Duarte High School: California Academic Decathlon State Champions

Duarte High School Academic Decathlon Team members are huddled around their trophy shortly after winning the Medium Schools Division in Sacramento.

By Dr. Bill Martinez, Principal, Duarte High School

On March 7, a team of 15 Duarte High School students boarded a plane for Sacramento. The team was confident yet nervous, determined yet humble.

And with good reason, this Duarte High School team was headed for the State Championships. The Academic Decathlon State Championships, that is.

This competition consists of teams of students competing against each other, not for an hour or an afternoon, but over the span of two days.

The students compete in a variety of areas, including science, economics, art, speech, and a “super quiz.” Only the top 55 schools in the state were invited to Sacramento.

Duarte was invited because we finished second in the County of Los Angeles Academic Decathlon finals on February 7, beating such powerhouse schools as Beverly Hills, Palos Verdes Peninsula, San Marino, La Canada, Arcadia, Glendora and Diamond Ranch.

In the regional competition, all of the schools competed against each other in San Bernardino, the schools were divided into three categories based on their size. The small schools division consisted of schools with fewer than 650 students, the medium schools division for schools of 650 to 1300 students, and the large schools division for schools of more than 1300 students. Our students competed in the medium schools division.

Duarte High School won their division, and they are the State Champions of the California Academic Decathlon Medium Schools Division.

Duarte High currently has 1200 students. Of these, approximately 68% are Hispanic, 10% are African American, 12% Anglo, 4% Asian, and 3% Pilipino.

Duarte High consists of students from a number of cultures. Forty-three percent of the student body at Duarte High comes from households that are considered to be economically disadvantaged.

I only mention these statistics because occasionally Duarte High, and the entire community of Duarte for that matter, is seen as a place where education is not a high priority.

Instead, it is perceived that we gather as a community only to discuss gang issues or shootings, as opposed to achievement. This is a challenging image to overcome.

The achievement of this Academic Decathlon Team is a wonderful example of the outstanding students we have in Duarte, and what can happen when students know that they are supported and respected.

The coach of the State Championship Academic Decathlon Team is Robert Grebel, and the students are Arthur Amador, Christopher Amurao, Lucas Bon-di, Daniel Colin, Tahir Darkjian, Evan Finlay, Nathanael Lie-Chris-tiano, Gayle Manahan, Hayden McFarlane, Amber Nicholson, Vanja Primorac, Mozzum Saleem, Oliver Solorzano, Samantha Thomas, and Juan Irenu.

Amber Nicholson took an individual gold medal in the speech category, and Hayden McFarlane took bronze in the science category.

Of these 15 students, two are sophomores, two are juniors, and 11 are seniors. The students are Hispanic, Caucasian, Pilipino, Asian, and Armenian.

Next year, as college freshmen, these Duarte High graduates will be attending UCLA, USC, BYU, Long Beach State, Stanford, and either Harvard or Yale. They have very bright futures, and they have worked tirelessly to get to this point.

Their teachers and their parents have also worked very hard, and should be recognized for their commitment to these kids.

Great things are happening in Duarte and at Duarte High. We are very proud of all of our students.

We celebrate our diversity, and we know that we are richer because of what we can learn from each other.

We have placed the value of student success in a culture of caring and respect at the top of our priority list.

We are confident that we have our priorities in the right order.
Meeting in Duarte brings more than 40 experts together to find long term solutions to end gang violence

The need for collaboration and coordination and a long-term commitment to the problem was the consensus of the more than 40 public officials, law enforcement and community organization representatives who met on Feb. 13 at the Duarte Community Center to discuss solutions to curtailing gang violence.

“We need to invest in our social infrastructure to have a sustainable, strategic, comprehensive plan to deal with this problem and break the cycle,” said Duarte Mayor Phil Reyes who spearheaded the meeting.

Participants included Monrovia Mayor Rob Hammond, Monrovia/Arcadia Duarte (MAD) Town Council Chairman David Hall, Duarte City Manager Darrell George, Monrovia City Manager Scott Ochoa, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Captain Richard Shaw, Monrovia Police Chief Roger Johnson, Duarte Public Safety Director Brian Villabos, as well as representatives for County Supervisor Mike Antonovich and State Senator Gloria Romero.

“We don’t need a menu of programs. We need first and foremost coordination and collaboration, and a long-term commitment to the problem, a minimum of 10 years. Gang violence is cyclical,” said Tony Massengale, a gang prevention coordinator and 30-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission. “We have to break the cycle, yes. Arrest. Yes. But who will fill the vacuum?” he asked.

Some of those present pointed to programs directed to kids and families. GRIP, an award-winning gang prevention/interdiction program in the City of Paramount targets kids as early as the second grade to “plant seeds that gang activity is not for them” and educates parents about basic gang activities, gang clothing that can mark their kids to be jumped into gangs and things they can do to keep kids from joining gangs.

“We have to go to the root of the problem, look at the cause and stop putting the band-aids,” said Natalie Salazar, director of the Community Law Enforcement Partnership Program of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, who moderated the meeting.

Parent patrols, increased gang activity and a culture of life not of death. Peace starts in the home with the parents. It all starts with forgiveness and love,” he said.

Duarte Chamber of Commerce

Executive Committee

Debbie Gewertz  Old Town Sign Co. …………… Chairs Department
Rona Lunde  Jan’s Towing Service Co., Inc. … Past Chairman
Bob Cruz  The Gas Co. ……………………….. Chair-Elect
Eileen Beason  SCE Federal Credit Union ………. Vice Chairman
Elisa Clifford  Edison Co. …………………….. Vice Chairman

Chet Beeton  Special Promotions, LLC ………….. Vice Chairman

Board of Directors

Sharon Berahel ................................................. WePackItAll
Bernadette Chang ........................................ Westminster Gardens
Henry Custodia ............................................... Delafield Corp.
Alice Martinez .................................................. Rancho Mexican
Sandi Mejia .................................................. Ranchero Mexican Restaurant
Yvonne Morrow ........................................... Outhouse Custom FX
Maggie Pezzeshkin, DC .................................... Duarte Family Chiropractic
Carolyn Sage .............................................. Royal Oaks Manor

Staff
Jim Kirchner .................................................. President/CEO
Diana Burchard ........................................... Office Coordinator

Duarte View

Volume XXVI - March-April 2008 - No. 2

Duarte Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 1438 • 1105 Oak Ave., Duarte, CA 91009-4438
(626) 357-3333 • FAX (626) 357-3845
www.DuarteChamber.com • JimDuarteChamber@charter.net

Duarte Unified School District Superintendent Dean Conklin noted that the schools are working hard to ensure that the campuses remain safe from gang violence.

The district meets monthly with the Sheriff’s Dept. and Duarte Public Safety. There are also more than 40 removal programs on all campuses, character education starts at the elementary school level, campus programs go beyond the normal school day to 6 p.m. The high school meets bi-monthly with Citrus College to offer college level classes on campus. There is also a college program at Citrus for Mt. Olive students.

At Parent Night on the campus, “parents are asked to dream what they want for their kids and then we make it happen,” said Conklin. “We are raising up kids who have dreams to go to college and own their own businesses. But we don’t have all the answers. We’re open to ideas,” he said.

“What concerns me is that with all the resources we have, some how we’re missing the boat,” said Duarte City Councilwoman Lois Gamos. “There is a part of our population this is missing the boat. Nobody wants to hire that kid who comes out of jail. We have to get around that socioeconomic divide.”

Bob Cruz, of Immediate Change Ministries, Monrovia, one of several clergy who participated in the meeting talked about how the churches in the community have come together to work on the problem.

“We’re breaking down denominational walls, ethnic walls. I remind my parishioners that violence is a sin. We need to promote a culture of life not of death. Peace starts in the home with the parents. It all starts with forgiveness and love,” he said.
Citrus provides career training in the public works and water sectors

By Rachel White

As concerns regarding the nation’s economy grow and unemployment numbers rise, a specialized training program for individuals seeking a career in maintenance, and Pasadena Water and Ship with the Los Angeles County College Systems Office in order of the California Community Workforce Development branch grant from the Economic and $85,000 annually, these are high-salaries ranging from $50,000 to $82,000, these are highly specialized careers. Employers will benefit from introducing high school students to ROP to develop a new class to workforce. These employers have committed a total of $243,000 in in-kind services, including employee release time, to attend classes. In addition to regularly scheduled public works classes held at and online classes, Citrus now offers public works and water technology classes at these employer sites to provide education to their workers already in the field. Employers select the public works and water classes that will benefit their employees. Classes are applicable to the Citrus College Public Works and Water Technology Certificates and the Associate of Science Degree in Applied Arts for Public Works or Water Technology. Employees receiving training through can climb the water or public works career ladder and improve their eligibility for promotion and pay increase. Employers will benefit from an improved skill level of their workforce. Citrus has also worked with the East San Gabriel Valley ROP to develop a new class to introduce high school students to careers in public works and water technology. This class includes projects and worksite learning with public works and water employer partners. High school students who complete the class will receive assistance submitting an online application to as well as registering for the water and public works programs at Citrus, preparing them for entry-level jobs. The International Society of Arborists has approved to award 30 units of continuing education to students who successfully complete the Municipal and Urban Tree Care class offered at the Pasadena Public Works Department. With so many exciting developments, has secured its reputation as a training leader for these highly specialized careers. If you are interested in learning more about the public works and water programs, call the Citrus College Director of Vocational Education at (626) 914-8701 or e-mail kholland@citruscollege.edu.

SAFYMCA Campaign Supports Financial Assistance Program

“Kids Need Heroes” is the theme of the Santa Anita Family YMCA’s 2008 Support Campaign and right now, the SAFYMCA is looking for more such heroes to help reach its campaign goal of $150,000. Funds raised in the annual campaign support the SAFYMCA’s Financial Assistance Program which helps ensure that anyone in need of YMCA programs or services can receive them regardless of their ability to pay full fee. “These are challenging times for kids and families in our communities. The SAFYMCA is committed to help youth find a purpose, find a dream, and help struggling families and the elderly who are sometimes forgotten,” said SAFYMCA board member Tyler Tripp, co-chair of the campaign with fellow board member Todd Adamson. In the last two years the SAFYMCA has awarded more than $220,000 in scholarship assistance to help more than 2,000 deserving youths, families and seniors within its service area communities of Arcadia, Bradbury, Duarte, and Monrovia use the SAFYMCA’s programs and services. Such services include after school programs, day camps, sports and mentoring programs, and health and fitness memberships.

In 2007, nearly 50% of the 2,445 kids participating in SAFYMCA’s day camp and after school programs were participants because of the Financial Assistance Program. In addition, 1,181 youths were awarded college-saving values such as fair play, teamwork, honesty and respect through YMCA youth sports and mentoring programs. More than 1,100 seniors improved their health through fitness classes and workouts in the wellness center. The SAFYMCA is located at 501 S. Mountain Ave in Monrovia. The facility is open 7 days a week, 96 hours a week and offers dozens of programs, exercise classes and activities on a membership and non-membership basis. SAFYMCA’s Financial Assistance Program helps ensure that anyone in need of YMCA programs or services can participate regardless of their ability to pay full fee. For information about contributing to the SAFYMCA Support Campaign, or to learn more about any of the programs or services offered by the SAFYMCA, call (626) 359-9244, or visit the Santa Anita Family YMCA web site at www.safymca.org.

SERIES WITH THE MAYOR

Emphasis on Building Better Business/Government Relationships

Duarte Mayor Phil Reyes will host the second in a series of “Business Connection with the Mayor” breakfast meetings on Thursday, May 8, from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Drive.

“The purpose of the quarterly meetings is to create an ongoing two-way dialogue between the business community and the City on items of mutual importance, including building relationships, enhanced communication, business retention, job development for adults and youth, and possible public/private partnerships,” said Deputy City Manager, Karen Herrera.

The meeting will feature a roundtable discussion format with table topics to be selected in advance based on information gathered via an e-mail survey targeted to Duarte Chamber of Commerce members, the Duarte Sales Tax Producers, large landowners and employers. Duarte Public Safety Director, Paul Ladulobus will give a presentation on business safety. Participants will also get an update on current City projects and programs.

There is no charge to participate. For more information or to attend the event, call Duarte City Hall at (626) 357-7931, ext. 220 or send e-mail inquiries to evansr@accessduarte.com.

Fashion Time

Latest fashion at affordable prices!

Check our new spring/summer merchandise!

* tops
* dresses
* jeans
* jackets
* skirts
* accessories

10% off with this ad

Offer expires 4/30/08

Mon - Sat 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Sun 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

1086 Huntington Dr, Duarte 626-305-4255
State of City / School District April 2

Roadway Work Scheduled

The City of Duarte recently awarded project “Royal Oaks Drive and Mount Olive Drive Pave-ment Rehabilitation” to All American Asphalt of Corona, California. Work includes the removal and replacement of 1 1/2” to 2” of the pavement, construction of 2 new handicap ramps, new striping/marking and raised pavement markers. Project limits on Royal Oaks Drive are between Highland Ave. and Greenbank Ave; and on Mount Olive Drive between Huntington Drive and Royal Oaks Drive. The majority of the work will be performed during the last week of March while Duarte students are on Spring Break. We anticipate minimal inconvenience to our residents and commuter traffic; however on-street parking restrictions and detours will be necessary during the removal and replacement phase of this project. The public’s cooperation and patience during construction is very much appreciated. For further information, please contact Steve Eshb And, Duarte Engineering Division Manager, at (626) 357-7931 ext. 233.

EVENT WILL ALSO HONOR FOUR OUTSTANDING DUARTE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Duarte Mayor Phil Reyes will present his assessment of the State of the City and Duarte Unified School Board President Rose Brooks-Mitchell will discuss the State of the School District at a luncheon on Wednesday, April 2, presented by the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. The luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the City of Hope Cooper Auditorium, 1500 Duarte Rd. Tickets to the luncheon are $25 per person.

The event, sponsored by the Gas Company, a Sempra Energy Utility, will also honor four outstanding public employees with the Duarte Chamber’s 5th annual Community Employees of the Year Awards.

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

The Gas Co. has $18 million available for businesses to improve energy efficiency

As part of its ongoing campaign to help businesses save money, save energy and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, Southern California Gas Co. (The Gas Company) is offering more than $18 million in rebates and incentives to its business customers throughout its service area—helping their business operations more energy-efficient.

In 2007, business customers took advantage of more than $8 million in incentives through the company’s energy-efficiency programs. “On top of the incentives, the savings continue with lower monthly energy bills from the reduced use of natural gas,” said Mark Gaines, The Gas Company’s director of customer programs. Last year’s program activity is saving more than 20 million therms of natural gas annually—resulting in customer savings of more than $10 million per year.

“By taking advantage of The Gas Company’s programs, we have earned rebates totaling more than $100,000 over the past three years,” said Juliann Rogers, energy manager at Carl’s Jr. restaurants. “And we’re looking for more.”

Virtually any of the utility’s 250,000 business customers can benefit from these programs. The Gas Company helps meet a variety of needs by offering a broad mix of energy-efficiency programs, including:

• The Business Energy-Efficiency Program, which provides incentives of up to $1 million per customer, per year for equipment replacement and or improving business processes;
• The Express Efficiency Rebate Program, which offers rebates of up to $200,000 per customer, per year to offset the cost of new, energy-efficient equipment;
• The Savings-By-Design Program, which provides financial incentives of up to $150,000 per commercial customer and $500,000 per industrial customer, encouraging energy-efficiency improvements in conjunction with expanding existing facilities, adding new facilities, or adding new equipment;
• The Industrial End User Program, offered at no charge, which helps industrial customers work through technical issues to identify and quantify cost savings from complex energy-efficiency projects; and
• The Advanced Home Program, which encourages builders to develop new single-family and multi-family homes that incorporate sustainable design and higher energy-efficiency standards.

For more information on The Gas Company’s energy-efficiency rebates and incentives for business, visit www.socalgas.com/energyefficiency, contact a representative from The Gas Company, or call (800) GAS-2000.

All incentives and rebates are subject to change without notice and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funding is available. These programs are funded by California utility customers and administered by The Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Southern California Gas Co. has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 140 years. It is the nation’s largest natural gas distribution utility, providing safe and reliable energy to 20.1 million consumers through 5.6 million miles in more than 500 communities. The company’s service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles in diverse terrain throughout central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. The Gas Company is a regulated subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE). Sempra Energy, based in San Diego, is a Fortune 500 energy services holding company.

The City of Duarte recently awarded project “Royal Oaks Drive and Mount Olive Drive Pave-ment Rehabilitation” to All American Asphalt of Corona, California. Work includes the removal and replacement of 1 1/2” to 2” of the pavement, construction of 2 new handicap ramps, new striping/marking and raised pavement markers. Project limits on Royal Oaks Drive are between Highland Ave. and Greenbank Ave; and on Mount Olive Drive between Huntington Drive and Royal Oaks Drive. The majority of the work will be performed during the last week of March while Duarte students are on Spring Break. We anticipate minimal inconvenience to our residents and commuter traffic; however on-street parking restrictions and detours will be necessary during the removal and replacement phase of this project. The public’s cooperation and patience during construction is very much appreciated. For further information, please contact Steve Eshb And, Duarte Engineering Division Manager, at (626) 357-7931 ext. 233.

EVENT WILL ALSO HONOR FOUR OUTSTANDING DUARTE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Duarte Mayor Phil Reyes will present his assessment of the State of the City and Duarte Unified School Board President Rose Brooks-Mitchell will discuss the State of the School District at a luncheon on Wednesday, April 2, presented by the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. The luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the City of Hope Cooper Auditorium, 1500 Duarte Rd. Tickets to the luncheon are $25 per person.

The event, sponsored by the Gas Company, a Sempra Energy Utility, will also honor four outstanding public employees with the Duarte Chamber’s 5th annual Community Employees of the Year Awards.

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

The Gas Co. has $18 million available for businesses to improve energy efficiency

As part of its ongoing campaign to help businesses save money, save energy and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, Southern California Gas Co. (The Gas Company) is offering more than $18 million in rebates and incentives to its business customers throughout their service area—helping their business operations more energy-efficient.

In 2007, business customers took advantage of more than $8 million in incentives through the company’s energy-efficiency programs. “On top of the incentives, the savings continue with lower monthly energy bills from the reduced use of natural gas,” said Mark Gaines, The Gas Company’s director of customer programs. Last year’s program activity is saving more than 20 million therms of natural gas annually—resulting in customer savings of more than $10 million per year.

“By taking advantage of The Gas Company’s programs, we have earned rebates totaling more than $100,000 over the past three years,” said Juliann Rogers, energy manager at Carl’s Jr. restaurants. “And we’re looking for more.”

Virtually any of the utility’s 250,000 business customers can benefit from these programs. The Gas Company helps meet a variety of needs by offering a broad mix of energy-efficiency programs, including:

• The Business Energy-Efficiency Program, which provides incentives of up to $1 million per customer, per year for equipment replacement and or improving business processes;
• The Express Efficiency Rebate Program, which offers rebates of up to $200,000 per customer, per year to offset the cost of new, energy-efficient equipment;
• The Savings-By-Design Program, which provides financial incentives of up to $150,000 per commercial customer and $500,000 per industrial customer, encouraging energy-efficiency improvements in conjunction with expanding existing facilities, adding new facilities, or adding new equipment;
• The Industrial End User Program, offered at no charge, which helps industrial customers work through technical issues to identify and quantify cost savings from complex energy-efficiency projects; and
• The Advanced Home Program, which encourages builders to develop new single-family and multi-family homes that incorporate sustainable design and higher energy-efficiency standards.

For more information on The Gas Company’s energy-efficiency rebates and incentives for business, visit www.socalgas.com/energyefficiency, contact a representative from The Gas Company, or call (800) GAS-2000.

All incentives and rebates are subject to change without notice and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funding is available. These programs are funded by California utility customers and administered by The Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Southern California Gas Co. has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 140 years. It is the nation’s largest natural gas distribution utility, providing safe and reliable energy to 20.1 million consumers through 5.6 million miles in more than 500 communities. The company’s service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles in diverse terrain throughout central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. The Gas Company is a regulated subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE). Sempra Energy, based in San Diego, is a Fortune 500 energy services holding company.

The City of Duarte recently awarded project “Royal Oaks Drive and Mount Olive Drive Pave-ment Rehabilitation” to All American Asphalt of Corona, California. Work includes the removal and replacement of 1 1/2” to 2” of the pavement, construction of 2 new handicap ramps, new striping/marking and raised pavement markers. Project limits on Royal Oaks Drive are between Highland Ave. and Greenbank Ave; and on Mount Olive Drive between Huntington Drive and Royal Oaks Drive. The majority of the work will be performed during the last week of March while Duarte students are on Spring Break. We anticipate minimal inconvenience to our residents and commuter traffic; however on-street parking restrictions and detours will be necessary during the removal and replacement phase of this project. The public’s cooperation and patience during construction is very much appreciated. For further information, please contact Steve Eshb And, Duarte Engineering Division Manager, at (626) 357-7931 ext. 233.
Duarte Council Member Paras-Caracci Featured in New Video

Duarte City Council Member Tzeitel Paras-Caracci is featured in a new video launched today by the National League of Cities (NLC) as part of “American Cities ’08, the Road to the White House Runs Through America’s Hometowns”, a focused effort to raise the voice and concerns of cities in the ongoing presidential campaign.

The video, now airing on www.americancities08.org and on YouTube, asks a series of tough questions of the candidates and identifies seven core policy areas where cities want to work with the next President and Congress. In addition to the video, the campaign includes a new website and publications that can be used by local officials in candidate forums, town hall meetings, with local media, or in any session with the candidates.

Paras-Caracci is on the NLC Board of Directors and chairs the CityFutures Panel on Democratic Governance. In the video, she discusses the need for candidates to address poverty in this country.

“We are at an important crossroads in our history,” said Cynthia McLllum, NLC president and Madison, Ala., council member. “Hometown issues are national issues. Huge challenges face all of us – the ongoing housing crisis, our crumbling infrastructure, the changing pattern of jobs, the need for neighborhood redevelopment, public safety, support for young families and children. These are issues that matter to the majority of Americans whether they live in downtown Philadelphia, a prosperous suburban city or a rural town.”

NLC’s new website, www.americancities08.org, provides information for the presidential candidates, local elected officials, and citizens who want to know more about how national policies affect cities. The site also features statements from the candidates on these important issues, where available.

For more information on American Cities ’08 or to set up an interview, contact Sherry Conway Appel, 202-441-3160 (appel@nlc.org) or go to www.americancities08.org.

Join Your Duarte Chamber of Commerce Today
DuarteChamber.com

ANDERSEN, HORIE & COMPANY, CPA’s, LLP
Certified Public Accountants
Taxes • Accounting
Financial Services
Preparation • Planning
Research • Consultations
Examinations
Monrovia
359-7448

Little Scholars MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL
1014 Highland Ave, Duarte
(626) 359-6011
New School/New Management
New Montessori Equipment with highly qualified teachers
2 years—KG
After School Program
KG-12years
Quality education with love & care
Infant/Toddler Care
Now Available
Open 6:30am-6:30pm (M-F)
Free Registration till April 31, 2008
Call or visit us for more info.
www.little_school.com

Imagine...
• a realm where traders, mystics, magicians, madrigals, arlecanes, minstrels and magical beings convened...
• please join us!
D.A.R.T. out this spring!

By Courtney Spicer

I truly don’t know where I would be if it wasn’t for the Duarte Area Resource Team, (D.A.R.T.) Before I was in D.A.R.T. I was getting into a lot of trouble at school and at home, I was slacking off in my grades and had no idea of where my future was going. D.A.R.T. has opened my eyes to new experiences, showed me that I have many choices in life, and that with hard work and determination I can accomplish a lot!

I am a D.A.R.T officer, as part of our responsibilities as officers we conduct meetings at the Duarte Public Safety office and come up with fun activities for all of D.A.R.T to participate in. We have a lot of different activities and events. This school year has been really fun and I did a lot of things that I would of never thought of doing! We participated at The Route 66 Parade and at the Rose Float Pavilion, helping with crowd control and as security guards. We also helped the Chamber of Commerce at Hats of Duarte as parking attendants, and at the concerts at the park. Most recently we helped Washington Mutual Bank with their grand opening event, February 8th and 9th. We did face painting and fingerprinting for kids and distributing public safety flyers. “Wamu” has become our biggest sponsor and because of them we can buy shirts and sweaters and go on cool field trips.

As part of being in D.A.R.T, I was encouraged to pull up my grades and do well in school and at home. After we work community events we receive hours toward trips and places like Raging Waters, Fresno State University, and Universal Studios and even play Laser Tag against The Duarte Deputies.

The advisors at D.A.R.T are the best and listen to you and give you the best advice, they are, School Resource Deputy Robert MacLean and Public Safety Coordinator Aida Torres.

When my friends hear me talk about D.A.R.T they ask “Why would you do it, if you are not getting paid?” I might not be getting paid but just being able to help make sure our community stays clean and safe is all worth it! D.A.R.T has really made me a better person in life.

To become a D.A.R.T member you must be 14-19 years old, live in Duarte, obtain at least a 2.0 GPA and be willing to help out your community. For more information please contact the Duarte Public Safety Office at (626) 359-5671 ext. 316.

New helmets for kids $5!

A new shipment has come in!

Silver, blue, black, white, red or pink helmets are available for Duarte youth between 3 to 18 years of age for only $5 at the Public Safety Office (in the Target Shopping Center Office) every Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

To purchase a helmet, the parent or guardian must accompany the child and show proof of Duarte residency.

The helmet will be properly fitted onto the youth to ensure their safety.

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

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 home-grown 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.
DEPUTY MARCELO SEPULVEDA

Although Deputy Sheriff Marcelo Sepulveda is our new motorcycle deputy, he is not new to the City of Duarte. Sepulveda has worked in the City of Duarte as a patrol and crime deputy for over two years. He enjoyed working in our small, friendly City so much, that when he decided to make a bilateral career move in the Department, he requested to stay in Duarte. Prior to becoming a deputy, Sepulveda attended East LA College, but it has been his twelve years of service that has taught him how to patrol and deal with criminals. His Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department career began with a year at Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood. He then worked custody for six years at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in Downtown Los Angeles. He received training in the South El Monte, Rosemead and Temple City communities. He then requested to be assigned to the Duarte Sheriff’s Satellite Station to work the area on a regular basis. He admits he loves the atmosphere of a close-knit community. He describes himself as a people person. Sepulveda enjoys talking to people and seeing how, “[h]e can make their lives simpler.” Sepulveda, a native of Chile is fluent in Spanish and is able to assist Spanish speakers and new immigrants and educate them on the law.

After completing the LA County Sheriff Motorcycle School this past December 2007, he felt ready to take on his new assignment and since January he has been making sure Duarte streets are safe for motorists and pedestrians. He describes the three week training as, “the most difficult and technical” school he has ever attended. He would like to remind residents to pay close attention to the speed limits around their community and especially around school zones. Drive safe and pay attention to pedestrians and traffic laws. Remember safety is a priority and although it is an old saying we must not forget, “Click it or ticket.”

Public Safety 2007 in Review

By Brian Villalobos
Director of Public Safety Coordination

In 2007, the City of Duarte reported a 4% decrease in Part I crimes from 2006. Although the crime drop may seem small, the highest decrease reported by Duarte residents was in violent crimes or crimes against persons. Violent Crimes include assaults, which dropped approximately 30% compared to 2006 and is the lowest number ever recorded in the City of Duarte. Only five years ago, 78 assaults were recorded (2001). Robbery (or taking property by force) was down 34% since 2006.

Property crime has shown a different pattern in our City. Vehicle burglaries in 2007 totaled 97, demonstrating a 23% decrease from 119 in 2006. However, the months of November and December 2007 showed indications of an increase in vehicle burglaries. This trend goes hand in hand with the holidays, as thieves look for a quick way to make a buck. The majority of vehicle burglaries occur when burglars enter an unlocked, or open door, or window.

Auto thefts were also down in 2007. Eighty-five vehicles were reported stolen, a 7% decrease from 2006’s 91 stolen vehicles.

Residential Burglaries increased dramatically in 2007, from the 2006 all time low of 25 to 48 in 2007. This increase was felt all along the Foothill cities. With the help of Neighborhood Watch a serial burglar was arrested and this individual faces 7 years 10 months behind bars. Neighborhood Watch Duarte is an essential part of law enforcement. Thank you Neighborhood Watch Volunteers.

In the month of December, one murder took place in the City, and in and around that time there was an increase in gang violence in the Monrovia-Duarte Area. In the month of January a special task force was implemented to combat the recent flare of gang violence. The team is made up of members of the L.A. District Attorney’s Office, federal agencies, police departments from surrounding cities, 37 Sheriff’s deputies from Temple Station, Operation Safe Street deputies, four homicide teams, a dedicated sergeant and detective, as well as 17 California Highway Patrol officers. The effort has so far resulted in 169 arrests, 44 searches, 31 parole searches, 23 firearms recovered and 422 interview reports.

The safety of Duarte’s residents is of utmost importance to the Duarte Public Safety Department, L.A. County Sheriff Department, and the City of Duarte’s elected officials. Although many plans can take effect, it is the residents in the community who must take a stand and get involved in their community to make any plan work. We all want and deserve a safe neighborhood. Get involved! Stay informed! Take a Stand Against Violence!

Call Temple Station to make an immediate report at (626) 448-9861 or Sgt. Bobby Wyche at the Duarte Sheriff’s Satellite Station to provide us with information by calling (626) 539-5671, ext. 304. You may also contact Special Assignment Deputies, Deputy Avila at ext. 305 and Deputy Frederickson at ext. 306, if you have any information that you may feel will lead to arrests.

You may also leave an anonymous tip by simply calling the Sheriff Satellite Station Anonymous Crime Tip Hotline (626) 359-5671 ext. 462, all calls are confidential. Se habla español.
Search for New Citrus College Superintendent/President Intensifies

By Dr. Edward C. Ortell
President, Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees

Harry Truman, the 33rd President of the United States, once said that “progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.” From our origins as the first community college in Los Angeles County to the establishment of an Associate Degree in Nursing Program in 2007, Citrus College has been an institution defined by progress. This progress can be credited, in part, to the six leaders who have held the position of superintendent/president during the school’s 93-year history.

Most recently, Michael J. Viera, Ph.D., has served at the helm of Citrus College and his five-year tenure has been marked by significant positive change. Viera oversaw the passage of Measure G in March 2004, which has resulted in a building program designed to upgrade and modernize the campus. Today, at least seven new buildings have been completed, are under construction, or are in the planning phase.

Since Viera first stepped into the position of superintendent/president, great strides have been made in the areas of enrollment, technology, and advocacy. Citrus College has also received two Title V Hispanic Serving Institution grants and numerous state grants. However, Viera’s greatest contribution has been strengthening the campus’s service to students. The creation of learning communities, an increase in high school outreach, the expansion of distance learning, and the introduction of new instructional programs have all occurred during his tenure.

Now, Citrus College is once again preparing for a change of the guard. In a letter presented to the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees during their October 2, 2007 meeting, Viera announced his intent to retire at the end of the spring 2008 semester. While the campus will greatly miss Viera’s dedication and commitment to our students, we are looking forward to continuing the tradition of extraordinary executive leadership that has helped make Citrus College what it is today.

With over 30 superintendent/president vacancies currently at community colleges throughout the state, our search for a new leader will be a formidable task. In November, nineteen individuals were appointed to the Citrus College President Search Committee. These individuals represent the campus’s Academic Senate, Adjunct Faculty, Alumni Association, Associated Students, Foundation, Classified Staff, Faculty Association, Management Team, and Supervisor/Confidential group. In addition, two members serve as representatives from the community.

Citrus College hired Community College Search Services to aid in the search process. In December, representatives from each constituent group had the opportunity to share their insights, opinions, and concerns regarding the president search with search consultant Dr. Leslie Purdy. A similar meeting, which was open to the public, was held for members of the community.

At the same time, Citrus College employees have been actively promoting the superintendent/president position at a variety of community college-related conferences throughout the country. Thus far, response has been positive and interest high. Interested candidates have indicated that they are drawn to Citrus College because of its outstanding reputation and beautiful location.

Applications and nominations for the position of Citrus College superintendent/president will be accepted until the position is filled. However, the search committee will begin reviewing applications on March 24. A limited number of candidates will then be invited to interviews scheduled in April.

As Duarte’s representative on the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, it is an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of this city at such a momentous time. I assure you that the search committee, my colleagues on the board, and myself will do everything in our power to select a superintendent/president who will continue the tradition of academic excellence for which Citrus College is known.
SENIOR NEWS

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

HOT LUNCHES
The Duarte Senior Center serves hot lunches Monday through Friday to individuals over age 60 or the spouse of someone over age 60. You must call 48 hours in advance to reserve space for lunch. Reservations are requested by calling (626) 357-3513. Check in for lunch must be conducted by 11:45 a.m. or the lunch will be given to someone on the waiting list. The suggested donation is $2.

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. Call (626) 357-3513 or the Red Cross at (626) 966-9526.

AMERICAN RED CROSS MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!
If you possess a current CA driver’s license, have access to a personal vehicle, and proof of insurance, you are eligible to volunteer to pick up meals from a local retirement home and deliver to home-bound seniors. Meals are delivered M-F between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.) No special training is required, just a compassionate individual who will brighten the days of bound seniors. (Meals are delivered M-F at (626) 966-9526.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please contact the American Red Cross at (626) 966-9526.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Duarte Senior Center is always in need of volunteers to help with food preparation, serving, table setups, craft projects, boutiques, decorating, etc. If you would like to give back to the community, please consider being a volunteer. For more information contact Kelly at (626) 357-3513.

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

TAX ASSISTANCE OFFERED
The Duarte Senior Center has trained counselors to help seniors with tax forms. The counselors are available every Tuesday until tax day, so call the Center at (626) 357-3513 for an appointment. It’s important to come prepared with copies of last year’s tax forms, all forms that show income received, and all records of deductions including charitable contributions. Appointments are required.

55 ALIVE MATURE DRIVING PROGRAM
The Duarte Senior Center, in cooperation with AARP, will be offering a 55 Alive Mature Driving class for persons 55 and older on Tuesday, April 17 and Thursday, April 19 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This eight-hour course, split up in two four-hour sessions, is a comprehensive classroom driver re-training course geared to the specific needs of older motorists. Auto insurance companies are required by law to offer discounts to course graduates age 55 and older. Attendance is required at both sessions. The cost is $10 and reservations are required. For more information, please call the Duarte Senior Center at (626) 357-3513.

DINNER WITH US
The Duarte Parks and Recreation Department partners with many local restaurants to provide an evening meal at the Duarte Senior Center. Participants have an opportunity to experiment with different restaurant menus while dining at the Center. The cost is $7 per person. Senior citizens and their adult family members are welcome to participate. For more information, call the Center at (626) 357-3513.

CLASSES
The Duarte Senior Center will begin taking registrations for the spring classes in March. Classes are for adults 55 years and older. THERE ARE NO REFUNDS. Classes offered this spring will be: Art Appreciation, Aerobics, Exercise, Ceramics, Crochet and Knitting, English as a Second Language, Exercise with Shelley, Guitar, Low Impact Aerobics, Piano/Keyboard, Piano private lessons, Spanish, Strength Training, Tai Chi, and Yoga with light weights.

EXCURSIONS
The City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Department is currently taking registration for spring trips. You can pick up a brochure at City Hall or the Senior Center to receive in-depth information about the following trips:
- Agua Dulce Vineyards and Sweetwater Cafe, Wednesday, April 9, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., $41; Ojai – Lunch at Soul Park Golf Club, Thursday, April 24, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., $40; Helen Woodward Animal Center, Jag’s Diner and Bates Nut Farm, Wednesday, May 7, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., $50; Getty Villa in Malibu Museum, Thursday, May 22, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., $19; Harrah’s Rincon Casino and Resort, Tuesday, June 10, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., $8 (with $5 gaming coupon); and Tibbies Great American Cabaret at the Queen Mary, Sunday, June 29, 12:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m., $37. Visa and MasterCard are accepted for purchases over $30.

MOTHER’S DAY TEA AND FASHION SHOW
On Wednesday, April 30, from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. the Duarte Senior Center will host a Mother’s Day Tea and Fashion Show. The day will start off with a fashion show given by Draper and Damon, and will be followed by a Tea. Family members are welcome to attend this event. The fee will be $10 per person. Reservations must be made in person at the Senior Center.

SENIOR COED SOFTBALL TEAM
If you are interested in joining a coed softball team, please contact the Duarte Senior Center at (626) 357-3513 for more information. Practices will begin the middle of March.

Participants have an opportunity to experiment with different restaurant menus while dining at the Senior Center in the “Dinner With Us” program.
Duarte HS Falcons

MEMBERS OF THE Duarte High School Falcon Football Team were honored and presented certificates by the Duarte City Council for their recent CIF playoff participation. Senior Chris Harris earned the Montview Leadership Initiative MVP and made the 2007 Tribune All-Area Team.

Cesar Chavez Project Kickoff March 29

A major theme in the life of the late labor organizer Cesar Chavez was to urge people to join hands and work together for positive change. To commemo- rate Chavez’s birthday, the City of Duarte, Duarte’s Promise; the Alliance for Youth, the City of Hope, and the community will honor his legacy by both hosting his esteemed colleague Dolores Huerta, a founding member of the City of Hope’s “Hope Vil- lage” on Saturday, March 29, and creating a historic event,” said Mayor Phil Reyes. “We are hon- owed and proud to have Dolores Huerta, a true champion of social justice and founder of the farm workers union visit our com- munity.”

Dolores Huerta worked with Cesar Chavez for over 30 years until his death in 1993. Ms. Huerta first met Chavez through her asso- ciation with the Stockton Chap- ter of the Community Service Organization in the early 1960’s. Together, they founded the Rob- ert Kennedy Medical Plan, the Juan De La Cruz Farm Workers Pension Fund, and the Farm Workers Credit Union, the first medical and pension plans and credit union in history for farm workers. They also formed the National Farm Workers Service Center which provides affordable housing with over 3,700 rental and 600 single family dwelling units, and educational radio with over nine Spanish-speaking radio Stations throughout California, Washington and Arizona. Huerta will be introduced by her friend and colleague, Dr. Jose Calde- ron, Professor of Sociology and Chicano Studies at Pitzer College since 1991.

The volunteer project will kick off at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 29, at the entrance to the City of Hope. From there, volunteers will be escorted to Hope Vil- lage for a continental breakfast and program. Breakfast will be provided courtesy of McDonald’s La Paloma Palencia and La Paloma, all local Duarte dining establishments.

The third annual Cesar Chavez volunteer event is one of a number of volunteer projects, programs, and events sponsored by Duarte’s

Junior Olympics Track And Field Meet

The City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Department will once again host the annual Junior Olympics Track and Field Meet. The event will take place Satur- day, April 5 at Duarte High School Stadium. Entries for boys and girls born 1993-2004 will be taken from Andres Duarte, Beardslee, Maxwell, Royal Oaks, Valley View, Ania Oaks and Northview Schools. Medals will be awarded to 1st place finishers, and ribbons for 2nd place through 5th place in each event. Schools will try to win the Junior Olympics School Champion title. A large trophy is awarded to the winning elemen- tary school team. All registrations for the meet will be taken at the schools. Participants will have a wide choice of events to choose from, including 50m, 100m & 200m dashes, 400m, 800m & 1600m runs, and long jump & softball throw. This meet will act as a qualifying meet for the SCMAF San Gabriel Valley Track and Field Championships that will be held in May. Children who win at the SGV meet will go on to participate in the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation Track Meet. Children wishing to participate should con- tact their school for what will be a fun and exciting event. For more information call (626) 357-7931 or call your school.

Duarte Fitness Center Membership Sale & Aquatics Program

It is time to get into shape. Save 20% on the Spring Sale at the Duarte Fitness Center. The sale prices are available March 23 through April 1. During the sale Duarte residents can enjoy one full year of aquatics, exer- cise, and aerobics for only $100. 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. At the Fitness Center you can choose from a wide variety of activities including strength training equipment, Stairmasters, treadmills, bikes, and Elliptical Trainers. The Fitness Center also has two courts available for either racquetball or wallyball. Aerobic classes are offered at various times daily.

The spring aquatics program will run from March 22-June 21. The pool will be available Mon. through Fri. for lap swim- ming from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mon. through Thurs. from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on weekends. Recreational swim will be held during spring break and on weekends.

Beautification Awards

Duarte residents are encour- aged to begin preparing their homes and businesses for the 29th Annual Beautification Awards. Judging will be held in the month of April and the awards ceremony to honor the winners will be conducted at the May 27 Duarte City Council meeting. All homes and businesses within the City of Duarte will be judged by local service organizations. The City of Duarte encourages residents to improve and beautify their homes and businesses and would like to recognize those who go above and beyond the norm in making the outside of their homes and businesses presentable. Beauti- fied homes and businesses add to Duarte’s appeal in the San Gabriel Valley and helps foster commu- nity pride and involvement. For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation at (626) 357-7931 ext. 203.

Two sessions of swim lessons will be offered this spring. Ses- sion 1 will run from May 5-May 15; with registration beginning April 28. Session 2 will run from May 19-May 28. Two sessions of swim lessons begins May 12. Priorita registra- tion will be available to City of Duarte residents with valid ID from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. the first day of registration. All non-residents may register beginning May 8.

For more information call the Duarte Fitness Center at (626) 357-6118.

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 in- volvement as Block Captains and to revitalize the 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) 337-0382 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!!!
Duarte Recreational Classes

**Spring Classes**

Parks and Recreation Department
educational, so join the Duarte...more!

Spring recreation classes to be offered will include...cooking demonstrations, and guest speakers.

Participants will be introduced to the new MyPyramid, taught how to read nutrition product labels, and to distinguish between good fats and bad fats.

They will also learn to make healthy food choices at fast food restaurants, participate in field games for physical activity, and more.

This camp will be both fun and educational, so join the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department.

**Tennis, Theater Workshop and Tumbling.**

**Spring Break Activities**

**BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY**

On Saturday, March 22, the Duarte Rotary Club will host its annual Breakfast With the Easter Bunny.

The event will be held at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Drive from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mr. Olive High School.

Registration limited to 20 participants. Fee is $20. Instruction will be provided by Jasmine Klintong, Nutrition Coordinator, and the Teen Nutrition Council.

For more information, contact the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 357-7931 or visit City Hall and pick-up an information handout or download the handout on our website at www.accessduarte.com. If you have questions, please contact the Community Development Department at (626) 357-7931 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Mon. through Thurs.

**EASTER EGG HUNTS**

The City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Department will conduct the annual Duarte Easter Egg Hunts.

Egg Hunts will be held at Royal Oaks and Beardslee Parks on Saturday, March 22 beginning at 10 a.m. SHARP!

The event is open to three divisions 3-4 years, 5-7 years and 8-10 years old. There is no charge for this event.

Parents are asked to stay out of the hunting grounds and no baskets or bags will be allowed.

For more information call (626) 357-7931.

**SPRING CRAFT DAY**

The City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Department will conduct a Spring Crafts Day at Beardslee, Encanto and Royal Oaks Parks on Monday, March 24 at 3 p.m.

There is no charge for this activity. Sign up at your local playground.

For more information call (626) 357-7931.

**KNOTT'S BERRY FARM YOUTH EXCURSION**

An excursion to Knott's Berry Farm will be held on Thursday, April 27. Register now at Duarte City Hall or at local supervised playgrounds.

Ride on Sierra Sidewinder, Xcelerator, Supreme Screamer, Montezuma’s Revenge, Ghost Rider Roller Coaster and many more thrilling rides and attractions. The fee is $22 for 8-11 year olds and $25 for 12-17 year olds.

Space is limited.

For more information call (626) 357-7931.
By Nita Norgard

Where can you see a magic show, participate in a hands-on sculpture workshop or buy a book for less than a $1? It’s all happening in the next 2 months at the Duarte Public Library, 1301 Buena Vista St.

You’re off to a good start when you create the time to visit the Duarte Library to check out books, attend a free monthly special program or get acquainted with the weekly group sessions for teens, preschool and elementary school levels.

Many of these special programs are funded by the Friends of the Duarte Library. You might want to Save the Date for:

Bjlane, plein air artist, March 29, 2008, 1 p.m. Bjlane, a Duarte resident will give a one hour sculpture workshop. Space is limited so it’s a First Come basis. Bjlane presented a plein air workshop at the library last year and the audience enthusiastically requested she return to do another workshop. She also displayed a few of her paintings and provided one of her paintings for the silent auction at the Festival of Authors 2007. Her sculptures will be on exhibit in the library display case inside the Buena Vista entrance during the month of March.

Book Sale - April 12 – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the “Magic of Reading” Show at 2 p.m. It’s the one-day only, all-L.A. County Libraries Book Sale and a special children’s magic show. If you’d like to pass along a few of your gently used books, give the Friends of the Duarte Library, Nita Norgard, a call at (626) 358-1276. We’ll arrange to pick up your books. This is a donation in support of the Friends and a book to a new reader.

Friends Scholarship Recognition Dinner May 28 – Royal Oaks Manor. Demonstrate your support for the academic accomplishments of the two high school recipients selected to receive $500 scholarships given jointly by the Friends of the Duarte Library in partnership with The Old Spaghetti Factory Restaurant, Duarte. Dr. Bill Martinez will also be honored for his outstanding contributions over his career of 28 years of teaching, guiding, and decision making that has propelled DHS to becoming a Distinguished School and has advanced Duarte students.

Duarte Library collection and programs grow with a little help from “Friends”

Duarte Employees Community Group

City of Duarte Employees have come together to form the Duarte Employees Community Group. The group was formed in April, 2007, for the purpose of providing volunteer services and funding to nonprofit organizations and groups located in the City of Duarte.

Duarte employees are proud of the city in which they work and enjoy giving of their time to help provide much needed services to its residents. Employees have volunteered hours to the Rebuilding Together Project and the Duarte Rose Float Pavilion.

They also raised funds at the Annual City Picnic, raising enough funds to purchase a heart monitor for the Duarte Senior Center. The heart monitor is currently being used by Duarte Senior Center patrons.

Senior Center Supervisor Peggy Diamond says, “It’s awesome – it’s here for the senior’s convenience. They can continually monitor their health, no, while participating in other programs.”

Duarte employees look forward to providing residents with many more meaningful volunteer services that will impact their lives.

SCE Federal Credit Union Becomes City of Hope’s Latest Platelet Partner

City of Hope put out the call and SCE FCU is answering. With City of Hope patients using more blood and platelets than at any other hospital in Southern California, and with platelets only having a shelf life of five days, City of Hope is in constant need of donors. Hence their new campaign, “The Platelet Partnership.” The Credit Union eagerly signed on to help make a difference.

SCE FCU, a $400 million, full-service financial institution based in Irwindale, is encouraging employees and members to donate platelets during March 24-March 28, at the City of Hope Campus in Duarte. Donation time can vary based on body size and blood counts, but can usually be done in 90 minutes. To learn more about how you can join the Credit Union in this special effort, visit their website at scefcu.org or call (800) 866-6474 ext. 4500.

CELEBRATING THE PARTNERSHIP are (left to right) Latascha Johnson, Community Outreach Specialist for City of Hope’s Whole Blood, Platelet and Community Outreach Donor Center; Eileen Beeson, SCE FCU’s Duarte Branch Manager; and Christy Marrugi, SCE FCU’s Business Development Executive for the Duarte area.

Donations are 8% of the total amount available.

Duarte Employees Community Group

City of Duarte Employees have come together to form the Duarte Employees Community Group. The group was formed in April, 2007, for the purpose of providing volunteer services and funding to nonprofit organizations and groups located in the City of Duarte.

Duarte employees are proud of the city in which they work and enjoy giving of their time to help provide much needed services to its residents. Employees have volunteered hours to the Rebuilding Together Project and the Duarte Rose Float Pavilion.

They also raised funds at the Annual City Picnic, raising enough funds to purchase a heart monitor for the Duarte Senior Center. The heart monitor is currently being used by Duarte Senior Center patrons.

Senior Center Supervisor Peggy Diamond says, “It’s awesome – it’s here for the senior’s convenience. They can continually monitor their health, no, while participating in other programs.”

Duarte employees look forward to providing residents with many more meaningful volunteer services that will impact their lives.
**From the desk of the Superintendent**

Dr. Dean Conklin, Superintendent, Duarte Unified School District

**PRINCIPAL TO RETIRE**

Dr. Bill Martinez, Principal of Duarte High School, announced his retirement that will take effect at the end of the school year. On behalf of the entire staff in Duarte, as well as the thousands of students who have been so positively impacted by Dr. Martinez, I offer my congratulations on an outstanding career.

Dr. Martinez began his career in 1976 as a teacher at Northview. Over the past 38 years, he has served as a teacher, Dean, Assistant Principal, and, of course, Principal. Dr. Martinez is a very well educated individual, having earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) in addition to his B.A. his M.A. Both of his children, Billy Martinez and Stacy Nunez, have chosen to follow in their father’s footsteps. Stacy is a teacher at Duarte High, and Billy is finishing up his student teaching at Valley View. Bill’s son in law, Christian Nunez, is also with us as an ROP teacher.

Bill has many, many accomplishments for which he can be proud. One of the most significant is the fact that just last year Duarte High was named both a California Distinguished School and a Title I Academic Achievement Award Winning School. I will never forget the joy that I saw in Bill’s face when he shared with me the good news about these accolades. Bill was not looking for personal recognition, rather he was truly excited about the contributions that teachers, students, and staff had made, and he delighted in their collective success.

Bill, we will miss your enthusiasm and your dedication. We are proud to have had the rest of this school year to make all of those retirement jokes at your expense. Most of all, we respect your commitment to the students in Duarte.

**SCHOOL NEWS**

March 2008

---

**The Duarte High School Academic Decathlon Team heads for State Finals in Sacramento**

*Excerpt: This story was written prior to the Academic Team’s victory in Sacramento. It covers the victorious event that led to Duarte High’s trip to the State Finals.*

By Dr. Bill Martinez, Principal

We are ecstatic at Duarte High School. Yes, ECSTATIC!!! We are excited because the Duarte High School Academic Decathlon Team finished first in its division in the Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon 2007-2008 competition. The team, coached by Bill Martinez, is going on to the State Finals in Sacramento.

The Duarte High School Academic Decathlon Team members are: Kevin Amador, Christopher Amurao, Lucas Bondi, Daniel Colin, Talin Darkjian, Evan Finlay, Jonathas Gonzalez, Swati Puri and Rachel Thomas. The team was coached by Bill Martinez.

The Academic Decathlon Program was created by the National School Board Association in 1966 as a way to bring together students in high schools across the country to compete in all areas of the curriculum. The program is designed to emphasize the importance of reading, writing, and learning for lifelong success.

The Academic Decathlon consists of five subject areas: Art, Economics, Fine Arts, History, and Mathematics. Each subject area is scored on a points basis, and the team with the highest score wins.

The Duarte High School Academic Decathlon Team is going to State Finals in Sacramento. We are excited because the team has qualified for the State Finals, and we believe they have a good chance of winning.

*By Dean Conklin, Superintendent, and Julie Davey*

March Madness!” is taking on new meaning in the City of Duarte as enthusiasm builds in hopes to follow their team’s progress in the upcoming state finals, hoping to cheer them on to victory.

But, it is not basketball that has thrust a local team into the spotlight. It is academic achievement.

Duarte High School placed second in the highly competitive County of Los Angeles Academic Decathlon. Duarte High will be holding its second competition Sunday, March 8, 9, 10 in Sacramento.

A total of 56 teams and more than 1,000 students participated in the County finals.

The California state finals will be held March 8, 9, 10 in Sacramento. The Duarte Falcons will pit their collective brain power against the best academic matriculation April 16. What is particularly significant is that the Duarte Falcons were a rookie in Academic Decathlon.

One of Grebel’s students from Marina High School, Talin Darkjian added, “Mak- ing state this year was the perfect ending. This journey has been the most rewarding experience I have had in my life so far. The Duarte City Council member Margaret Finlay then spoke in support of the team and asked that all students who attended the game support the team. The team was able to win the game, and they were able to celebrate their victory.

**SPORTS NEWS**

The Montview League has added a new league for the fall athletes. The league honored its members in the league’s singles tennis title. Karla Salas was honored for her third place finish in the state tournament where she defeated Allie Walsh and made it to the quarterfinals. She is currently ranked number one in the state.

**COINLOWS**

Duarte High School has been named a Title I school by the State of California. The school was awarded the Title I award based on its performance on state assessments.

The school received a Title I award for the second consecutive year. This is the second time that the school has received a Title I award.

The school has been working hard to improve its academic performance, and the Title I award is a testament to their efforts.

The school is currently working on a number of initiatives to further improve its academic performance, including the implementation of new curricula and the hiring of new staff.

The school’s Title I award is a significant achievement for the school and its students, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the school’s staff and students.

---

Dr. Dean Conklin

03:45 pm 2008

---

**DUARTE HIGH SCHOOL Academic Decathlon team members.**

---

**Amber Nicholson, Talin Darkjian, Hayden McFarlane, Kevin Amador, Lucas Bondi, Evan Finlay, Vanaja Primorac, Daniel Colin, Moizunnabi Saleem, Jonathan Amura, Swati Puri, and Juan Urena.**

---

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This story was written after the Academic Team’s victory in Sacramento. It covers the victorious event that led to Duarte High’s trip to the State Finals.

By Dean Conklin, Superintendent, and Julie Davey

March Madness!” is taking on new meaning in the City of Duarte as enthusiasm builds in hopes to follow their team’s progress in the upcoming state finals, hoping to cheer them on to victory.

But, it is not basketball that has thrust a local team into the spotlight. It is academic achievement.

Duarte High School placed second in the highly competitive County of Los Angeles Academic Decathlon. Duarte High will be holding its second competition Sunday, March 8, 9, 10 in Sacramento.

A total of 56 teams and more than 1,000 students participated in the County finals.

The California state finals will be held March 8, 9, 10 in Sacramento. The Duarte Falcons will pit their collective brain power against the best academic matriculation April 16. What is particularly significant is that the Duarte Falcons were a rookie in Academic Decathlon.

One of Grebel’s students from Marina High School, Talin Darkjian added, “Making state this year was the perfect ending. This journey has been the most rewarding experience I have had in my life so far. The Duarte City Council member Margaret Finlay then spoke in support of the team and asked that all students who attended the game support the team. The team was able to win the game, and they were able to celebrate their victory.

**SPORTS NEWS**

The Montview League has added a new league for the fall athletes. The league honored its members in the league’s singles tennis title. Karla Salas was honored for her third place finish in the state tournament where she defeated Allie Walsh and made it to the quarterfinals. She is currently ranked number one in the state.

**COINLOWS**

Duarte High School has been named a Title I school by the State of California. The school was awarded the Title I award based on its performance on state assessments.

The school received a Title I award for the second consecutive year. This is the second time that the school has received a Title I award.

The school has been working hard to improve its academic performance, and the Title I award is a testament to their efforts.

The school is currently working on a number of initiatives to further improve its academic performance, including the implementation of new curricula and the hiring of new staff.

The school’s Title I award is a significant achievement for the school and its students, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the school’s staff and students.
By Wendy Wright, Principal

Greatness begins here! That is the theme of a typical week at Beardslee. It can give you some insight as to why I believe it to be true. Come with me and visit the greatness that can be found at Kelwill Way.

Pick any morning. The bell rings at 8:15 a.m. and students and teachers move to their classrooms where school begins at 8:20 sharp. First on the agenda is the pledge of allegiance over the loudspeaker. Each day, two students lead the school in their salute to the flag. Immediately following, a staff member reads the Word of Wisdom, based on one of the characters in the Bible. This morning, Mrs. Valerie Durham shared some thoughts on respect.

Teachers follow up with a short class discussion on the values presented in each moment and ask students to think about how they can live the trait.

And so it goes. 8:30 rolls around and it is time for Oral Language Development.

Children move to different classes assigned by their level of proficiency in English. Teachers instruct students in improvements in English, school-wide until 9:00 a.m. At 9:00 a bell rings signaling the time to move back to their home classrooms and English Language Arts. Again, some students move to work with our Mrs. Cynthia Wells, our Literacy Coach, or to work with our Mrs. Cynthia Montgomery, Lynette Bridges, and Maryann McIlain, and Maryann Volmer. They instruct their students open ended projects. Sounds like work? Not really. Students are laughing and enjoying their conversations while students as they figure out the answers to the math problems. Students do this as a part of their daily routine.

Our reading incentive program can win honors. This program, Reading Counts motivates readers. It begins with great books.

That is why we are very proud of our students' participation in physical activity and the final hour is spent enriching their academics with further exposure to math.

The afternoons are devoted to the content areas of Social Studies and Science. Teachers ably instruct student incorporating art and music into the afternoon subject areas. Another session of Physical Education is completed some afternoons.

School is dismissed at 2:42; however that is not the end of many students’ day. More than 80 students participate in our ThinkStart program, coordinated by Richard Theole. ThinkStart runs until 6:00 p.m. every evening. Students are given time to complete their homework with the tutoring skills of the program leader. Additional students participate in the physical activity and the final hour is spent enriching their academics with further exposure to math.

Each year we receive applications and requests for preschool services from families who do not qualify for our federally funded Head Start program, or our state-subsidized State Preschool program. To meet the need of non-Duarte families, we plan to open a Tuition-Based preschool in September, 2008. The class will be housed at our Andres Duarte site and will operate in the morning, with extended day opportunities from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m.

For more information or to apply, please call Bobbi at (626) 599-5121.

Did you know?

Our largest preschool program is our Duarte State Preschool which serves 168 preschoolers and their families. State Preschool is funded through grants the California State Department of Education in conjunction with the goal of preparing students for kindergarten. Children in our State Preschool program need to be three or four years old by December 2, and need to meet the income eligibility criteria. We have both morning and afternoon State Preschool camps at Beardslee and Andres Duarte.

Child Development

By Mary Gonzales, Principal

Maxwell has many of the programs that you would not expect to find at your regular public schools, beginning with a first class music program.

Karina Avila our music teacher teaches 2nd through 4th grade students how to read music and play the piano. It is not uncommon to hear the children talk about classical composers, and the parts of a sonata. We have many of you know the meaning of exposition, development, and recapitulation? Maxwell students do.

These same students enhance their mathematical reasoning by playing a variety of computer- and paper-and-pencil games. When they visit the lab you see a little penguin that runs up and down and across the screen. Gigi the penguin is estimating, calculating and predicting as it moves through a variety of obstacle courses. When a penguin “Gigi” is controlled by the student. Students are developing critical thinking and mathematical reasoning as they “play” these games.

We wonder what our Maxwell have that you would think is unique to a private school Christine Montgomery, Claudia Flores and first grade teacher Rosie Bauer, Rose-marie McLean, and Maryann Volmer give their students open ended projects. Sounds like work? Not really. Students are laughing and enjoying their conversations while students as they figure out the answers to the math problems.

Our reading incentive program can win honors. This program, Reading Counts motivates readers. It begins with great books.
Mt. Olive Instructional Programs and Support Services

By Miriam Fox, Principal, Northview Intermediate

Having been a resident of Duarte for the past 40 years, it saddens me to see the violence that is going on in our community. This past Friday, I attended the funeral services for one of the victims, a young man who was in the first seventh grade class that I had here at Northview.

Brandon Lee graduated last year from Duarte High School, a highly popular young man, who was the cap- tain of the football team and my son’s classroom. The loss of any human life due to senseless violence is always painful, but this one hit especially close to home.

During the viewing, when I approached the casket to say my final good-byes, I was overwhelmed by the obvious youth. His face was beautiful and smooth and devoid of any wrinkles, he had not been given the opportunity to grow old and wrinkled.

Amidst all of the sadness in the church, it was this loss of opportunity that struck me the most. He never had the opportunity to complete college, play pro foot- ball, enjoy one more holiday season with his family, or earn his wrinkles. As a member of this community and a caretaker of its children, I feel I have to find what I or that for any matter of any of us can do to help put an end to this violence that is destroying our peace of mind and our youth.

So forgive me if this news article is not focused on the particular events occurring in Northview, but rather on what we all can do to help make our world a safer place.

Below I have listed some points that may help us through these difficult times, I hope they help you.

1. Make sure your children are safe at home.
   Every school site has safety procedures inclusive of carefully monitoring every one who attempts to enter our campuses. Reassure your children that they are safe at school.

2. School is one of the safest places to be.
   Keep in mind that these have been incidents of gang violence. It is important however to note that not all victims have been involved in gang affiliations.

3. Make arrangements about how your son/daughter will get to and from school. It is possible pick them up and drop them off or ask a neighbor, friend or family member to help you with this. If your children(ren) have/had to walk to and from school, make sure they take the safest routes to follow.

4. Check with the schools regarding after school programs where your student can be supervised by responsible adults, that understand how to develop and engage in other extra-curricular activities. Many of these programs are free.

5. If at all possible, avoid being at or near residences or other locations that are often visited by gang members.
   Although not all of the victims have had gang affiliations, many have been near locations that gang members frequent.

6. Do not allow your children to walk around the neighborhood at all times.
   Often, our sons/daughters will insist that they are wearing clothes that are just fashionable, not representative of gang clothing. Help them understand that the clothing they are wearing is not representative of the violence that is occurring in our neighborhood.

7. Do not allow your children to dress in gang attire.
   Often our sons/daughters will insist that what they are wearing is just fashionable, not representative of gang clothing. Help them understand that the clothing they are wearing is not representative of gang activities.

8. Through frequent dialoguing make sure that your children know that the police are here to serve and protect us as community members.

As I conclude this article I want to make it clear that none of us has all of the answers but certainly one of the strongest deterrents for prevention is getting local law enforcement and community members involved in the fight against this violence.

I commend the police department and our Community Watch group. Do not take unnecessary risks but report to the police any information that you inadvertently witness or suspect is occurring.

We must explicitly teach our children to resolve their conflicts with others by using the power of their words and not their fists.

The acts that many gang members inflict upon others are a result of many little things that they learn to accept as normal, while growing up. They learned the lessons about retaliation, vengeance, the use of force and intolerance, all of which are in our community.

It is the responsibility of parents and the guardians of our youth, which all of us have, to teach the right lessons to our children and to make sure that they recognize the power of the dialogue in resolving conflicts.

You can commit day after day to stepping up to the plate to help support and shape the future of your youth? If aloud or in your mind you just said “Yes” then find the manner in which you can most effectively serve, and start today.

By Kevin Morris, Principal

As students face challenges in the traditional school setting, Mt. Olive can be the opportunity for them to attend school and get back on track academically. We offer educational options designed to meet the unique needs of every student who has struggled in the traditional educational setting.

The objectives of Mt. Olive are to provide students the opportu- nity to:

• Attend school with smaller class sizes
• Follow a pace and standard based education
• Participate in individualized group counseling
• Make up credit deficiencies through direct-instruction, PLATO Learning, Regional Oc- cupation Program (ROP), and independent study

Mt. Olive promotes self-responsibility, self-esteem, confidence and personal satisfaction.

• Develop a sense of responsibility
• Complete requirements that meet State competency and graduation requirements
• Attend counseling and guidance services for every student

Be provided tutoring services for every student
• Be offered a second chance to succeed

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

By Miriam Fox, Principal, Northview Intermediate

Mt. Olive offers a variety of instructional programs available to meet the varied needs of our students.

• Academic Program
• Drop-Out Prevention Program (SB 65)
• PlATO Learning, Regional Oc- cupation Program (ROP)
• Independent Study Program

Mt. Olive offers an Instructional Program at all grade levels. Each program is designed to meet the unique needs of students who have not received their high school diploma, regardless of age.

This grade 7/8 opportunity program has been developed to assist students who have not been successful at the comprehensive high school. Students who are considered behind in credits and/or who have had behavior challenges in the comprehensive high school will be transferred, voluntarily, to the continuation program at Mt. Olive High School. Students can remain in this program or “earn” their way back to the comprehensive high school.

Dropout Recovery (SB 65)

This high school diploma program is designed to help students who have not been successful in high school. Students are placed in the program after other interventions at the high school have failed. Students can remain in the program or “earn” their way back to the high school.

Dropout Recovery (Alternative Education/Teens Program)

This high school diploma program has been developed to assist students who have already dropped out of school. The AEOP program is a state dropout recov- ery program and is open to all high school students.

The AEOP program is open to students who have been out of school for at least 45 days. Students can remain in the program until they receive their high school diploma.

6th Grade Suspended Expulsion Program

This limited program has been developed to offer Grade 6 students an alternative to expulsion.

Placement is ordered by the Board of Education. The curricu- lum taught is equivalent to that offered at the regular sixth grade program. Students will remain in the program for the extent of the period of suspended expulsion.

7th and 8th Grade Opportunity Program

This grade 7/8 opportunity program has been developed to assist students who have not been successful at the intermediate school. Students who are not successful in school or who have become “challenging” at school may be transferred to the Opportunity Program at Mt. Olive High School. Students are placed in the program after all other interventions have failed.

The curriculum offered is equivalent to that offered at the intermediate school. Students may remain in the program for at least one semester and must “earn” their way back to their home school.

9th Grade Opportunity Program

This grade 9 opportunity program has been developed to assist students who have not been successful at the high school. Students who are not succeeding in school or who have become “challenging” at school may be transferred to the Opportunity Program at Mt. Olive High School. Students are placed in the program after all other interventions have failed.

The curriculum offered is equivalent to that offered at the high school. Students may remain in the program for at least one semester and must “earn” their way back to their home school.

Adult Education Program

This high school diploma program has been developed to offer Grade 18 through adult students who have not received their high school diploma. The AEOP program is designed to receive instruction in all subjects needed in order to earn their high school diploma. Anyone eighteen (18) or older may enroll in this program.

For more information call (626) 599-5962.

Independent Study Program

This limited high school diploma program is reserved for students whose lifestyles do not make it possible for them to attend school on a regular basis. Students receive weekly assign- ments, must agree to complete 20 hours of work at home and must check in with the school one hour each week.

Regional Occupational Program (ROP)

The Regional Occupational Program provides job training in free- hands-on job training for high school students and adults. Students may enroll in the ROP at Mt. Olive, Duarte High School, or another district. Because ROP is a job-training program, students are not paid while attending these classes but receive benefits and high school credit toward graduation. ROP also offers the opportunity to learn while you earn.

You may enroll in a Cooperative Vocational Education (CVE) class. You will work your normal assigned hours, learn on the job and at- tend classes once a week.

High school students can earn credits toward graduation for time spent on the job as well as classroom experiences.

SUPPORT PROGRAM SERVICES

AB 1802 Counseling Services

Every student is guaranteed counseling services that include academic planning, registration review, credit checks, Indiv- idual Learning Episodes, personal counseling, parent information, college counseling, financial aid planning, career counseling, and graduation checks. If students require services above and beyond that which the school can supply, the staff will refer students to the appropriate agencies. The staff at Mt. Olive is working hard to develop a program of Integrated Services that will be available to all students and their families.

Learning for Life

Learning for Life field trips and a variety of career de- velopment, career education, life skills, and academic learning experiences. The program geared to reinforce social skills, critical and creative think- ing, ethical decision making, con- flict resolution, and self-esteem.

The programs aim to prepare tomorrow’s workforce through exposure to career management activities and skills.

Citus College Noncredit Counseling and Matriculation

Noncredit Counseling is free of charge and provides CAHSEE tutoring, academic tutoring, individual counseling, ESL classes, career/occupational counseling, academic advise- ment, personal counseling, sup- port and parenting skills groups and various workshops. Classes are held at Mt. Olive and Citrus College.

D.A.R.T. (Duarte Area Resource Team)

D.A.R.T., in conjunction with California PAL sponsors the “Life After High School” program. This program takes 9th-11th grade high school students on a field trip to California State University at Fresno and engages them in 3 days of workshop topics dealing with college readiness, academics, life skills, job opportunities, apprenticeships, college selection and much more.

Career Planning

Career Planning is available to all students. Students have the opportunity to participate in the DHF Career Expo and career fairs at Citrus College. All students will receive a copy of the Los Angeles County ROP Career and College Planning Guide. Career planning

See Mt. Olive on page 18
By Robin Nelson, Principal

The stars at Valley View were brightly shining on February 1. Twenty-two students performed at the annual Valley View Talent Show. It was a variety show extraordinary.

The PTA sponsors this annual event to showcase our children’s performance abilities. Shauna Pierce and Michelle Randall worked tirelessly to plan the show, prepare the students and dazzle all of us.

Thaddeus Smith, Jessica Richards, Kayla Wilson and Sophia Camp. Our talented musicians played their instruments for our listening pleasure: Anthony Smith, Zachary Chapman, Randy Galarza, and Olivia Leyva. Additionally, Jacob Sousa entertained us with his magic show.

The auditorium was jam-packed and the parents were beaming with pride. The 6th grade class and Student Council sold drinks and treats for the audience.

After all the performances, the judges had the difficult task of choosing the winners.

First place was awarded to Reine Nakamura for her delightful monologue, 5th place to Caira Benton for her creative Hip-Hop dance and 6th place to Madeline Camp for her charming song.

These six very talented students will audition for the District Talent Show on March 15 at the Performing Arts Center. I hope you will be able to come see our kids perform and hopefully win!

Andres Duarte

By Joilin Campitello, Principal

Andres Duarte celebrated Black History Month with its 17th annual Black History program, “A Journey Through African American History” on February 22. Skits included Ruby Brown’s first day at school, Rosa Parks’ historic day on the bus and recitations of speeches by Martin Luther King and Malcolm X.

The Black History program is long standing tradition at Andres Duarte started by past principal Sylvia Whitlock. Staff members Cynthia Woodman, Jennifer Hopson, Tina Frausto, Sharon Wade, and Arreitha Jackson head up the committee planning this year’s program. In addition to an exciting program, students were treated to a Soul Food tasting table at recess.

Andres Duarte students and staff support student achievement monthly with Cougar Pride Days. Students who have successfully completed homework and class work in addition to good attendance and behavior, are rewarded with a free dress day, lunch al fresco, and fun lunchtime activities.

A monthly author’s breakfast, free dress days and After the Bell helps with skills development. There is something for everyone at Royal Oaks.
The many faces of the Duarte Teen Center

By Louis Bonilla

The DTC is made up of about a dozen staff members. Each of whom contribute a bit of themselves to the DTC. Its function in regards to the teens is based almost exclusively on the topic of the week brought up by the staff. There are a plethora of social experiences that occurs between the staff and teens. This type of environment at the DTC keeps the teens entertained and coming back.

Although each DTC staff member is important, there are a particular few that stand out of the rest. These particular few influence the teens as well give the DTC a sense of life with their ideas, thoughts, opinions, and personality. With out these staff members there would be no motivation within the teens to come to the DTC.

The most known staff member that all the teens love is Larry; our Wiseman. Many of the teens and staff members tend to seek his help and opinion on about anything that troubles them. Larry will listen attentively to every word that is said then shares his opinion while being unbiased. To show how unbiased he is, Larry will share his own experiences so that we can relate. He is a great mentor and listener to all the teens.

When it comes to girl talk, the teens will go to Vanessa. Vanessa loves to talk about fun situations that occur at the DTC. The teens enjoy her company and socialize whenever she is working. Vanessa is not only a person to have fun conversations with but is also someone to ask for advice about style and fashion.

These staff members I speak of are the most popular of the particular few that I mention. Then if your curious as to who might be the other staff members might be, why not come to the DTC to see for yourself. In my opinion working here as the DTC tutor, the teens leave laughing with a smile on their face coming back the next day. All the more reasons to come socialize with friends and our staff, so don’t hesitate to visit the DTC because we welcome everyone even your if you are new here or not.

Mt. Olive

Continued from page 16

is also available through the various branches of the military.

Community Union Program

Nonprofit Corporation providing free computer technology training, public speaking, business training, and a free computer to students that complete one of their four-10 week courses. This program is open to all students in grades 7-12.

Great things are happening at Mt. Olive!

We are altering the course of alternative education into one with higher academic rigor and effective support services, which translates to developing direction, pride, and purpose in all our students.
The Duarte Teen Center has a lot of great activities happening this spring! The Center is located at 1400 Buena Vista Street in Duarte. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All Duarte teens grades 9 through 12 with school ID are welcome. Participation is free, but Teen Center Registration packets must be filled out and returned. For more information, please call (626) 303-0863.

TEEN NEWS

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Students can always get involved in a variety of activities at the Duarte Teen Center! Come watch a movie on our big screen TV! Movie days are held two Mondays a month. On the first Tuesday of the month, join the Teen Center for a birthday celebration with cake for all and gifts for those born that month. Drop-in tutoring for all teens grades 9-12 is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. These activities are all free!

YOUTH BOXING PROGRAM

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

You will gain flexibility, stamina, and coordination as well as make new friends. Our knowledgeable trainers provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for all levels of youth. You can train for fun and physical activity or for a chance to compete against other youth in the United States and at our annual Boxing Show. The Teen Center Gym is open Mon. through Thurs. from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Fri. from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. There is a $10 monthly fee for each participant. Non-residents are welcome for $20 per month.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tournaments being held this March and April include Pool tournaments on Wed., March 5 and April 2; an Air Hockey Tournament on Tues., March 11; and a PS2 Tournament on Tues., April 8. Ping Pong tournaments will be held Thurs., March 20 and April 24, all tournaments begin at 3:30 p.m. and winners will receive a prize. On Fri., March 14, the radio station Power 106 will be visiting the Teen Center with music, free items, and a pizza-eating contest. The cost is $1 to participate. Don't miss out on our St. Patrick's Day BBQ on Mon., March 17, at 3:30 p.m. Enjoy cheeseburgers, chips, fresh fruit, and drinks for only $1.

There is a Northview Game Day scheduled for Fri., April 18, from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Northview students can come to the Teen Center for games, tournaments and food. Take a tour of the Center and hang out with your friends.

The Spring BBQ will be held Fri., April 11, at 3:30 p.m. with cheeseburgers, chips, fresh fruit, and a drink for only $1. Enjoy a great game of Dodgeball on Thurs., April 17, at 3:30 p.m.; Nachos and drinks will be sold. Also, join us for Crab Soccer on Thurs., May 22 at 3:30 p.m.

Attention all Duarte High School seniors! Do you want to increase your chances of getting a scholarship for college? Pick up a DHS Local Scholarship application from the high school office and attend this workshop. The Teen Center will conduct the Scholarship Workshop on Wed., April 23 at 4 p.m. This workshop will assist you in filling out the application and give you tips on how to enhance your application. The Teen Center will celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Monday, May 5, at 3:30 p.m. There will be traditional Mexican food, music, and activities for only $1!

SPRING BREAK EXCURSION

The Duarte Teen Center’s annual spring break trip will be to Magic Mountain on Wed., March 26 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. The price for the excursion is $25 and will cover tickets and transportation. Spring break is a great time to seek excitement at Six Flags Magic Mountain. You must pre-register and pay at the Duarte Teen Center.
Book signings by local natural history authors, book and art display at Historical Museum April 19

What secrets are hidden in the San Gabriel Mountains, backdrop to and its neighboring foothill communities? The answer to that question as well as other interesting aspects of local history are discussed in several books which will be signed and sold by their authors on Saturday, April 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Duarte Historical Museum, 777 Encanto Parkway.

The program, to coincide with the City of Duarte’s Family Wildness Day Hike to Fish Canyon Falls, will also feature a book sale by The Friends of the Duarte Library and an art show featuring the work of plein air artist.


“Anyone who enjoys our local mountains, and especially hikers making the trek on Family Wildness Day, will want to visit with those authors to learn more about the natural history of the area,” said Claudia Heller, president of the Duarte Historical Society.

Highlights of Duarte’s past are on display at the Museum. Several historical video programs will be shown continuously throughout the day in the museum library, including footage of the 1938 flood that altered the course of the San Gabriel River and a program featuring interviews with adventurous locals who spent their summers in the cabins that once dotted the foothills.

Admission is free.

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

Monrovia resident, Realtor, and active community volunteer Donna Baker is the new Chief Volunteer Officer of the nonprofit Santa Anita Family YMCA Board of Directors.

At a ceremony held at the Monrovian Restaurant, Monrovia City Manager Scott Ochoa performed the honors in formally installing Baker and other members of the 2008 executive committee to two-year terms in office.

Baker, director of Heritage Home Dickson Podley Realtors in Monrovia, where she was the number one sales associate in 2007, succeeds Monrovia businesswoman Patrice Reinhard in the leadership role of the SAFYMCA.

Baker was first elected to the board in 2004, and was elected vice president of the board in 2006. She is also a major contributor to the Monrovia Historical Preservation Association, a charter commissioner of the City of Monrovia Historic Preservation Commission, president of the Monrovia Day Association, and member of the Monrovia/Duarte chapter of Quota International.

“What attracted me most about the Santa Anita Family YMCA is that no one is ever turned away for inability to pay. It’s a privilege to contribute my efforts to an organization that daily provides so many valuable programs and services and makes a positive difference in lives of people of all ages in the community. I look forward to a fruitful year for the SAFYMCA,” said Baker.

Baker said her goals as Chief Volunteer Officer include adding additional enthusiastic and involved members to the board, achieving fundraising campaign endeavors and “getting the word out about the SAFYMCA and the great things it offers to the community”.

Other newly installed members of the 2008 executive committee of the SAFYMCA board of directors are Vice President, Kathy Taylor, a Monrovia based Certified Public Accountant; Treasurer, Steve Baker, who also serves as the elected treasurer for the City of Monrovia; Secretary, Pat Barnes, a probate attorney from Arcadia; Member-at-Large, Diane Balsamo, a home loan consultant with Countrywide; and Immediate Past President, Patrice Reinhard, owner of Dreams Built True Construction in Monrovia.

The SAFYMCA is located at 501 S. Mountain Ave. in Monrovia. The facility is open 7 days a week, 96 hours a week and offers dozens of sports programs, exercise classes and activities on a member and non-member basis for children, teens, adults, seniors and people with special needs. It also offers free on-site supervised child-care while members use the facility.

For more information call (626) 359-9244, or visit the Santa Anita Family YMCA web site at www.safymca.org.

Sheri Uhlig named 2007-2008 DWC WOTY

Celebrating the 59th anniversary of the Duarte Woman’s Club, the members recently honored the past presidents and past women of the year, culminating the evening with the announcement of the 2007-2008 Woman of the Year (“WOTY”): Sheri Uhlig. Past WOTY’s presented a skit in which members baked a pretend cake, each contributing an ingredient representing Sheri’s many talents.

By the skit’s end the identity of the recipient was obvious.

Sheri has spent countless hours volunteering not only for projects of the Woman’s Club, but a myriad of organizations within Duarte. She isn’t the one chairing a meeting or delegating jobs to others. Sheri is the one flipping the burgers, cleaning up, serving refreshments, or building a prop. She is as much at home baking a cake or planting a garden as she is working with a drill and saw.

“Sheri has spent countless hours volunteering not only for projects of the Woman’s Club, a member of DWOC since 1996, she has served as Hospital-ity Chairman as well as a member of the Nominating Committee. She brings to our club a genuine sense of caring, concern, friendship and laughter. The Duarte Woman’s Club is honored to have Sheri Uhlig represent them as their Woman of the Year for 2008,” said DWC president Kathy Deiker.

“This is an honor, especially coming from a group of such dedicated volunteers,” said Sheri. She was presented with the tradition WOTY silver bracelet.

Special presentations were also made to longtime club members: Irene Burgess, 40 years; and Nita Carey, 50 years.

LONGTIME RESIDENT and community volunteer Nita Carey is honored for her 50 years of membership and service to the Duarte Woman’s Club at the Club’s 59th anniversary meeting. Presenting her with a 50 year pin and certificate is Woman’s Club President Kathy Deiker.