel River for water birds. A variety of wintering birds and year-round resident species will also be present," says Garrett. The trip will proceed rain or shine. For details call (626) 358-0329.



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Sunday- 9-3pm

PASTOR C. L. BENNETT Artist, Gardener

Pastor C. L. Bennett of the New Jerusalem Church in Duarte stopped by the Duarte Chamber of Commerce office recently to share some of his paintings and pictures of vegetables from his own backyard as well as from the church garden. Helped by his wife, daughter and other family members to maintain the church garden, they have produced sweet potatoes, yams, butter nut squash, hot peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, and corn.

All the paintings are done in oil and acrylic on canvas. He started painting in 2009 and finished in 2010.

Pastor Bennett has been Pastor at the church, located at 518 El Sur St., for the past 42 years. He says this is where he helps cultivate souls for the Lord.



Lighthouse by the sea shore



Flower poppy in a vase
recreation of Van Gough



Mums in a vase



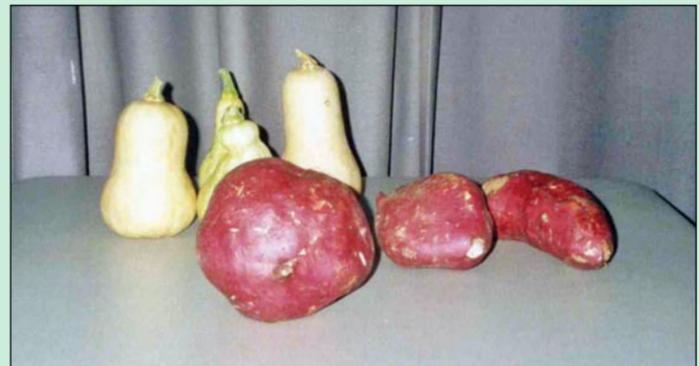
Fisherman enjoying fishing



California giant gold
stripped Sunflower grown
in my own backyard



Painting of home grown
Sunflower



Yams and butter nut squash



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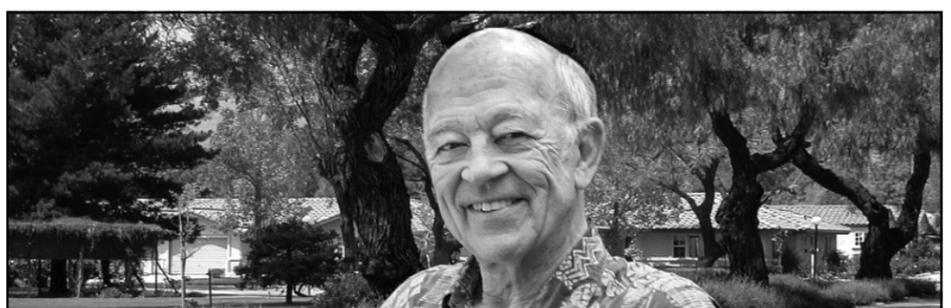
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Westminster Gardens is an affiliate of Southern California Presbyterian Homes, a non-sectarian, not-for-profit company serving seniors through quality retirement housing since 1950. DSS License #197605591 CCRC #205

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 60 years of age or over 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 and participants must check in for lunch by 11:45 a.m. The suggested donation is \$2.

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 YWCA Intervale Senior Services at (626) 966-9526.

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 pick up meals from a local retirement home and deliver to homebound seniors. (Meals are

delivered M-F between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.) 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 Senior Services at (626) 966-9526.

ACCESS TRANSPORTATION

Access Transportation provides transportation for individuals with disabilities. For eligibility or more information call (800) 827-0829.

HOW TO MAKE MEDICARE WORK FOR YOU

Every 2nd Thursday and 4th Friday of each month by appointment, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) Counselor provides unbiased information, counseling and assistance on Medicare and related health care coverage.

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

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

The Duarte Senior Center, in cooperation with AARP, will be offering an AARP Driver Safety Class for persons 55 and older on Tuesday, January 18 and Thursday, January 20 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This eight-hour class, split up in two four-hour sessions, is a comprehensive classroom driver re-training course geared to the specific needs of older motorists.

Attendance is required at both sessions. The cost is \$12 for members, \$14 for non-members and reservations are required.

For more information, please call the Duarte Senior Center at (626) 357-3513.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

February 1 through April 15, trained volunteer counselors will assist seniors with income tax returns. This free service is by appointment only. Please call (626) 357-3513.

METHODIST HOSPITAL PRESENTS: SIGNS & SIGNALS OF STROKE

On Wednesday, February 16 from 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m. Dr. Kenneth Wogensen, MD, will speak on the signs and symptoms of stroke, what to do when someone is having a stroke and the latest treatments.

For reservations, please call the Duarte Senior Center at (626) 357-3513. FREE

FOOD LABELS - CLEARING UP THE CONFUSION

On Tuesday, March 15 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Victoria Pacheco MS, Registered Dietitian from Methodist Hospital will clear up the confusion regarding food labels. Bring along food labels for discussion.

MOVIES

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

BINGO

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

CLASSES

The Duarte Senior Center is currently taking registration for the winter session of classes. Registration hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Classes are for 10 weeks unless otherwise noted. All classes are for adults 55 years and older.

Classes offered are: Art Appreciation, Ceramics, Cross Fit, English as a Second Language, Exercise with Shelly, Guitar, How to Write Your Own Life's Story, Knitting, Music Appreciation, Piano/Keyboard, Piano private lessons, Spanish (beginning and intermediate) and Tai Chi.

For more information, please

contact the Senior Center at (626) 357-3513.

EXCURSIONS

The City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Department is currently taking registration for winter excursions at Duarte City Hall. You can pick up a brochure at City Hall or the Senior Center to receive in-depth information about the following trips:

La Mirada Theatre "Til Death Do Us Part" Late Nite Catechism, starring the original Maripat Donovan, Sunday, February 6, 3 p.m.-10 p.m., \$58;

The Colony Theatre Company in Burbank "Moonlight and Magnolias" with dinner at The Office Bar and Grill, Thursday, February 10, 4:15 p.m.-11 p.m. \$55;

Palm Springs Indian Canyons and Windmills Tour, Thursday, March 10, \$52;

Laughlin Riverside Casino, Tuesday-Thursday, March 22-24, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., \$118 double occupancy and \$145 single occupancy

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.



Batter Up

The Duarte Senior Center coed softball team is recruiting. Come and try out to join the team, make new friends and get some fun exercise.

The team is especially in need of women. There will be two months of practice, and league play will begin in May. The first team practice will be held on Wednesday, March 2, at 9 a.m. at Otis Gordon Sports Park, located at 2351 Central Ave.

For more information, please call the Duarte Senior Center at (626) 357-3513.



PARTICIPANTS ENJOY a beautiful day in one of the many excursions the City of Duarte offers.

High school youth DART into 2011

The Duarte Area Resource Team (DART) is compiled of high school youth who volunteer to make a difference in our community. In 2010 DART members were involved in many events. They helped Deputies keep Route 66 participants and attendees safe by assisting in the closure of Huntington Dr. and they partnered with "Friends of the Library" at the Author's Festival. They were in their bright blue jackets at the City of Hope Walk for Hope in November or working hard to make events like the Community Movie Night, Teen Movie Night, Red Ribbon Week, the Duarte Boxing Show, and Cancer Relay for Life possible.

These young men and women volunteer on average more than 600 hours a month to our community. Together they work hard wherever they are needed from setting up to face painting to just painting. There are currently over 80 members, all who must maintain a 2.0 GPA to participate in the program.

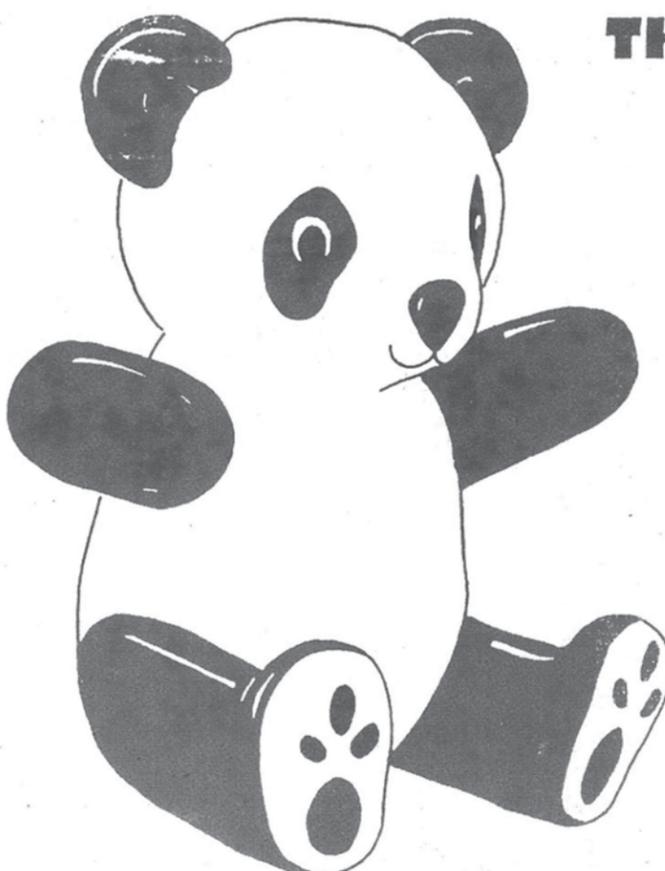
Not only do DART members work, they also plan monthly fun/educational activities which award and motivate them to continue with their hard work. They are an ambitious group of young people who aspire to obtain a higher education and make a big difference now and into adulthood. Youth are led by their peers, DART officers, whom they elect every school year and are advised by Duarte School Resource Deputy and High School teacher, Robert MacLean, Crime Prevention Specialist Aida Torres, and Duarte Public Safety Promise Fellow Idania Arellano. For questions about DART please contact us at (626) 359-5671 ext. 316.

Fitness Center sale

It's SALE time at the Duarte Fitness Center where you can save 20% February 14 through February 17. A membership to the Duarte Fitness Center allows members to participate in a wide variety of physical activities. The Life Fitness strength equipment includes a Chest Press, Lat Pull-down, Arm Curl, Seated Dip, Shoulder Press, Seated Leg Press, Leg Extension, Seated Leg Curl, Hip Abductor and Hip Adductor. Also available are Stairmasters, treadmills, bikes and cross trainers. In addition, the Fitness Center has two courts available for either racquetball or wallyball. Aerobic classes are offered at various times daily.

Sale prices for Duarte residents are as low as \$100 for one full year of aquatics, exercise, and aerobics. Non-resident rates start as low as \$140, and there are no monthly fees or dues. The Fitness Center is located at 1600 Huntington Dr., next to City Hall. Call the Duarte Fitness Center at (626) 357-6118 for information.





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DWC PRESIDENT Doreen Tulloch-Reid (left) with Linda Koontz, president, San Gabriel Valley District of Woman's Clubs.

DWC hosts Reciprocity Dinner

Each year the Duarte Woman's Club (DWC) invites officers from the San Gabriel Valley District and board members of the various Women's Clubs in the San Gabriel Valley to be guests at a function known as "reciprocity." On November 4, this coveted event unfolded, featuring a potluck dinner hosted by the DWC, and entertainment.

"It's our chance to shine," says DWC President Doreen Tulloch-Reid. "We always welcome the opportunity to reciprocate the hospitality other clubs extend to us throughout the year."

Singer Jeanette De Patie, a Duarte resident, entertained with a number of show tunes from musicals and soft jazz, all relating to food.

Linda Koontz, President of the San Gabriel Valley District (SGVD), explained the meaning of being a woman's club member and the relationship between the various women's clubs, the District, State and National Federation.

"A woman's club is a group of women from all walks of life who have joined together for friendship and who through constructive action, help build, serve, improve and enjoy the community in which they live," says Koontz. "Membership should mean challenge to participants in club activities, an opportunity for broadening social contacts, one's horizon, and for dedicated service to your community..."

"Any woman who is interested

in service to community through leadership development and/or who seeks to improve herself through involvement may become a member, as long as she has reached 18 years of age."

Guests included Paulette Pope, president, La Puente Woman's Club; Pamela Shearer, treasurer, SGVD; Diana Tobar, parliamentarian SGVD; May Dosa, president, Baldwin Park Woman's Club; Kristine Brock, president, East Valley Woman's Club; and Elizabeth Berry, president, Rosemead Woman's Club.

Activities of DWC include serving at the Route 66 VIP Breakfast and sponsoring a booth at the city picnic; serving at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, raising money for student scholarships, helping with the Community Service Council Christmas baskets for the needy, donating fruit to the Duarte Senior Center, and docenting at the Duarte Historical Museum.

The DWC was organized in 1949, Federated with the State in 1956 and Incorporated in 1967. The Club meets October through June on the first Thursday each month, usually at 7 p.m. at the Duarte Community Center. Women age 18 and older are welcome to join.

For more information call Ruby Shiroma, membership chairperson, at (626) 359-5770. The Club sponsors a host of volunteer opportunities in furtherance of their 2010 theme: United we Stand.



IN THE MIDST of sparkling holiday decorations the Duarte Woman's Club collected gifts and food for the needy at their December meeting, and enjoyed entertainment by the Honor Choir of the Chamber Ensemble of Duarte High School led by Claire Hsu. Two new members were installed: Aja N. Enriquez and Cindy Young.

SAFYMCA kicks off 2011 Support Campaign for Financial Assistance Program

MONROVIA BUSINESS LEADERS DIANE BALSAMO AND JULIE GENTILE CO-CHAIR CAMPAIGN

With two of Monrovia's most active and financially savvy businesswomen at the helm as co-chairs, the nonprofit Santa Anita Family YMCA has kicked off the 2011 support campaign for its Financial Assistance Program.

SAFYMCA board members Diane Balsamo, a home loan consultant for Bank of America and Julie Gentile, a partner in Gentile, McCloskey and Company, are leading the campaign to raise \$160,000 to help the Y provide programs and services for youths, teens, families and seniors regardless of their ability to pay full fee. Helping them toward the goal will be a team of 100 volunteers including community members, board members and staff.

"It is especially at times like these when many families are experiencing economic hardship that the programs and services of the Y become even more important, a lifeline to the health of the

community," said Balsamo.

Gentile notes that as the need for programs and services increases so does the demand for scholarship assistance. "Kids are especially at risk. This year's campaign theme is 'Ensure a Brighter Future'. Thanks to generous donors, the Y can be counted on to provide a place where kids can enjoy being a kid, swim, go to camp, play a sport, or get help with their homework," she said.

Last year nearly 15% of the 535 kids participating in the Y's day camp and after school programs were able to participate because of the Financial Assistance Program. In addition, 1,850 youths participated in YMCA youth sports and mentoring programs and 1,170 seniors improved their health through fitness classes and workouts in

the wellness center.

The six week support campaign runs to March 3. Several local businesses, organizations and families have stepped up to support campaigners by sponsoring weekly pledge drop-off dinners. Sponsors are Gentile, McCloskey and Company, Ed Hotchkiss, Caracci-Collins & Co., Adamson Chiropractic, Jesus is Lord Christian Center, Mora and Gutierrez Family, and Bank of America.

For information about contributing to the Y Financial Assistance Support Campaign, or to learn more about any of the programs or services offered by the Y, call Cheryl Reynolds at (626) 359-9244, or visit the website at www.yocala.org/santaanita. The Y is located at 501 S. Mountain Ave. in Monrovia.

Duarte Dedicates Nature Park

Project was funded through Grants from Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and Offices of Supervisors Antonovich and Molina

Nature and the public got an early Christmas gift from the City of Duarte with the long awaited dedication of the Encanto Nature Park, Bioswale and Outdoor Classroom. The newest jewel in the regional Emerald Necklace Project to reinvigorate urban river corridors, it is destined to be one of the most innovative recreational opportunities for Duarte residents and all those who love the San Gabriel River.

A bioswale is a constructed stream channel that conveys storm water to the ocean slowly allowing water to infiltrate locally. It also replenishes groundwater and reduces flooding along the main channels and rivers. The 1,000 foot long bioswale along the western perimeter of the 12-acre City owned Encanto Park is a "naturalized" bioswale designed to look and function as a natural stream. The bioswale treats and filters stormwater before it flows into the San Gabriel River. It also creates a natural habitat through the planting of native California plants. The bioswale ends in a small basin containing a thick layer of biologically active soil that further cleans and infiltrates local water.

Along the path, dotted with interpretive signage and sculptures, river rock provides natural seating areas to allow visitors to the park to relax and enjoy the environment.

Los Angeles based BlueGreen Consulting Open Space & Design, designed the bioswale project.

A group of 5th and 6th grade students from Valley View School in Duarte were among the first to tour the bioswale and hear from experts in the Outdoor Nature



Saturday, March 12, 2011
www.hayden5k.com
Hayden 5k Run, Family Walk & Roll



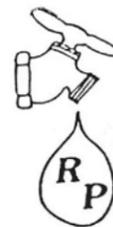
Event Schedule

7:00-8:00 a.m.	Check-in & Race Day Reg. (add \$10)
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Warm Up/ Greeting/(Reg. closes at 8:30)
9:00-10:30 a.m.	5K Run, Family Walk & Roll New & Improved Route!
10:30 a.m.	Children's Fun Run
10:45 a.m.	Awards Ceremony (Top 3 male & female finishers in each 5 yr age group)
9:00-1:30 p.m.	Entertainment/ Food/ Games & more!

Registration Information

Adult 15 years+ \$25	Register online: www.hayden5k.com
Child 2-14 years \$12	Packet pick-up: 3/11/2011, 2-6pm*
Individual Wheelchair \$25	*\$10 late fee for race day regist.
Wheelchair team (up to 3) \$35	Contact us at 626-359-9592

City of Duarte 819 Buena Vista Street Duarte, CA 91010
 626.359.9592 - hayden@santa-teresita.org Hayden Child Care
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See Nature Park on page 15

Opportunities to serve on Implementation Task Groups for Duarte Youth and Family Master Plan

Nature Park

Continued from page 14

Classroom.

"We've seen the loss of tremendous amounts of brush land and woodlands being cleared, rivers being channelized, open country, grasslands being built on, particularly in our valleys and lowland areas. So every time we see a real effort to restore or build habitats that are good for birds and other wildlife it's really something to celebrate," said Kimball Garrett, Ornithology Collections Manager of the Natural History Museum.

Other components of the project include the previously completed Encanto Nature Walk; a 1500 foot in length multi use path with interpretive signage along the west bank of the San Gabriel River. The walk includes a river overlook that projects nearly 200 feet out into the river channel with stone benches, and attractive drought tolerant native landscaping. The area has been transformed from a previously fenced off and inaccessible space into a pleasant walk culminating at the historic Puente Largo Bridge.

Total cost of the projects was \$758,000 with grant funding coming from three primary sources.

The Duarte Youth & Family Committee is inviting applications from community members who would like to work on one of four task groups to implement the Duarte Youth and Family Master Plan.

Developed over a 10-month period with the input of more than 1,000 community members, adults and youth, the Youth and Family Master Plan is a roadmap for public, nonprofit and private agencies, as well as the community-at-large, to build a better future for youth and families in Duarte.

The responsibility to implement the action steps falls to the entire community. Opportunities are open to serve on the Committee's Annual Report Card Task Group; Youth and Family Committee Action Steps Task

Group, charged with ensuring specific designated action steps are initiated and benchmarks achieved; Communication and Media Task Group; and Initiator Follow-up Task Group.

Youth and Family Master Plan recommendations, 66 steps in all, are grouped under nine common themes, including: ensuring that youth and families feel safe; enhancing access to health and mental health services; enhancing programs and services that benefit youth and families; connecting youth to the community and to services; re-energizing the Duarte Teen Center; developing cultural and diversity appreciation; improving coordination of programs and services; supporting education and employment skill development; and implementing the Duarte Youth and Family Master Plan.

Applications for the task group are available online at www.accessduarte.com under Parks and Recreation/Youth and Family Master Plan. Applications can also be picked up at Duarte City Hall Parks and Recreation Dept., 1600 Huntington Dr. For more information about applying to a task group, call Donna Georgino at (626) 357-7931, or email: georginod@accessduarte.com. Applications are due by February 22.

SAFYMCA's Youth Alliance Program Honors Community Members at Celebration

Community recognition awards were presented at the Santa Anita Family YMCA's 6th annual Youth Alliance Christmas Celebration held Dec. 18 at the Monrovia Community Center.

Guadalupe Garcia-Lugo, named Parent of the Year, was recognized for her "strength and skills to lead her family in the midst of crisis". Alfredo "Freddy" Aguilar received the Teen of the Year Youth Development Award. Longtime Youth Alliance program volunteer Cristina Lopez, was honored as Volunteer of the Year for her service as a leader in social responsibility. The Kiwanis Club of Monrovia was recognized for outstanding support of the Youth Alliance program, a comprehensive personal development program that provides at-risk middle school and high school students with educational guidance, homework help, counseling, leadership training, and spiritual support. Kiwanis Club

member, Julie Gentile Soldo accepted the award on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Monrovia.

Also honored at the dinner, held at the Monrovia Community Center, were more than 20 parents, who received their graduation "diplomas" from the Y's La Academia program. The program launched in December 2009, is geared to educate and connect the Spanish speaker parent to their child and the community through the development of communication skills and self confidence.

At the end of the evening, children and their families were presented with Christmas gifts.

Sponsors for the event were the Santa Anita Family YMCA, City of Monrovia, Tzeitel Paras-Caracci, Donna and Dave Baker, Joann and Jim Spring, Rudy's Mexican Restaurant, Larry Spicer, Kiwanis Club of Monrovia, and Jesus is Lord Christian Center.

Tired of the Grind?

Restlessness is a cruel taskmaster. It drives people with the promise that peace and rest are just around the corner. But there is always more to get done and most energy is spent just trying to catch up. Jesus invited people, weary of life's treadmill, to come to him for the rest they sought. It's an offer he still makes today. Maybe it's time you took him up on it.

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From the desk of the Superintendent

Dr. Dean Conklin, Superintendent,
Duarte Unified School District

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

Here in the Duarte Unified School District, we have much to celebrate, thanks to the dedication and commitment by the students, staff, parents, and the Duarte community. Our district API scores improved by 38 points just in this past year, the largest gain in Los Angeles County. Valley View Elementary received the California School Board Association "Golden Bell Award", and Royal Oaks Elementary is one of just 33 schools in the state to be nominated for National Blue Ribbon status. Every one of the schools in the district is on the move, with a focus on students and instruction that is becoming so well known that neighboring districts are scheduling visits to see what we are doing.



DR. DEAN CONKLIN

A special "thank you" to the entire Duarte community for your support of Measure E in the November 2010 election. This \$62 million facilities bond issue will allow Duarte schools to be fully modernized for the 21st century. The first projects will be to fill in some gaps in our schools that we were unable to complete with the last bond, particularly the addition of a cafeteria at Northview Intermediate School. The district will also be setting aside a portion of the bond funds for a "technology endowment" that will allow Duarte schools to continue acquiring new technology for the classrooms for decades into the future.

All of these accomplishments come as the result of tireless work from our students and staff, and much credit also goes to the leadership of the School Board. Reyna Diaz, Rose Brooks-Mitchell, Frank Figueroa, Ken Bell and President Pam Kawasaki are an integral part of the leadership team here in Duarte, and they set the tone for high expectations.

I consider it an honor to serve as the superintendent of the district. Therefore, it is with very mixed emotions that I inform you that recently, the School Board in the Walnut Valley Unified School District voted to confirm my contract as their new superintendent, effective January 17.

For almost five years, I have served as your superintendent. Without a doubt, this has been the most rewarding experience in my career as an educator. From the first day on the job, I have been impressed with the care and respect that members of the Duarte team have for each other, and for the children of this community. Their dedication is remarkable.

I will miss everyone in the district, as well as the members of the community with whom I have been so closely connected. Thank you for all that you are doing to support the students in Duarte. While I am excited about returning to Walnut, where I worked for more than a decade prior to coming here, I am very much aware of how Duarte is really a team, a family, and I doubt that I will ever be able to find again a group of people as committed to each other, and to kids, as all of you.

Royal Oaks nominated for nation's highest school award

Royal Oaks School has been nominated for the National Blue Ribbon School award, which is the highest national award for school excellence. Only 33 schools in

the state, and only eight in Los Angeles County, were nominated for this award by Jack O'Connell, outgoing State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Duarte students write their own songs with Southland Opera

Students at all five of Duarte's elementary schools and Northview Intermediate are writing their own songs and learning to perform in front of an audience. During the course of the year, Ann Noriel, Executive Director of the Southland Opera will be working with 26 different classes to create their own ten-minute performance and present it to their fellow students.

Noriel, a Duarte resident, works with each class over the course of ten different sessions to write two original songs, put them into a story, create the characters and then make it into an opera. She also helps students find the music that accompanies their story.

In the weeks before the winter break, students at several of the schools performed their finished product in assemblies for the rest of the students. During the performance, the students are also in costumes that reflect the parts of the opera. Usually about five classes perform at a session, so the entire assembly runs for a little over an hour.

Over the course of the year, Noriel will be working with classes ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade, including students in special needs classes. In the intermediate school, she will also be working with students who are enrolled in music classes. In addition to building an interest in the arts, the program also helps students the opportunity to work on academic standards for their grade level, particularly in the English-language arts area.

The program is funded in large

part to a City of Duarte block grant along with support from the California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Weingart Foundation, Target and Walmart.

Noriel is a performing artist herself who has toured nationally with Opera a la Carte. She has served as leader of Southland Opera for the last 14 years and has provided over 7,000 workshops for students all over Southern California.

The schools are looking forward to working with Noriel again next year to provide more opportunities for students to write and perform while learning about opera.

To qualify for the nomination, a school must have met all of its targets for both the state Academic Performance Index (API) and all of the federal Adequate Yearly Performance (AYP) standards of the federal government for the last three years. Royal Oaks achieved an 870 score out of 1000 on the 2010 state API rankings and met all of the targets for federal AYP standard for the school and each numerically-significant sub group, including Hispanic, white, socioeconomically disadvantaged and students with disabilities.

Royal Oaks School qualified by exceeding the goal in each category and is a past recipient of the California Distinguished School award and has won the Title I Academic Achievement Award for the past two years.

"The schools I have nominated have stepped up to the challenge of closing the achievement gap and are deserving of this prestigious national honor," said O'Connell.

The national winning schools are scheduled to be announced next September by the United States Department of Education. To win the award, the schools must pass both a validation visit and meet the state and federal targets for the 2011 tests.



ANDRES DUARTE STUDENTS wearing Santa hats performing their opera in front of other classes just before winter break.



ANNE NORIEL is shown working with Leticia Lozano's class at Maxwell elementary.

Beardslee Hosts Family Fun Night

By Jennifer Janetzke,
Beardslee Principal

Family Fun Night at Beardslee gives families the opportunity to get together, have fun, and simply enjoy being together.

Sparked by a request from parents last year, the Beardslee Parent Staff Association (BPSA) has been organizing the events this school year.

The first activity was held on

November 18 with an evening of games and outdoor activities. The playground was set up for volleyball, tetherball, basketball and riding scooters and bikes.

The cafeteria was filled with energetic rounds of bingo played by students and parents alike, with prizes for those who won donated by the BPSA.

To encourage healthy living, families were encouraged to bring

healthy snacks such as fruit and vegetables, with the BPSA providing popcorn and lemonade. The combination of fresh air and exercise brought out everyone's appetites.

For the second event in early January, a group of astronomers came and set up their telescopes to show the participants the moon, Jupiter and the stars in the Milky Way galaxy.

This allowed students and parents to have fun together while learning about the other bodies in the universe, how telescopes work and what astronomers do. This may even motivate some of the students towards a greater interest in science or even a new hobby.

So far, the events have been a real hit with the children and parents, allowing them to play together, have fun and even learn a few things.

A father-daughter dance on February 9 will be the third installment of family fun night, where girls will be encouraged to bring their fathers or other male family members for a pre-Valentines Day party in the cafeteria.



VICTOR AND BRISA DE LA CRUZ have fun playing Bingo with their mom.



ISAAC RUIZ AND HIS MOM enjoying Beardslee's Family Fun Night together!



PARTICIPATING IN THE BLOOD DONATION drive at Duarte High School are Student Body President Matthew Monge (left) and Duarte School Board Member Kenneth Bell.

Duarte High students save City of Hope over \$30,000

Over \$30,000 in blood costs to the City of Hope were saved by the donation blood by Duarte High School students and staff. Over 120 students and faculty members volunteered to participate in the blood drive, although some were unable to donate for medical reasons. This is even more outstanding since only students over 16 are allowed to give blood.

During the on campus blood drive, a total of 87 units were collected. So many students actually came in to donate blood that the City of Hope had to schedule a day over Christmas break to allow 30 more students to donate bringing the total blood units provided to well over 100.

When the City of Hope has to obtain blood on the commercial market for its medical uses, it costs up to \$300 per pint. By collecting and processing the blood themselves, the City of Hope saves these costs with the funds available for research and other medical uses.

The students and staff stepped up to the plate big time on December 15 with the on-campus blood drive. The drive was coordinated by members of the Leadership class, under the direction of Activities Director Robyn Garcia and Student Body President Matt Monge. The student leader who took the lead in coordinating the drive was Melissa Houlemaarde.

In addition to getting out of class, along with the “free” orange juice and cookies that all blood donors get, every donor received a special t-shirt. All adult donors also received a \$5 In-n-Out gift card. Any Duarte High senior who donates blood three times during the year will also get a special red honor cord to wear at graduation, signifying their blood donor status.

Duarte High School has previously done blood drives, last year getting 80 pints donated. This is the first year that the school has partnered exclusively with the City of Hope, to keep the blood working here in the community.



STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT Matthew Monge giving blood to benefit the City of Hope.

Head Start hosts Male Role Model Day

The Duarte Head Start/State Preschool program held its annual Male Role Model Day with over 110 fathers, grandfathers, uncles and friends visiting and volunteering in classrooms.

“Male Role Model Day” serves to increase greater father and significant male involvement, resulting in positive outcomes and successful relationships for children, parents, schools and communities.

The objectives of the program

includes working with schools and communities to provide programs that engage fathers and positive male figures in the educational and social development of children along with enhancing positive male parenting and involvement with children.

The Duarte Head Start/State Preschool acts as a family resource team for families, communities and schools, while increasing the visibility and outreach of the program.

SWiMS joins the march toward excellence at Northview

*By Todd Turner
Northview Educational Support Specialist*

If you haven’t been on the Northview Intermediate School campus in a while, you may be surprised at the changes that have taken place in recent years. Simply put, the march toward excellence has been steadily growing for quite some time!

The newest addition to Northview’s pursuit of excellence is the School-Wide Management System (SWiMS), a progressive system of discipline based on “infractions.”

Students receive an infraction when they fail to comply with stated “Student Behavior Norms” such as being on time to class, bringing materials, completing homework, having appropriate behavior or following school policies.

Every third infraction carries an automatic consequence progressing from detention to Saturday School, to in-school or at-home suspension.

After the first quarter of the year, 76% of students reported receiving less than eight infractions all quarter, thus serving two or less detentions. In addition, 40% of students reported getting two or less infractions and thus no detentions.

As art teacher Heather Messner points out, SWiMS holds all students accountable for participation in their own education.

The largest categories for infractions, according to a student survey, were homework completion and poor behavior, showing teachers are holding students accountable in these important areas.

All staff enforce the Student Behavior Norms through the infraction system and all students receive the same consequences when they do not meet their obligations.

Again Ms. Messner noted that students know the routine, and that makes discipline smoother. SWiMS is a calm, clear, and consistent approach to building the habits both to be successful as a student and to maintain a safe school environment.

SWiMS is working! Teachers report higher rates of homework completion. Tardies to school have dropped by approximately 30%.

Grade Point Averages have risen across the board, including 7% more students earning above a 3.0 and only two students in the entire school earning under a 1.0 for the first quarter.

Even though according to a student survey, 75% of students reported not “liking” SWiMS, 57% agreed it helps them get to class on time, 60% agreed it helps them behave in class, and 72% agreed it helps them get their homework in!

Northview continues to be on the march toward excellence! SWiMS is helping hold students accountable in this move, while numerous outreach and enrichment activities help balance our discipline system with caring and support.



MAXWELL FIFTH GRADER Bella Sanchez (left) and fourth grader Amber Ingle work with Mt. Olive student Braulio Banuelos (right) on how to play chess.

Experience = Knowledge at Maxwell School

By Esther McDonald, Principal

According to Albert Einstein, “The only source of knowledge is experience”. If that is the case, then the students at Maxwell are on their way to being geniuses like Einstein.

One source of knowledge is the Maxwell Chess Club. In September, the students began playing chess. In a partnership with Mt. Olive High School students, on Tuesday and Thursday morning students come to school early to learn how to play chess. The Mt. Olive students are tutoring Maxwell students, increasing the opportunities for both groups of

students to learn and understand the “Game of Kings.”

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, in Maxwell’s Research and Development Room you will find Manny Gil, our head custodian, also teaching students the intricacies of chess. In order to increase their knowledge through experience, Maxwell students are getting up early or giving up their lunch break as they grow closer and closer to becoming geniuses!

Both pictures are of Mt. Olive High School students teaching students at Maxwell how to play chess.



MT. OLIVE STUDENT Julio Moreno teaching Maxwell fifth grader Jose Reese how to play chess.

Duarte Spring Recreation Classes

The Duarte Recreation Department offers classes for adults, teens, children and families.

Spring recreation classes to be offered will include Acting, Babysitter Training, Ballet, Ballet Fitness, Belly Dancing, Cheerleading, Chess, Computer Training, Cooking the Fun & Healthy Way, Folklorico, Golf, Guitar, Hip Hop Dance, Homework Helper,

Hustle Dance, Kidz Love Soccer, Mini Picasos, Polynesian Dance, Racquetball, Salsa Dance, Scrapbooking, Skateboarding, Tennis, Tumbling, Vocals, Watercolor Workshop, Yoga and Zumba.

Registration for the spring session

of classes begins March 7. Visa and MasterCard are accepted for purchases over \$25. Classes begin March 28.

For information on how to register, please contact the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 357-7931, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. or visit www.accessduarte.com.



BALLET IS JUST ONE of many classes offered to the youth in our community.

Duarte Teen Center

The Center is located at 1400 Buena Vista St. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 3 to 7 p.m. All teens grades 9 through 12 with school ID are welcome. Participation is free but Teen Center registration packets need to be filled out. For more information, please call (626) 303-0863

COMPUTER LAB

The Computer Lab at the Duarte Teen Center is open Monday through Friday, 3 to 6:30 p.m. The lab is equipped with 12 computers and is a great place to enhance computer skills, learn new programs, chat on the Internet, do school work, and play various games.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Duarte

On Friday, February 4 from 7:30-10 p.m. the Duarte Teen Center will be transformed into the rocking hot spot for middle school youth. Live DJ, dancing, food and game room activities. Fee: \$3 admission with middle school ID

Teen Cultural Awareness Training

Thursday, February 24 from 2-4:30 p.m. This activity-based training is designed for youth ages 14-18. Participants will explore cultural differences, discuss respecting and honoring diversity, and examine personal attitudes in regards to intolerance. Call the Teen Center for more information Free!

Northview Day

On March 4 at 3:30 p.m. Northview students can come to the Teen Center for games, tournaments, snacks, and music. Take a tour of the Center and hangout with friends. Free!

TOURNAMENT TUESDAYS!

For the entire month of February the Teen Center will host tournaments every Tuesday! Come and show off your skills for prizes! All tournaments are held at 3:30 p.m. Free!

Ping Pong Tournament

Tuesday, February 1

Pool Tournament

Tuesday, February 8

Dominoes Tournament

Tuesday, February 15

Karaoke Sing Off

Tuesday,

February 22

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Birthday Tuesdays – On the first Tuesday of each month the Teen Center will celebrate the birthdays of all registered teens. Come and enjoy cake for all!

Drama Club – The drama club meets once a week. Club members participate in poetry jams, oratory, skits, and improvisation. Class meets Thursdays from 4-5:30 p.m. Membership fee - \$5 every 6 months

Girls Night Out – This program is for teen girls grades 9-12. Discuss various topics ranging from peer pressure, goals, self esteem, relationships and much more. The group will meet Tuesdays, January 25, February 8 & 22 and March 8 & 22. Free

Movie Mondays – Come relax and enjoy one of the latest movies at the Teen Center! No charge for viewing! January 24, February 7 & 21 and March 7 & 21 from 4-6 p.m.

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

Teen Book Club – Come join the Teen Book Club! The Book Club meets once a month to discuss various books from a designated reading list. Meet new friends and find new adventures in the world of good books! Sign up now book purchase required. Club meets on the first Friday of the month from 4:30-6 p.m.

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, get in incredible shape, 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



BOXERS TRAIN HARD in the Duarte Teen Center Boxing Club.



VALLEY VIEW STAFF proudly showing off their Golden Bell.

Golden Bell Award for Valley View

By Robin Nelson, Principal

Valley View Elementary has received the prestigious Golden Bell award from the California School Boards Association for its In School Intervention Services program. The program was honored in the "Bridging the Achievement Gap" category.

The goal of the daily activity is to ensure that children receive support in reading in a small group setting delivered by a classroom teacher. In School Intervention

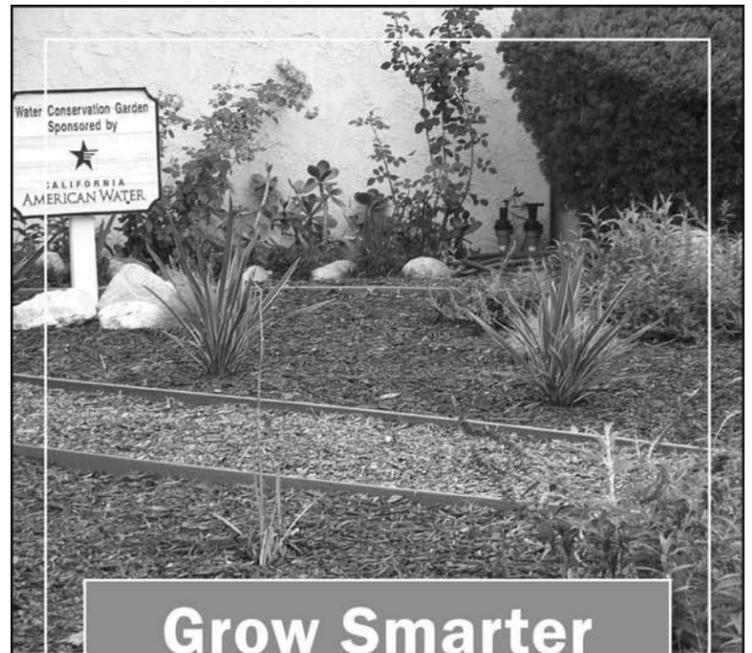
Services has allowed students to improve their reading skills and with that their self-confidence and achievement in other areas.

The program has become part of the Valley View culture and all other school activities are scheduled around the intervention time. This "sacred" time is never interrupted. While many factors contribute to academic success, the In School Intervention Services is an integral part in helping Valley View close the

achievement gap between different racial and ethnic groups.

The Golden Bell program, now in its 31st year, promotes excellence in education by recognizing outstanding programs in school districts throughout California. The awards seek out programs that at sustainable, innovation and exemplary. It tries to recognize educators that invest extra energy and time to make a demonstrated difference for students.

or for a chance to compete against other youth in the United States and at the annual Duarte Boxing Show. The Duarte Teen Center Gym is open Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday from 4 p.m. 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.



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Information about qualifying devices and other details can be found at MWD's and CUWCC's websites or by calling the California American Water conservation line at (626) 614-2536.

MWD WaterSmart Program:
<http://socalwatersmart.com/getyourrebate>
CUWCC Smart Rebates:
www.cuwcc.org/2column.aspx?id=7906

Free Home Water Surveys will help you improve water-use efficiency. A Conservation Specialist will visit your home or business to check for leaks and identify ways you can save water everyday. A free conservation kit with water-saving devices will be yours to keep. To schedule a Home Water Survey, contact our conservation staff today at (626) 614-2536.



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Mt. Olive Gives Back through Community Service-Learning

By Kevin Morris, Principal

How do you instill purpose, pride, and a sense of caring into an individual? You simply show them how to care for others. That is something Mt. Olive students have been doing since beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. Mt. Olive developed a community service-learning program geared at helping those less fortunate in our local community.

Service-Learning is an alternative teaching method that intentionally integrates academic learning opportunities and relevant community service. Through providing service for the community of Duarte, students take part in activities in which both the server and those being served are teaching and learning. Students, staff and the community act as real partners with each playing a crucial role in this learning process.

The students contribute knowledge, energy, and ideas to the community, and in return, the community partners provide the students with real-life experiences. The teachers integrate these experiences into daily lessons to facilitate learning. Service-Learning builds community by developing positive, reciprocal relationships between Mt. Olive High School and the community of Duarte. Mt. Olive is dedicated to developing students into capable learners, critical thinkers and contributing citizens.

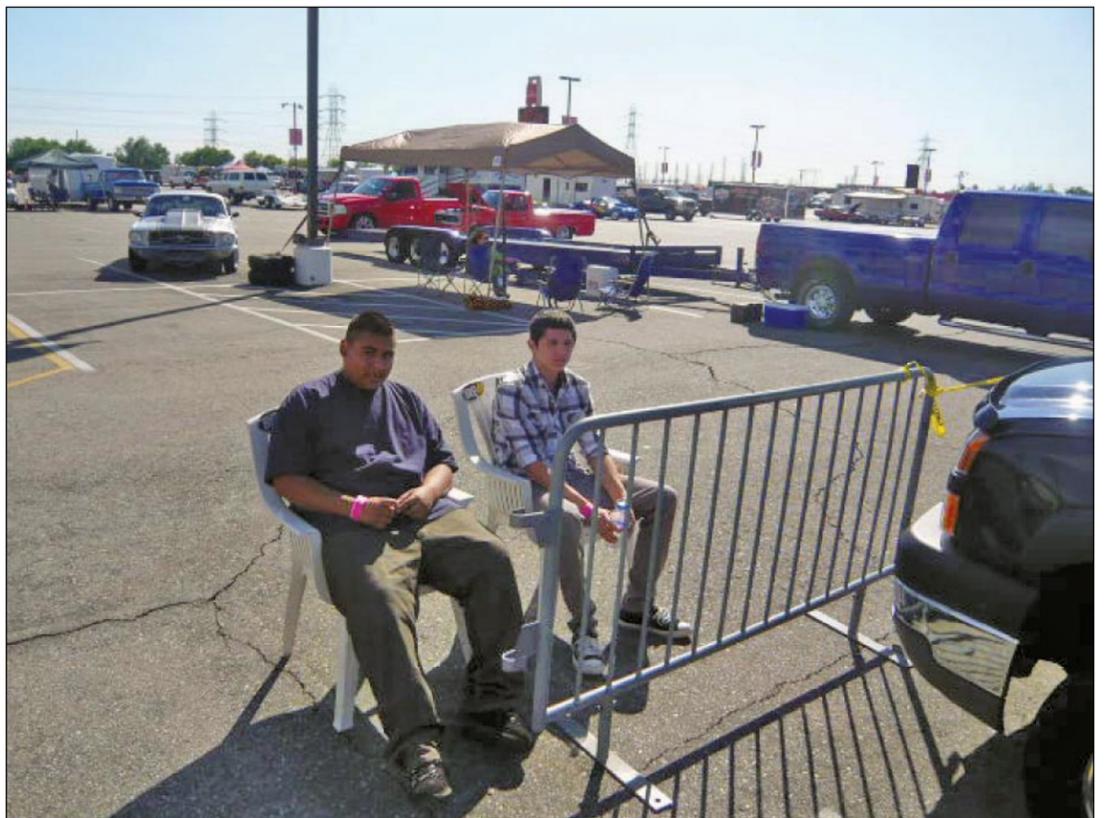
Mt. Olive students serve their community while enhancing their education through the best practices, project-based model referred to as the Environment as an Integrating Context (EIC). EIC is an opportunity for personal growth as it requires students to invest and make a personal commitment to serving others. Students enrolled in our community service-learning program are committed to volunteering no less than 40 hours for the year. The top service-learning volunteer, Leticia Saldana, already completed 93 hours of volunteering.

During the months of October, November, and December, Mt. Olive students participated in the Walk for Hope to Cure Breast Cancer, America's Baby Cancer Foundation event at Irwindale Speedway, were blood platelet donors for the City of Hope, and assisted at the Ann Marie Wings and Waffles Carwash for Brain Cancer hosted at Mt. Olive. Students provided a total of 594 volunteer hours and donated over 40 units of blood platelets during those three months.

Wonderful things happen when you inspire young people to give back, and Mt. Olive High School is a small school giving back in a big way. Mt. Olive is setting the standard, not just for alternative schools, but all schools in the area by making community service-learning part of the school curriculum and culture. That translates into developing meaning and purpose in students that grow-up to be thoughtful and caring human beings.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Chris De La Rosa, Leticia Saldana, Brad Costly, Juan Gonzalez, Principal Kevin Morris, Perla Escobedo, Stephanie Quezada, Giovana Tellez, Yolonda Perez, and James Shamburger at the Walk for Hope.



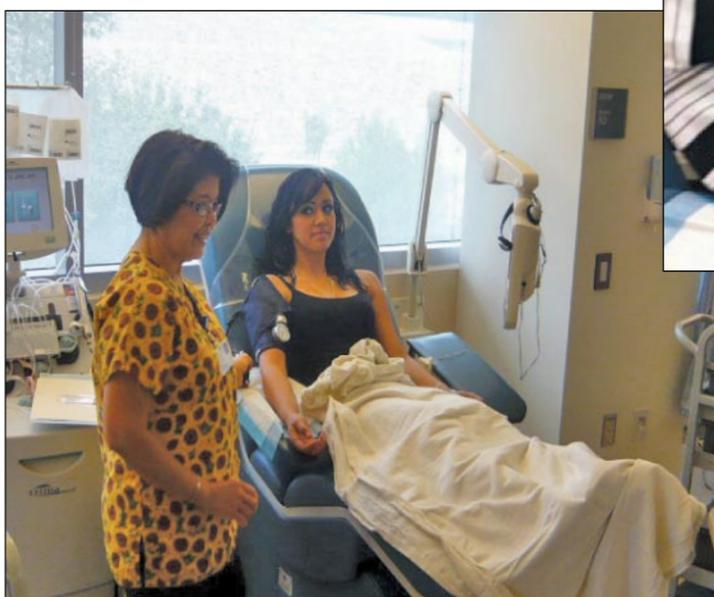
RICHARD SALDANA (left) and Ryan Coulter volunteer as parking attendants at America's Baby Cancer Foundation event at Irwindale Speedway.



LETICIA SALDANA (left) and Christina Rivas stand in front of the blood donation tree at the City of Hope, as they wait to donate blood platelets.



SUVANNE SOTO (left) and Fernando Pereida (above) donate blood platelets to support City of Hope cancer patients.



CHRIS DE LA ROSA mans the rock climbing wall at America's Baby Cancer Foundation event at Irwindale Speedway.

SCE and Gas Company seek approval to increase all Retail rates in 2012

The cost of keeping the lights on and heat burning is likely to increase for residential customers of both Southern California

Edison and Gas Cos. SCE and the Gas Co. have notified its customers, including the City of Duarte, that they have filed separate

applications with the California Public Utilities Commission to increase retail rates for all of its customers.

Every three years utilities are required to forecast the cost of serving customers and, after reviewing such forecasts, regula-

tors set each utility's authorized revenue levels for the following three-year cycle. This is known as a General Rate Case.

SCE anticipates higher utility costs and has requested the equivalent of a 7.55% increase or \$866 million to cover them. The Gas Co. on the other hand, is requesting a total revenue increase of \$308 million or about a 7.4% increase system-wide.

According to SCE, the purposes of the cost increases are to connect new customers to the system and respond to customer requests including undergrounding projects; to reinforce and upgrade the electric system to accommodate load growth; to continue SCE's multi-year capital investment program to replace aging distribution infrastructure and business systems; to meet increased cost for Information Technology (IT) systems such as protection from cyber security threats to electric system assets; and to make a substantial contribution to the employee and retiree pension fund to address the losses in financial markets over the past few years.

The Gas Co. is asking for the increase to be able to continue its investments in and maintenance of the system of pipes and equipment needed to deliver gas to customers; and to maintain the support structure necessary to keep it operating and providing customers with safe, reliable and responsive customer service.

In addition to filing, the approximate 18-month process also requires the utilities to submit evidence to support its position followed by a discovery process which allows the opportunity for parties to review submittals. Another part of the Commission's GRC process is to establish costs, allocate revenues, and design equitable rates for all customer classes. The CPUC will then determine actual changes in rates, if any.

Before acting on the applications, the CPUC will hold public participation hearings open to public comment and evidentiary hearings open to comment by authorized interveners. Comments or concerns about the application should be directed to the CPUC Public Advisor who will circulate comments to the Commissioners and other CPUC staff working on the matter. The public is invited to address comments to: The Public Advisor, California Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Ave. Room 2103 San Francisco, CA 94102, or e-mail comments to: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov. When writing, refer to Application 10-11-015 for SCE and Application A.10-12-006 for the Gas Co., and specify if you would like a response. Otherwise no response will be sent. Based on this process, the final decision will be rendered in either November or December of 2011 with implementation set for January 1, 2012. You may also call 415-703-2014 or toll free at 1-866-849-8390.

Customers may view and download SCE's application and supporting papers on SCE's website, www.sce.com, or request a copy of the materials by sending a written request referring to Application 10-11-015 to Southern California Edison Co., P.O. Box 800, Rosemead, CA 91770, Attention: Case Administration. For Gas Co. application information, call Martha Cendejas at SoCalGas 1-858-654-1766 or view and/or print the application at socialgas.com/regulatory/cpuc.shtml.

Good sledding



MORE THAN 100 KIDS turned out to play in the snow in Duarte Jan. 22. The Duarte Unified School District after school program, THINK Together (Teaching, Helping, Inspiring & Nurturing Kids), had 20 tons of snow trucked into Duarte Park to give kids a fun afternoon of sledding down a man-made hill. Volunteer organizations helping to make Duarte's Snow Day possible were Duarte Kiwanis, Duarte Area Resource Team (D.A.R.T.), and Caring Helping Youth Leading in Life (CHYLL).

Dunking for Ducks



SANTA ANITA FAMILY YMCA senior program director, Wendy Towns, daughter Maya, and Ifhika Nuchhal pluck lucky rubber ducks from the Y swimming pool at the annual Rubber Duck Dunk Fundraiser. The event sponsored by The Montgomery Family, Realtor Donna Baker, New Life Evangelistic Church, Lutz & Company, and K.C. and Tzeitel Caracci raised \$3,000 for the Y's Youth and Government program. Funds will help offset travel costs to Sacramento for local teen delegates to the YMCA Model Legislature and Model Court in February.

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- Tickets available pre-sale - for adults, \$20; seniors and children 6-12, \$15
- At the gate tickets are: adults, \$25; seniors and children 6-12, \$20.

Our growing list of Participants:

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- Cabrera's Mexican Cuisine
- Denny's Ale House Restaurant
- Poppy Bake Shop
- Qdoba Mexican Grill
- Ranchero Mexican Restaurant
- Villa Italia Ristorante

BUSINESSES

- Rancho Duarte Golf Course
- Southern California Edison
- The Gas Company

ORGANIZATIONS

- City of Hope
- Duarte Community Coordinating Council
- Foothill Workforce Investment Board
- Westminster Gardens

www.TasteofDuarte.com



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