

Save \$\$\$ on Prescription Drugs

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008

Duarte View

A bi-monthly community publication of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, in its 88th year of service to the community.

John Fasana Elected Duarte Mayor



MAYOR JOHN FASANA

Duarte City Council members voted unanimously to elect John Fasana, Mayor and Redevelopment Agency Chairman for 2008-2009 and Margaret Finlay, Mayor Pro Tem during the annual reorganization of the City Council on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Mayor Fasana said that his focus this year will be on helping to develop job opportunities for youth and economic opportunities for the City.

Fasana was first elected to the Duarte City Council in 1987 and was reelected in 1991, 1995, 1999, and 2003. He was appointed to a new four year term of office in November 2007, along with fellow council member Lois Gaston when both ran unopposed for re-election.

Fasana has promoted Duarte's interest in transportation, community services, and environmental protection. Fasana previously served as mayor in 1990, 1997 and 2003.

He has represented 30 San Gabriel Valley cities as a director to the Los Angeles County Metro-

politan Transportation Authority (MTA) since its inception in 1993. He represents the City of Duarte in the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and chairs of the transportation committee.

Fasana is employed by Southern California Edison Co.

Finlay was initially appointed to the City Council in 1990 to fill the unexpired term of John Hitt. She has since served three times as mayor. Finlay is past president of California Contract Cities. She serves on the advisory council of the National League of Cities and chairs the International Committee of NLC.

She also serves on the board of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Duarte invites community input at Sign Ordinance Workshop Dec. 18

Residents and members of the business community are invited to share their input at a sign ordinance workshop in preparation for an update to the City's Zoning and Subdivision section of the Duarte Municipal Code.

The workshop conducted by City staff and consultants, Hogle-Ireland will be held Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Dr.

For further information, contact Silvia Hurtado, Duarte Community Development Department, at (626) 357-7931, ext. 239.

Duarte Weekly Farmers Market Open Saturdays



Duarte has launched a weekly farmers market on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The City of Duarte has entered into a contract with Scholastic Gardens, Inc., a non-profit organization headquartered in Burbank, to operate a certified farmers market year-round. The farmers market is located in a portion of a shopping center parking lot at the northeast corner of Huntington Dr. and Buena Vista St.

"Over the years, the community has expressed interest in having a community farmers market. When Scholastic Gardens approached the city with a proposal we decided to try it out," said Deputy City Manager Karen Herrera.

Scholastic Gardens plans to feature approximately 25 to 30 vendors at the outset, offering fresh, naturally-grown produce, natural honey, nuts, preservative-free foods, baked goods and flowers as well as handmade craft items. The market could eventually grow to a capacity of up to 40 vendors, according to the market operators.

Scholastic Gardens currently operates farmers markets in Toluca Lake, Sierra Madre and Monterey Park. According to the organization's mission statement, proceeds from the markets go toward helping local schools provide nutrition education to children. Scholastic Gardens has donated gift certificates to students for free fruit and vegetables as an encouragement to children to explore the benefits of natural foods. Rio Vista Elementary School in Toluca Lake received

donations of plants and seedlings to help start their own school garden where children learned how to grow organic food as part of a class. Scholastic Gardens will be supporting a similar school garden project in Sierra Madre next spring.

The new farmers market in Duarte will accept checks from the Women, Infants and Children Program and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

For more information about the farmers market, contact the market manager, Tanja Castle, at (310) 633-3966 or by email at tcastle@cnfmca.com.

Duarte Christmas Tree Lighting



DUARTE MAYOR JOHN FASANA gets an assist from Santa in lighting the City Christmas tree. About 150 residents attended the Dec. 4 annual tree lighting ceremony and fiesta that included entertainment provided by Mexico Vivo Grupo Folklorico.



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

SAFYMCA Honors Major Donors



THE NONPROFIT Santa Anita Family YMCA inducted the 2008 members of the Chairman's Roundtable Society. Donors who contributed \$1,000 or more to the SAFYMCA's current support campaign were honored at a reception held at Westminster Gardens in Duarte. Contributions to the annual campaign support the YMCA's Financial Assistance Program that ensures that anyone in need of YMCA programs or services can receive them regardless of ability to pay full fee. Among those honored were: (back row, from left) Wendy and Randy Towns, Richard and Stephanie Sullender, Les and Linda Petersen, SAFYMCA CEO, Damon Colaluca, Larry McCurley, William Faith, Patrice Reinhard, Valerie Hansen, Ed Hotchkin, Karen MacNair, and Ulises Gutierrez. (Front Row, from left:) President Chief Volunteer Officer, Donna Baker, Todd Adamson, and Cheryl Reynolds. Not pictured: Ed Beranek and Evelyn Glaser.

Business pros to offer students insight on working world during 7th annual city-sponsored Groundhog Shadow Day

More than 150 Duarte High School students will have the opportunity to spend a day learning about a variety of jobs and careers while they gain valuable insight into the working world, the 7th annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day slated for Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009.

The program is sponsored by the City of Duarte, Duarte's Promise: The Alliance for Youth, the City of Hope, Southern California Edison and Duarte Unified School District.

Students will shadow adult mentors as they go about their normal work day in careers including banking, healthcare, politics, education, journalism, printing, real estate, automotive, retail, food industry and utilities, among others. Duarte City Hall, City of Hope, Royal Oaks Manor, Huntington Courts, Seidner Collision Centers, Jacobsen Development, Westminster Gardens, Duarte Chamber of Commerce, M. E. Sawyer Company, Duarte Unified School District, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Los Angeles County Sheriff, Assemblymember Anthony Portantino, Burrtec Waste Services, Line X of Pasadena and Duarte Sheriff's Substation are among numerous past business and industry participants.

Duarte's 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 at (626) 357-7931, ext. 267.

DYAC 2009 Baseball, Softball Signups

Duarte Youth Athletic Club is currently taking signups for their upcoming 2009 season. Registration will be held on December 6, 13, 20 and January 3 and 10, 2009, for boys and girls ages 4 to 14. Age cut off date, (May 1, 1995-April 30, 2005). A copy of birth certificate is required at registration.



Duarte baseball is affiliated with Pony baseball and interlocks with out cities throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Each registration comes with a complete uniform, basic photo package, and trophy. Sport grants are available for those that meet the city of Duarte criteria.

The league offers all-stars tournaments, 2009 fall/ winter leagues, for those interested in continuing play. Also, there are opportunities for our members to participate in other activities,

such as Major League Baseball National skills competition, Duarte Dodger Family Day and scholarships to our alumni. Just to name a few.

DYAC is always looking for volunteer coaches, board members, and team sponsors.

For more information, please contact Miguel Mejia at (626) 676-8737 or coachmrm@msn.com.

Also, visit our website at www.leaguelineup.com/dyac.

Come out and be a part of DYAC's 55 years of youth baseball / softball in Duarte.

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Duarte View

Volume XXVI • November-December 2008 • No. 6

- Jim Kirchner Editor
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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.

For advertising information and rates, please call the Chamber.

Deadline for articles and ads for the Jan.-Feb. issue is Dec. 18, 2008.

Duarte Chamber of Commerce
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CRAIG HENSLEY

Craig Hensley New Community Develop. Dir.

The City of Duarte has appointed former San Dimas planning manager Craig Hensley to the post of Community Development Director. Hensley replaces longtime community development director Ed Cox who retired last May.

Hensley will oversee a department of 19 employees and be responsible for the City's planning and building operations, redevelopment, engineering and field services. He spent 18 years with the City of San Dimas and prior to that was associate planner and redevelopment project manager for the City of La Verne from 1986 to 1990.

Hensley was raised in Lawrence, Kansas. He received his B.A. degree in Geography from the University of Kansas. In 1984 he moved to California and earned his Masters degree in Urban Planning from Cal Poly Pomona. He and his wife, Tina, reside in La Verne with their four children.

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Duarte to provide residents with easy-to-use program to help save money on prescription drugs beginning Jan. 10

Residents of the city and county area of Duarte will soon be able to save an average of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed prescription drugs through a program provided by the City of Duarte in collaboration with the National League of Cities (NLC).

The city is making free prescription drug discount cards available to all Duarte residents through the NLC sponsored program.

The NLC program is administered by CVS Caremark. The discount cards may be used when purchasing prescription drugs at any of the many local participating pharmacies and more than 59,000 pharmacies nationwide.

There are no restrictions based

on the resident's age, income level, or existing health coverage, and no enrollment fees.

There are also no limits on the number of times the card can be used.

Duarte residents and their family members can use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.

As part of the program, residents will also be eligible for higher discounts on select medications.

"In the current economic climate, where many people are watching what they spend, the NLC prescription discount card will offer significant savings on the purchase of prescription medications for our residents," said Duarte Mayor John Fasana.

"Whether or not an individual has prescription coverage, this program can make it easier for our residents to afford the drugs they need to deal with a short-term illness or stay healthy by managing a chronic condition," said Fasana.

Duarte will roll-out the prescription discount card program on Jan. 10.

The City will make the free, personalized cards available to residents at a number of convenient distribution points throughout the city including Duarte City Hall, Duarte Senior Center, all school sites, Duarte Chamber of Commerce and Duarte Public Safety office.

Residents also have the option of going online at www.caremark.com/nlc and printing an ID card from their own home computer.

The discount cards are easy to use. Residents only have to show their card, along with their prescription when purchasing medication at one of the participating pharmacies that locally include: CVS/pharmacy, Rite Aid, Cantwell Medical Pharmacy, Target, and Wal-Mart in Duarte; Costco in Azusa; and Walgreens and Sav-On in Monrovia.

Residents can learn more about the program by calling toll-free 1-888-620-1749, or by visiting www.caremark.com/nlc.

Additional information is also available on the City of Duarte website: www.accessduarte.com, or by calling City Hall (626) 357-7931, ext. 220.

Dept. of Conservation Launches New Green Gift Guide

WEB SITE OFFERS IDEAS FOR EARTH-WISE GIFTS

Just in time for the holiday season, the California Department of Conservation (DOC) has launched an updated and enhanced version of its online guide to help consumers find eco-friendly gifts and decorating tips.

The DOC created the Green Gift Guide (available at greengiftguide.com) to promote one of the simplest ways to incorporate sustainability into consumer lifestyles – bottle and can recycling – and also provide information and ideas on environmentally preferable products for the home, office, children, pets and the outdoors. Many of the products are made from recycled bottles, cans and other materials, or otherwise incorporate sustainable practices into manufacturing, saving energy and natural resources.

"Beverage container recycling is on the rise, and the Green Gift Guide is an easy way for each of us to close the recycling loop by buying recycled," said Bridget Luther, director of the DOC. "Shopping for recycled content products and other innovative items helps us move toward a more livable world. People may not realize how many wonderful options there are for not only buying sustainable holiday presents, but for year-round shopping as well."

Shoppers can browse through a catalogue of Web sites that feature "green" gifts such as tableware made from recycled glass bottles, a cell phone charger that uses solar energy, low flow shower heads, organic clothing and more.

The site provides tips for the holidays, including eco-friendly ideas for entertaining and New Year's resolutions to help Californians' reduce their carbon footprint. An interactive blog is available for visitors who are looking for additional ideas on how to be environmentally conscious throughout the year. Visitors are encouraged to participate and add their own ideas.

The site allows visitors to suggest additional Web sites that offer eco-friendly products. Users can simply fill out the "Suggest a Product" form and submit it for approval. Guests are also encouraged to send a Green Gift Guide postcard to their friends and families to encourage sustainable purchasing practices.

Californians recycled 7.6 billion beverage containers during the first six months of 2008, 76 percent of the 10 billion sold in the state. That was a 5 percentage point increase over 2007. By recycling billions of aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles during that time, Californians decreased greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to eliminating the energy consumption of 11,000 households for one year.

Greengiftguide.com and all other aspects of the state's beverage container recycling program are paid for with unclaimed refunds of CRV beverage containers, at no cost to the state's general fund.

For more information, visit www.conservation.ca.gov.

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Duarte/Naval Special Warfare Sailor Chris Arredondo promoted to Chief Petty Officer

Many Sailors strive to achieve it but very few make it in less than 10 years. Achieving the rank of chief petty officer in the United States Navy is no easy task. It takes years of dedication, consistent outstanding performance, and meticulous attention to detail.

The majority of chiefs who make rank in less than a decade of service belong to the nuclear community or Special Forces.

Now Naval Special Warfare Command can consider itself lucky as one of its hospital corpsmen was selected to wear this prestigious rank.

And he did it in just six years.

Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF/SW) Christopher E. Arredondo, Jr., the son of Christopher and Mina Arredondo of Duarte, found out he was selected as a chief petty officer while he was on leave in Sequoia National Park, CA.

"I wasn't sure if I heard correctly," said Arredondo. "So I asked again. Even after hearing it again, it took a few days for it to set in that I was going to be a chief!"

It was also a pleasant surprise because the results came out on his 24th birthday, making him one of the youngest chiefs to be inducted into the chief petty officer community.

But he did not accomplish this by luck. Raised in Duarte, Arredondo, a 2002 graduate of Duarte High School, was influenced to go into the medical field by his sister, Melissa.

"I wanted to go into the medical field since high school," said Arredondo. "My sister was going through college to become a nurse and that influenced me. I went to college while in high school and became a certified nurse's assistant. I graduated when I was 17 and joined the Navy and became a hospital corpsman (HM)."

Arredondo said he joined the Navy because he wanted to experience life in the medical field before making a definite career decision.

"I had always heard that a lot of people switch majors and decide that their original major is not for them," said Arredondo. "So before I went on to college I wanted to make sure that the medical field was right for me. The Navy seemed like the best way to find out."

After completion of basic recruit training at Great Lakes, IL, in 2002, he went on to hospital corpsman school.

While waiting for his class to begin, a program called the Accelerated Pace Program was put into place at the school for fleet returnees.

The program was a rigorous independent study program that required students to complete the curriculum faster than the normal 14-week program.

Since he already had his certification as a nurse's assistant, Arredondo applied for the program and was accepted.

He then accelerated at a remarkable pace, becoming a class leader over two senior petty of-



UNITED STATES NAVY Chief Petty Officer Chris Arredondo, Jr. of Duarte, during his promotion with his father, Chris Arredondo, Sr. and sister Rosie pinning on his new rank.

What is C.H.Y.L.L.?

By Gonzalo Lozano

C.H.Y.L.L. (Cardinals Helping Youth Live Life) is the newest club in the city of Duarte committed to community service and engaging in adolescent interests.

C.H.Y.L.L. promises development in job and leadership skills. Affiliated closely with the Duarte Public Safety Sheriff Satellite

Station, the Duarte Area Resource Team (D.A.R.T) and in collaboration with Northview Intermediate School, C.H.Y.L.L. will exclusively accept applications for students currently attending Northview either in the seventh or eighth grade. In order to maintain eligibility the participant must commit to maintain at least a "C" average in school and willing to positively impact the community.

D.A.R.T. a high school club for teens that will closely work with C.H.Y.L.L. to mentor and facilitate the development of the program. President Gonzalo Lozano and Chairperson David Bugarin of D.A.R.T comment "we both believe in the impact this program will have to our community, we can't wait to share our leadership skills with CHYLL members. We are excited!"

Many of the activities C.H.Y.L.L. members will take part of will be under supervision of the Duarte Public Safety personnel and Deputy Probation Officer Paul Villegas. C.H.Y.L.L. members will have the opportunity to impact their community by participating in community service at least once a month.

Not all is work and the Public Safety Department is aware of it, C.H.Y.L.L. members will also have the opportunity to attend recreational activities with their friends.

Knowing the positive impact the D.A.R.T. program has had in the community, many are eager for C.H.Y.L.L. to start partaking in community events. Samantha Agundez, an eight-grade student at Northview Intermediate created CHYLL. Her entry to this logo competition was chosen out of 10 other outstanding ideas. "C.H.Y.L.L." impressed the program supervisors and won her an Ipod sponsored by Target.

If you are interested in joining C.H.Y.L.L. contact Aida Torres, Duarte's Crime Prevention Specialist, at (626) 357-7938 ext. 316.



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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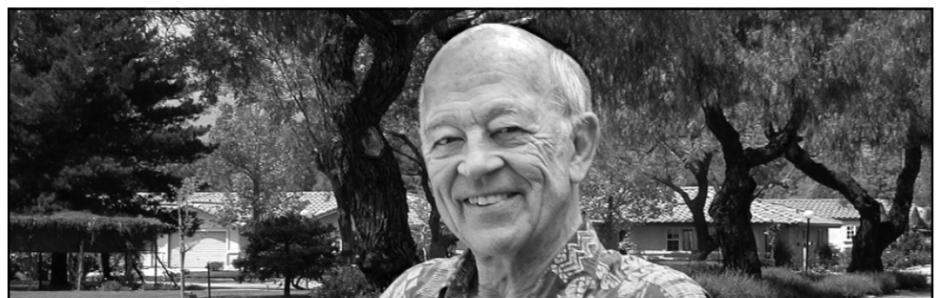
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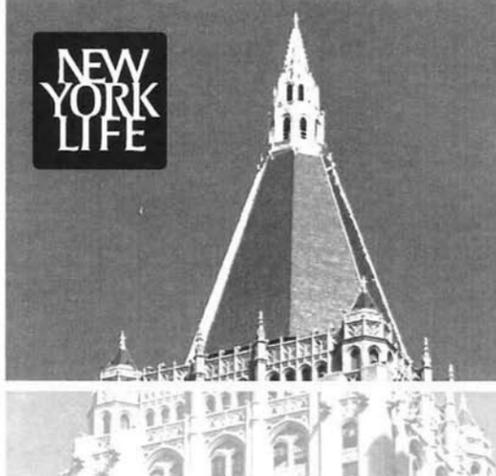
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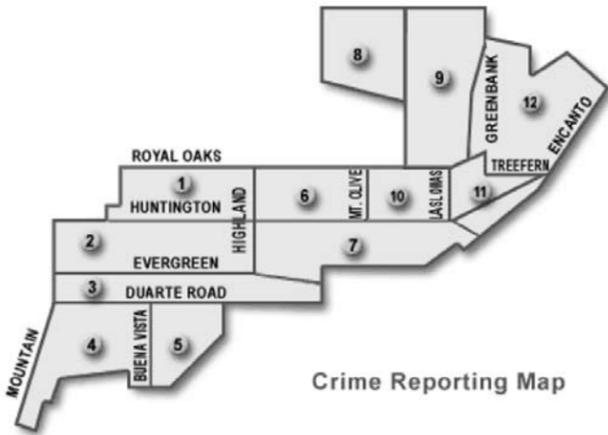
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Holiday Toy Drive!



CORRECTION ON AUGUST 2008:

There were five reported Home Burglaries (not the originally four reported)

1500 Block of Three Ranch Road – Area 3

Between Monday, August 25, and Tuesday, August 26, the unknown suspect(s) entered the home after removing a window and stole four rifles.

SEPTEMBER 2008

1300 Block of Pengra Street – Area 5

Between Thursday, September 12, and Monday, September 15, the unknown suspect(s) entered the home through an unlocked door and stole three watches, 2 gold necklaces, and \$70 in currency.

1900 Block of Chesson Street – Area 6

Between Saturday, September 13, and Sunday, September 14, the unknown suspect(s) entered the secure home after prying a window open and stole a laptop computer, and two X-box game consoles.

Let's join together in celebrating the season with others through the Neighborhood Watch Annual Toy Drive!

This is a perfect opportunity to invite new and long time neighbors to come together and give back to your community.

Please donate new and unwrapped toys to benefit the Duarte Community Service Council in their commitment to serve the less fortunate in Duarte with food and other necessities.

The council relies on local community support to help families in need enjoy a winter season with extra food for the table and gifts for children.

Contact the Duarte Public Safety Office for more information in planning your neighborhood's toy drive.

Gatherings can take place through a coffee night, potluck gathering, dessert exchange or other special event. Deputies can also be available to stop visit your gathering to collect donated toys.

All new and unwrapped toys should be delivered to the Duarte Public Safety Office by Monday, December 8, 2008.

For more information, call the Duarte Public Safety Office at (626) 359-5671, ext. 316. To learn how you can volunteer to help the Duarte Community Service Council call (626) 359-9487.

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 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 20 years.

To request harvesters for the next Local Harvest Day, call (626) 359-5671, ext. 475.

"It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently."

– Warren Buffett, investment guru

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES YEAR TO DATE			
September 2008			
Area	2008	2007	2006
1	0	0	0
2	0	0	1
3	0	0	0
4	0	1	0
5	1	0	0
6	1	0	0
7	0	3	1
8	0	0	0
9	0	0	0
10	0	0	0
11	0	0	1
12	0	0	0
September	2	4	3
Jan. to Sept.	38	35	20
Year End Totals	Unk.	48	25

Happy Holidays from the Sheriff's Department

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department would like everyone to have a happy holiday season. To that end, Temple Station will have an increased presence on the streets of Duarte. To prevent injury and harm to the citizens, additional deputies will be assigned with the specific duty to seek out D.U.I. (Driving Under the Influence of drugs and/or alcohol) drivers.

D.U.I. drivers could be impaired after drinking only one drink and could be arrested. D.U.I. check points and special assigned patrols have proven successful in making arrests and reducing the number of dangerous D.U.I. drivers on our streets.

Also, special assigned deputies from the Duarte Sub-Station will be added during the holidays to patrol the city's shopping centers to add increased security to the shoppers and businesses.

DUARTE WELCOMES . . .

Sergeant Debbie Herman

The City of Duarte welcomes newly assigned Sergeant Debbie Herman as the satellite station's supervising Sergeant. She will be directing Deputies working in the field and on the Special Assignment team. We are lucky to have Sergeant Herman on our team, as she brings with her 28 years of law enforcement experience. She was a former Los Angeles County Marshal and, since the merger in 1994, she has worked for the Los Angeles Sheriff Department in several assignments. She holds an Associate of Science degree from Riverside Community College.

In her professional career she served the Los Angeles County Marshal for over 14 years. She provided enforcement services in and out of the Municipal and Federal courtrooms, contributing to the administration of justice in Los Angeles County. She worked directly in the courts for seven years then moved to an assignment where she served bench warrants in South Central Los Angeles. During this tough assignment she worked directly with the Los Angeles Police Department and Federal Warrant Task Force. Following this assignment she was a Field Training Officer for new warrant deputies. Immediately after the merger, she was in the first group of Los Angeles County Marshals to go to patrol. Previous assignments with the Los Angeles Sheriff Department include working patrol at both Walnut and San Dimas Stations, followed by an assignment as Detective at San Dimas Station. In 2000, she promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to Los Angeles County USC Medical Center Jail Ward.

Sergeant Herman has worked in and around the Duarte area since 2003. She requested to transfer to the Duarte Sub Station when the opportunity became available. She strongly believes that the City of Duarte is one of the most progressive cities in the foothill area. She enjoys the small town atmosphere and is looking forward to working closely with residents. She explains that she finds that communication between the Duarte Unified School District, City Officials and staff, as well as other law enforcement agencies in the area, is exceptional. She also points out that it is this close-knit relationship that makes it a pleasure to work together toward the common goal of serving the community.

As the LA County Sheriff Department's new liaison to the City of Duarte, Sergeant Herman further explains that the key to lower crime rates is not within any one particular program or effort, but rather the key is to have all facets of the community working together toward lowering crime – "We're all connected."

She reminds all citizens to "Please be aware of your surroundings. Trust your instincts. If you think something is wrong just make a call NEVER be afraid to call us. Remember you can always remain anonymous." To leave an anonymous tip, please call the anonymous tip line. Be prepared to leave a voice mail at (626) 359-5671 ext. 462.

Sergeant Debbie Herman can be contacted at the Sheriff's Satellite Station at (626) 359-5671 ext. 304.



SERGEANT DEBBIE HERMAN

Statistician Sonja Tanner

Updated October 27, 2008

New Helmets for Duarte Kids only \$5!

Duarte youth between 3 to 18 years of age qualify to purchase Helmets for only \$5 at the Public Safety Office (in the Target Shopping Center Office) every Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The parent or guardian must accompany the child and show proof of Duarte residency. The helmet will be properly fitted onto the youth to ensure their safety.

For more information, call (626) 357-7938.



Before chilly nights set in, The Gas Co. says now is the time to check the furnace

With the arrival of fall, Southern California Gas Co. (The Gas Company) is advising customers to inspect their home-heating appliances and perform any needed maintenance rather than wait for the first major cold front.

"Now is the time to perform maintenance on home-heating appliances to ensure safe operation," said Richard Morrow, vice president of customer service at The Gas Company. "If customers think their heating appliances are not functioning properly, they should call a licensed heating contractor, plumber or The Gas Company."

Failure to perform annual maintenance on gas appliances may result in exposure to carbon monoxide, which can cause nausea, drowsiness, flu-like symptoms, and even death.

This winter's home-heating bills are expected to be about the same as last year, or slightly lower.

Since home heating typically accounts for more than half of the monthly winter gas bill, the best way to keep winter gas bills lower – and ensure appliances are operating safely – is to get gas appliances serviced, Morrow said.

The Gas Company offers customers the following tips to ensure the safe and efficient operation of their natural gas furnace:

- Have gas furnaces checked at least once a year by The Gas Company, a licensed heating contractor or plumber.
- Vacuum and clean regularly around the furnace, particularly around the burner compartment to prevent a build-up of dust and lint.
- Never store items in, on or around the appliance that can obstruct airflow.
- Most forced-air units have a filter that cleans the air before heating and circulating it throughout the home. The filter should be checked monthly for lint build-up during periods of furnace use and cleaned or replaced, if necessary.
- When installing a new or cleaned filter, be sure to re-install the front panel door of the furnace properly so it fits snugly. Never operate the furnace without the front-panel door properly in place because doing so may create the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Check the appearance of the flame. If the flame is yellow, large and unsteady, the furnace needs

Duarte Youth Vote NO on Drugs!

Red Ribbon Week 2008 kicked off on October 27, 2008. The Duarte Area Resource Team, (D.A.R.T.), youth volunteers marched along Huntington drive and decorated it with bright red ribbons to remind us how special this week is.

From October 27-31, Duarte celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Communities around the country set aside one week out of the year, to celebrate the cause and acknowledge what DEA agent Enrique Camarena died fighting for. Putting a stop to drugs!

Since 1985, the Red Ribbon week has been an ongoing campaign to raise awareness about



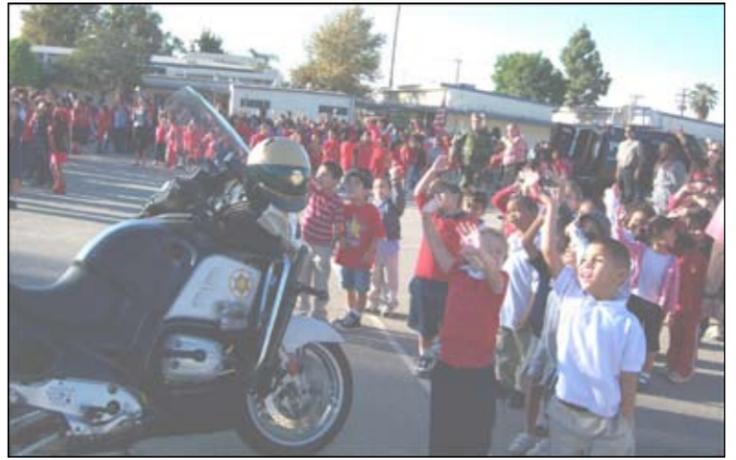
SHERIFF DEPUTY MARCELO SEPULVEDA with Anita Oaks Students.

substance abuse among youth.

This year the Duarte Unified School District, Duarte Public Safety and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department teamed up to promote activities and educate the youth of Duarte to the dangers of drugs.

The City of Duarte adopted, "Elect to be Drug Free! Vote for a Drug Free Life!" as this year's theme. This was the inspiration for poster contests, art contests, and essay contests throughout the Duarte Unified School District.

Classroom Poster Contests were held at each of the 5 Duarte elementary schools. Each winning classroom received an ice cream party hosted by School Resource Deputy Robert MacLean. Northview Intermediate School held a Red Ribbon Week Essay and a Poster Contest. Four seventh and



ANDRES DUARTE STUDENT BODY waving up at the LAPD Helicopter who visited them for Red Ribbon Week Assembly.

eight grade students received a saving account at SCE Federal Credit Union in the amount of \$50. Mount Olive and Duarte High School each held an art contest and an essay contest.

The event was graciously sponsored by our local business SCE Federal Credit Union who presented contest winners with a student savings account. Thank you SCE FCU!



DART MEMBERS Corina Sanchez and Courtney Spicer decorating Huntington Drive.

to be inspected immediately by a licensed heating contractor or plumber or The Gas Company and the condition corrected to ensure safety.

For more information on furnace safety, please visit The Gas Company's Web site at www.socalgas.com.

Southern California Gas Co. has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 140 years.

It is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing safe and reliable energy to 20.1 million consumers through 5.6 million meters in more than 500 communities.

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The Gas Company is a regu-

lated subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE). Sempra Energy, based in San Diego, is a Fortune 500 energy services holding company.

To learn more, go to www.socalgas.com.

"The history of man is a graveyard of great cultures that came to catastrophic ends because of their incapacity for planned, rational, voluntary reaction to challenge."

– Erich Fromm, psychoanalyst, social theorist

"It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out; it's the grain of sand in your shoe."

– Robert W. Service, poet, writer

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Dallas 904 N. Highway 90 Mabank, TX. 75147 FAX (903) 887-524E (903) 887-7317

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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.

LUNCH

The Senior Center serves lunch Monday through Friday at 12 p.m. to individuals over 60 years of age or the spouse of someone over age 60 for a suggested donation of \$2 per person. You must be checked in with the front desk by 11:45 a.m., or your lunch will be given to someone on the waiting list.

Reservations are required 24 hours in advance, and for "choice day," reservations are required 48 hours in advance. Call (626) 357-3513 for reservations.

ACCESS TRANSPORTATION

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

RED CROSS MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM

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 Intervale at (626) 858-8382.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

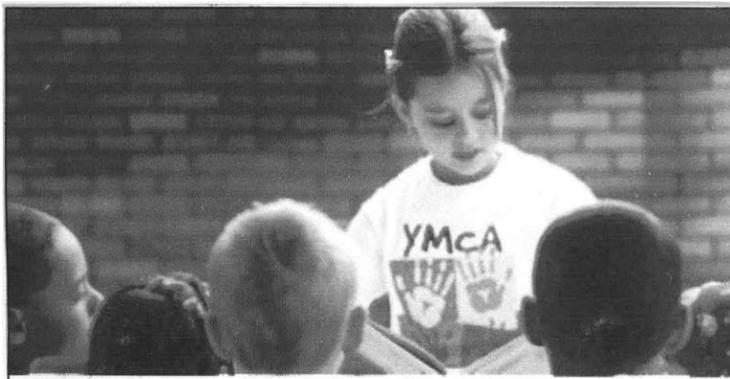
The Duarte Senior Center is always in need of volunteers to help with food preparation, serving, table setups, craft projects, decorating, help at special events, etc. If you would like to give back to the community by volunteering, please contact Kelly at the Senior Center (626) 357-3513.

EXCURSIONS

Registration Procedures!

Registration for all excursions will be held at Duarte City Hall beginning Dec. 8. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. for residents with proof of residency, and 9 a.m. for all others. A driver's license, California ID, or utility bills will be accepted as proof of residency. Proof of residency required for all participants. No more than 4 participants can be registered at one time.

Brochures are available at City Hall or the Senior Center. The brochure will give you in-depth information about the following trips: Sam & Alfreda Maloof Home & Garden Tour and Graber Olive House Tour, Thurs., Jan. 9, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., \$ 43; San Manuel Casino, Wed., Jan. 21, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., \$15; Kingston Trio at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium, Sat., Feb. 7, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., \$ 60; Agua Caliente Casino, Thurs., Feb. 26, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., \$25; Sony Picture Studios Tour and Wheel of Fortune Taping, Thurs., March 19, 10:30 a.m.-6:45 p.m., \$53; and Los Angeles Police Academy and LAPD Museum, Tues., March 31, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



It's 4:02 in the afternoon
You don't have to worry
You know where your kids are
And they couldn't be in better hands



YCHILD CARE

Santa Anita Family YMCA 501 S. Mountain Avenue
Monrovia, CA 91016 626.359.9244

Duarte's Promise to honor Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday with community beautification project

A major theme in the life of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was to urge people to join hands and work together for positive change. For the eighth year, to commemorate King's birthday, Duarte teens, members of the local business community, city staff, school district, and others will honor King's legacy by setting their hands on shovels and rakes and planting greenery to help beautify an area of the city.

The 8th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Beautification Project, sponsored by Duarte's Promise: The Alliance for Youth, will start the event at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009 with a continental breakfast at the Duarte High School Cafeteria sponsored by Joe's Place of Duarte. A special Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program, featuring the First Baptist Church of Duarte Choir and guest speaker Dr. Sandra Thomas, a friend of the late civil rights leader, will be hosted by Duarte Mayor John Fasana.

Volunteers will then walk to the corner of Central Ave. east of Santo Domingo to plant 10 five-gallon Mexican purple sage, 10 five-gallon Purple fountain grass, and complete soil prep work donated by Cal-American Water Co., who is also supplying both bottled water and volunteers for the event as well.

The annual MLK Beautification Project is one of a number of special projects, programs and events sponsored by Duarte's Promise: the Alliance for Youth. For additional information, please contact (626) 357-7931, ext. 268.

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Duarte, CA 91010

Events Coming up:
December 21: 2:30pm
Children's Christmas Party—FREE!! Puppet Show, pictures w/ Santa, gifts & Snacks
December 21: 3:30pm
Hoop Shoot Competition
Chance to compete for national awards. Open to Boys & Girls 8-14yrs.
December: Food drive & distribution to needy families in Duarte

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We know it's hard... LET US HELP YOU!

Duarte Community Service Council getting help from local organizations and businesses to provide Christmas gifts, food to needy

The Duarte Community Service Council (DCSC), along with help from the Duarte Elks, Duarte Emblem Club, and Boy Scout Troop #185, is gearing up for its major project of the year—Christmas Baskets for needy local families and seniors. It is expected that 250 families will be helped this year. Distribution day is Dec. 20 and will include boxes of food, Ralph's gift certificates, and toys and clothes for the kids.

In addition to money from donations and fund-raising projects during the year, food, toy and cash donations have come from the above organizations plus a lot of help from J.P.L., Duarte Woman's Club, and local merchants who also helped collect food donations. Drop off locations for food and toys are located throughout the community, including at the Duarte Chamber of Commerce office.



PICTURED ARE SOME of the many community participants providing and collecting toys to be given out to the needy by the Duarte Community Service Council this Christmas. Clockwise from lower left are: Dorothy Smith, DCSC President; Cynthia Johnson (DCSC); Mary Haynes (DCSC and Emblem Club); Frank Haynes (DCSC); Arlene Bragger (Duarte Emblem Club); Scott Wand (Duarte Elks); Annette Coe (Emblem Club); Leon Stegall, Exalted Ruler, Duarte Elks; Alton Preston (DCSC); Ruth Purbaugh (DCSC and Emblem Club); Willie Bowie (DCSC); and Boy Scout Ryan Suba.

Foothill Family Service opens new family center for at-risk children and families

It is estimated that over 5,000 people are living on the streets in communities throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Many of those homeless are victims of abuse or suffer from mental health problems.

The city of Duarte, along with many foothill communities, see the impact of homelessness played out on their streets.

One way to help combat the increase of homelessness is early intervention through community-based programs and services.

Now, Duarte area children and families have convenient access to life-altering programs and treatment through Foothill Family Service.

The non-profit agency has been providing life-changing treatment and mental health services to thousands of at-risk children and families in the foothill communities for the past 82 years.

Foothill Family believes in working with the entire family unit to build brighter futures for both the children and their families.

To commemorate the Grand Opening of Foothill Family Service's newest Family Center in Duarte, more than 80 community and business members gathered together for the celebration.

The Center provides a welcoming, family-oriented space with room for individual and group therapy, including domestic violence and mental health treatment.

"We are very excited to expand our services to include the Duarte community," expressed Helen Morran-Wolf, Executive Director of Foothill Family Service. "The Family Center offers a full range of services, including Early ES-TEEM Services for children 0-5, Adolescent Family Life Program



FOOTHILL FAMILY SERVICE ribbon cutting ceremony participants were: (from left) Kathy May, Inland Community Bank; Lerna Kayserian, Office of Assemblymember Anthony Portantino; Brian Urias, Office of Congresswoman Hilda Solis; Brenda Davis, Office of Supervisor Michael Antonovich; Debbie Gewertz, Duarte Chamber of Commerce; Phillip Chen, Office of Supervisor Michael Antonovich; Helen Morran-Wolf, Foothill Family Service; Terri Burns, Duarte Family Center; Stephen Watkins and Todd Molz, Foothill Family Board of Directors; Beth Petermann and Diana Burckhard, Duarte Chamber of Commerce.

for teen parents, parent education, and family counseling."

Although the Duarte Family Center began providing services to the community in March 2008, the grand opening was the official introduction of the agency to the city.

The Family Center is located at 1801 Huntington Drive and shares the building with the Inland Community Bank.

Last year, approximately 18,400 children and their families benefited from Foothill Family Service's life-changing services.

The agency provides a wide-range of programs and services to low-income, at-risk children and families in the San Gabriel Valley.

Programs include Mental Health and School-Based Coun-

seling for Children, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment, Early Child Development Programs, Services for Pregnant Teens and their babies, Family Counseling, and Youth Development.

For more information, please call (626) 564-1613 or look online at www.foothillfamily.org.

"To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and a free mind."

Pearl S. Buck, author, civil rights activist, humanitarian

One volunteer is better than 10 forced men.

— African proverb

Catalina Cardona Valenzuela, Lifelong Duarte Resident, Volunteer Dies; City Named a Park After Her in Honor of Her Community Service

Lifelong Duarte resident and dedicated community volunteer Catalina "Lena" Cardona Valenzuela has passed away at the age of 72. Valenzuela died on October 21 at Santa Teresita Manor in Duarte following a long illness.

In 2005, the City of Duarte dedicated the Lena Valenzuela Park, at 2120 Mountain Ave., in honor of the beloved Duarte native, a humble and shy woman who let her many volunteer activities on behalf of community organizations speak for her.

"She was a peaceful warrior who left a long legacy of serving children, the poor and the underserved. Her dedication and commitment to community is a model for us to replicate," said longtime friend and Duarte Mayor, Phil Reyes.

Valenzuela was born Nov. 17, 1935, the youngest of 12 siblings. Her parents Luis and Guadalupe Cardona settled in Duarte "some-time around 1918," according to her sister, Bea Cardona, when the area was largely citrus groves, ranches and country roads.

Luis Cardona supported his family working for 40 years as a caretaker of the former Woolwine



LENA VALENZUELA

Estates, an avocado ranch located in what is now Bradbury.

In 1955, Lena married Antonio Valenzuela and the couple chose Duarte in which to raise their seven children: Victor, Victoria, Antonio Jr. (Tony), Robert, Danny, Juan, and Louis.

While family life kept her busy as a homemaker, Lena always found time to contribute volunteer service to the community she loved.

Close to her heart was working as a volunteer with the non-profit Duarte Community Service Council to assist needy families

and coordinate summer camp experiences through the Salvation Army Camp for Duarte children who otherwise might not have the opportunity.

Her concern for children also extended to their education and she served for many years on the Duarte Student Attendance Review Board.

She was also active with the Duarte chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), United Way, and Neighborhood Watch.

Valenzuela is survived by her seven children, eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, siblings Bea Cardona, Celia Cardona, Luis Cardona, and a niece, Hermenia Gonzalez.

A special mass was held at Immaculate Conception Church on October 25 with burial services immediately following at Live Oak Cemetery in Monrovia.

The Valenzuela family requested donations be made in Lena's honor to the Duarte Chapter of LULAC, P. O. Box 244, Duarte, CA 91009-0244.



Duarte Recreation Class Registration

The Duarte Parks and Recreation will begin taking registration for Winter Recreation classes on Monday, December 8. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Mail in registrations may be sent to the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department, 1600 E. Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010-2592. Please include the participant's name, address, daytime telephone number, age, class, time, and class fee. If you would like a receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. (Registrations received prior to December 8 will be returned.) You can also register by phone with Visa or MasterCard for purchases over \$30 beginning Tuesday, December 9, (626) 357-7931. Classes will begin the week of January 5.

A variety of youth, family, and adult classes will be offered. Classes include: ABC's of Children Managing Money; Amazing Arts; Ballet; Belly Dancing; Cheer & Dance; Dog Obedience; Folklorico; Golf; Guitar; Healthy Cooking; Journeys to the Center of the Earth; Karate; Kids Love Soccer; Mini Picassos; Polynesian Dance; Racquetball; Salsa Dance; Skateboarding; Story Theater for Performance; Tennis; Theater Workshop; Tumbling; Watercolor Workshop and Youth CPR, First Aid and Babysitter Training.

For more information, please contact the Duarte Recreation Department at (626) 357-7931, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Gift Certificates for recreation classes are available, and they make great holiday gifts!



IF SHOOTING HOOPS is something you like to do, come join the Duarte Recreation Department's basketball leagues.

Duarte Fitness Center



KEEP IN SHAPE this holiday season at the Duarte Fitness Center.

The City of Duarte Fitness Center will be having their biggest sale of the year, December 1 through December 31. Annual memberships for Duarte residents start as low as \$100 with no monthly fees! The Fitness Center offers racquetball, swimming (seasonal), aerobic classes, and a fully equipped exercise room. For more information call the Duarte Fitness Center at (626) 357-6118.

Duarte Recreation Holiday Activities

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND SANTA'S WORKSHOP

The Duarte Rotary Club will hold its annual Breakfast with Santa Claus on Saturday, December 6, at the Duarte Community Center. Santa Claus will be making a special trip to Duarte from the North Pole to meet with Duarte kids and find out what they would like for Christmas.

A delicious pancake and sausage breakfast will be served, and pictures with Santa Claus will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children ages 10 and under. Tickets can be purchased at Duarte City Hall, the Duarte Satellite Station, or from any Duarte Rotary Club member.

Santa's Workshop: After enjoying their breakfast, children in attendance are invited to Santa's Workshop at the Community Center Lounge to make decorations and crafts for the holidays. **FREE!**

For further information, please call (626) 357-7931.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING AND FIESTA

Begin the holiday season with this fun family special event! The official City of Duarte Christmas Tree is a beautiful 35-foot living Redwood tree that has been growing for years in front of the Duarte Senior Center.

Join the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department on Thursday, December 4, from 6:30-8 p.m. (tree lighting at 8 p.m.) at the Duarte Senior Center for this special holiday event.

We will celebrate the season with musical performances featuring cultural dancers, carolers and a few surprises. Additionally, a traditional tamale dinner including two tamales, rice, beans, chips and a soda will be served for only \$5 per person. Santa Claus will be in town at the tree lighting, so bring your little elves to play games, make holiday crafts, and talk to Santa Claus! The Duarte Senior Center is located in the Duarte Town Center at 1610 Huntington Drive.

For more information please call (626) 357-7931.

SANTA'S MAILBOX
This holiday sea-

son Santa will have a mailbox located at the Recreation Department in City Hall.

Letters may be deposited there or mailed to 1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010-2592, Attn: Santa Claus. A return address & phone number should be included with the letter. All letters will be forwarded to the North Pole and will be answered by letter by Santa. Letters will be accepted December 1st through December 11th.

For more information, please call (626) 357-7931.

SANTA'S HOTLINE

Now you can call Santa Claus directly! Call the North Pole and talk to the one and only Santa Claus on Thursday, December 16 from 3-5 p.m.

Don't miss out! Call (626) 358-5425.

SANTA'S VISIT AND HOLIDAY PARTY

Santa will visit Beardslee Park from 2:45-3:15 p.m. followed by a visit to Royal Oaks Park from 3:30-4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, before heading to the Duarte Community Center at City Hall for Santa's Holiday Party.

The Duarte Recreation Department will get your children into the holiday spirit with a very special event.

Santa's Holiday Party will be held at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 E. Huntington Drive on Wednesday, December 10, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

There will be holiday games, crafts, music, prizes, and refreshments, and a visit from Santa Claus!

RSVP for this free event by calling the Parks and Recreation Department at 357-7931. Limited to the first 80 participants.



VISIT SANTA in his sleigh at the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department holiday activities!



CHILDREN ENJOY participating in the tumbling class.

Duarte Parks and Recreation Youth Sports

BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUES

The Duarte Parks and Recreation Department will begin taking registration December 8 for Youth Basketball leagues for boys and girls.

Games will begin in January and children born in years 1995-2000 are eligible to play.

Practice sites will include Beardslee Park, Royal Oaks Park, Encanto Park, Andres Duarte School and Northview School.

The fee is only \$20 and includes a T-shirt uniform.

For more information, please call (626) 357-7931.

A BIG THANKS to all of the contributors & supporters of the City of Duarte's Parks and Recreation Department's Summer Health Camp!

We would not be a success without you!



Tanaka Farms- Irvine, CA
City of Hope
City of Duarte Fitness Center
City of Duarte Transit Department



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2183 Huntington Dr., Duarte
(626) 359-2833

Duarte Cleaners provides dry cleaning service at competitive prices, convenient location and hours, and competent service to all its valued customers. They are open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.



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 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DUARTE
 1014 Highland Avenue, Duarte, CA 91010-1939
 Phone: 626-357-2616 E-Mail: churchofthefoothills@verizon.net
 Pastor: Reverend Timothy Ting

Be Our Guest Next Sunday

Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Children's Sunday School 10:30 A.M.



AIR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS
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From the desk of the Superintendent

Dr. Dean Conklin, Superintendent,
Duarte Unified School District

On the first day of school, as I walked around the classrooms at each of the sites in the Duarte Unified School District, a quote came to mind. "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." That was said by William Butler Yeats. I was excited to see students actively engaged in learning by the end of Day One. Teachers were hard at work igniting students' imaginations. That just goes to show the level of commitment the teachers, staff and administration feel towards the students of this school district. I'd like to share some of our successes with you:



DR. DEAN CONKLIN

- Our overall test scores showed great growth. District wide API is 726, up 18 points from last year. Andres Duarte's scores have taken them completely out of Program Improvement and Maxwell saw increases of 44 points. I commend both of these schools on their amazing efforts.

- Duarte High School now boasts a state-of-the-art facility that houses their band program, their art classes and the ROP Television Studio. These rooms are fully functional and students are hard at work.

- The Marino Foundation, a local non-profit organization donated 100 brightly colored backpacks filled with school supplies such as pens, paper, pencils, rules, markers. These fully stocked bags went directly to kids who needed them most. Thank you Marino Foundation for making a difference in the lives of these students, by giving them the tools they needed to start this year off successfully.

- Wendy Wright, our new Coordinator of Professional Development and Assessment, has been busy all summer coming up with great professional development opportunities for the staff of Duarte Unified. Duarte is committed to providing opportunities for our teachers and paraprofessional. After all, being a life long learner is an integral part of being a great educator.

- Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the 2008 Los Angeles County Fair Education Expo competition. This year, we have ten winners from Duarte High School and a winning first grade class from Andres Duarte. At DHS, Sean Siks proudly submitted ten of his student's best work in beautiful wood construction projects, which swept the competition in the Industrial Technology division. From Andres Duarte, Pat Scherer's first grade class entry of collected student writings presented in book form entitled "I Am Special/We Are Special Just Like Martin Luther King Jr." won first place in the Creative Writing Division.

- Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year Tracy Hall, Special Education teacher at Valley View Elementary and our Classified Staff Member of the Year Iris Silveria, Outreach Consultant Aide at Maxwell Elementary. Our students are lucky to have you both.

Our current financial climate is of grave concern to us all. I wanted to share some information with you about the current California State budget. The majority of our funding comes from the state, so we have been watching the budget carefully. We recognize that we will be forced to do more with less, not just this year but next year as well. We were successful last year in keeping the cuts as far from the students as possible, but the state's financial situation causes us to make painful cuts, and we are far from being out of the woods. We are not as directly impacted by the budget issues at the national level, but we are also watching those.

Andres Duarte Brings Families Together

By Joilyn Campitiello, Principal

Andres Duarte is committed to providing opportunities for our families to come together, spend time with their children and get to know their neighbors. In October, students and their families attended our first Halloween Fair complete with haunted house. Activities included contests for pumpkin carving, cake decorating and best costume.

In November, families were invited back to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month with our second annual Mexican Heritage program. The assembly included beautifully costumed student dancers, music and informative readings on Mexico's history and the contributions of Mexicans to history. The event was followed by a family picnic that included a live Mariachi Band for entertainment.

In December, families will

join us for our annual Holiday Show with songs and performances by students in kinder through second grade. The evening will also include sales of hot chocolate, coffee and treats provided by our parent association group, the Cougar PSSA, headed by President Katie Pina.

Andres Duarte also knows how important it is for parents to understand and actively participate in their child's school. To this end, we are providing parent institute classes in collaboration with LULAC. These informative classes will include information on the structure and functions of our school district at all levels, how to actively participate in parent conferences and the requirements for college acceptance.

At Andres Duarte families and school work together and *Dare to Dream Big and Do Great Things!*

Beardslee Students are Busy, Busy, Busy!

By Jenny Janetzke, Principal

With the 2008-2009 school year well underway, we have the opportunity once again to share with you some of the wonderful things that are happening at Beardslee Elementary School!

The heart of our school is our students, and those students are busy, busy, busy! One thing that is keeping them busy is the learning opportunities provided to them.

The teachers at Beardslee have invested many hours analyzing student assessment information and that information was used to identify specific areas of need for individual students.

With those areas identified, our teaching staff is now able to create learning opportunities that will challenge, enrich, and support each student to help them meet and exceed the state standards.

Our students are learning new skills each day, practicing those skills both in the classroom and at home, and then demonstrating their proficiency on their assessments. What a privilege it is to watch them develop these skills on a daily basis!

Beardslee students are also kept busy through extra-curricular activities offered to them. Our Student Council, led by 6th grade teacher Leslie Bartlett, recently held its elections for officers and classroom representatives, and is now meeting twice each month to plan activities and learn more about what it takes to be a leader.

Meanwhile, our Outreach Consultant Angie Salas spent one Friday morning training upper grade students who were interested in keeping our playground peaceful during recess and lunch time. These students, called "Peer Mediators", were trained in how to help their peers talk through their problems and create solutions they can use to solve those problems.

Our Peer Mediators volunteer their own play time to serve their peers at Beardslee, and we are very thankful for their willingness to use their talents and skills to help keep our school peaceful.

Our students are busy outside the school day, as well! Approximately one hundred students participate in two different after school programs on our campus. One of those programs, called Think Together, provides care for students each day after school. The students enrolled in Think Together have a time to complete their homework, enjoy an after-school snack, exercise, play, and develop new skills in the areas of art and music. Our Site Coordinator, Stephanie Martinez, and her Program Leaders are working diligently to encourage our students to have perfect attendance and read at least 30 minutes each night! In addition to Think Together, our district offers a day care program that provides care for students before and after school through the Child Development Program. This group is supervised by Amy Call, and they also have time to complete homework, play, enjoy a snack, and develop new skills. Amy is currently working with the students to develop a recycling plan for our school! Our students



PRESCHOOLERS, PARENTS and teachers walk with Mickey Mouse to show their State Preschool and Head Start pride.

Child Development Programs

By Bobbi Brzozowski, Director

ROUTE 66 PARADE

More than 30 State Preschool and Head Start "stars" and parents proudly walked in the Route 66 Parade September 20, raising community awareness of our outstanding preschool programs.

SOMETHING NEW

Children who turn three after December 2 can now enroll in Head Start on their third birthday. Before this year children who turned three after December 2 were not eligible to enroll until September.

It's not too late to enroll. State Preschool and Head Start are still accepting applications.

For information and to apply, contact (626) 599-5123. Se habla espanol. Head Start accepts children who have disabilities.

HEAD START REACHES OUT TO HOMELESS PRESCHOOLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Federal McKinney-Vento legislation expands the definition of "homeless" to include families who are living doubled-up due to loss of a job, eviction, or other economic hardship or loss. Three and four-year-old children who

are homeless are automatically eligible for Head Start services. Older homeless children have protections including the right to remain in the same school if the family must move out of the school's attendance area for economic hardship. For more information, contact the Head Start office at (626) 599-5121 or your neighborhood school.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS FLOURISH IN DUARTE USD

Did you know that Duarte USD serves 435 students through the fully subsidized California After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program, operated by the Orange-County based THINK Together program? And an additional 100-plus children enjoy safe and relaxing after school care in our fee-based Extended Day Care program.

Additional after school programs such as the Duarte's Promise Mini-Miracle Workers at Maxwell provide after school activities for Duarte USD students.

For information about after school programs in your area, contact your nearest Duarte USD school office.

An Evening of Celebration!!

By Mary Gonzales, Principal

Here at Maxwell we strive to recognize our students when they make great accomplishments.

On October 28 we took the time to recognize 200 students for their achievement on the Cali-

ornia Standards Test (CST). Students who made a point growth, a band growth (moving from one level to the next i.e., below basic to basic), or who scored proficient and/or advanced in English Language Arts and Math will be recognized.

Buttons and metals were given to represent each level of achievement. The students have worked hard to meet their goals.

Parents, community members, students, district personnel, school board members and staff joined in the celebration.

We celebrated with music and food.

Our keynote speaker for the evening was school board member Frank Figueroa. He emphasized the importance of community and school working together so that students have the best education possible.

by and see for yourself exactly what is keeping the students at Beardslee Elementary School busy, busy, busy!

If you have a chance, stop



Mt. Olive and Sirius Gear-Heads



DRIVER JOSEPH RESENDEZ taking the car for a spin at Willow Springs Racetrack.

By Kevin Morris, Principal

Sirius Gear-Heads, Mt. Olive High School, NASCAR, and several local sponsors have teamed up to create a truly unique program to train aspiring high school mechanics in the field of auto racing.

The name of the program is the Mt. Olive Sirius Gear-Heads Racecar Fabrication & Set-up Program.

Today, as academic challenges continue to increase in the traditional high school, Mt. Olive stands out as a source for unique academic and vocational options.

That's why Sirius Gear-Heads and Mt. Olive High School teamed up!!

Most students do just fine in a comprehensive school setting, but others break the mold and need an alternative hands-on approach to learning.

Sirius Gear-Heads and Mt. Olive realized that need and used auto racing as the vehicle to fill that void.

At 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, 10 of Mt. Olive aspiring auto mechanics and racecar drivers grace the garage doors of Sirius Gear-Heads to learn about racecar fabrication and set-up.

The students are amazed how much math, reading, and communication skills are needed to build a car.

Building a car involves reading blue prints, measuring to design the car and specific parts, comprehension of racetrack rules, communicating with crewmembers during a race, and much more.

This is the third year of the program and it's growing.

RACE TEAM EXPECTATIONS:

- Build-up Mini-stock car, dragster, and drift-car.
- Build roll cages for each car.
- Crew the cars at Irwindale



From left to right, mechanics **Guillermo Valdez**, **Gilberto Lizarraga**, and crew chief **Adolfo Mares** getting ready to crew the car.

Speedway, Orange Show, Willow Springs, and other Kern County Racetracks.

- Spend Friday and Saturday nights working the pits.
- All students will participate in "The Learning to Drive a Racecar Program."
- The pit crew learns to understand the needs of the driver on the track and communicate those needs, so the driver and crew can manage their team's car.

Sirius Gear-Heads spearheaded this community project in order to provide options after-school for Mt. Olive students.

This program provides hands-on learning which students can apply to real job opportunities as a mechanic or in the field of auto racing.

Mt. Olive's students have chosen to dedicate four hours a day to learning how to build a racecar, drive it, and work with their crewmembers to achieve the ultimate goal as a TEAM Victory!...and have plenty of fun learning!

I would like to thank former Mt. Olive teacher, Mr. Fred Hawthorne for his generous donation which helped us purchase a fire suit.

This program is very unique to the Los Angeles area. Sirius Gear-Heads knows it has changed the lives of our students and with your support more will benefit from this amazing program for years to come.

Please help us move forward as we change the community one child at a time.

Sirius Gear-Heads needs help funding this program. We are asking companies, local businesses, local organizations and individuals that want to help to please call Sandy Patterson, of Sirius Gear-Heads at (626) 512-1247 or Kevin Morris, Mt. Olive High School Principal, at (626) 599-5901.

Northview Intermediate a "Shining Star"

By Miriam Fox, Principal

Many years ago...back in the 1980s a wonderful program was brought into our district via Senate Bill 65 (a.k.a. SB 65).

This bill provided funding for schools within our district and across the state of California to hire an Outreach Consultant who would coordinate resources and services for at-risk students.

An at-risk student is identified as any student experiencing difficulties in academics, attendance and/or attitude about school.

The goal of this program is to ensure that students are successful in school and do not drop out before completing their high school career.

The hope is that students will also access post secondary education or training options.

The Outreach Consultant in essence becomes the safety net for all students, working closely with them, their teachers and their families.

Senate Bill 65 "sunsetting" a few years ago, but because of its great success in reducing the drop out rate state wide, it was re-authorized as Assembly Bill 825 (a.k.a. AB 825.)

Every year as part of the requirements for continued funding each school must submit an end of year report addressing various critical questions and components.

Evidence must be provided that the school is meeting the goals of the program and is implementing creative/innovative solutions to address student needs.

Annually it becomes the responsibility of the Outreach Consultant to gather this evidence and submit it to the California State Department of Education.

A team of reviewers read the reports and rate them making comments about strengths and areas needing improvement.

If a school does not prove that their endeavors are successful then they risk losing this source of funding.

Statewide a handful of schools are selected that demonstrate exemplary evidence of success regarding programs that help students succeed in school, these schools receive what is called the "Shining Star Award".

I am proud to announce that this year Northview Intermediate was selected as a Shining Star school!

A small group of representatives from our school site will travel to San Diego during the month of October to accept the award.

Ms. Michelle Randall who, as Outreach Consultant last year, wrote the report will provide a brief oral presentation to other schools sharing our strategies and successes.

These shining star schools serve as models for other schools because they represent what the AB 825 program is all about.

So please help us celebrate this success by sharing this information with your family and friends and feel free to stop by to congratulate Ms. Randall and our staff for a job well done.



Fantastic Fall Activities at Valley View

By Robin Nelson, Principal

A fantastic fall has been enjoyed by the Valley View School Community. The Student Council held school-wide elections, our annual Back-to-School Carnival was a tremendous success and are first round of electives were fabulous.

In October, the Student Council learned the election process first-hand. **Char Wilson** and **Scott Moses**, our student council advisors, held school-wide elections for officers. The children went through a process to throw their hat in the ring, and then the fun began. Hallways were covered with creative posters stating the candidate's positions.

The culminating event was a school-wide assembly where the candidates gave a speech. They all did an incredible job of speaking with clarity and practicing the art of persuasion.

However when the entire school voted, there could only be 5 winners.

I would like to congratulate our Valley View Student Council officers: **Caira Benton-President**, **Aleena Chapjian-Vice**

President, Samantha Saldana-Secretary, **Noah Fadel-Treasurer**, and **Kevin Gutierrez-Sergeant-at-Arms**.

As always, the Back-to-School Picnic/Carnival was a great opportunity to eat, play games, and have a fun family evening. We had mini-golf, Our dedicated PTA and teachers did a fantastic job of creating a carnival atmosphere with booths and games available. **Brenda Vanderloo** and **Laura Silverman** worked hard to insure that a good time was had by one and all. Thanks go to all of our families for once again making Valley View really special.

Our first round of electives was enjoyed by all of our students. We offered fun activities like soccer, garden club, clay art, cheerleading, bracelet making, photography, sign language, cooking and crafts to mention a few. The children and staff enjoy this Friday afternoon tradition.

We have had a busy and exciting fall season. We are so grateful for such a hard-working PTA, School Site Council, Parent Volunteers, and staff all working together to support our children.



Royal Oaks School

By Janice Kolodinski, Principal

The year is off to a great start and, in addition to continuous academic excellence, a lot of exciting things are happening at Royal Oaks Elementary.

October is literacy month at Royal Oaks. Many families and staff started it off by attending the Duarte Author's Festival. At Family Literacy Night the next week, parents attended teacher-led workshops while students listened to and discussed stories by Eric Carle and received a the

gift of a free book. Another great event was the Community Read-In when parents and community volunteers read to classes. Our guests included Duarte Board of Education Member Reyna Diaz, Council Woman Lois Gaston, Superintendent Dr. Dean Conlkin and Associate Superintendent Dr. Terry Nichols. The literacy themed month will conclude with the book fair during parent conference week, and the Literacy Parade on October 31 when students and staff dress up

See Royal Oaks on page 14

A Teen's View

By Fonter Loera

The Mayor's Youth Council has been one of the most impressive tasks that I have undertaken. I do not think any of the others which I have done have been able to measure up in their intensity and significance.

When I heard of this club I thought I was going to talk to the mayor the first Monday of every month in the evening.

However, I found out that the Mayor and the City Council created it, but it is truly controlled by its members like me and Lupe Valerio, our director. Even though she is not like the mayor I find her to be cool and very funny.

Basically, our duty is to voice our concerns; by our concerns I mean all the teens concerns.

In fact, teens and parents can come to all meetings to give us feedback and concerns. People can come to us and tell us the issues that they want the city to resolve and we, afterwards, report those concerns to Lupe Valerio.

Lupe Valerio's job is to write them down and to show them to the city council members.

I cannot deny that the food being offered to me captures my attention but what really gets me pumped up is the conversations we have while doing our job.

The conversations can be funny, but they can also keep you glued in because of the many new facts that you learn while conversing and the atmosphere that just makes you think that all problems for teens can be resolved.

However, the Mayor's Youth Council is not like the famous cliché "All fun and games".

We do get homework such as reading youth master plans, which are city made plans that are meant to make teens have more power and influence through businesses and local government.

Some youth masters plans are up to 400 pages long so a month of reading coupled with busy schedules is not easy to manage.

Eventually, however, in all the meetings, like I have stated earlier, progress is made and new ideas pop out.

Despite us looking at other cities youth master plans our plan, I am pretty sure, ours will be original.

I feel great being part of history, after all it is the first Mayor's Youth Council and I am one of the nine first members. I know this may be insignificant to others but to me it is one of the greatest achievements that I have ever done.

Although I do not get paid in currency, I get paid in knowledge. This club has opened up opportunities for me to help my community and self more.

It has also opened up to me more knowledge about the local government, something that most people never pay attention to. I personally feel that things changed locally affect us more than things done nationally.

So I recommend that more teens come to our meetings to express their issues and hopefully they will be able to have what they want.

Volunteer activities can foster enormous leadership skills. The nonprofessional volunteer world is a laboratory for self-realization.

— Mae West (1893-1980), actress and icon

Duarte High School

By Eric Barba, Principal

October is ending and everyone at Duarte High School is asking "what happened to September?" The first progress report grading period just concluded, and everyone knows that it's back to business. Students are working hard, teachers are teaching, and everyone else is supporting. It's all about teaching and learning at DHS!

Back to School Night and the College Fair were great successes on September 30. We had a terrific turnout of students and parents. There were more than 60 colleges present from across the United States. DUSD is fortunate to have partnered with The Alliance for Youth, Sallie Mae Funding, and Duarte's Promise. Both Karen Herrera and Michelle Trail organized what many called "the best College Fair ever!"

As a follow-up to the College fair, DHS embraced the mission

to prepare our students for the rigorous SAT examination. For many students, achieving a high score on the SAT will be a deciding factor in gaining college admittance. On October 15 all freshmen, sophomores, and several juniors took the PSAT exam. This is the second year DHS paid for all freshmen and sophomores to take this important practice college entrance exam. This is one way we prepare all students for post-secondary education.

Parent involvement is a major factor in supporting not only your own child, but all students at DHS for academic success. There are many opportunities for parent involvement. Join the PTSA, School Site Council, or let your voice be heard at the Principal's Forum. The PTSA meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. and is looking for both attending and non-attending members. The School Site Council meets on

Royal Oaks

Continued from page 13

as a character of a book.

After school classes and opportunities continue to expand at Royal Oaks. District childcare for fee continues to be offered before and after school.

Another great opportunity, however, is the Think Together Program where students do homework and develop skills to help them succeed in school and life.

the fourth Tuesday of every month at 3:15. The Principal's Forum is held on the third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m.

We also encourage parents to call and e-mail teachers, counselors and administrators when concerns arise. Parents are welcome to arrange campus or classroom visitations at DHS.

Supporting a club, sport or a class with a donation is also a great way to get involved. Thank you for your support.

If students are interested in music, chorus is starting up, and students can also learn to play an instrument at beginning or intermediate band.

Just added in October though, are classes sponsored through the PTA.

On Thursdays students can explore their creativity through art, then learn about other cultures through Spanish class on Fridays.

Technology expansion is a big topic at Royal Oaks this year as stakeholders prioritize goals and seek funding.

Eighteen computers in the lab need to be replaced this year.

Additionally, the school seeks to make all classrooms DAR (Duarte Access Rooms) with LCD projectors and document cameras to facilitate instruction.

While some school funds will be available, a large portion of this development will be a result of PTA fundraising efforts, Ralphs and Target contributions, a school-wide jog-a-thon in the spring, and community support.

Looking for a change?

Most people believe that life would be so much better if only something could be changed—a boss, a relationship, a job, a particular situation. But even good changes are never as dramatic or lasting as hoped for. Likely what most needs changing is the person seeking change. The good news is that God can do just that. And when He does, everything else seems to change too.

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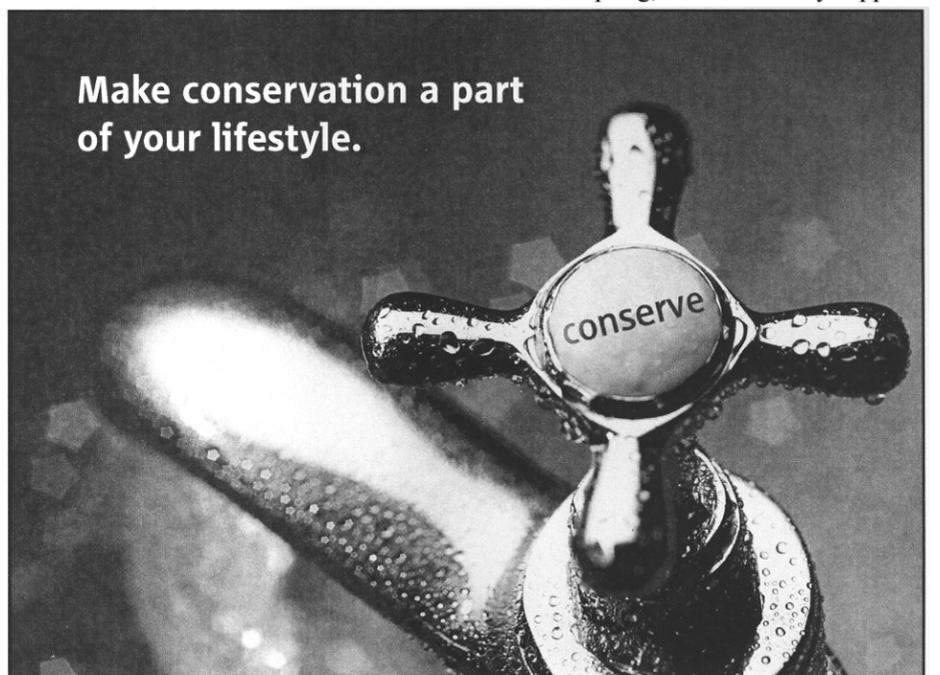
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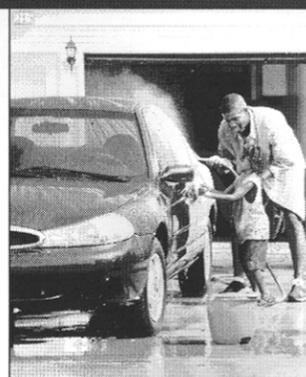


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Duarte Teen Center

The Duarte Teen Center is an exciting place for teens to be, especially this winter! The Center is located at 1400 Buena Vista Avenue. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 8 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 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



DUARTE TEENS FORM TEAMS and compete during a Wii Tournament.

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, research colleges, and play various games.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Students can always get involved in a variety of FREE activities at the Duarte Teen Center! Come watch a movie on our big screen TV! Movie Mondays will be held December 8 and 22, January 12 and 26, and February 9 and 23.

On the first Tuesday of the month, join the Teen Center for a birthday celebration with cake for all and gifts for those born in that month.

Ping Pong, Pool, Air Hockey, and Wii tournaments will be held throughout the winter. Contact the Center for exact dates.

Drop-in tutoring for all teens in grades 9 through 12 is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebrate the holidays at the Teen Center's Holiday Party and

SAFYMCA to provide free membership to military families

The Santa Anita Family YMCA (SAFYMCA) in Monrovia will provide military families with free access to youth development, family strengthening, and health and well-being programs as part of the new nationwide Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) and Department of Defense (DoD) Outreach Initiative. Membership fees will be underwritten by the DoD and administered through Military OneSource, an information and referral service for military families. YMCA of the USA, the national resource office for America's 2,686 YMCAs, is helping to launch the initiative at participating YMCAs across the country.

Dance on Thurs., Dec. 18, from 4-7 p.m. The cost is only \$1.

Join us for an exciting game of Walleyball on Thursday, January 8 at 3:30 p.m. at the Duarte Fitness Center.

Participate in a challenging game of soccer with a twist: Crab Soccer will be held Tuesday, February 5 at 3:30 p.m.

A Tax Return Workshop will be held in February for all teens and parents. Dates and times will be announced. All you have to do is call the Teen Center to schedule an appointment or just show up. Free

On Fri., Dec. 19, Jan. 23 and Feb. 20 from 3-6 p.m., Northview students can come to the Teen Center for tournaments, games, music, and snacks.

"The YMCA has a long history of supporting military service members and their families—since the Civil War—so it was natural for us to join this initiative. We're happy to help meet the critical needs facing families of deployed military service members," said SAFYMCA Chief Executive Officer Damon Colaluca.

The ASYMCA-DoD Outreach Initiative responds to a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to support military family readiness and to ensure that military family readiness programs and activities are available to all deployed National Guard and Reserve families, and some active duty families in certain special categories.

Military families participating in the initiative are eligible for YMCA memberships based on participation requirements. Those eligible to participate in the new initiative include:

- All families of joint deployed National Guard and Reserves of all military branches;
- Families living in newly established Joint Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) bases;
- Active Duty Independent Duty station personnel and their families; and
- Relocated spouses and family members of deployed Active Duty personnel.

More information about the ASYMCA-DoD Outreach Initiative can be found by visiting www.asymca.org or www.ymca.net.

The SAFYMCA is located at 501 S. Mountain Ave. For more information about programs and services visit the website at www.safymca.org, or call (626) 359-9244.

Arredondo

Continued from page 4

ficers as a seaman apprentice and completing the school in only 39 days.

"All I did was study and take tests," said Arredondo. "I was taking up to four tests a week during that program."

The result of his hard work was a meritorious promotion to seaman.

This promotion was the first step in his speedy ascent through the ranks.

Arredondo studied and made 3rd class petty officer on his first try while stationed on USS O'Bannon (DD-987) and was later meritoriously promoted by that command on the USS Constitution.

By 2004, he had already

See Arredondo on page 16

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Arredondo

Continued from page 15

achieved the rank of E5.

Arredondo's next command took him into combat when he deployed to Fallujah, Iraq with 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, Regimental Combat Team Five, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM in 2006.

He gained valuable combat medical experience and was promoted to first class petty officer during his eight month tour. However the deployment left a lasting impression on Arredondo.

"On May 16, 2006, while I was in Fallujah, Iraq, we took indirect fire on Camp Fallujah and it hit near Fallujah Surgical" said Arredondo. "I took a fragmentation from the mortar round into my thigh."

Two days later, while on a mounted security patrol in Al-Karmah, Iraq, his HMMWV (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) was struck by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device).

"Although I remained conscious during the blast, I've been diagnosed and am currently under medical treatment/therapy for a Traumatic Brain Injury," said Arredondo.

His dedication to duty along with wounds sustained by enemy forces earned him the Purple Heart medal, which he received upon his arrival at Naval Special Warfare Command in September 2006.

Arredondo has now moved onto the rank of chief petty officer. Although he has risen through the ranks fast, he knows it is because of his previous leaders and family that he is who he is today.

"What helped me get to where I am now are the leaders who I've worked for," said Arredondo. "They always say that the first 72-hours of checking onboard a ship are critical and that's why they have a sponsor program. My sponsor at the time was then Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Warren Grant. He was my mentor and he and my chiefs took me under their wing and showed me everything I needed my entire time onboard the ship.

"They ensured that I was continually progressing. Grant developed my leadership skills that helped me lead my Marines and Sailors in combat. Eventually these influences lead me to seek the next steps in my career, on my own."

His superiors at NSW were not surprised when he was selected to put on the Khaki uniform as a chief. Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Jesus D. Salabao had the opportunity to be Arredondo's supervisor for the past two years and couldn't be happier for him.

"I'm really proud of HMC Arredondo," said Salabao. "His selection to chief petty officer in six years only shows that devotion and dedication to duty really pays off. He's living proof that the Navy advances candidates who have the complete package: deck plate leadership, sailORIZATION, career diversity, balanced sea/shore rotation and arduous duties. Chris just happened to have done them all."

Salabao also sees Arredondo going far if he keeps up the pace that he is at.

"He's on a roll," said Salabao. "If he keeps up with his current pace there is no doubt in my mind that he will go places. With his strong leadership and technical skills he will excel both in the enlisted ranks or the officer ranks if he plans to become an officer."

Arredondo is currently assigned to the Navy's elite Special Forces unit, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command.

Looking ahead, Arredondo is intent to inspire junior Sailors to set their goals high. He hopes that his influence can help his Sailors advance in both their naval career and in their personal lives.

Veteran's Day Salute



DUARTE MAYOR Phil Reyes with Navy veteran Lyle Umenhoffer, one of only 316 survivors of the torpedo attack sinking of the USS Indianapolis in WWII in which 880 died, and U.S. Army veteran and former POW Miguel Vallejos, a survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines in 1942, were among those honored at the City of Duarte Veteran's Day ceremony at Thorsen Park.



CONGRESSWOMAN Hilda Solis was on hand to honor Duarte military veterans at the City of Duarte Veteran's Day ceremony at Thorsen Park.

"I want to let my Sailors know that I'm here for them. The whole part of being inducted into the chief petty officer mess is to learn how to be a chief and how to be an even better leader," said Arredondo. "I will lead and pass what I've learned to help my Sailors succeed and achieve excellence."

He thanks his parents, Chris and Mina; three sisters, Christine, Rosie and Melissa; and younger brother, Damian Arredondo, a senior at Duarte High School.

While Arredondo recently ex-

tended his military obligation to Oct. 2009, he is still undecided about making a career out of the Navy. "I'm evaluating my future with the military and deployment obligations versus continuing my education full time upon separation. This is a hard decision and will take much thought due to the commitment I have to serving my country and leading the Sailors and Marines assigned to me versus establishing a stable life without continuous deployments out of California," he said.

Important Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are upon us and it's the season that brings us joy and excitement to share with family and friends having festive celebrations. We, here at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season, while also warning that this can be a dangerous time of the year as well. It is important that extra precautions be used during the holiday season. Start with your home's security, as criminals know that most people have extra money and gifts in their homes during this season.

Among the tips offered by The Sheriff Department are:

- When you go out for the evening, leave a light, radio, or a television on to make it appear as if someone is home. Use a timer if possible. Ask a trusted neighbor to watch your home.

- Shop with a family member or friend during daylight hours, if possible. When shopping with your children, keep them close to you. Make sure they know their home address and telephone number.

- Dress modestly, don't carry much cash with you, and avoid wearing flashy or expensive jewelry. Carry your purse close to you or place your wallet in a front pocket.

- Park in well-lit areas. Avoid parking next to vans or trucks. Store packages and gifts out of view.

- Beware of strangers who come to the door, either selling items or soliciting for charity. Ask for identification and, if you are still not satisfied, refuse to make a donation. Instead, donate only to an organization that you know and trust like the Duarte Community Council.

- Close window treatments so gifts under the tree are not visible from the outside.

Keeping these tips in mind will make each person less likely to be victimized. Please be aware of your surroundings, constantly thinking about safety and security while enjoying a happy holiday season.

Convenience, good deals, and choices are all good things that cyberspace offers. But before you use it, be cybersmart and make your online experience a safe one.

- Shop with companies you know. Anyone can set up an online shop under almost any name. If you are not familiar with a merchant, ask for a paper catalog to get a better idea of their merchandise and services.

- Keep your password private. Never give your password to anyone. Avoid using a birthday or a portion of your Social Security number. If possible, use a combination of letters and numbers.

- Use a secure browser. This is the software you use to navigate the Internet. Your browser should comply with all industry security standards. These standards encrypt or scramble purchase information you send over the Internet. Most computers have a browser installed. Some browsers may be downloaded from the Internet free of charge.

- Pay by credit card. If you pay by credit card, your transaction will be protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act. Under this law, you have the right to dispute charges under certain circumstances and temporarily withhold payment while the creditor investigates them.

- Keep personal information private. Do not give out Social Security number, e-mail address, telephone number, or address unless you know who is collecting the information, why they're collecting it, and how they'll use it.

- Save all transaction information, including e-mails and records of any phone conversations.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

DUARTE FARMERS MARKET

Every Saturday 9 am - 1 pm at the corner of Huntington Drive & Buena Vista St.



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