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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008

Duarte View

A bi-monthly community publication of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, in its 87th year of service to the community.

Phil Reyes elected Duarte Mayor/ Redevelopment Chairman in annual council reorganization

Duarte City Council members voted unanimously to elect Phil Reyes, Mayor and Redevelopment Agency Chairman for 2007-2008 and John Fasana, Mayor Pro Tem during the annual reorganization of the City Council on Tuesday, December 11.

The newly seated Mayor Reyes stated that among his priorities for the coming year will be affordable housing and economic development, leading collaborative efforts with business, schools, state and federal agencies to promote jobs, job training and retraining, and to continue to promote efforts toward ensuring public safety.

Reyes also highlighted the threat to the City of rock mining in the hills above Duarte.

Vulcan Materials Co. is again proposing to the City of Azusa, the



PHIL REYES

governing agency, to expand its mining operations westward to an 80-acre site that would be visible above Duarte's hillside homes.

"We need to prepare for the coming fight, because they [Vulcan] are coming," he said.

Reyes announced that Duarte and Azusa City Council will soon meet jointly to discuss the mining issue and other mutual concerns.

Reyes was first elected to the Duarte City Council in 1993. He served as mayor in 1996 and 2002, and has also served as Redevelopment Chair twice, most recently in 2005-2006.

Prior to being elected to the City Council, the 30-year resident of Duarte served one term on the Duarte School Board of Education, and was president of board in 1992.

He is a member of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, Hispanic Elected Local Officials, and League of United Latin American Citizens.

Reyes is a real estate licensed broker and realtor, and is a past president of the Monrovia/Duarte

See Council on page 19

Rose Brooks-Mitchell elected Duarte School Board President

The Duarte Unified School District has a new President. Rose Brooks-Mitchell was unanimously elected to the position on December 13, 2007.

Rose has been a resident of Duarte for 26 years, and is a knowledgeable educator current with instructional trends. She brings over 25 years of experience in public schools. Rose is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master of Arts Degree. She has enjoyed a very successful working relationship with her fellow school board members, which has accounted for the outstanding achievements of the Duarte students.

Rose is married to Jim Mitchell. She is excited about the District's future, and looks forward to continuing to serve the community as President of the Duarte Unified School District.

Francisco Figueroa was elected Vice President of the School Board. Frank was first elected to the Duarte Board of Education



ROSE BROOKS-MITCHELL

12 years ago. In those 12 years, much as been accomplished in the district in the areas of technology, safety, facilities, instruction and compensation. Frank is anxious to embark on his fourth term, and feels that there is still significant work that needs to be done. He is particularly interested in using the skills he has acquired as an international sales manager for a major airline to work on the district vision, focus and budget, as well as the instructional needs of the students.

Ken Bell, Reyna Diaz and last year's President Pam Kawasaki are also on the Duarte Board. Rose, Frank and Pam were re-elected in November, while Reyna and Ken were most recently reelected in 2005. This veteran school board has developed a reputation throughout the area for their professionalism and their commitment to the students in the Duarte Unified School District.



MAYOR PHIL REYES and council members prepare to take their new positions on the dais following the annual City Council reorganization. From left Mayor Pro Tem John Fasana, Councilmember Margaret Finlay, City Attorney Dan Slater, Councilmember Lois Gaston, Mayor Reyes, City Manager Darrell George, and Councilmember Tzeitel Paras-Caracci.

Kirchner Named President/CEO of Duarte Chamber

The Duarte Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors recently announced Jim Kirchner as President/CEO of the Chamber.

Mr. Kirchner will be taking the place of current President/CEO Jan Wight who announced her retirement in the spring of 2007.

Mr. Kirchner, a long time resident of Duarte, is a past Duarte councilmember, 1989-2001. During that time period he served three terms as mayor.

Kirchner was chosen from a field of 57 applicants by a selection committee composed of current and former board members. The selection committee forwarded his name to the Executive Committee (officers of the chamber) who voted and forwarded Kirchner's name to the Board of Directors. At the Board's November meeting it voted to employ Jim Kirchner as the President/CEO.

Mr. Kirchner will begin working in his new capacity March 1, 2008.

He is involved with the Duarte Historical Society; chaired the campaign for the Andres Duarte statue; Duarte Historical Society's newsletter editor; and treasurer of the Duarte Commu-



JIM KIRCHNER

nity Coordinating Council, which he began during one of his terms as Mayor.

Mr. Kirchner is currently serving on the City of Duarte Traffic and Safety Commission, and previously served on Cable, Community Services and Planning Commissions.

Kirchner will be retiring from Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program as a Business Consultant Lead after 29 years.

He has lived in Duarte with his wife, Kathy, since 1982. They raised their two sons, Dennis and Jeremy, here as well.

Duarte and Azusa City Councils to Meet Jointly Jan. 29

Mining issues and the development of a nature walk along the San Gabriel River between Duarte and Azusa will be among items on the agenda when the Duarte and Azusa City Councils convene for a special joint Council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Azusa City Hall, 213 E. Foothill Blvd.

It will be a first for the two City Councils to meet in joint session. Azusa Mayor Joe Rocha approached the Duarte City Council last November with the idea of a joint meeting to discuss issues of concern that impact the quality of life for both cities. Among key issues to be discussed is a plan by Vulcan Mining Company to expand mining operations west to an 80-acre site above the Duarte hills.

Azusa and Duarte are also concerned about the deteriorating condition of the stretch of Foothill Blvd. between the eastern Duarte border to Irwindale Ave. and its pedestrian bridge. The councils plan to discuss how to work cooperatively with the City of Irwindale, County Public Works and other parties to improve the condition of the heavily trafficked thoroughfare.

For more information, call Duarte City Hall at (626) 357-7931, ext. 221, or Azusa City Hall at (626) 812-5200.



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

BLUE STAR BANNER



DUARTE RESIDENTS Akira and Joan Curtis, parents of U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Christopher John Curtis, are presented with a Blue Star Banner by Mayor Phil Reyes at the Dec. 11 City Council meeting. Staff Sergeant Curtis, an LAV Commander in Iraq, is serving his second tour in Iraq. He previously served two years in Afghanistan and 14 months in Iraq. He intends to make the Marine Corps a lifelong service and professional commitment.

Duarte has opening for Poet Laureate

Wanted: Poet Laureate for the City of Duarte.

The City established the role of Poet Laureate in 2005. The first to hold the title was longtime resident Robert Prado, a nine-year pancreatic cancer survivor whose battle with the disease originally spurred him to begin writing poetry. Sadly, Prado died recently, shortly after completing his two-year term as Poet Laureate.

A Poet Laureate is an individual who composes poems, and has the ability to express poetic ideas in beautiful language. His or her duties are to compose and read poetry at various special events within the City of Duarte.

“The City’s mission in appointing a Poet Laureate is to raise the status of poetry in everyday public consciousness and to integrate poetry into the fabric of the community,” said Deputy City Manager Karen Herrera.

The laurel, in ancient Greece, was sacred to Apollo, and as such was used to form a crown or wreath of honor for poets and heroes. The word laureate then came into signify eminent, or associated with glory.

Anyone interested in applying for the position should contact Karen Herrera at Duarte City Hall, (626) 357-7931, ext. 221.

Duarte residents can opt for wildlife-proof garbage containers

Duarte residents, weary of bears and other critters breaking into and scattering the contents of their garbage containers, now have the option of ordering a wildlife resistant container.

Burrtec Waste Services has added tested wildlife resistant barrels as an optional service for an additional fee of \$6 per month per container.

Ongoing complaints from hillside area residents prompted the Duarte City Council to request Burrtec to help find a solution to the problem. Last year Burrtec initiated a pilot program, distributing 10 wildlife deterrent barrels to residents in Duarte Mesa, to evaluate the effectiveness of selected containers to hold up to wildlife, wear and tear from the automated truck arms, and costs associated with the purchase and replacement of the barrels. Burrtec also customized and tested some of its own barrels which proved to be tougher and more cost effective.

The fee allows the cost of the service to be borne exclusively by the resident electing for the service and not averaged into the overall residential trash rate calculation.

For more information, call Burrtec Waste Services at (1-800) 325-9417 or the City of Duarte at (626) 357-7931.

City to request bids for Plaza Duarte construction

If all goes according to plan, by early this summer the bronze statue of Andres Avelino Duarte and his horse will be ensconced in a completed Plaza Duarte across the street from Duarte City Hall. The project to construct the plaza will be sent out to bid in mid-February and the City expects to award a bid in April. Construction should take two to three months to complete, according to Director of Community Development Ed Cox.

In the meantime, negotiations are continuing between adjacent Grace Fellowship Church and the City of Duarte to expand the plaza into a portion of the church property which would enlarge the space from its current 9,200 square feet to 135,000 square feet.

Specifications for the construction of the public plaza will be

separated into two bid proposals to accommodate the construction of the plaza on the City owned property and a separate bid for the plaza located on the church owned property.

Designed by Bradbury based Armstrong and Walker, Landscape Architects, the public plaza will feature a decorative water fountain inside a small pond, tan colored concrete paving with red brick bands, shade trees, shrubs and grassy areas. The statue itself will be surrounded by a raised planter with wall seating. Lighting plans prepared by a separate electrical and lighting engineer call for low-level lighting within the plaza and trees and a spotlight on the Andres Duarte statue. Additional electrical outlets will be provided on the property to allow for electrical power for community events.

Petersen appointed Assistant City Manager

Kristen Petersen has been appointed assistant city manager/administrative services finance director for the City of Duarte.

Petersen, who started at the City in 2000 as assistant to the city manager, was promoted to deputy city manager in 2006 and named interim finance director in May 2007 upon the retirement of Mike Yelton.

“Kristen is bright, articulate and energetic. I have every confidence in her ability and competency that she will assist in keeping the city moving forward in a positive direction,” said City Manager Darrell George.

Petersen is the daughter of retired Monrovia City Manager Don Hopper. A graduate of California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Planning. She and her husband, Brian, have two children and reside in Monrovia where she was born and raised.



KRISTEN PETERSEN

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For advertising information and rates, please call the Chamber.

Deadline for articles and ads for the Mar.-Apr. issue is Feb. 21, 2008.

Duarte Chamber of Commerce

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Duarte City Council Member Tzeitel Paras-Caracci elected to National Board

Duarte City Council member Tzeitel Paras-Caracci has been elected to a two-year term on the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors. The election was held at the culmination of the association's annual conference in New Orleans in November. The NLC is the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States. It serves as a resource to and an advocate for the more than 19,000 cities, villages and towns it represents.



TZEITEL PARAS-CARACCI

Paras-Caracci follows consecutively in the footsteps of fellow Council member Margaret Finlay, who just completed a two-year term on the NLC Board.

"We are very proud of Tzeitel and Margaret and of the national recognition they bring to Duarte through their service. It's extremely rare to have a council member from a small city elected to the National League of Cities

Board, rarer still to have back to back representation from the same city on the board. It's quite an accomplishment," said Duarte City Manager Darrell George.

During her presentation to NLC, Paras-Caracci stressed building strong relationships between cities and families.

"My goal is to focus on youth

education and family issues during my NLC board tenure. It should be a priority for all elected officials to really inspire civic engagement among all their constituents. I believe it's my generations's responsibility to make sure that the next generations invest in their communities," said Paras-Caracci following her election.

In 2001, Paras-Caracci, 35, who was raised in Duarte, became the youngest woman to ever be elected to the Duarte City Council. She served as the City's mayor in 2006. She is also a past president of Asian Pacific American Officials, an NLC constituency group.

"Having Tzeitel on the NLC board provides an opportunity to connect with younger voters and share the story of cities with the emerging generation," said San Diego Council Member Jim Madaffer, president of the League of California Cities.

Duarte Neighborhood Watch Toy Drive a Success in 2007



DOROTHY SMITH, Duarte Community Services Council President, is receiving the delivery of toys from Special Assignment Deputy Brant Frederickson.

During the Holidays The Duarte Public Safety Department received participation from the Duarte Neighborhood Watch Program.

Block Captains encouraged their neighbors to donate toys that were delivered to the Duarte Community Council – an all-volunteer organization that has served the community for over 50 years.

This event helps us continue our support of the community we have pledged to serve. This year their efforts provided joy for over 500 children in Duarte.

The Duarte Public Safety Staff would like to thank Block Captains and Residents in the following streets for their generosity this holiday season!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amberwood Homes Association | 2000 Block of Windsor Circle |
| 900 Block of Lewiston Street | 200 Block of Opal Canyon |
| 800 Block of Swiss Trails | 200 Block of Greenbank Avenue |
| 2900-3000 Block of Conata Street | 200 Block of Bettyhill Lane |
| 2600 Block of San Pablo Way | 1900-2000 Block of Chesson Street |
| 2500 Block of Westvale Court | 1900 Block of Capehart Avenue |
| 2500 Block of Maynard Drive | 1900 Block of Baylor Street |
| 2500 Block of Fernley Drive | 1800 Block of Earlington Avenue |
| 2500 Block of Dalbo Street | 1400 Block of Crestfield Street |
| 2400 Block of Bashor Street | 1200 Block of Tuckaway Lane |

City approves agreement with Fountainhead Shrugged, LLC to develop retail project on key Duarte corner

The Duarte City Council/Redevelopment Agency has approved a Disposition and Development Agreement with Fountainhead Shrugged, LLC of Newport Beach to develop a \$2.4 million retail development on a long vacant northwest corner of the key Duarte intersection of Huntington Dr. and Buena Vista St.

The Duarte Redevelopment Agency purchased the .56-acre property in December 2002 for \$1,050,000, following the closing of a Texaco gas station, and will sell the property to Fountainhead Shrugged, LLC for \$610,000, which is consistent with the appraised fair market re-use value and the use restrictions imposed on the developer to deliver a food related project.

Fountainhead Shrugged will build a 4,600 square foot retail building that will feature three tenants including two national quick serve food tenants.

Among potential tenants under discussion are leading national franchises Rolling Rice, Baja Fresh, Pick Up Stix, Rubios, and Five Guys. Once completed, the project is estimated to create approximately 40 to 60 new jobs in addition to \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year in sales tax revenue.

"We're very excited about the project. It's the right fit for this very important corner, and marks a major step to revitalize one of the City's key intersections," said City Manager Darrell George.

Richard Finkel of Bundy Finkel Architects, Inc., Santa Ana Heights, California has created a contemporary architectural design for the project that will highlight old-world touches such as tiled roofs, wood trellises, vibrant color palette and a cascading water feature as part of an inviting outdoor patio and eating area.

Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2008 with completion expected by January 2009, followed by a grand opening in March 2009.

Last June, plans to solidify a DDA with the same developer was postponed for further review over traffic and safety concerns with the project, in particular the presence of a block wall on the adjacent Ralphs shopping center property that would have restricted access to the site other than from Huntington Dr.

That issue and others have been resolved to facilitate the passage of motor vehicles and pedestrians between the two parcels and the adjoining streets, said George.

For further information, call Duarte City Hall at (626) 357-7931.

"The world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also be only the beginning."

Ivy Baker Priest, former Secretary of the Treasury

California American Water®

Congratulations, Duarte, on your 50th Anniversary!

Helping Duarte Conserve Water

At California American Water, we take pride in helping you conserve water while serving the community. We're committed to saving water in our daily operations, and also through customer programs such as water-saving tips and free low-flow showerheads and hose nozzles.

We also take pride in serving the community. It's part of our heritage and part of our history with Duarte. We work hard to ensure that your water meets or exceeds all federal and local quality standards.

To learn more about how California American Water works for Duarte, and ways to reduce your water bill, call us at 1-888-237-1333 or visit our website at www.calamwater.com.

RWE Group

From My View...

By Jan Wight, President/CEO,
Duarte Chamber of Commerce

TWENTY-EIGHT years ago I moved to Duarte. My husband, Bob, and I were married in his gardens and, Bob will be the first to tell you, he brought me all the way from Monrovia "kicking and screaming." After all I was a Monrovia and had been since I moved there with my folks in 1946. I was leaving my political, social and friend base.

Everyday after work I would get off the 210 in Monrovia and drive by my "home" familiar streets, then slowly drive on out to Duarte. It would have been easier had we moved across country.

In less than a year I became quite ill, had to quit working and started to become more familiar with Duarte.



JAN WIGHT

After two surgeries I had good health again, and long time Duarte friends of mine came to me and asked me to run for school board. There were to be three vacancies and the field was wide open. They knew of my deep involvement with the Monrovia schools and felt I would be a good candidate for Duarte. I really had to think about it. Bob was all in favor of me running and really encouraged me.

I did it and I am so glad I did because that is when I fell in love with Duarte. When one walks precincts daily for two months one comes to know a community very well. So, after all that walking, one dog bite and many new friends and supporters I was elected. I spent twelve years on the school board and thoroughly enjoyed myself at least 98% of the time.

I met so many diverse people, continued to learn about curriculum, learned how to lobby in Sacramento, and met people who have become life long friends. I thank you Duarte for that experience.

Two months prior to retiring from the school board I was tapped for the President/CEO position at the Duarte Chamber. The last 13 years with the chamber have been rewarding. The best thing about this job, for people like me who become bored easily, is there are no two days alike. Every day is different.

That's what I have loved about it.

Probably the best thing about my time with both DUSD and the Chamber is having impact on the changes within Duarte. I look around and see the district office, the "new" Northview and best of all, the Performing Arts Center knowing I had great impact on those buildings being created. Best of all is the feeling of pride Duartean now have in their community.

My years at the chamber have brought me close to city hall, its administration and employees. That time has been enjoyable. Duarte is unique in that its employees love Duarte and want to see it grow and prosper.

It is not just a place to work they truly care about the community. Our chamber has also grown. Many more members than we had 13 years ago, beautiful new office, far more projects than when I took over, far more communication with the community and with other chambers in the foothill area.

As you must know by now, I am retiring February 29, 2008. I am excited about the chamber's future with Jim Kirchner at the helm as President/CEO and the great officers and board he has to work with.

I am also excited for me. It is time for me to have time to do what I want to do. Everyone thinks I have these great plans. No, I want to stop rising for the day at 5 or 5:30 a.m., I want to read when I want to, I want to work around my home and gardens, I want the stressful days to cease and have time to smell the roses, listen to the birds sing, have long conversations with Bob, have lunch with friends, and just listen to the quiet.

I want to thank each of you who have had an impact on my life, that includes everyone I have interacted with. You have changed me and helped make me who I am today. Thank you all. Thank you Duarte for embracing me and allowing me to help our community grow and prosper.

That's the way it is from my view . . .

Community Service Awardees honored at Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast was once again sold out with people looking forward to welcoming the holidays. Key not speaker for the morning was Rona Lunde, former Chairman-of-the-Board of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Governor of Kiwanis for District 35; and Volunteer of the Year 2006 for Los Angeles County.

Ms. Lunde spoke about the 50 year history of Duarte and the huge impact volunteers have had in the betterment of Duarte. Melida Smith, Duarte resident, shared her beautiful voice with the audience by singing the "Star Spangled Banner" and another inspirational song.

The highlight of every Prayer Breakfast is the Community Service Awards given to worthy residents and business people. This year was no exception.

Debbie Gewertz, Chairman-of-the-Board of the Duarte Chamber, awarded the following people: Outstanding Youth Award – Evan Finlay and Vanja Primorac, for their outstanding GPA's, their volunteer hours to both school and community, and both of them on the award winning ACA DECA for Duarte High School; Outstanding Civic Service Award – Mayor Lois Gaston for her inspiring leadership throughout the celebration of the 50th year of incorporation of the City of Duarte; and Outstanding Service to Youth – KC Caracci, for his work in managing the Rt. 66 Parade and not allowing it to go away.

Also awarded were: Outstanding Humanitarian Award – Julie Davey, for her volunteering to teach a Writing for Wellness class surviving cancer patients at City of Hope since 2001; Community Heritage Award – Pauline Montgomery and Mark Montgomery, for their many volunteer hours at the Duarte Historical Museum over the last many years; Outstanding Business Award – Manoj Patel, for his long history of volunteering for the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, Rebuilding



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD honorees are (front L-R) Julie Davey; Lois Gaston; Pauline Montgomery; Mark Montgomery; (back L-R) Evan Finlay; Rona Lunde, keynote speaker; Manoj Patel; and KC Caracci.

Together, Economic Development Commission and Planning Commission.

Each year the Duarte Kiwanis Club is a major sponsor of the Prayer Breakfast. This year Kiwanis President Evelyn de Jesus served as an able master of ceremonies. Mayor Lois Gaston gave a warm welcome and inspired

everyone with her energy and enthusiasm for the City of Duarte.

The Mayor's Prayer breakfast is an annual event sponsored by the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, Duarte Church and Clergy Association, Duarte Kiwanis Club, and the Duarte Woman's Club in cooperation with the City of Duarte.

Duarte Public Safety Youth Programs Need Your Help!

By Aida Torres

On Saturday, December 8, 2007, Wells Fargo Manager Jessica Garcia presented the Duarte Public Safety Youth Programs with a \$1,000 donation during their Grand Opening Ceremony at the new Wells Fargo Branch in Duarte. During this event 17 youth from the D.A.R.T. (Duarte Public Safety Team) Program donated their Saturday morning to offer free Kid Prints to families with young children and to help the Duarte Public Safety Department distribute important information pertaining public safety.

Washington Mutual has also invited the Duarte Public Safety Department and their Youth Programs to become

partners as their grand opening in our City approaches.

Washington Mutual opened its doors to the public in Duarte on December 27, 2007. Washington Mutual Manager Vida Zaribaf explains that her branch would like to demonstrate their commitment to the community by partnering with the Duarte Public Safety Department in promoting a safe community.

During the first four weeks the branch is open they will make a \$25 donation for each new checking account opened.

This partnership will be celebrated in the community by a two-day event, which will be marked by WAMU'S Grand Opening Ceremony on Friday, February 8, and Saturday, February 9. This event will feature live music, free food and activities for all.

All are invited to attend at their parking lot adjacent to Target and Duarte Satellite Sheriff Station. Take advantage of free checking and come out and support the youth of your community!



THE WELLS FARGO Grand Opening on December 8, 2007.

Duarte Trail Crew Back at Work



THE 2006-2007 DUARTE TRAIL CREW.

By Janelle Sales

It's the beginning of a new year, which means the new trail crew has been hard at work on the Fish Canyon Trail. The group of dedicated young men will be working from now until spring to prepare the nine-mile trail, making sure it is safe and beautiful for all to hike on Family Wilderness Day.

The crew is supervised by Duarte's Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, Steve Maroste, who coordinates all repairs and improvements done to the trail each year. Youth are physically challenged on the trails and hills of the Los Angeles National Forest every week. They work rain or shine, while learning how to use tools, teamwork, and gain maturity.

The Public Safety Department refers these teenagers through the Youthworks Program, which helps youth on probation to complete their community service hours. The most motivated and responsible participants are then recommended for the trail crew. This program was developed by Duarte Parks and Recreation Department to provide troubled youth with a positive learning and working experience to help better them.

The youth enjoy working on the trails because it provides a sense of responsibility and ownership, knowing that they are the reasons the trails can be accessible for the rest of the community annually. For many, it also is the first part-time paid job they have received, which motivates their good work even further.

Past trail crew members have gone beyond just clearing brush and making repairs. They have installed wooden steps making the trail safer, and informational signs to make it easier to follow for the public. For more information on the Fish Canyon Hiking Trail or the Trail Crew, call Duarte Parks and Recreation at (626) 357-7931.

Fitness Center Membership Sale



GET A HEALTHY START to the new year at the Duarte Fitness Center.

It's SALE time again at the Duarte Fitness Center where you can save 20% February 14 through February 17. A membership to the Duarte Fitness Center allows members to participate in a wide variety of physical activities.

The Life Fitness strength equipment includes a Chest Press, Lat Pull-down, Arm Curl, Seated Dip, Shoulder Press, Seated Leg Press, Leg Extension, Seated Leg Curl, Hip Abductor and Hip Adductor. Also available are Stairmasters, treadmills, bikes and cross trainers.

In addition, the Fitness Center has two courts available for either racquetball or wallyball. Aerobic classes are offered at various times daily.

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

19th Annual Duarte Family Wilderness Day

Duarte families are invited to experience one of the most beautiful, local, natural waterfalls in the Angeles National Forest. On Saturday, April 19, the Vulcan Rock Quarry will open their gates and allow access to the original Fish Canyon Trail.

The Fish Canyon Trail will lead you through the site of what was one of the premier outdoor recreation destinations in the San Gabriel Valley. During the early 1900's there were over 50 cabins in the canyon and even a dance hall at the mouth of the canyon. Most of the cabins were destroyed in the 1958 fire and flooding the next year. Remnants of the cabins can be found along the trail. At the end of the trail is Fish Canyon Falls. When the water runs high, the falls are a spectacular delight plunging 80 feet in three stages into a pool.

The 3.2-mile hike through the wilderness requires sturdy hiking boots and hikers must carry their own water. Hearty hikers can hike the expanded 9-mile version if desired. Activities at Encanto Park will include a hands-on na-



HIKERS ENJOY the great outdoors on Family Wilderness Day!

ture experiences, barbecue lunch, and fun for everyone. This event is sponsored by the City of Duarte.

Check-in will begin at 7 a.m. at Encanto Park. Hikers will be transported to the trailhead by City of Duarte shuttle. The fee is \$12 for adults, \$9 for child ages 3-11, and children under 3 are free. Registration is limited to the first 300 hikers. There will be an additional \$2 late fee for registrations postmarked after April 14.

Flyers and registration will be available in February at Duarte City Hall. For more information, please call (626) 357-7931.

Youth Sports

Boys and girls basketball practice has already begun! Call now for availability. For boys and girls grades 3rd to 8th.



BASKETBALL is a great way to exercise and have fun!

Will my child's helmet protect them in a fall?

No parent wants to see their child injured when riding their skateboard, scooter or bike, so to maximize their safety, parents need to be aware that a helmet worn incorrectly can be just as dangerous as riding without one.

"One of the most common problems among children that wear helmets is that the helmet is not fitted properly. Parents should ensure that their child's helmet fits properly in order to protect as intended," states Director of Public Safety Services Brian Villalobos.

To ensure that your child's helmet will be effective in a fall, follow these steps:

- Place your child's helmet on their head and attach chinstrap.
- The adjustable buckles found on the left and right side of their face should be adjusted to be directly below their ears forming a "V".
- The strap underneath their chin

should be adjusted to allow room for only two fingers to fit between their chin and the strap. If this is too loose, the helmet can slide out of place during a fall.

• Lastly, place your hand on top of the helmet and gently move it back and forth. If the helmet seems to slide atop your child's head, the helmet may be too large and should be replaced for a smaller size or padding should be attached inside the helmet. A well-fitted helmet will fit snugly.

For more information on helmet safety or to purchase a low cost helmet call the Public Safety Office at (626) 359-5671 ext. 316. Residents interested in purchasing a helmet should go the Public Safety Office Wednesdays between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Helmets are \$5 and the youth must be present when purchased.

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.

Gas Company offers extra winter discount to qualified low income customers

The Gas Company is offering additional assistance to low-income customers during the coldest winter months. From December through February, income-qualified customers who participate in The Gas Company's California Alternative Rates for Energy program (CARE) and currently receive a 20 percent rate discount will automatically receive an additional rate discount of 8 to 13 percent.

The additional discount will save all CARE customers combined approximately \$18 million over the three month period. For the typical residential CARE customer who consumes 75 therms of natural gas that will save an additional \$5 to \$10 on the monthly bill.

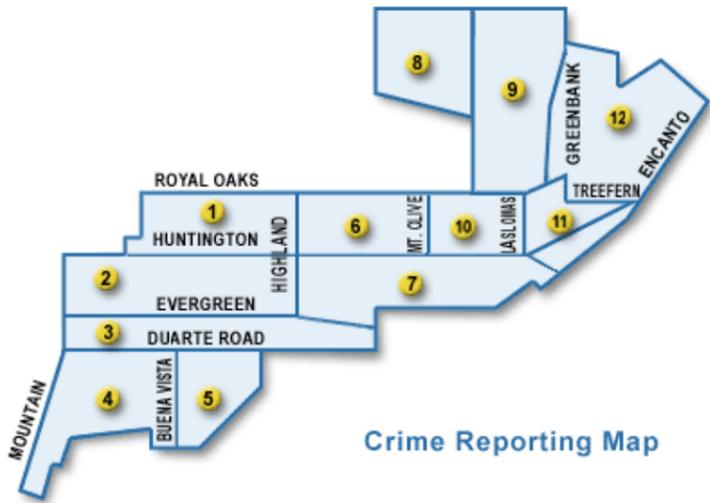
"We're able to provide this extra discount because in 2005 when natural gas prices were rapidly increasing, The Gas Company decided to extract lower-priced stored gas and pass the savings on to low-income customers over a three-year period. This is just one example of how The Gas Company is committed to identifying innovative ways to assist our customers," said Public Affairs Manager Bob Cruz.

While the discount will remain in effect through February, The Gas Company advises all customers to plan ahead in case colder than normal March weather results in increased natural gas usage and higher bills.

Other Gas Company sponsored programs that can help income-qualified customers save money on their gas bills are the Direct Assistance Program which offers no-cost energy saving home improvements and the Gas Assistance Fund which provides for a one-time credit of up to \$100 on a customer's winter bill.

For more information about Gas Company customer assistance programs, including CARE, Gas Assistance Fund, and Level Pay Plan, call: (1-800) 427-2200. To find out about the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, call (1-866) 675-6623, or the Direct Assistance Program, call (1-800) 331-7593. Customers can also visit the Gas Company website at www.socalgas.com.

Reported home burglaries



Crime Reporting Map

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES YEAR TO DATE January to November 2007			
Area	2007	2006	2005
1	6	2	5
2	3	3	3
3	3	1	2
4	6	4	5
5	0	1	4
6	1	2	3
7	6	2	9
8	6	0	0
9	5	1	4
10	4	3	6
11	1	2	0
12	3	4	4
Jan. to Nov.	44	25	45
Year End Totals	Unk.	25	47

VEHICLE BURGLARIES & THEFTS January to November 2007			
	2007	2006	2005
Vehicle Burglaries	71	106	69
Vehicle Thefts	67	82	108
Jan. to Nov. Totals	138	188	177
Year End Total	Unk.	210	185

Statistician Sonja Tanner

Updated January 1, 2008

DUARTE WELCOMES . . .

Deputy Dana Annisha

For Deputy Dana Annisha there is no such thing as a typical day on the job. As a patrol and crime car Deputy she commented that in the City of Duarte you never know what to expect. Her calls can range from traffic collisions to family disputes.

She began her law enforcement career after pursuing her Bachelors of Science degree in Political Science from Southern Texas University. After graduating Dana joined Houston Police Department. She patrolled the streets of Houston for two years, when she decided to apply for the Los Angeles County Sheriff Academy. Dana's eight years of service with the Los Angeles Sheriff Department began with six years at Twin Towers Detention Facility, followed by a year at the Central Regional Detention Facility for women. She received training in South El Monte, Rosemead, Pasadena, San Gabriel, and Temple City communities.

Dana filled a request for females in Duarte and became part of the Duarte Team in January 2007. Dana's general responsibilities include responding to service calls, this allows her to meet people and learn about their problems while investigating crime and maintaining high visibility to aid in deterring criminal activity. Dana would like to urge Duarte residents to get to know their neighbors by attending neighborhood watch meetings. Dana also asks residents to "Keep our number handy and be good witnesses, specially when placing a call to Temple Station for dispatch. Be sure to give the Deputy on the phone as much information as possible, PLEASE BE DETAILED. We need your eyes and ears, don't get involved but be good witnesses especially when it comes to vehicle descriptions."



DEPUTY DANA ANNISHA

CELL PHONES AND DRIVING

New California law effective July 1, '08

Prohibit the use of "hand-held" cell phones among drivers 18 years and older, except for emergency calls to law enforcement and public safety agencies, and for certain commercial vehicles for which the law's effective date is July 1, 2011.

Prohibit a driver under the age of 18 years from using any wireless device, even if equipped with a hands-free or mobile service device - with the exception of during an emergency.

Violating this law includes a base fine of \$20 for a first offense and \$50 for each subsequent offense.

While California Law will soon make it illegal for drivers 18 years and older to use a hand-held device while driving, drivers can still use an earpiece, headset, speaker phone, or Bluetooth device.

However it is your responsibility as a driver to understand that talking on a cell phone, talking to passengers, eating, changing compact discs/radio stations, or using on-board navigation systems while driving significantly reduces your reaction time, decision making, and ability to control speed, throttle control and position on the road. This increases the risk for serious injury or death.

For these reasons, the new California Law also makes it illegal for drivers younger than 18 years of age to use any wireless hand-held or hands-free device, except for emergencies.

RISKS WHILE DRIVING?

- Drivers must take eyes off the road while driving in order to dial or utilize text messaging.

- Drivers take their attention off the road when they are engaged in conversation on cell phones, thus affecting their ability to concentrate on the act of driving (*Insurance Information Institute, 2007*)

- Not only cell phones create a risk for serious injury or death, so do other driver distractions. (See Distracted Driving Fact Sheet)

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

1. Utilize a hands-free cell phone device while driving (*Except for drivers 18 and younger*).

2. Never have a stressful conversation while driving.

3. If your mobile phone rings while you are driving, let voice-mail answer. Call back when you are in a safe location and no longer driving.

4. If you need to make a call, pull over to a safe location.

5. When driving, it is important to remember that your primary responsibility is to maintain and operate your vehicle.

Death and taxes and childbirth! There's never any convenient time for any of them!

-Margaret Mitchell, author

Income tax time is when you test your powers of deduction.

-Shelby Friedman, punster, pharmacist

Dr. Edward Ortell to Serve as President of Citrus Community College District Board

By Stacey Quillen-Armstrong

Duarte community leader Dr. Edward C. Ortell was installed as president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees during the annual board organizational meeting held in December.

The senior member of the board, Dr. Ortell was first elected to represent the city of Duarte and portions of Arcadia, Azusa and Monrovia in 1969. This will be his tenth term as president.

A lifelong advocate of community colleges, Dr. Ortell has lobbied state and federal legislators on behalf of community college education and has testified before the legislature. He currently serves on the California Community College Trustees Board of Directors and has served on numerous other boards and associations, including the Community College League of California Advisory Committee on Legislation; the SB 6 Master Plan for Education Task Force; the Community College Association Board of Directors; and the Los Angeles County Trustees Association.

In addition, Dr. Ortell has worked statewide to safeguard local control, which maintains decision making at Citrus College for the people of Duarte.

"While Citrus College is proud of its rich history and many accomplishments, we also look forward to the years ahead," Dr. Ortell said. "The continued upgrades to our facilities serve as an example of the progress taking place on our campus. As we near the completion of the new Center for Innovation and anticipate the start of construction on the new Vocational Technology building, we will strive to maintain the sense of community that has made Citrus College the outstanding institution it is today."

During his time at Citrus College, Dr. Ortell has been instrumental in spearheading the creation of the Child Development Center and Infant Care Center. He has also worked to establish other facilities that benefit Duarte residents, including the Olympic swimming pool (which is adapted for disabled access), the Golf Driving Range, and the Fitness Center.



DR. EDWARD ORTELL

East meets West art exhibit Feb. 8

A collaborative exhibit by local west coast artist Bjlane and Quan-Yin Kung-Fu and T'ai Chi Ch'uan School of Monrovia, is being held February 8, 6-9 p.m. at the school, 802 S. Primrose Ave., Monrovia.

The exhibit features a mural depicting the history of an ancient Chinese martial art and a unique martial arts demo by authentic Shaolin Monks from China. Admission is free.

An 8-piece mural (measuring 4 feet by 32 feet) depicting the story of Kung Fu San Soo is on display and open to viewing at this public art event.

The exhibit also features several Southern California "plein air" paintings and two portraits (created by the same artist) of the late, beloved Jimmy Woo, and the school's current "Sifu", Tony Horton.

Bjlane is a local artist, residing in Duarte. She is a member of Southern California Plein Air Association and Mid Valley Art League. Her work has been seen in the Garland Gallery in Pasadena, the Jameson Gallery in Sierra Madre and the Whittier Gallery, in addition to other venues in Southern California.

Visitors will have a chance to meet the artist Bjlane, and at 7 p.m. watch an exciting, live demonstration by real Shaolin Monks from China, displaying their secret ancient art of Kung Fu San Soo.

For additional information contact Bj Lane at (626) 358-1412 or Tony Horton at (626) 357-4065.

Citrus College: focusing on our bright future

By Michael J. Viera, PhD
Citrus College Superintendent/President

Centuries before technological innovations changed our society and impacted our everyday lives, Benjamin Franklin noted, "Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning."

The key words in Franklin's quotation: growth, progress, improvement, achievement, and success fully describe Citrus College at this exciting time in our 92-year history.

It was rewarding to see the growth in student enrollment this fall. We continue to offer high quality instruction for students who are earning an associates degree, transferring to a four-year college or university, preparing for a career, or improving their lives. Enabling our students to successfully accomplish these goals is central to our mission.

We are reminded of our progress as we experience the first year of our new academic or "compressed" calendar. This class schedule introduces students to an important element of the calendar, the Winter Intersession. The Intersession, January 7-February 14, will enable students to maximize their time and take classes during a six-week timeframe. Spring semester, with classes beginning February 20, will be a 16-week semester. The ultimate purpose of the compressed calendar is to give students the opportunity to take more classes and reach their educational goals in a timely manner.

Two years of collaboration, implementation and innovation have produced a major improvement in the college's computer system, known on campus as WingSpan. As we enter our third term of WingSpan, we will continue to fine tune the system and deliver an efficient and convenient method of application, registration and information retrieval.

The above-mentioned items are just a few examples of our recent achievements. This is an exciting time to be a student at Citrus College! In the midst of all of this progress and change, always remember that the faculty and staff are here to ensure that you have the best learning experience possible. We are committed to student success.



DR. MICHAEL VIERA

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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.

The Center serves lunch Monday through Friday at 12 p.m. to individuals over 60 years, or the spouse of someone over age 60, for a suggested donation of \$2 per person.

You must sign in by 11:45 a.m. or your reservation will be lost. Reservations are required 24 hours in advance, and 48 hours in advance for a choice day.

TRIPS AND TOURS

The City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Department is currently taking registration for winter trips.

You can pick up a brochure at City Hall or the Senior Center to receive in-depth information about the following trips:

“Senior Class” Palm Springs – The Funniest Show in Town! Friday, January 25, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$58; Cowboy Dinner Theater, Palm Springs Monday, February 25, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$59; “Blame it on the Movies”, Candlelight Pavilion Saturday, March 8, 10:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$53; The Magic of Ireland Performance – Victoria Gardens Cultural Center, Rancho Cucamonga Saturday, March 15, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. \$41.

NO REFUNDS: In the event of a participant cancellation, an attempt will be made to fill the spot

from the waiting list. If successful, the participant will receive a gift certificate equal to the amount of the trip minus a \$10.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Eligible seniors can receive a hot lunch and cold dinner plate delivered each weekday by the American Red Cross or seven frozen meals delivered once a week by YWCA Senior Services.

For more information on either of these programs, please contact Intervale at (626) 966-9526.

ACCESS TRANSPORTATION

Provides transportation for individuals with disabilities.

For eligibility or more information call (800) 827-0829.

VOLUNTEERING DOES A HEART GOOD!

The Duarte Senior Center is always in need of volunteers to help with food preparation, serving meals, table setups, craft projects, decorating, etc.

If you would like to give back to the community, please consider being a volunteer. It will do your heart good!

Call the Senior Center at (626) 357-3513 for more information and ask for Kelly.

COED SOFTBALL TEAM

If you are interested in joining a coed softball team, please contact the Center at (626) 357-3513. Practices will begin the end of March.

DIABETES FOOD DEMONSTRATION

Come to the Senior Center for an informative diabetes food demonstration on Tuesday, Janu-

City of Duarte responds to mountain lion incident

The City of Duarte is notifying the public of an incident involving a mountain lion in the back yard of a residence in the early morning hours of November 28, 2007 on Cedarwood Ave., near the top of Las Lomas Road.

ary 22, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

OSTEOPOROSIS WORKSHOP – HOW CAN IT AFFECT YOU?

Inter Valley Health Plan invites you to an informative talk by health care professionals on Thursday, January 24, at 9:30 a.m. Free bone density screening by appointment only. Please call the Center at (626) 357-3513.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

February 1 through April 15 trained volunteer counselors will be available to assist seniors with income tax returns for both electronic and manual filing. The service is by appointment only. Call the Senior Center at (626) 357-3513 to schedule an appointment. Donations suggested.

Allegedly, a mountain lion attacked two German Shepard's in the resident's backyard of the residence.

One of the German Shepard's was injured and taken to the veterinarian.

The other German Shepard was killed, partially eaten and buried by the mountain lion in the general proximity.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies along with the City of Duarte's Animal Control Officer responded to the residence as a result of the attack.

The California Department of Fish and Game has jurisdiction and authority over these type of incidents and was notified.

The California Department of Fish and Game does not see this attack as a threat to public safety and as such their suggested response includes educating and notifying the public of the dangers of this particular type of wildlife and the offering of a depredation permit to the owner of the dogs.

The following recommendations for the public are advisable:

- Do not hike, jog or ride your bicycle alone in mountain lion country: Go in groups, with adults supervising children. Keep children close to you: Observations of captured wild mountain lions reveal that the animals seem especially drawn to children. Keep children in your sight at all times. Do not approach a mountain lion: Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

- Do not run from a mountain lion: Running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase. Instead, stand and face the animal. Make eye contact. If there are small children there, pick them up if possible so they don't panic and run. Although it may be awkward, pick them up without bending over or turning away from the mountain lion.

- Do not crouch or bend over: A person squatting or bending over looks a lot like a four-legged prey animal. When in mountain lion country, avoid squatting, crouching or bending over, even when picking up children.

- Appear larger: Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Again, pick up small children. Throw stones, branches, or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly in a loud voice. The idea is to convince the mountain lion that you are not prey and that you may be a danger to it.

- Fight back if attacked: Many potential victims have fought back successfully with rocks, sticks, caps, jackets, garden tools and their bare hands. Since a mountain lion usually tries to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the attacking animal.

- Don't feed wildlife: By feeding deer, javelina or other wildlife in your yard, you may inadvertently attract mountain lions, which prey upon them.

- Deer and rabbit proof your landscape: Avoid using plants that deer prefer to eat; if landscaping attracts deer, mountain lions may be close by.

- Landscape for safety: Remove dense and/or low-lying vegetation provides good hiding places for mountain lions and coyotes, especially around children's play areas; make it difficult for wild predators to approach a yard unseen.

- Closely supervise children: Keep a close watch on children whenever they play outdoors. Make sure children are inside before dusk and not outside before dawn. Talk with children about mountain lions and teach them what to do if they encounter one.

- Install outdoor lighting: Keep the house perimeter well lit at night – especially along walkways – to keep any approaching mountain lions visible.

- Keep pets secure: Roaming pets are easy prey for hungry mountain lions and coyotes. Either bring pets inside or keep them in a kennel with a secure top. Don't feed pets outside;

For additional information or if you sight a mountain lion in your area, please contact the Temple Sheriff Station at (626) 285-7171.

For general information on mountain lions, please contact Duarte Public Safety at (626) 357-7938.



DUARTE SENIOR CENTER excursions offer something for everyone.



Applause for Duarte float following judging.

Buena Vista Pavilion

Great weather and another year of beautiful floats from award-winning Fiesta Parade Floats brought out the crowds for the final year of the Tournament of Roses Buena Vista Pavilion float decorating and public viewing site in Duarte. Over the past 12 years the Buena Vista Pavilion has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors from near and far to Duarte. The success of the venue was the result of the partnership between the City of Duarte, City of Hope, Tournament of Roses and the Duarte Community Coordinating Council (DCCC), the latter an umbrella group for more than 25 local nonprofit organizations that has managed and run the site since its inception. As many as 300 volunteers a year from DCCC member nonprofits earned funds to help support community programs and activities by coordinating and providing visitor services at the Buena Vista Pavilion. Although now Fiesta Parade Floats and consequently the Tournament's float decorating and public viewing site will be moving to Irwindale, the Tournament has invited DCCC to continue to provide services for the new location. But whatever happens, all should agree it's been a great ride. Bouquets of roses to all involved.

Buena Vista Pavilion volunteers enjoy a break.



DCTV's Mr. Y and cameraman Estevan Garcia capture an interview.



Dia de los Muertos float.

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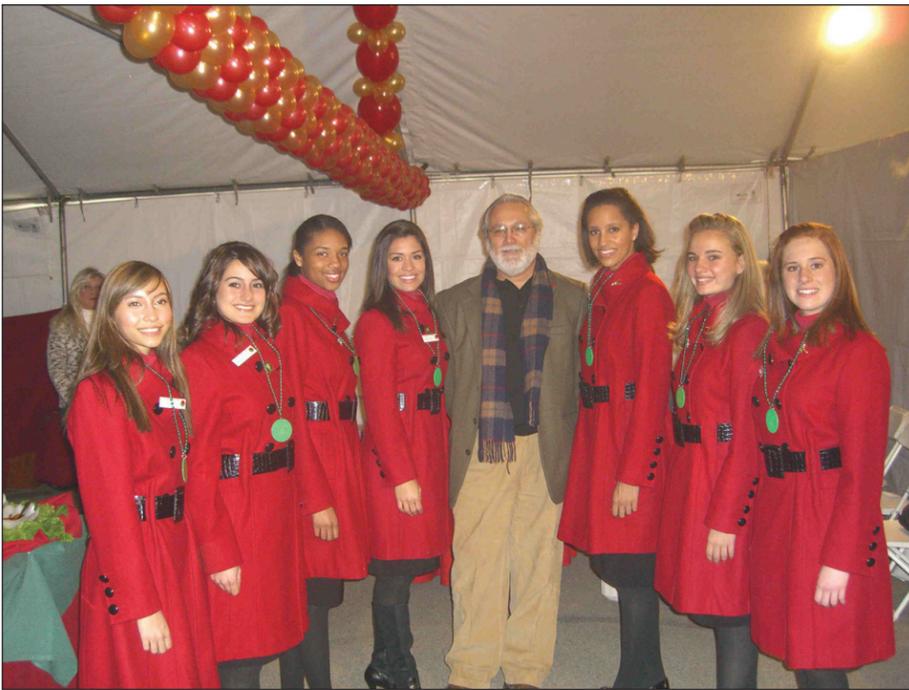
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If you are interested in a new hobby, or a new profession, give Sandy a call. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude will rub off on you right away and you will be well on your way to making those clever, unique and beautiful items yourself.



Anita Oaks Girls Volleyball Team Captures Foothill League Championship

The Anita Oaks School girls volleyball team placing 14-1, captured the Foothill League title on November 30 against Westminster Academy of Eagle Rock with a 25-20 and 25-14 victory.

It was a bittersweet win, because last year the ladies went 13-0 undefeated, but were ineligible because of league rules.

The girls volleyball team made sure that didn't happen this season.

The team began preparing for volleyball season during the summer by taking the LaSalle Volleyball Clinic and San Gabriel Elite Volleyball Club Clinic.

The girls volleyball team win is even more remarkable, as their team is comprised of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders playing against teams mostly packed with varsity 8th graders.

"We have had a great season. I'm so proud of these girls. They all got along and helped each other. I know they wanted that championship. We will be just as strong next year," says girls volleyball coach Lori Pefferle-Ramirez.

The girls volleyball team members include Brianna Barta, Madeline Pefferle, McKenzie Bauer, Carolyn Chalfont, Kristen Chang, Janice Lai, Sarah Glaser, Alexandra Tulleners, Gabrielle Ramirez, Essence, Brianna Johnson, Melody Munson, and Manager Hannah Volekman.

Coaches are Lori Pefferle-Ramirez and Cynthia Glaser. Madeline Pefferle was chosen MVP of the championship game.

Anita Oaks is an independent, private school providing academic programs and summer school for preschool through 8th grade.

For further information, call (626) 301-1354 or visit the website at www.anitaoaksschool.com.

Duarte Mediation Team – UPDATE –

The gang violence that erupted in our communities recently is frightening, tragic and worrisome. Not by any stretch of the imagination does it, as some would have us believe, signal a race war. Headlines, rumors and speculation about the nature of these drive-by shootings have sparked fears among many residents who are concerned about their own safety and the safety of their children. Such concern is certainly reasonable but the situation should be kept in perspective.

Throughout these troubling days, school campuses have remained calm and safe. Life in the majority of our neighborhoods has continued without incident. Residents who live near where gang members congregate or hang out are disturbed by events and statements that degrade their entire neighborhood. Decent citizens abhor violence and seek to rid their community of any criminal or gang activity.

On January 16 representatives of Monrovia, Duarte, Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte Town councils, our schools, churches, residents, and law enforcement teams met to discuss the issue of gang violence. They formulated action plans, to be added to the many already in place.

TO PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS FROM GANGS . . .

- **Parents** are urged to supervise their children and teens. Be sure youth do not dress in gang attire, clothes or jewelry that attract gang members' attention.

- **Youth** should make good use of resources available that offer positive involvement, such as Monrovia's Youth Center, the Boys & Girls Club, Santa Anita Family YMCA, Duarte Teen Center, and numerous after school programs.

- **Pastors** are asked to speak to their congregations and inform parishioners to treat others with respect and not to promote hatred or violence. Make all of our churches safe havens for persons who feel threatened.

- **Neighborhood meetings** are being planned to dispel rumors; to seek citizen involvement as Block Captains and to revitalize or form Neighborhood Watch groups.

- **Residents** of neighborhoods where gangs tend to hang out **MUST** cooperate with our police investigations. Everyone can help by reporting any unusual activities or incidents that might lead to gang violence or other illegal activities in our communities.

- **Report Anonymous Tips** to (626) 357-7938 ext. 462.

- **Witnesses** should come forward and help identify shooters. Families and friends of gang members need to cut themselves loose from those who bring violence into their lives – for their own safety and the safety of all of us.

- **Law Enforcement and Gang Specialists** are patrolling our streets. Arrests have been made and more are expected.

Together, We can stop this violence. We must!!! We Will!!!!

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and all Duarte Chamber members



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Next issue is March-April
2008

From the desk of the Superintendent

Dr. Dean Conklin, Superintendent,
Duarte Unified School District

The Duarte Board of Education attended the annual California School Boards Association conference recently. This is an annual event, and it gives Board of Education members an opportunity to learn about the best and most proven practices for school performance and leadership. As I attended that conference, I was struck by the professionalism and collective wisdom of our five Board members. Pam Kawasaki, Rose Brooks-Mitchell, Reyna Diaz, Frank Figueroa and Ken Bell are five outstanding individuals, and when they come together to represent the community as the Duarte Unified School District, they always keep students first in their decision-making. Some school boards can suffer from expanded egos or individual members who attempt to grab the spotlight, but not the five Duarte Board members. These individuals are committed to the students in the community, and are dedicated to making sure that the Duarte Unified School District is on a path of continuous improvement.

One of the speakers we heard at the conference was Dr. Joseph Johnson, who is the Executive Director of the National Center for Urban School Transformation. He talked about the characteristics of effective schools, including the need for high expectations for all, a sense of urgency about serving students, and a shared sense of responsibility for improving academic achievement. In his talk, Dr. Johnson pointed out schools that had done an outstanding job of teaching each child. The five Board members and I all took notes on this presentation, and we will use the information we have learned as we strive to make sure that we are doing our best for each and every student in Duarte.

Improvement is an ongoing process, and change is inevitable. We do a very good job of teaching our students, but we must continually strive to do even better. Fortunately, we have an outstanding Board of Education in Duarte. Their dedication is matched by an extremely talented and hard working group of teachers, administrators, and support staff. Of course, it helps to have great students, and you will find hundreds, if not thousands of those here too!



DR. DEAN CONKLIN

Andres Duarte is defying gravity!

By Joilyn Campitiello, Principal

We have big dreams for the future and nothing can hold us back! That's the message resonating through the halls of Andres Duarte School. A huge mural of smiling faces fills the cafeteria wall, a visual display of students symbolically soaring to success and defying gravity – unlimited in what they can achieve. Andres Duarte students in grades 3-6 are dreaming about the future, and planning for their future careers. At a recent student led Spirit Assembly, students were entertained and enlightened with a message of hope and promise. Fifth grader, Abryanna Howard and 3rd grader, Eva Paiz, performed a skit that included Howard citing famous quotes on success and a solo by Paiz of the song, Defying Gravity from the Broadway show Wicked.

Also included in the assembly was a powerful video presentation of students by staff member Pat Kramer that moved both students and staff to tears. Both primary and upper grade chorus' sang uplifting songs and the assembly ended in a shower of confetti. Student Council President Gabby Montoya did an outstanding job as Master of Ceremonies.

In the evening following the spirit assembly, parents of third – sixth grade students were invited to attend a special event called a World Café. Parents and community members met in small conversation groups of 4 -5 to discuss ways to support the dreams of Andres Duarte students. Ideas were then shared out by table hosts and recorded by a graphic artist. Future meetings are planned to continue to explore ways for Andres Duarte and the greater community to come together and support the children and their future dreams.

Student talents were showcased once again at the annual winter programs held over two nights in the Andres Duarte cafeteria. The Andres Duarte Cougar PSSA recently purchased an incredible new sound system that included microphones for choral groups and portable mics. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the PSSA, every child's voice and note was heard loud and clear! Outside the performance, the PSSA continued to fundraise selling home made tamales and champurrado to a grateful crowd.

Santiago, as well as Extended Day Care specialist Amy Call for receiving Wishing Well Grants through the Duarte Educa-

Beardslee warmth for winter!



THE KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS in Miss Carrie Chiu's class prepare for a cozy read in their PJ's, while they drop everything and read during Literacy Week.

By Wendy Wright, Principal

If you are looking for a warm place to be, I invite you to Beardslee. Our community emanates warmth in sharing literacy, celebrating the holidays, providing student shopping, and awarding best efforts in academics. We are fortunate to have such caring families and staff that honor students in all that they do.

Celebrate Literacy Week is our annual celebration of reading and writing. A special assembly kicked off the week, emceed by Mrs. Angelina Salas, committee chair.

On PJ day, students came to school in their pajamas, ready to drop everything and read at a specified time. On a cold evening, the Beardslee cafeteria was warmed by a yummy pot luck dinner which preceded our Family Literacy Night.

The cafeteria was bedecked with posters created by each classroom honoring their favorite illustrators. All were entertained as the staff performed a reprise of a reader's theater, "Chicks and Salsa".

Twenty-four students shared books that were just "Too Good to Miss", practicing public speaking skills gained during our daily oral language development.

A silent auction of theme-based baskets created by every classroom raised almost a thousand dollars for our Beardslee Parent Staff Association.

Every family in attendance received a book so that literacy will continue at home. The success of the event was that more than 150 books were distributed.

Thanks to the planning of the committee members, Mrs. Cynthia Wells, Mr. Scott Moses, Mrs. Bobbie Wenrick, Mrs. Rene Mata, Miss Jennifer Brown, and Miss Abby Cano.

Mr. Sal Burgos also volunteered to assist in the festivities.

tion Foundation and the Duarte Unified School District. Their grants will be used to purchase literacy materials for our preschool and school-aged daycare classrooms.

STILL TIME TO ENROLL

We continue to enroll preschoolers and school-aged daycare students. To obtain an application, or for more information, please stop by our Child Development office on the Andres Duarte campus or give us a call at (626) 599-5120.

Hablamos Español. Head Start serves children who have disabilities. It's not too early to complete an application for next year. Children must be three years old by December 2.

Mrs. Cecilia Arnerich, former Beardslee Principal, warmly welcomed all. It was truly a toasty evening!

Warming the hearts of all was our annual holiday program. Miss Jennifer Brown directed our Winter Wonderland at the Performing Art Center.

One hundred eighty students performed songs celebrating this chilly time of year! 6th grade mistresses of ceremonies: Gabriela Acosta and Olivia Talavera not only introduced the acts but shared some holiday jokes with the audience.

Students in our second grade under the direction of Mr. Burgos, Mr. Quintana and Mr. Bughman, not only sang and beat time to "Little Drummer Boy" on drums, they made during their art classes. The third grade classes regaled us with our theme song, "Winter Wonderland". Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Viers and Miss Brown, also taught them "White Christmas".

It was a Hawaiian luau with "Mele Kelemaka" sung by our fourth graders led by Mrs. Arzaga and Mr. Green followed by "Little St. Nick"! Mrs. Bartlett's sixth grade class let us know why they would be getting "Nuttin' for Christmas".

The dramatic finale was a darkened auditorium lit only by the glow of lights that each student held, as all performers and our Peer Mediator stage crew sang "Let There Be Peace On Earth".

Santa's Secret Shop opened to student shoppers' delight. Our BPSA ensured that students would have something to give to loved ones during the gift giving season! Children could purchase gifts for their special people at prices ranging from twenty-five cents to five dollars.

Thanks to our BPSA board: Mrs. Lorena Mata, Mrs. Lupe Mendoza, Mrs. Alicia Brieno, Mrs. Maria Romo, and their many volunteers – everyone left the Shop a little happier!

Nothing is greater than to achieve recognition for a job well done!

Recently students were honored for character traits in our monthly Asset Builders assembly. Families were able to attend the four assemblies to give credit to those who excelled during our first trimester of the year. 475 awards for academic achievement and perfect attendance were distributed.

The thermometer may register chilly winter weather but at Beardslee we are a glow with the many events that took our mind off the coldness. Beardslee parents, students and staff all share the joy of achievement, performance and fellowship which warms my heart and soul!

Child Development

By Bobbi Brzozowski, Director

LIQUID SUNSHINE REIGNED ON THE ROUTE 66 DAY PARADE

No amount of rain could stop the Head Start and State Preschool children and their families from marching down Huntington Drive to celebrate the Route 66 Parade.

Preschoolers loved the instant puddles and their parents patiently protected them from the raindrops as we walked the parade route. Head Start and State Preschool families are the BEST!!



BEARDSLEE HEAD START student Nadia Lopez and her parents Ricardo and Guillermina braved the elements to show the Duarte community our Head Start/State Preschool pride at the Route 66 parade.

TEACHERS LEARN, TOO

Head Start and State Preschool teachers used their Staff Development Day to learn ways to bring movement into their indoor and outdoor activities for children through a new program called I Am Moving I Am Learning, designed to fight the trend of obesity

in children.

FOUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT STAFF RECEIVED WISHING WELL GRANTS

Congratulations to State Preschool teachers Brenda Avila, Lupe Martinez, and Esther De



PRESCHOOL TEACHERS and aides practice ways to add movement to their daily routine for children.



WISHING WELL GRANT recipients Esther De Santiago, Lupe Martinez and Brenda Avila received their awards at the Wild, Wild West Awards Dinner sponsored by the Duarte Education Foundation.



PARENTS GATHER at Maxwell for the World Café program.

Maxwell sponsors a World Café for 125 parents and community members

By Mary Gonzales, Principal

Maxwell parents and community used an innovative method to answer the question, "How do we as a community develop the sacred purpose of ensuring that our children's dreams come true?" We gathered in a Café atmosphere with music, food and conversation. These conversations linked and built on each other as people moved between groups. The ideas were recorded in word and picture by a graphic recorder. All this was in response to a recent activity Maxwell elementary students participated in.

Maxwell Elementary school students in grades third through sixth shared what they want to be when they grow up. They then drew a picture that expressed their feelings of what it would take for them to make their dreams come true.

The children's answers say a lot about their positive outlook and the obvious support and encouragement they receive from their families. Many of their answers included more than fireman, police, doctor or lawyer. The students wrote about becoming singers, dancers, graphic designers, authors and illustrators. Their dreams range from professional sports players, marine biologists and even a Nobel Peace Prize winner. The children want to make their families proud and they want to help the needy.

As a process, the World Café helps the group to see the pos-



PARENTS BRAINSTORMED IDEAS to ensure their children receive the best education possible.

sibilities and to suggest ways to make it happen. Some ideas that surfaced at Maxwell's World Café are that the parents can learn from their children and not lose their dreams for the future.

Other ideas are that we need to learn to more about college requirements and costs. This is so that parents and students will be ready when it is time to go to college.

They talked about the need to support children in all ways including guiding them and making sure that they develop a sense of morals and ethics. They want their children to be spiritual.

The students also answered what they think they could never be. Children usually have an innocence that prevents them from seeing the negative. That is why

it's no surprise they see a limitless futures. Will their dreams change? No...if we as a community make it our sacred purpose to support the children and their dreams.

We do it by making sure they have a safe place to grow and explore. As a community we must see to it that there are plenty of opportunities to play in organized sports, as well as giving them access to the arts and music. We need to have singing and dancing classes. Students need to be able to see firsthand some of these careers from the front lines.

Most importantly it takes the community together to continue to emphasize the importance of education.

This was the first World Café at Maxwell but not the last. After discussing with participants it was agreed that one of the next steps is to meet again. This time we will display the ideas that evolved at the first meeting. Again parents and community through conversation will search for the answers to the question, "How will we make sure we develop that sacred passion for ensuring that our students reach their dreams?" This time we will identify a couple of actions and begin to put them in place.

If you want to learn more about the World Café you can find them on the internet or call Maxwell Elementary and we will be happy to share.

Duarte High's AVID Program

By Bill Martinez, Principal

Today, I am going to take a detour from my "usual" writing about my favorite subject-Duarte High School, and instead I am going to write about a specific program first piloted at the high school five years ago and later adopted at Northview Intermediate School. The name of the program is **AVID**. The reason I am writing about this program is because this program can really make a difference in the educational future of a child.

AVID stands for Achievement Via Individual Determination, and its goal is to "motivate and prepare" underrepresented students to perform well in high school and to seek a college education. The program began in San Diego's Claremont High School in 1980. It is now implemented in more than 3,500 schools-including Duarte High School and Northview Intermediate School, in 45 states and 15 countries.

The program works by placing low achieving students in college preparatory classes with high achieving students. These AVID students also participate daily in an AVID elective class that emphasizes writing, inquiry, and collaboration. Local college students act as tutors, and AVID students collaborate in study teams. In the area of writing, the students learn a special form of note taking designed to jot details during their academic classes and develop questions based on their notes. The questions are discussed in the AVID elective class. In addition, students keep learning logs and practice quick writes to develop their writing skills. In inquiry, local college students, who operate as tutors in the AVID classroom, conduct study groups. Tutors are trained not to give answers but help the AVID students clarify their thoughts based on questions they noted from their academic classes. Lastly, AVID students collaborate in study teams to achieve instructional goals instead of working in isolation. In addition to using these methods in the daily elective class, AVID promotes the integration of these methodologies into the academic classes that AVID students attend.

THE AVID STUDENT

AVID targets students in the academic middle - B, C and even D students - who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These students are capable of completing a rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Typically, they will be the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low income or minority families. AVID takes these students out of remedial/non-rigorous courses and places them on the college track.

THE AVID ELECTIVE

The AVID students are enrolled in rigorous classes, but they are also enrolled in the AVID elective. For one period a day,

the students learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in the enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. With time and increased performance, the AVID student's self image improves, and they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students.

THE AVID CURRICULUM

The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and senior high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is driven by the **WICR** method, which stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration and reading. AVID curriculum is used in AVID elective classes, in content area classes in AVID schools, and even in schools where the AVID elective is not offered.

THE AVID TUTORS

The AVID tutors are essential to the success of the AVID elective class, where they facilitate student access to the rigorous curriculum. As students from colleges and universities, tutors serve as role models. AVID students who continue their education in college often return to the program as tutors.

THE AVID PARENT

The AVID parent is expected to encourage their student to achieve academically, participate on an advisory board and in AVID parent and site teams meetings, and maintain regular contact with the AVID coordinator at the school.

RESULTS

Research shows that almost all AVID students who participate in the program for three years or more are accepted to college with roughly three-quarters getting into four year universities.

LASTLY

AVID is an in-school academic support program for grades 4-12 that prepares students for college eligibility.

AVID places academically average students in rigorous classes.

AVID is for all students, but it targets those in the academic middle.

AVID is not a remedial program.

AVID is not a college outreach program.

I feel very strongly about this program. If this program had been in existence when I was in high school, my first two years of college would have been much easier than they turned out to be because I would have been much better prepared to meet the rigors of college courses. Much of the information in this article can be found at www.avidonline.org. I encourage you to look into this program. It is very successful.

Until next time,

Dr. M

The Caring Administrator



MR. AND MRS. NUNEZ attended that evening.

Valley View

By Robin Nelson, Principal

Exciting things are happening at Valley View Elementary. We are growing an organic garden and in December, we spent time "Gathering Around Family and Friends".

Two of our teachers, **Tracy Hall** and **Mara Goldwhite**, applied and were awarded a grant from the State of California, through the California Instructional School Garden Grant. These funds will provide an organic garden for teachers to use to support instruction in Science, Math, Language Arts and Social Science. Upon receiving the good news, they started to recruit parents to build the garden. We had two very productive days with

staff and parents working hard moving soil, making planters and preparing great learning opportunities for our children. The **Valley View PTA** has generously voted to supplement and support this exciting garden. We are very appreciative for the unwavering support we receive from our PTA.

The Dolphins rang in the holiday season at our Annual Winter Program themed "Gather Around Family and Friends". **Christy Jackman** was our committee chair for the show, working with **Carrie Brakebush**, **Emily**



Morris, **Ruth Munoz**, **Irene Olmos**, and **Kris Sirca**. The children in first, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade classrooms performed before a full house at the Performing Arts Center. The Valley View Chorus led by **Char Wilson** was a fabulous addition to our program, singing during the transition times. The PAC was decorated beautifully and all of the parents were beaming from ear to ear with pride. The Valley View Chorus also performed for the whole school at a Winter Concert on December 19.

The Valley View staff continues to meet the educational challenge of integrating basic skills and teaching the California State Standards while giving children enriching and extended learning opportunities through gardening and performing arts.



Northview Intermediate

By Miriam Fox, Principal

As the new year commences, the staff and students at Northview are excited about continuing on our educational journey together, especially after the rejuvenating days off enjoyed hopefully, in the company of friends and family. We hope that this newsletter finds you and yours in good health and good spirits. Unfortunately, during the months prior to the winter holidays our community experienced some unrest, specifically as related to the drive by shooting of one of our teens and the murder of a young man (24 years of age). Both of these incidents are believed to be gang related and occurred in the community not at our schools, however the impact is felt by all of us. As the principal of Northview and as a resident of this community I share your grief and understand your fear. Our sense of security and safety can be compromised by these awful, acts of violence. Therefore, the focal message of this newsletter is to reassure you that your children are safe and well-cared for at school. I feel the need to share this information because of these violent events as well as what I witnessed when a rescue helicopter had to use our athletic field to evacuate an injured worker from a local business to an emergency medical center. On Friday, December 14, a worker at a local paint manufacturing company located on Central was injured by a piece of equipment that fell on him, originally we believed it was a traffic accident. As a result of this injury a "medivac" (evacuation by helicopter)

occurred with a minimal amount of notice being given to us at the site. It is not unusual for the rescue team to use our field for this purpose, however unfortunately this evacuation took place with only a three minute notice possible for us here at Northview and the timing coincided with school dismissal. While Mrs. Hazelton our assistant principal with assistance from staff, kept students away from the evacuation site, I was stationed in the front parking lot, trying to reassure parents and students and trying to assist with dismissal. The level of fear and in some cases terror that I saw on the faces of our loving and concerned parents led to the writing of this message. Although none of these incidents of violence have occurred at our school or have directly involved any students at Northview (we do have siblings/relatives of the victims attending Northview) Mrs. Hazelton and I want to reassure you by letting you know of the precautions we are taking.

1. All staff has been made aware of the "happenings" in our community and are all on **high alert**. That is to say they are maintaining **extra vigilance**, remaining alert for any unusual occurrence at or near campus, this includes the careful screening of anyone attempting to enter our campus.

2. Wherever possible **campus gates are being kept locked**, to restrict access to the campus except through the office.

3. As needed, **additional staff** have been assigned to **assist with supervision**. Teachers and instructional aides have been most helpful in this area.

Mt. Olive: Instilling Pride and Purpose

By Kevin Morris, Principal

MT. OLIVE PRIDE

How do you instill pride and purpose? For starters, teacher, David Karp, the Mt. Olive Student Leadership Team, and Pasadena Art Center Artist, Demetrius May are working together to complete the Mt. Olive Mural of Pride on the South wall of Room 5 and Room 3. When completed, the mural will read "**Mt. Olive Bulldogs**" with the backdrop of our beautiful mountains and the

4. Following any incident of this nature in the community, **students will temporarily be restricted from using the blacktop or grass field** and will be kept in the internal quad areas away from the street.

5. Students are being provided with **opportunities to share their concerns or fears** and discuss it with a trusted teacher or other adult at our school.

6. The **family members or close friends of the victims** have been afforded the opportunity to **meet with our school psychologist or therapists** from Pacific Clinics. We are happy to extend this service to any student who is feeling stressed about these events.

7. **After the holiday break the Central Avenue gate is no longer used for entrance or exit from the school grounds.** This will reduce the unsafe congestion that occurs in the Central Avenue corridor when both the high school and middle school enter and exit almost simultaneously, we believe this will make supervision much more effective. Also hopefully we will eliminate the near "misses" that occur daily as students get out of cars on the south side of Central and dart across the street through traffic.

8. **A cooperative effort will continue between the school district**

See Northview on page 17

Duarte symbol. You can view the mural driving Eastbound or Westbound on Central Avenue and on the Northbound 605 freeway off-ramp to Huntington Drive.

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

Mt. Olive teacher, David Karp, and students Joseph Resendez, Edgar Zuniga, Richard Puga, Adolfo Mares, Frankie Brewer, Wile Ferrerya, and I participated in the City of Hope: Walk for Hope to Cure Breast Cancer. This is the first time Mt. Olive has participated in this event to help save lives and we are committed to supporting this event from here on out. Also, with the support of Duarte community members we were able to sponsor each student who walked the 2-mile course. We salute and THANK YOU for supporting our students, and the fight against breast cancer.

Community Union Program

We are hosting the Community Union Computer Redeployment Program at Mt. Olive for our students. Community Union is a nonprofit organization that provides free computer training and technology integration skills. At the end of the 10-week training program each Mt. Olive participant will receive a free computer!

CITRUS COLLEGE AND MT. OLIVE PARTNERSHIP

In collaboration with Citrus College we are currently running three programs to service our students. The first is the Noncredit Counseling and Matriculation Program which is free of charge and provides CAHSEE tutoring, academic tutoring, individual skills assessment, ESL classes, career counseling, academic advisement, parenting skills groups, and various other workshops. Classes are held at Mt. Olive and Citrus College and again are free of charge. Secondly, We are hosting our very first Citrus College Level Course on campus. The name of the course is Counseling 156 and is open to all Mt. Olive Seniors and juniors. The class will run for 10 weeks on Fridays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The course is designed to help students transition to college life. Students will receive practical information about college services, effective study habits, and individual educational planning. The emphasis is on college and career decisions as catalysts for growth. The third piece of this program is geared towards enrolling Mt. Olive Seniors into Citrus classes on campus during

Royal Oaks

By Deitra Reed, Principal

Every December children at Royal Oaks Elementary School collect food and toys in conjunction with the "Holiday of Promise" for needy families in the city of Duarte. Students bring canned or boxed food, new toys, school supplies and hygiene items to their classroom to donate. Primary grades utilize this real life activity to enrich their math lessons with counting and graphing. Classes compete to bring in the most items, making the donation area in the office overflow with their gracious spirit.

Character education ranks high at Royal Oaks. December's character trait of the month, generosity, is abundantly evident as you speak with children. Sydney Thompson, fifth grader, knows what it means to be generous and determined in her heart to participate in the schoolwide program. She developed a plan and visited her grandmother, Mrs. Deborah Drewery, after school. Borrowing a little red wagon, she enlisted the help of her grandmother and her generous neighbors on Gardi Street, who had known Sydney all of her life. The next morning, Sydney walked her wagon to school, piled high with donations. This inspiring act motivated her classmates in Mrs. Ramos' class to bring in 257 items. More than a number, more than contribution, these students learned that each one of us can look beyond ourselves to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

the winter, spring and summer sessions. During the month of December, Citrus Guidance Counselors enrolled several students and also administered the online placement test at Mount Olive. This is a wonderful partnership with Citrus, which over the past year has proven to be extremely beneficial for the success of our students. On a final note, we are hosting our first FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Workshop for our college bound seniors on January 10, at Mt. Olive at 6 p.m. For more information, call (626) 599-5902 and ask for Marge Bloom, Outreach Consultant.

Great things continue to happen at Mt. Olive! We are altering the course of alternative education into one with higher academic rigor and more community outreach. Which translates to instilling pride and purpose in our students.

Duarte Teen Center Northview

All Duarte teens can take advantage of the great programs available at the Duarte Teen Center in 2008! The Center is located at 1400 Buena Vista Street. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 3 to 8 p.m. and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. All teens grades 9 through 12 with school ID are welcome. Participation is free but Teen Center registration packets need to be filled out. For more information, please call (626) 303-0863

COMPUTER LAB

The Computer Lab at the Duarte Teen Center is open Monday through Friday, 3 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m. through 2 p.m. The lab is equipped with 12 computers and is a great place to enhance computer skills, learn new programs, chat on the Internet, do school work, and play various games.

ACTIVITIES

High school students can get involved in a variety of activities at the Duarte Teen Center! Come watch a movie on our big screen TV! Movie Mondays are January 28, February 11 and February 25. Movies will begin at 3:30 p.m. and there is no charge for viewing. Refreshments will be sold.

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

YOUTH BOXING PROGRAM

This is an excellent program to help boys and girls ages 8-17, develop their self-esteem and self-discipline. Our knowledgeable instructors are here to teach the fundamentals of boxing while developing footwork, speed and upper body strength. The training program will also help your child gain physical flexibility, stamina, and coordination.

Classes are scheduled Mondays through Friday. There is a \$10 monthly fee for Duarte students and a \$20 monthly fee for non-residents.

EXCURSION

The Teen Center is planning a trip to Big Bear on Monday, February 11, from 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

for only \$15. Spend your day off from school in the snow at Alpine Slide in Big Bear. Play in the snow, make a snowman, or go tubing down Mountain Magic. Lunch on your own.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Teen Center will be offering an air hockey tournament on Tuesday, January 22. A Ping Pong tournament will be held Thursday, February 14, and a Playstation 2 tournament will be held Tuesday, February 19. All tournaments are free and begin at 3:30 p.m.; awards will be given to the winners!

Don't miss out on an exciting game of crab soccer on Thursday, February 7, at 3 p.m.

Northview students can come to the Teen Center for games, tournaments, snacks and music. Take a tour of the Center and hang out with your friends on Friday, February 22, from 3 to 6 p.m. Snacks will be sold.

Continued from page 16

and the Sheriff's department.

This translates to additional patrol cars before school and after school as well as open lines of communication inclusive of weekend updates provided on Monday mornings to the superintendent and site administrators or updates provided following any incident of community violence.

It is important for all of us to remember that despite these recent and most upsetting developments, Duarte is a safe place to live.

It is a rare city in California that does not experience some sort of unrest related to "gangs", but I hope you will find peace of mind in knowing that we at Duarte Unified School District are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of our students and staff and we feel confident that they are safe while in our care.



CHALLENGE YOUR FRIENDS to a game of ping pong at the Duarte Teen Center.

Sri Lanka 'Bats' Sixty 'Runs' in years of political independence, making it a jubilee year in 2008

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the best things about Duarte is its wide diversity of residents and business people. Ms. Chandrani Warnasuriya, born in Sri Lanka, but now living in Duarte, dropped by the Chamber office late in 2007 to share knowledge of Sri Lanka and a new children's book she wrote, "Favorite Folktales Of Sri Lanka." She wrote the book to give children born of Sri Lankan parents, but now living in other parts of the world, an opportunity to get a peek into their homeland and culture. For more information or purchase of the book you may contact www.publishamerica.com or author@vun-childsbooks.com.

By Chandrani Warnasuriya

Cradled in the heart of the Indian Ocean many years a little island was born on the southern tip of India. On the world map the island is known as Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon.

About the size of West Virginia in the United States Sri Lanka has been described in many enviable epithets as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean,' 'Isle of Paradise,' 'Thambapanni' (Golden Island), Taprobane, Serendib and many others.

It was eyed and occupied by many foreign nations for centuries due to its strategic position in the Indian Ocean.

Outgrowing and overthrowing the many shackles of foreign rule Sri Lanka grew up sophisticated, still not outgrowing its fundamental nativity as an Oriental culture.

Climbing up the ranks of a global economy since its independence, it has embarked upon many ambitious programs of economic development progressing from a rural and agrarian economy into an industrial

and open market economy.

Have you checked your clothing or favorite garment or leather product you bought at a department or clothing store recently? You won't miss that label 'Made in Sri Lanka,' as the United States is one of Sri Lanka's biggest markets for its export of garments, making up 60% of its total exports.

Others being leather goods, tea, rubber products, chemicals refined petroleum, gems and jewelry, estimated at around \$2.1 billion.

Since gaining its political independence in 1948 from being a British Colony, Sri Lanka became a Republic in 1972 and marched steadily towards becoming a democracy. Home to the major world religions, Sri Lanka is well represented by Buddhists, Hindus, Christians, and Moslems.

Economically it has made many advances from being an agrarian and plantation based economy to a broad-based industrial and open market economy.

Still in its economic progress Sri Lanka did have to face vast challenges in political, economic and ethnic conflicts, as well as the many natural hazards afflicting it from time to time.

Ethnic war and conflict, headed by terrorist groups for more than twenty years has dogged Sri Lanka's total development devastatingly.

Sustained and continued efforts for peace both from among its political and religious leaders and foreign intervention by concerned nations have been thwarted by radical terrorist group bombings and death dealing activities.

Adding to the many natural hazards of yearly flood damage, the tsunami took more than 30,000 lives and displaced over 400,000 men, women and children.

The Sri Lankan government while being thankful to the prompt and world wide relief and rescue efforts, still continues to bear a heavy financial burden in the aftermath of the damage.

Despite the set backs Sri Lanka continues to make steady progress in all spheres of the nations activities with the unfailing support of foreign aid and international agencies headed by the United States USAID, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and others.

Due to continued ethnic warfare and terrorist activities many Sri Lankans have left their homeland, with a vast community of Sri Lankans residing in the United States.

Bernstein honored with AACR-Prevent Cancer Foundation Award for Excellence in cancer prevention research

Leslie Bernstein, Ph.D., a research expert on the effects of hormones and physical activity on cancer risk, late effects of cancer treatment, the impact of lifestyle on cancer prognosis, and quality of life after cancer, has been selected to receive the sixth annual American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)-Prevent Cancer Foundation Award for Excellence in Cancer Prevention Research.

The award is given annually to a scientist for seminal contributions to the field of cancer prevention research in basic, translational, clinical, epidemiological, or behavioral science.

Bernstein, professor and director of the Department of Cancer Etiology and dean for Faculty Development at City of Hope in Duarte, Calif., is being honored for her distinguished research career in cancer epidemiology and prevention, spanning nearly 25 years of discovery. She is internationally recognized as a preeminent researcher and scholar whose work has vast implications on the quality of life of cancer survivors.

Bernstein's early work examined the effects of exercise and body weight on the onset of puberty and hormonal patterns during adolescence. This research challenged the paradigm that epidemiologic risk factors for breast cancer were largely unmodifiable; demonstrated that physical activity can directly decrease breast cancer risk; and laid the foundation for subsequent epidemiologic studies and clinical trials focused on understanding the joint contributions of physical activity, weight and associated biologic mechanisms to the etiology of breast cancer. This area is now a primary international focus of cancer prevention and control research.

In later research, Bernstein identified ethnicity-related variations and determinants of poor prognosis in breast cancer patients. Bernstein is also a pioneer in the development and use of epidemiologic methods for evaluating the long-term side effects of cancer treatment in cancer survivors. Using a multicenter population-based setting she substantiated the association between tamoxifen use and risk of subsequent endometrial cancer in women and demonstrated for the first time that this association is potentially restricted to women who had previously used unopposed estrogen therapy or who were obese at the time of their breast cancer diagnosis. Recently, in a large HMO-based study of risk of stroke in relation to breast cancer therapies, she demonstrated the absence of an association between tamoxifen and stroke risk but an increased stroke risk following chemotherapy.

Past winners of AACR-Prevent Cancer Foundation Award for Excellence in Cancer Prevention include Stephen Hecht, Ph.D., of The Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota, in 2006; Scott M. Lippman, M.D., of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, in 2005; David S. Alberts, M.D., of the Arizona Cancer Center, in 2004; Waun Ki Hong, M.D., also of the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, in 2003; and Michael B. Sporn, M.D., of the Dartmouth Medical School, in 2002.

Bernstein received her B.A. in Mathematics, M.S. in Gerontology, and Ph.D. in Biometry from the University of Southern California. She rose through the academic ranks of USC, culminating with her current positions of Professor of Preventive Medicine and the first AFLAC, Incorporated Chair in Cancer Research. Bernstein was named Professor Emeritus of USC following her retirement there in 2007.

Bernstein has received numerous honors and awards for her scientific accomplishments, including the American Society for Preventive Oncology Distinguished Achievement Award, the USC Presidential Medallion (the University's highest honor), and the Keck School of Medicine Stevelly Hoffman Achievement Award. Her distinguished lectureships include the Cutter Lectureship at Harvard University, the Meadow Brook Lecture at Wayne State and Oakland Universities, and the Sloan Memorial Lecture at Boston University. Bernstein has authored or co-authored more than 400 scientific papers and publications.

An active member of AACR since 1995, Bernstein has served in various capacities, including as an Editorial Board member of Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention, as a participant in Women in Cancer Research activities, and as a member of several committees.

The AACR is pleased to co-sponsor this award with the Prevent Cancer Foundation. The Foundation is a national, non-profit health foundation with a single mission: the prevention and early detection of cancer through scientific research and education.

Duarte's Promise honors Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday with 7th annual 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 seventh year, to commemorate King's birthday, Duarte teens, members of the local business community, city staff, school district staff, and others honored King's legacy by setting their hands on shovels and rakes and planting greenery to help beautify an area of the city.

The 7th Annual "Martin Luther King, Jr. Beautification" Project, sponsored by Duarte's Promise: The Alliance for Youth kicked off on Jan. 19, with a continental breakfast at the Duarte High School Cafeteria.

A special Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program, hosted by Duarte Mayor Phil Reyes, featured guest speaker Dr. Sandra Thomas, past president of the NAACP Altadena

Chapter, who talked about the life and impact of the late Baptist minister and civil rights leader.

The Duarte High School Concert Choir and "Take Notice" from Second Baptist Church of Monrovia also performed.

Volunteers then walked to the corner of Central Ave., east of Santo Domingo Ave. to plant 10 five-gallon Mexican purple sage plants and 10 five-gallon purple fountain grass plants donated by Cal-American Water Company.

Cal-Am also provided bottled water and volunteers for the project.

The annual MLK Beautification Day is one of a number of special projects, programs and events sponsored by Duarte's Promise – the Alliance for Youth.

In 2000, Duarte was officially named an America's Promise "Community of Promise."

Since then, more than 100 local businesses, organizations, individuals, government, schools, and communities of faith have partnered in a commitment to ensure that the needs of young people are served through five promises:

ongoing relationships with caring adults – parents, mentors, tutors, coaches, safe places and structured activities during non-school hours, a healthy start and future, marketable skills through effective education, and opportunities for youth to give back through community service.

For more information, call Duarte's Promise – The Alliance for Youth at Duarte City Hall, (626) 357-7931, ext. 268.

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Council

Continued from page 1

Association of Realtors.

Mayor Pro Tem Fasana was originally elected to the 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, after which both ran unopposed for re-election.

Fasana has promoted Duarte's

interest in transportation, community services, and environmental protection.

Fasana served as mayor in 1990, 1997 and 2003, and most recently served as chair of the Duarte Redevelopment Agency.

He serves on the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Transportation Committee and has represented 30 San Gabriel Valley cities as a director to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) since its inception in 1993.

Fasana is employed by Southern California Edison Co.

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DYAC receives grant from Wells Fargo Bank

The Duarte Youth Athletic Club was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant from Wells Fargo Bank at its new Duarte bank grand opening. DYAC commented on the generosity as well as the honor and privilege of receiving the award. The group especially thanked Duarte Branch Manager Jessica Hernandez and her staff for their support of nearly 300 boys and girls in DYAC.

To celebrate the kick off of DYAC's 55th season, for a limited time, there will be commemorative t-shirts and souvenir baseballs sold. Opening day is tentatively scheduled for March 8.

January 12 and 19 are registration dates. January 19 is also

the day for tryouts and drafting of players. DYAC is sponsoring a Turnaround to Stateline. The \$30 cost includes a continental breakfast and a buffet voucher.

DYAC gratefully acknowledges the following for sponsoring in 2008: Wells Fargo Bank – League Sponsor; WePackItAll; Wal*Mart and Red Dragon Karate. The group continues to seek sponsors and donations to help support the League.

Check DYAC's website for update listings of upcoming events throughout the season at www.leaguelineup.com/dyac or contact Miguel Mejia at (626) 676-8737 or email coachmrm@msn.com.



SHOWN AT THE RECENT Wells Fargo Bank grand opening in Duarte are: (L-R) Wells Fargo Regional President Brenda Ross-Dulan; former Duarte Mayor and incoming President/CEO of the Duarte Chamber Jim Kirchner; Miguel Mejia of DYAC; Wells Fargo Bank Duarte Manager Jessica Garcia; and Wells Fargo Community Bank District Manager Shirli Wolfe. Wells Fargo presented a check for \$1,000 to DYAC.

New rates for Burretec customers

New rates went into effect for Duarte customers of Burretec Waste Disposal services as of January 1. Rates for residential customers have increased between 22 and 29 cents more per month. Rates for businesses with the most commonly used commercial waste service were increased about \$4.15 monthly.

Under the City's contract with Burretec, annual rate adjustments up or down for refuse collection and recycling are permitted based on a specific formula that takes into account various cost factors including the percentage change from July to July in the Consumer Price Index, tipping fees charged for waste disposal and the cost of fuel. A 4% cap is set forth on each annual adjustment. The City reviews the rates proposed by Burretec and confirms the calculations are correct. Disposal costs increased from \$24.43 to \$26.21 per ton at Puente Hills landfill and from \$38.44 to \$40.22 per ton at Grand Central Transfer station, the destination for about 7% of the City's waste stream. But the two items with the greatest impact on rates last year were lower this year including stabilization in the cost of fuel and the July 2007 CPI of 2.9%, a substantial reduction over last year's 5%.

Even with the rate hikes, Duarte continues to have some of the lowest rates in Los Angeles County for residential customers, said Assistant City Manager/Administrative Services Finance Director Kristen Petersen.



SANTA ANITA FAMILY YMCA kids who completed an eight-week Financial Literacy class provided by Focus One Community Credit Union, Monrovia, proudly display their new Credit Union member cards. Front, from left: Luis Quiros, Alejandro Cruz, Edgar "Junior" Colin, Savana Ayala. Back, from left: Karina Mendoza, Ricardo Camacho, Bessy Mendoza, Christian Lugo, Leslie Colin, Sandra Serrano, Jenny Ortega, Zuli Ortega, Oscar Carmona, and Focus One Branch Manager Anna Recendez.

Focus One Community CU partners with SAFYMCA to teach kids financial literacy

Ninth grader Leslie Colin would like to go to UCLA when she graduates from high school. For that, she knows she will need a lot of money. That's why she is glad to be getting a head start on a savings account for her future education.

Leslie, 13, and her brother, Edgar, 10, are among 14 kids from the Santa Anita Family YMCA who recently completed an eight-week Financial Literacy course presented by Focus One Community Credit Union in Monrovia. To set them on a path of putting into practice their new financial acumen, Focus One and the Santa Anita Family YMCA teamed up to help the youngsters open up their first Credit Union savings accounts.

"This has motivated me to save up my money, not waste it on things," said Leslie, who said that she plans to keep adding to the account with her allowance and birthday money.

Damon Colaluca, President and CEO of the Santa Anita Family YMCA, contacted Focus One about teaching the class as part of the YMCA's summer outreach to youth program, and Business Development Manager, Janis Gaines Simon said Focus One was happy to comply.

The once-a-week two-hour class, based on the Junior Achievement Economics for Success program, began with teaching the students the concept of self-knowledge, to help them understand their own values, goals and interests. They also learned about the decision-making process

and basics such as budgeting, balancing a check book, how to make out a deposit slip, how to write a check, interest rates, and the importance of keeping good credit.

"Anytime you can get information over to a child that will help prepare him or her to make the right choices in life, that's a good thing," said Simon. "We are teaching life skills more than anything else. I've been in banking 40 years and have seen a lot of people go through the problems of bad credit and bankruptcy. I don't want to see another generation make the same mistakes," she said.

Karina Mendoza, 16, was enthusiastic about what she learned in the class. "I learned a lot about the importance of not making bad choices so that I will have good credit, about saving, not spending money everyday for clothing. Money earned from doing chores at home and later a part-time job will help me build up my savings to help finance my goal of a college education," she said.

Ricardo Camacho, 14, a Monrovia High School freshman, said the class has also helped him focus on his plans for the future, going to college to study electronics and buying a car. "Instead of just spending, I can start doing something good with my money and use it later in life," he said.

"It was a great learning experience for the kids. We appreciate the community partnership of Focus One in offering this program to our young people," said Colaluca.



FOCUS ONE Community Credit Union Financial Services Officer Laura Gomez, assists sister and brother Leslie and Edgar "Junior" Colin, in opening up their first Credit Union savings accounts following their completion of an eight-week Financial Literacy class offered as part of the Santa Anita Family YMCA summer outreach program.

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