



# The Downey Patriot

**Warren's 'Superfan'**  
See Page 9

**Children's egg hunt**  
See Page 3

**Medicare deadline**  
See Page 5

Friday, March 31, 2006

Vol. 4, No. 49

11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey, CA 90241

## Guerra a candidate for District 2 seat

**DOWNEY**—Mario A. Guerra, longtime Downey resident and business owner and community leader, has declared himself a candidate for the Downey City Council representing Southwest Downey District 2. This seat will be vacated by current Mayor Meredith Perkins after the Nov. 7 Election due to term limits.

Guerra attended UCLA and majored in Economics. He and his wife, Ann, have lived in Downey the past 27 years and raised five children here.

His professional background includes being co-founder and President of Scanlon, Guerra, Jacobsen & Burke Insurance Brokers, Inc. Last year, this firm was named one of the top 100 insurance brokers in the U.S., by Insurance Journal. Scanlon, Guerra, Jacobsen & Burke was recently named the 15th largest brokerage firm in Southern California by the Los Angeles Business Journal. Mario takes great pride in having built this firm from a small agency to its current size by using the highest ethical and business practices. He also earned the Certified Professional Agent (CPIA) designation.

He is the proud member of the Downey Rotary, the Knights of Columbus and has been with West Downey Little League for more than 27 years.

He is also a member of the Chairman's Round Table and Board of Managers for the Downey Family YMCA, serves on the finance committee and currently serves as Campaign Chairman. Downey Unified School District Superintendent Wendy Doty asked Mario to serve on the Character Counts Committee.

Guerra is a member of Downey Regional Medical Center's Board of Directors, serves on the Finance and Litigation committees, and is currently Chairman of the Memorial Trust Foundation. He also serves on the City of Downey Emergency Preparedness Council and was called to serve in Louisiana and Houston right after Hurricane Katrina.

He was ordained a Deacon, a member of the clergy by Cardinal Roger Mahoney. He currently serves as a Chaplain of the Downey Police Department and is a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains of for Los Angeles. At St. Raymond's Catholic Church in Downey he has served on the Finance Council and Pastoral Council, along with teaching the Baptism class and celebrating Baptisms twice a month. His Ministries include Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Tijuana Orphanage, among his favorite outreach projects. He and his wife, Ann, co-founded Angel Tree for Downey, which served over 273 children of incarcerated parents during the holidays last year. They also founded the Diskonia Foundation which gives scholarships to deserving high school age students for their community service and outreach to others.

Guerra was honored by the Independent Agents Association SFV by being named recipient of the prestigious Beverly Jordan Memorial Award as "Agent of the Year," and was also awarded the "Van Dusan Award" for lifetime dedication and service to the insurance industry. A few years ago he was also named "Agent of the Year". His firm was also named agency of the Year by IBA West and Insurance Journal for the five western states.

Guerra is also an instructor and guest speaker on many insurance and business related issues. He is Past President for the Insurance Brokers and Agents Association and Past Chairman of the National Catastrophe Task Force for IBA in Washington D.C., along with being chairman of various other committees and trade organizations.

"With our great City of Downey progressing every day, and with our City Council serving at the will of its residents, my rich experiences and my strong financial background will help us continue to be the place we are proud to call home. I assure our community that if and when I am elected to the City Council, I will work with our city leaders to ensure that the right steps are implemented to continue a controlled and exciting growth for Downey."



**FIFTH GRADERS HEAR MUSIC**—Larry Lewis, President of the Downey Symphonic Society, is shown surrounded by fifth graders from Downey at the Downey Theater Wednesday, March 22. The kids loved the music which included Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. It was all a part of the Music in the Schools Program.



**SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT**—Warren High School was invited to compete in last week's national cheerleading competition, where they performed acrobatic routines such as the one above.

## Downey Landing is being sold

**DOWNEY**—The City Council has taken the first steps to allow the sale of the Downey Landing Retail Center (parts of which are yet to be completed) from Downey Landing LLC, to Investec Properties (dba Levon Investments.)

The name of the latter property owner-management group is yet to be determined. If all terms of the sale of the huge purchase are agreed to it could clear escrow the first week in May.

The Purchase and Sales Agreement and Ground Lease provided for related documents which were signed in 2004 to provide the City with between \$4.9 and \$5.6 million as its portion of the sales.

The escrow cannot go through unless the City's money is in the hands of the escrow company, per the 2004 agreement.

The Ordinance and Resolution won approval Tuesday and will facilitate the sale, which is seen as financially beneficial to the City. The City is waiving the requirement that 325,000 square feet of building be completed before the sale takes place. Other elements of the Purchase and Lease Agreements remain the same.

### Friction

Some friction between the City and the developer was noticed at Council meetings earlier last year as opening dates were missed due to 55 days of terrible weather which delayed construction and needed road improvements.

In other matters Tuesday the City Council:  
\*Presented the Mayor's Soaring Eagle Award to Mike Almaraz, Computer Operator III, Management Information Systems.

\*Declared April 2-8 National Library Week.

\*Approved plans and specifications and authorized the advertising for bid for Phase 2 of the Lakewood Boulevard Improvement Project from Gardendale to Dolan Streets.

\*Appropriated \$4,800 in federal grant funds for emergency equipment.

\*Adopted a resolution declaring the intention of establishing an Underground Utility District the length of Lakewood Boulevard from 5th Street to Gallatin Road: District 21, and set a Public Hearing in the matter for May 23.

\*Adopted a Resolution revising Class Specifications and establishing a new salary range for Fire Network Administrator.

\*Approved the second reading of an Ordinance revising code standards for mansionizing huge buildings on single-family zoned lots in the city. And adopted a negative declaration.

\*Adopted an Ordinance setting speed limits on Regentview and Washburn Road.

The next public meeting of the City Council will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 11 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

## Entertainment set for 13th annual Street Fair

**DOWNEY**—The much-anticipated 13th annual Downey Street Faire, produced by the Downey Chamber of Commerce, will take place Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. along three blocks of Brookshire Avenue north of Firestone Boulevard. An appearance by the Downey High School Marching Band kicks off the event.

See FAIR, page 5

## Five arrested in failed march try

**DOWNEY**—Downey police booked five persons Monday as an attempt to emulate Sunday's huge Hispanic Power march which drew an estimated crowd of half-a-million to downtown Los Angeles got out of hand.

Police said they received phone calls about 8 a.m. Monday that about 200 carrying a Mexican flag and banners were marching through streets and front yards apparently bound for Warren High School.

### Unlike Sunday's march

But unlike the orderly marchers in Sunday's huge Los Angeles march, Monday's demonstration here appeared bent on trouble. They apparently were set on getting students to leave school and join their street march on Cesar Chavez Day (a state holiday).

Quick action by Downey police blocked this plan. Downey Unified School District spokesmen said only a few students left class and joined the march. But the danger of it growing was still evident as it turned toward nearby Downey High School.

The attitude of the demonstrators was far different from those at Sunday's huge march in Los Angeles. The youngsters in Downey's march yelled epithets as they marched through yards and across and over fences.

One man (see Letters to the Editor, page 5) said his wife and he became the object of verbal and signed abuse when they protested the intrusion of their usually quiet neighborhood and it was noted an American flag flew from his front porch.

Downey Police Chief Roy Campos told *The Downey Patriot* that his feeling is that "children belong in school," and that was the aim of his officers was to ensure that students remain in their classes on campus and not join the demonstrators.

Downey Unified School District Superintendent Wendy Doty said the schools want the student in a safe environment making academic progress each day. "Therefore, it was a high priority for us to return the several hundred secondary students to their classrooms that chose to protest the immigration bill before the Congress. By and large, these students remained peaceful and respectful as they walked the streets of Downey expressing their opinion regarding immigration. However, those students received truancy and in many cases citations for missed classes on Monday.

### Tension Tuesday

Tensions remained high as rumors persisted the demonstration would be repeated Tuesday. There was an apparent attempt Tuesday, but school officials and police quickly controlled it.

"Only a few chose to defy school authorities and walk out of class on Tuesday. Those students received suspensions. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Downey Police officers and the DUSD administrators for the outstanding job they did in keeping all of our student safe and the city secure. In particular, I would like to recognize Capt. Dyer for his management of this unprecedented event and for his outstanding communication with his officers."

## Focus on character education in schools

By Henry Veneracion

**DOWNEY**—Without much fanfare, a committee composed of representatives from the Downey Unified School District, the city of Downey, the Family YMCA, and local service organizations has been meeting regularly to lay out an intensified program of Character Education in the schools ever since the DUSD board first set it as a formal District goal last year. The committee is led by DUSD superintendent, Dr. Wendy L. Doty.

Dr. Sara Cairns, DUSD director of secondary education, advises us that the committee wants to stress and "build a culture that good character is important" (hardly a new idea, anyway) and convey the message that "being a good person and treating others with respect is the right thing to do whether you are a student, a parent, or community member." The program thus involves the whole community. She says this is the program's first year of implementation.

Towards this end, as an initial step, each school has been asked to select the best essay written on the subject by its students, for publication in *The Downey Patriot*. We also learned that, by a happy coincidence, the Stauffer Foundation was concurrently holding an essay contest among the schools on the same subject.

Submissions of the top student essays have already started to pour in. By prior agreement with DUSD, the *Patriot* will publish one essay per week.

The first one, "Character Counts," comes from Rio Hondo Elementary, written by Yesenia Barrera, 10, a 5th grader in Mrs. Leonard's class. Dolores Goble, Rio Hondo principal, says of the student's efforts: "We are very proud of Yesenia's efforts and how she has applied outstanding character traits to setting high goals for herself."

Character Counts  
By Yesenia Barrera

"Think forward! Concentrate on who you want to be and where you want to go, and not on who you were or where you've been." This quote means to me that no matter what happens in my life I should find the strength to carry on. No matter what I have done in the past I should be able to continue to achieve my goals. Setting goals is very important, it gives me a chance to fulfill my dreams and feel good about myself.

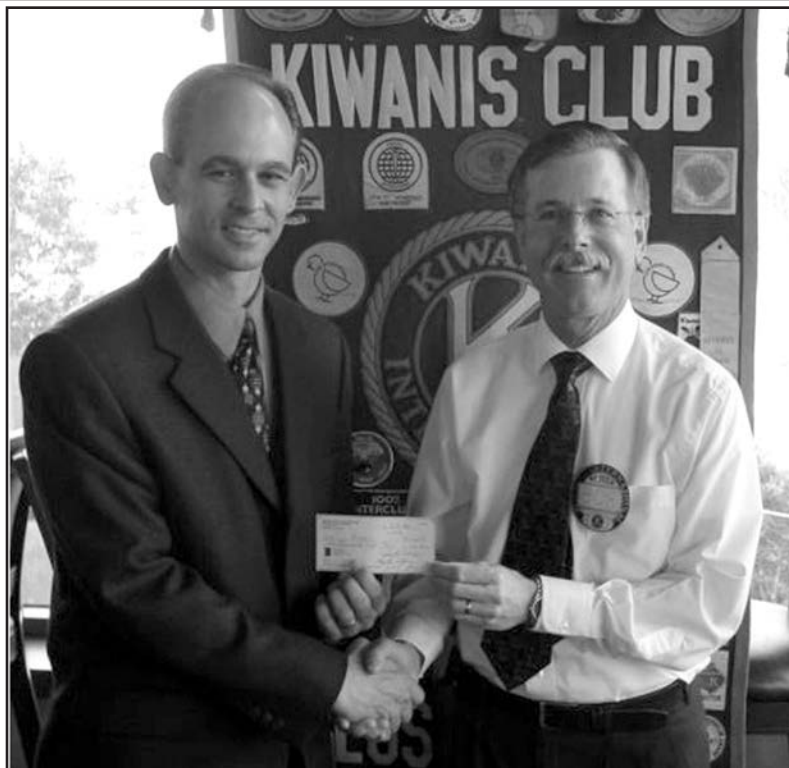
See CHARACTER, page 5

## TLC to hold 1-day super clothing sale

**DOWNEY**—Downey Unified School District's True Lasting Connections (TLC), which provides a variety of support to DUSD's children and families, will conduct a one-day Super Clothing Sale fundraiser Wednesday, April 12 from 2:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Griffiths Middle School, 9633 Tweedy Lane, Downey.

More than 3,000 items of new, name-brand clothing, coming in all sizes and styles and originally priced from \$20 to \$400, will be offered for sale. Sale prices will range from \$12 to \$30. You will be able to choose from children's, women's and men's items made by Ralph Lauren, Jones News York, Calvin Klein, DKNY, Liz Claiborne, Anne Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, XOXO, Rocca Wear, Phat Farm, BCBG, and many more.

A fitting room will be available. For information, call (562) 469-6890.



**BOB BELCHER** – President of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis (right), donated \$1000 to Brent Shubin, President of Gangs Out Of Downey.

### Student paper seeks alumni for reunion

**NORWALK**—As *Talon Marks*, the student newspaper of Cerritos College (which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year), itself nears 50, it is trying to reach former Cerritos College journalism students who might be interested in attending a 50th anniversary reunion of the newspaper Saturday, April 22.

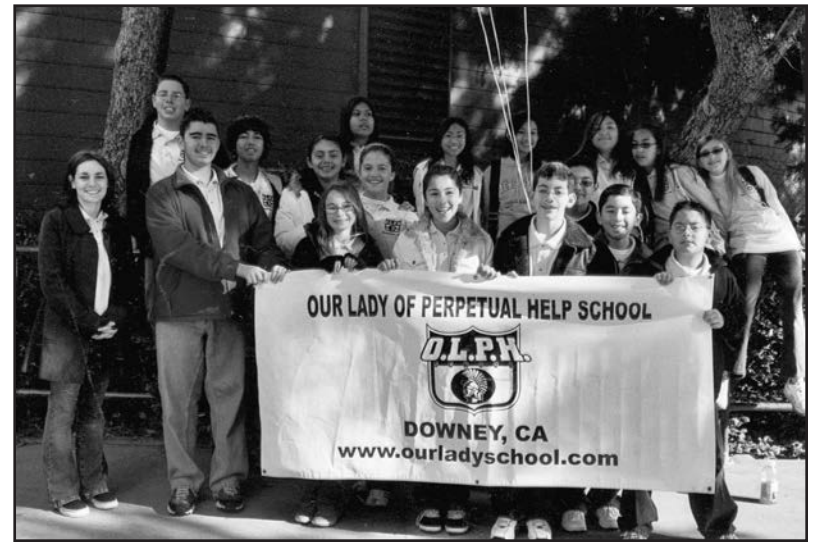
Former students can go to the college newspaper's website at [www.talonmarks.com](http://www.talonmarks.com) and look for the TM Reunion link to get additional details.

### Students compete in academic decathlon

**DOWNEY**—For the first time ever, Downey's Our Lady of Perpetual Help School took part on March 18 in a daylong Los Angeles Archdiocese-wide Academic Decathlon held at the LA Sports Arena, in which OLPH students competed against more than 1,000 other Diocesan students representing some 110 Southern California area schools.

The OLPH team consisted of 11 7th graders and six 6th graders (10 regulars and seven alternates). They pitted their skills in logic and eight other academic topics against their Southern California Catholic Junior High School counterparts; a "super quiz" was thrown in for good measure.

When results were announced, OLPH 7th grader Luke Perez took home an award for his knowledge in social studies/geography. The team was coached by OLPH math teacher Gina Pilloni, who worked with the team twice a week. OLPH director of development and advancement Diane Davis says the students and Miss Pilloni are looking forward to competing again next year.



**THE OLPH ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM**—Front row, from left: Miss Gina Pilloni (coach), Luke Perez (geography), Elisabeth Davis (literature), Alexandra Gonzales (science), Anthony Pimentel (math), Steven Carlos (alternate), Gabriel Basadre (alternate); back row: John Andrew Basadre (religion), Benjamin Galdamez (team member), Lauren Vivanco (current events), Jackie Robles (alternate), Monique Garcia (fine arts), Gillian Miguel (alternate), Maricar Nones (English), Ricky Da Silva (team member, half-hidden), Jazmin Vargas (alternate), Rosie Torres (alternate), and Jenna Wilson (alternate).

## Please don't forget.

Please help poor and suffering souls in our community. Your gift today will let someone in desperate need know they haven't been forgotten.

### Remember to give.

YES, I want to help provide food, shelter and hope for needy people in our community.

- \$20 to help feed a hungry person.
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## CENTURY 21 MY REAL ESTATE COMPANY PAYS TRIBUTE

**March 2006**

Century 21 My Real Estate pays tribute to the team at ARC of Downey for their exceptional efforts preparing for last week's successful ARC Walk. The staff is led by the dedicated Kevin McDonald. We pay tribute to ARC's team, for their devotion each and every day helping empower all individuals by finding their special abilities. We appreciate their exceptional service, their example of seeing all individuals as people, and for raising our community's awareness through partnership.

## DOWNEY'S BEHIND THE SCENE SUPERSTARS

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**FACE-PAINTED CHILDREN**—Pose with the Easter Bunny (center) at the city-sponsored 'Eggstravaganza' Egg Hunt. This year's event takes place April 15 at four parks—Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Furman and Golden.

**Coordinating Council salute to volunteers**

**DOWNEY**—The Downey Coordinating Council will hold their 52nd annual Salute to Outstanding Volunteers and Installation Banquet Thursday, May 11 at the Rio Hondo Event Center, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Applications have been sent to local organizations (who are members of DCC) to nominate an honoree from their organization, for recognition at the banquet. If you are a volunteer organization in the city of Downey and not a DCC member, you may contact Lois Buchanan, (562) 927-9790 and make arrangements. Honorees' bios are due April 5 to Downey Coordinating Council, 9651 Guatemala Ave., Downey, CA 90240.

Reservations for the evening are due April 5. Tickets are \$25 per person.

**Spring boutique at Christ Lutheran**

**DOWNEY**—Christ Lutheran Church is holding a Spring Boutique Sunday, April 2 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

Vendors will be providing items such as crafts, jewelry, baked goods, scrapbooking, etc. for sale.

There is no admission charge and parking is free.

For vendor or more specific information, call Mary Holster at (562) 862-2141. Christ Lutheran Church is located at 7707 E. Florence Avenue.

**Annual 'eggstravaganza' egg hunt at local parks**

**DOWNEY**—The city of Downey's annual "Eggstravaganza" Egg Hunt, which offers a morning of free family fun, takes place Saturday, April 15 at Apollo Park, Dennis the Menace Park, Furman Park and Golden Park.

Free activities such as craft and face painting will be conducted from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Egg Hunts will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m., and will be divided into three age groups for 12 years old and under. The Easter Bunny will be on site to visit and to take pictures for a fee of \$1.50. Members of the Miss Downey and Miss Downey Teen Courts will volunteer at the sites.

For more information, contact the Downey Community Services Department at 904-7238.

**Luncheon to highlight anti-gang activity**

**DOWNEY**—Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD), which has gained national recognition for its determined efforts to combat gang activity in the community of Downey, will hold its annual luncheon Wednesday, April 12 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center, 10627 Old River School Rd., Downey.

The luncheon, which is attended by well over 400 community leaders and supporters year after year, highlights the tremendous work being done by this community-based organization. GOOD has received the President's "Points of Light" Award and the California Merit Award.

The special luncheon event costs \$25 per person, or \$250 for a table of 10. In addition, sponsorships are available as follows: Platinum sponsor, for a donation of \$5,000 or more; Gold sponsor, \$2,000-\$4,999; Silver sponsor, \$1,000-\$1,999; and Bronze sponsor, \$500-\$999. All proceeds are used to fund anti-graffiti programs, programs for "at-risk" students, the 10/20 Club for gang suppression, camperships for troubled youth and the Community Policing in the Schools Program. The Downey Police, City of Downey and the Downey Unified School District are recipients of funds raised by GOOD.

For more information/to make reservations, contact Brent Shubin, East Middle School Principal/GOOD President at (562) 904-3586, ext. 4080, or Barbara Lamberth, CEO, Downey Federal Credit Union at (562) 862-8141, ext. 223.

**Resident receives juris doctor degree**

**FULLERTON**—Kevin Jorgensen of Downey received a Juris Doctor in Law degree from Western State University College of Law in Fullerton during the fall 2005 semester. Founded in 1956, the school's graduates are well represented in many Southern California counties and can be found across the country and beyond.



**GOOD DONATION FROM DRMC**—Downey Regional Medical Center has donated \$500 in support of the GOOD (Gangs Out of Downey) Luncheon Wednesday, April 12 at the Rio Hondo Events Center. Photo shows, from left, DRMC Foundation chairman Mario Guerra, GOOD president Brent Shubin, DRMC president and CEO Allen Korneff, and DRMC executive vp for fund development Jim Klosterman.

**World of Decor official opening April 1**

**DOWNEY**—World of Decor, in collaboration with the Downey Chamber of Commerce, will celebrate its grand opening/ribbon cutting tomorrow, April 1 at noon at its Downey location, 11111 Florence Ave.

Featured will be a performance by the world-famous Commodores, a special appearance by the Los Angeles Lakers Cheerleaders, and a catered cuisine.

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\* For more information contact Cecilia Butler, Y&G Coordinator, at 562.862.4201 ext. 1740 or ceciliabutler@ymca.org

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### Local students finalists in writing contest

**DOWNEY**—Nearly 60 Downey High School students representing three English 10 classes taught by Teresa Hill recently participated in Chapman University's 7th annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest, contributing three finalists: Breana Montenegro (poetry), Amanda Paris (essay), and Edith Perez (poetry). The contest was co-sponsored by Chapman University's *Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education* and the *1939 Club*, a local survivor group from Long Beach.

The three finalists attended the awards ceremony on March 10 honoring their achievements. They were accompanied by Ms. Hill and Downey Mayor Meredith Perkins. Each student received a certificate of participation and a copy of *The Holocaust Chronicle*, and attended a reception where Holocaust survivors signed their books.

### Resident joins 'solar system ambassadors'

**DOWNEY**—Downey resident Judy M. Dominguez, a retired 33-year teacher of math and science, was among 29 people who this year have joined a growing number of private citizens in NASA's Solar System Ambassador program, which brings space information to the public through planetarium talks, telescope-viewing parties, mall displays and other events. The number of new ambassadors brings the total to 450 ambassadors from all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Each ambassador agrees to hold at least four public events during the year. In 2005, the ambassadors participated in more than 2,000 events that purportedly reached more than 1 million people.

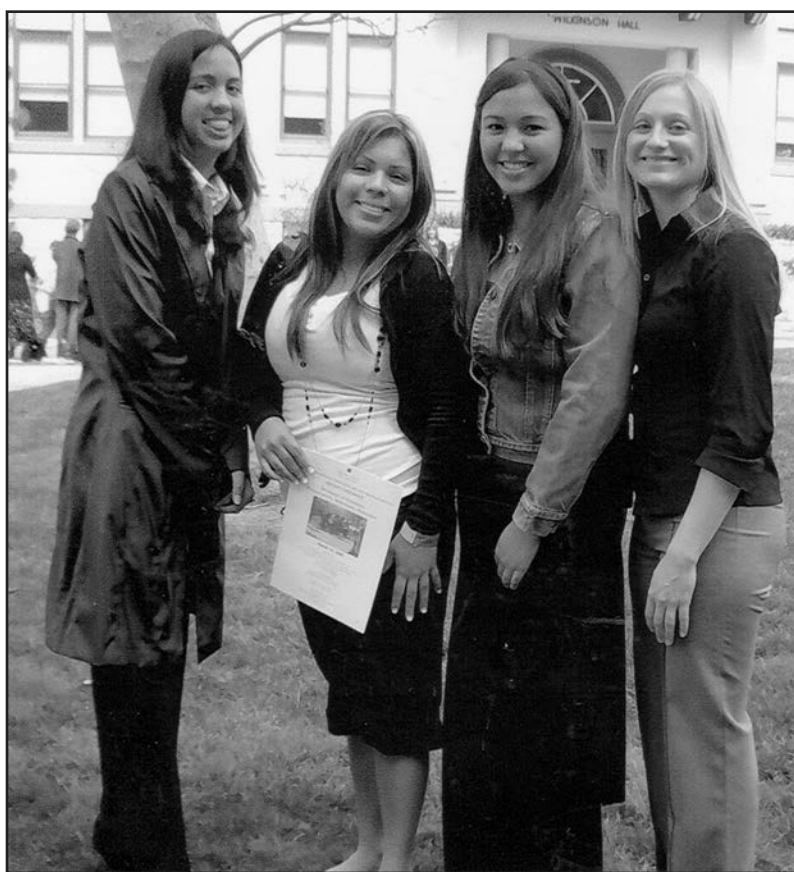
In its 9th year, the JPL-managed program prepares the volunteers through a series of Internet training courses and teleconferences. Ambassadors speak directly with scientists and engineers on missions like Cassini to Saturn, the Mars Exploration Rovers and the Stardust mission that brought home comet samples. They also receive brochures, posters, DVDs and other materials to help them in their presentations. JPL is managed for NASA by the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Said Dominguez: "I have known since my early childhood that I was born to teach. I realized that I had the gift of being able to explain complex ideas in such a way that people could understand them, and by doing so, I experienced great joy." She added: "I have been passionate about space, astronomy and related subjects. I consider it a personal responsibility to communicate their importance, and the wonder and joy of knowing to others."

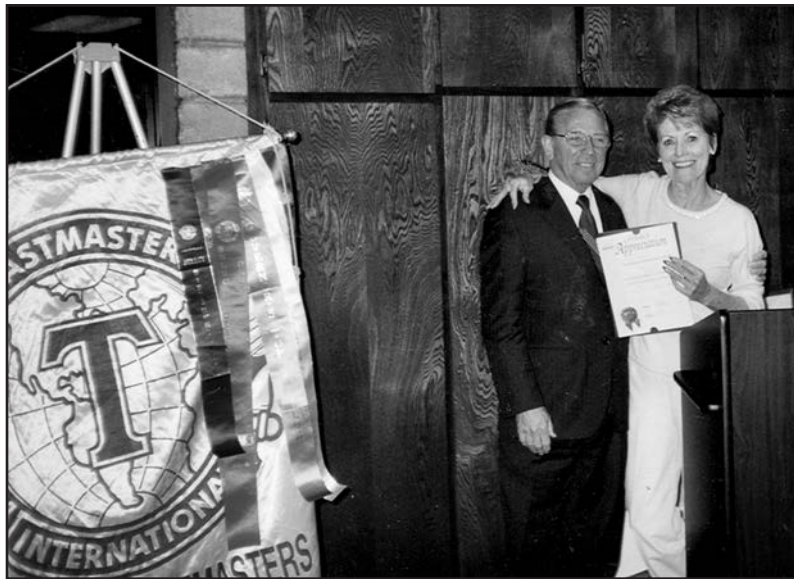
### Toastmasters 587 accepting members

**DOWNEY** - Toastmasters International, Club 587, meets every Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m. in room 115 at Downey First Baptist Church, 8348 E. Third St.

The club recently celebrated its 35th anniversary and will be accepting applications for membership during the month of April. For information, call Rene Estrada at (562) 949-5581.



**THE 3 DOWNEY HIGH STUDENT WINNERS**—From left, Amanda Paris, Edith Perez, and Breana Montenegro. Their English 10 teacher, Teresa Hill, is at extreme right.



**TOASTMASTERS CLUB 587** - Celebrated its 35th anniversary March 21 at their weekly meeting place, First Baptist Church of Downey. On hand was Downey Mayor Meredith Perkins, who presented Fionnuala Anderson a proclamation from the city. Also present was Downey Chamber of Commerce Director Susan Nordin and Toastmasters Division E Governor Ken Cisco. Open applications for membership will be ongoing in the month of April. For information, call Rene Estrada at (562) 949-5581.

## The poets' corner

### A Year of Nothing

I can hardly contain the tear  
It's been already a year  
Since you took your pictures away  
Since you led your heart astray

I can hardly imagine  
The life you chose to fashion  
With constant rain and tears  
With no one to calm your fears

I can hardly believe  
The mark you were able to leave  
How I still cry your name  
How I still crave your game

I can hardly press my wing  
Each time the telephone ring  
After so many endless waits  
After so many blind dates

I can hardly spin it  
A life without you in it  
Now that your story I have told  
Now that your memory I have sold

—Mac Dee Succar,  
Downey

## Poetry fans invited to read favorites

**NORWALK**—The Cerritos College English Department is calling for the submission of favorite poems and poem authors to be considered for a poetry reading for The Favorite Poem Project on Tuesday, April 18 at 11 a.m.

The Favorite Poem Project was founded in 1997 by then-U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky as a means of bringing ordinary Americans together to share their favorite poems and stories behind why they love those poems so much.

Several participants of submissions will be invited to read at the event, which will be recorded and copies provided the Library of Congress.

Send the poem, title and author, along with your name, e-mail address, phone number, age and occupation to Andrew Purvis or Frank Galk, professors of English at Cerritos College. Favorite poems may also be mailed to the Cerritos College English Department, 11110 Alondra Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90650 c/of Frank Galk. Electronic submission is preferred. Submissions must be received by the end of the business day April 3. Poems may not be by the person submitting or his/her family or friends.

### Fashion show to benefit students

**DOWNEY**—The Downey Newcomers Club's upcoming fashion show, "Bloomin' Spring Fashions," scheduled Monday, May 15 at the Rio Hondo Golf Club and presented by "Nena's Fashions of La Habra," will feature door prizes by Downey merchants.

The proceeds will help the club award three scholarships to the local Downey high schools as well as to support the Rose Float Association, P.T.A. Helps, and Arc.

Tickets are on sale for \$25 each. The event will begin with a Social Hour at 10:30 a.m., then lunch consisting of filet mignon, followed by the fashion show at 12:30 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are recommended, as the event always sells out.

For tickets, contact Melba Willbanks, chairman, at (562) 862-2799.

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## More time needed to sign up for new plan

By Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Since the start of the year, Medicare beneficiaries throughout the country have been eligible to participate in the new Medicare prescription drug program.

While no one should feel pressured into making a quick decision, Medicare beneficiaries need to be aware of the May 15 deadline to sign up. After that, the earliest date to enroll is Nov. 15, at which time seniors will be subject to a minimum 7 percent penalty in their monthly premiums. For seniors who sign up even later, the penalty increases by an additional 1 percent each month. The higher premiums remain in place for the entire duration of the person's enrollment in the program.

Congress passed the measure creating the new program in 2003. I voted against this law based on the firm belief that the drug program is insufficient, far too complicated and designed to benefit special interests more than the seniors it should be helping. To address these serious concerns, I am working with my colleagues in Congress to remedy some of the immediate and long-term problems with the new program.

To give seniors more time to make the best choice, I'm supporting a measure called the *Medicare Informed Choice Act* that would extend the existing penalty-free six-month open enrollment period that currently ends May 15 to Dec. 31. The measure would also give every beneficiary the opportunity to make a onetime change in plan enrollment at any point in 2006. Currently, for the 2006 plan year only, Medicare beneficiaries who find themselves enrolled in the wrong plan can switch once before May 15. In general, however, under the new program, beneficiaries may only switch plans between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31 each year for coverage beginning Jan. 1 of the following year. The *Medicare Informed Choice Act* would also protect retirees from being dropped by their former employer's plan in the event they mistakenly enroll in a new private drug plan this year.

To significantly reduce prescription drug prices for seniors, I am fighting to pass the *Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act*. This measure would require Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for lower group prices, which is prohibited under the current law. The legislation would also reduce the complexity of the prescription drug program by giving Medicare beneficiaries the option of enrolling in a nationwide drug plan provided directly by Medicare — not by a private insurance company. The premium, deductible, co-payments, and covered drugs would be uniform across the country.

As I work in Congress to improve the existing prescription drug program and do all I can to protect and improve Medicare, I want beneficiaries to know about the resources available to help them make an informed decision.

Eligible senior and people with disabilities with limited incomes should call the Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213 or visit <http://www.ssa.gov/prescription/help> to find out if they qualify for extra assistance. Those who qualify typically pay no premiums, have lower co-payments and have no gap in drug coverage.

Medicare beneficiaries in Los Angeles can also speak with counselors at the Center for Health Care Rights at 1-800-824-0780 or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at (800) 633-4227. Information is also online at [www.calmedicare.org](http://www.calmedicare.org) and [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). In addition, my caseworkers in Los Angeles are available to help by calling (213) 628-9230.

## CHARACTER

Continued from page 1

I want to be someone that could inspire and help people. The career I would like to have when I grow up is a doctor. The reason I want to become a doctor is because I care about people and I want to help find cures for different kinds of diseases.

I want to be someone that is a hard worker and accomplish my dreams. I want to be a type of person who has respect and shows love for all mankind. The character traits that are important to me are being trustworthy, responsible, caring, respectful, fair, and citizenship. All these traits make a person become self-assured and give them a boost to set and accomplish goals.

To me a career and having character comes hand in hand, because having character gives me good values and the strength to give it my all. Having a career gives me the satisfaction that I will accomplish something that I worked hard to get. It will all come together. I will always look forward, no matter what mistakes I made. I will find the will to carry on and succeed. I will remember to be all I can be.

## FAIR

Continued from page 1

Entertainment will include the 'Southland Harmony Chorus' singing at 9:30 a.m.; 'On Stage Dance Center' performing at 10:15 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. 'Class 6' Band; 12:45 p.m. 'Flashpoint' Band; 3 p.m. 'Bless'd'; and 3:45 p.m. 'All About Me' Band. In between acts, 'Avianna, Daughter of Isis,' will be entertaining.

The Street Faire includes over 200, a Kid's Zone and Food Court located on Downey High's south parking lot, and a Classic Car Show located on Downey High's north parking lot near the pool.

This year's sponsors are: *Platinum* — Colin Clarke, Century 21-Jervis & Associates; *Diamond* — Downey Regional Medical Center; *Gold* — CalMet Services, Inc. and First Baptist Church of Downey; *Silver* — Countrywide Home Loans, Talbert Medical Group and Wescom Credit Union; and *Bronze* — All American Home Center, California Health Plan, Downey Savings, Gallatin Dental Group, Norm's Restaurant, Alon Ofir, DDS, Pacific Western Bank, Pioneer Medical Group, and World of Decor.



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## Letters to the Editor

### Cheers to Downey High program, too

Dear Editor:

Re letter submitted by Misty Hausman (*The Downey Patriot*, Feb. 10), bravo to Warren High School Cheer and their advisor, Kellie Acosta, for running a superb cheer clinic this year! I applaud the direction the cheer squad has taken while under the direction of Mrs. Acosta and her co-advisor, Ms. Parsley.

However, I felt I should clarify a few of the comments directed toward Downey High School Cheer. For at least the past five years, Downey High School Cheer, sponsored by their Booster Club, has also hosted an annual Cheer Clinic. This clinic runs in the fall during football season. The last two years participants of the Downey High School Cheer Clinic have not only cheered at halftime of a football game, but also received a T-shirt to wear while cheering at the game. The Downey High JV Cheer squad sits in the stands and leads the clinic participants in cheers until the halftime performance. Like Warren's clinic, the Downey clinic affords the children and their parents a night out in the community. In the winter each year, during basketball season, the Downey High School Dance Team also holds a similar clinic.

Congratulations to all teams for boosting community service among high school students and allowing families a fun, bonding experience! And keep your eyes open for the Downey Cheer Clinic next fall, advertised annually in *The Downey Patriot!*

—Teresa Hill,  
Downey High teacher (former Cheer advisor)

### Praises special needs program

Dear Editor:

We strongly disagree with the letter in last week's edition criticizing how the DUSD handles the needs of children in special education.

In the last year, each of us has dealt with district administrators concerning a child's special needs and, though the problems were dissimilar, we both felt everyone treated our children and us with kindness and real concern. In fact, we're extremely grateful to Kent Halbmaier, the director of special education, for his endless patience with two anxious mothers as well as his obvious desire to do his best for our "kiddos." He explained assessment, timelines and recommendations to us (at times repeatedly!) so that we felt included in the process. Each of our children ended up with an appropriate education plan (and pretty darned quickly, too!) and we're pleased with their progress.

—Kathy Beemer and Sally Wray,  
Downey

### OASIS program for older adults

**DOWNEY** — Downey Adult School's OASIS program (Older Adults Seeking Information and Skills) meets every Monday for a dinner and educational presentation in the campus's cafeteria, with weekly topics ranging from legal and medical news to art appreciation.

Dinner tickets are \$3.50 but visitors can attend the program only at no charge. Programs begin at 4 p.m. but doors open an hour earlier.

Past program topics have included consumer issues, nutrition, cooking tips, financial advice, shopping ideas, travelogues, music programs and safe and fraud protection advice. There is a new speaker every week.

Harriett Paine is the resource instructor for OASIS. Downey Senior Dial-a-Ride provides transportation to the class.

Advance reservations can be made by calling 904-7215.

### Demonstrators here!

Dear Editor:

I've been following the proposed immigration reform measures making their way through the House and Senate and I have my own opinion on them which I have forwarded to my elected representatives.

This past weekend I watched news reports of the huge marches in Los Angeles. I saw newscasts of similar marches in Phoenix and Detroit. There were, however, no reports of the protest march here in Downey on Monday, March 27 around 8 a.m. About 30 to 40 high school aged children noisily made their way down my street waving large Mexican flags, walking across private property, yelling and causing traffic congestion on an already too busy residential street. I wondered what they could be worked up about so early in the day. It became clear when I heard their protest chant directed straight at my wife. "This is Mexican Power. — you whitey!" They then emphasized their chant with spitting and middle fingers. And those were girls! What had my wife done to provoke their anger? She stood on our porch and waved an American flag. This episode prompted a call to the Downey P.D., which later told me they weren't aware of the march until they got the first call about it: mine.

Here are my questions. Why should anyone support these children in this type of behavior? If I told someone to "off" while calling them a racial epithet, spit at them and then flipped them off, I wouldn't expect to be taken too seriously or have my cause furthered. What are they protesting exactly? The lack of Mexican flags in the U.S.? The lack of white people?

Here are my suggestions: Go back to class, study and make something of yourself. If you're not a U.S. citizen, become one...if you're not here legally, get legal (hint: If you're legal you'll have more people on your side). When you're a U.S. citizen, you can vote to make all the changes you want. Anyone can become a legal resident and then a U.S. citizen. It's not hard. There is nothing preventing you...my parents did it and so did my wife's grandparents. Hundreds of thousands do it every year. I have all the confidence in the world that you can too. If you'd rather not do any of these simple things, then just be satisfied with what you have and where you are in life...and stay off my yard with your ignorant disrespectful mouth and foreign flag.

—Richard McAlister,  
Downey

Letters to the editor should be sent to *The Downey Patriot*, 11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey, CA 90241 or by e-mail to [downeypatriot@yahoo.com](mailto:downeypatriot@yahoo.com). Letters must include a full name and address to be considered for publication.

### Cancer Society seeks cancer survivors

**DOWNEY**—The American Cancer Society is calling on all cancer survivors to participate in the "Relay for Life" Saturday-Sunday, June 10-11, in Downey.

Relay for Life is a 24-hour event in which Downey residents take turns walking or running around a track, to raise funds for much-needed cancer research, community education, legislative advocacy and patient service programs. The event is thus meant to empower the community to take part in the fight against cancer while honoring its survivors and remembering loved ones lost to the disease.

For information on how to become involved, call Downey Adult School's Bernice Madariaga at (562) 940-6213, or the American Cancer Society's Downey Rio Hondo Unit at (562) 776-0201.





**TRIO OF TALENTED MUSICIANS**—Called “The Singing Strings,” comprised of Margery Barnings, Lou Ann Breckenridge and Liz Holden, will blend their violins and voices at the OASIS 4 p.m. program Monday, April 3 at Downey Adult School, 12340 Woodruff Ave., Downey (phone: 562-940-6200). Dr. Robert Flynn will as usual greet members and guests alike with his piano renderings at 3 p.m. The show is titled “A Stringtime Serenade.”

**Bellflower Chorus seeks singers**

**BELLFLOWER** – The Bellflower Civic Chorus seeks singers for its 35-member mixed ensemble. Sopranos and tenors are particularly sought. The chorus has existed for more than 35 years singing favorite songs. Rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. at Simms Park, 16614 S. Clark Ave., in Bellflower.

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**STAY ALIVE PG13** (12:25, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00)

**SHE'S THE MAN PG13** (11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40)

**V FOR VENDETTA R** (12:15, 3:15, 7:40, 10:35)

**THE SHAGGY DOG PG** (11:10, 1:40, 4:20, 7:15, 9:45)

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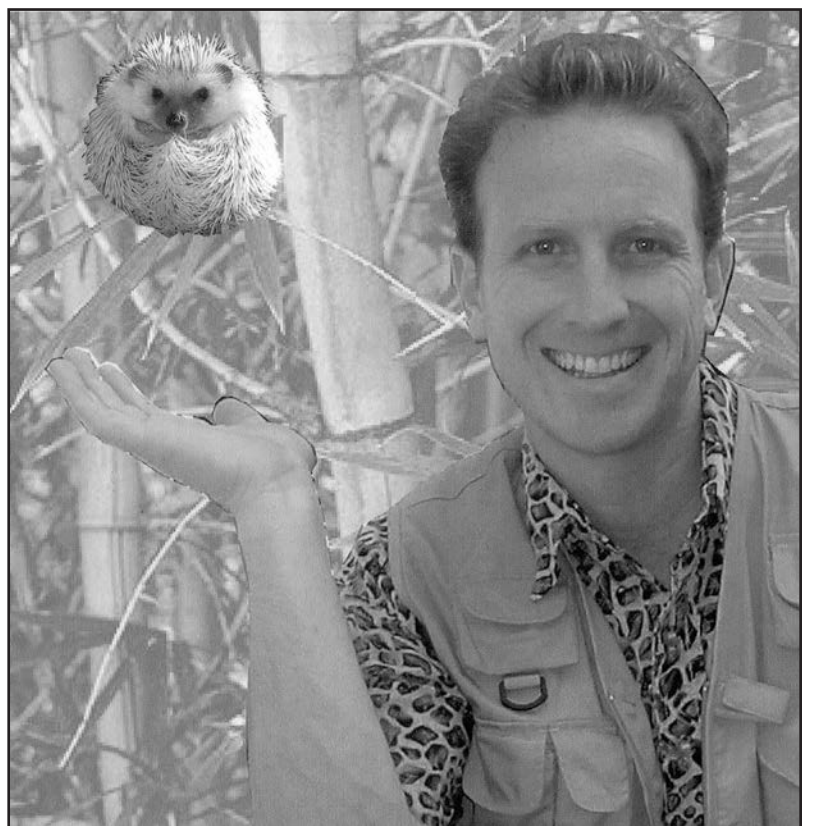
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V FOR VENDETTA R	(10:15 1:20 4:25) 7:30 10:35
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THE SHAGGY DOG PG	(11:15 1:50 4:25) 7:00 9:35
LARRY THE CABLE GUY PG13	(10:30 3:20) 8:10
THE HILLS HAVE EYES R	(12:45) 5:35 10:25

**LOCAL MOVIE TIMES PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY IN THE DOWNEY PATRIOT**

**Magic show for children at Downey City Library**

**DOWNEY**—Families can enjoy a world-class magic show, John Abrams’ “Animal Magic,” presented by the Friends of the Library Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m. in the Downey City Library’s Cormack Room. Abrams’ popular magic show features zany comedy and exotic pets. The free show for children ages 3-12 is part of the celebration of National Library Week, April 2-8. Arrive early; seating is limited. Free tickets will be distributed 30 minutes before show time. For information, call the Children’s desk at 904-7360, ext. 4. The Downey City Library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave.



**MAGIC SHOW**—John Abrams brings his hilarious, high-energy performance show, “Animal Magic,” to the city library’s Cormack Room Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m., to entertain children ages 3-12 as part of National Library Week.

**George’s Restaurant to open April 7**

**DOWNEY**—George’s Restaurant & Bar, a new business in Downey with a “diverse” menu, from appetizers to Mexican food, sandwiches, soups and one Japanese plate, celebrates its grand opening/ribbon cutting from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, April 7 at its location at 7857 E. Florence Ave., one block west of Paramount Blvd. Assisting is the Downey Chamber of Commerce. George’s Restaurant & Bar boasts a large selection of beer (31) and “a great jazzy atmosphere,” where one can watch one’s favorite game. It will have live entertainment throughout the day and a buffet from 12 to 2 p.m. For information, call 923-2191.

**‘Move Over, Mrs. Markham’ presented**

**LONG BEACH**—The Long Beach Playhouse, 5021 East Anaheim St. in Long Beach, will present “Move Over, Mrs. Markham,” a farce by Ray Clooney and John Chapman, beginning tonight and running thru May 6 at its Mainstage Theatre. Three clandestine meetings are arranged at the same time and place—Mrs. Markham’s apartment! The Markhams plan an evening out and each secretly plans to allow the apartment to be used by a friend for an illicit affair. Their plans become a mixed-up mismatch and the Markhams end up suspecting each other of being the unfaithful ones. Ticket prices are \$20, \$18 for seniors and are available by calling the box office at (562) 494-1014 (Option 1), or online at www.lbph.com.

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**Authentic Cheesesteak and Hoagie Shop Opens in Downey**

Nick Adams, born and raised right here in Downey, and for many years an active member in the Downey Chamber of Commerce, has realized a dream, becoming the newest Philly’s Best Franchisee. Along with his brother, George Adams, they are now the proud owners of one of the only 20 Philly’s Best Authentic Cheesesteak and Hoagie Shops located in Southern California.

This Philadelphia style eatery, in the planning for over a year, opened it’s doors last month to a huge crowd of hungry patrons; who quickly got down to business - dining on Philly Steak sandwiches, Hoagies, Burgers and more.

Get ready for a real dining experience, even if it is fast-food. Philly’s Best serves only the finest ingredients direct from Philly: Dietz & Watson meats, Amoroso’s Rolls and TastyKakes, Wise Potato Chips, Frank’s Soda and Philadelphia’s favorite Pennsylvania Dutch Beer.

Feast on paper-thin sliced steak, chopped on the grill and then smothered with white American, provolone or Cheeze Whiz® cheeses. Add flavor to your favorite sandwich with fried onions, sweet peppers or mushrooms. If you prefer, they also offer a chicken version. All of these delectable sandwiches are served on the very freshest hearth-baked Amoroso roll.

If you are a Burger eater - get down and try these delicious (if you have to ask the fat content don’t bother) hamburgers. Add French fries or onion rings to complete your meal. This is truly an authentic cheesesteak joint - no want-a-be.

If you can’t wait . . . don’t. Call your order in and pick it up minutes later. I know where I’m having lunch today; seated at one of the Veteran’s Stadium tables, sitting on an authentic Veteran’s Stadium seat, and enjoying a Philly Feast. Close your eyes and you’ll think you’re on Broad Street!!

Philly’s Best is located at the Downey Landing, 12008 Lakewood Blvd., Downey, CA (562) 803-1314

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## Caregiver support group at Rancho

DOWNEY – Rancho Los Amigos hosts a caregiver support group on the first Tuesday and third Wednesday of every month.

Tuesday meetings are held at 7 p.m. while Wednesday sessions meet at 1:30 p.m. Call 401-7991 for more information.

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MARTHA NATIVIDAD—An employee at Santa Fe Railroad for 25 years, she is survived by a large family.

## Memorial services for Martha Natividad

DOWNEY—Services were held on March 23 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Downey for Martha Natividad, who was born in Mexico and came to the United States at the age of 18. She died March 20.

She completed her GED and found herself working at Santa Fe Railroad for the next 25 years. She resided in Downey for 27 years and was a parishioner at St. Raymond's and OLPH. A Wilton Cake decorating instructor, she taught at Columbus Adult School and Intellitrain.

She is survived by her mother, Lupe Aguayo; five brothers, Larry, Oscar, Ramon, Javier and Jose "Pepe"; two sisters, Letty and Alicia; her daughters, Elva and Veronica; and granddaughters, Viviana and Madelynn.

Arrangements were by Miller-Mies Mortuary of Downey.

## Anthony Francis Quinto funeral service held

DOWNEY—A funeral service was held on March 30 at St. Raymond's Catholic Church, Downey, for Anthony Francis Quinto, who was born June 14, 1933 in Connellsville, PA to Vincent James and Elizabeth Palladino Quinto and died surrounded by family on March 26 at the Lakewood Park Manor Assisted Living in Downey, after a long illness.

He attended St. Rita Elementary and graduated from Connellsville high schools. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1953 to 1955. He worked as a machinist for many glass companies for 34 years from 1955 to 1989, retiring at age 55. A favorite hobby was writing song lyrics, and he wrote some 15 or more songs, and had obtained copyrights for three of them; the others were pending.

He is survived by his sisters Lucille Baughman and Immaculate (Peggy) Quinto of Amarillo, Texas, and Anna Mary (Robert) Rowe; sister-in-law Anne Quinto; brothers Donald (ReNae) Quinto and Albert (Michelle) Quinto; aunt Sister Mary Wilfrid of Pittsburgh, PA; honorary sister and friend Bessie Sterling; 15 nephews and nieces; and many great nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents Vincent and Elizabeth; two brothers, Carl and Vincent Quinto; sister Josephine (Jo Jo) Ogle; and brother-in-law Frank Baughman.

The family was assisted by Miller-Mies Mortuary of Downey.

## Huff and Puff group still meeting

DOWNEY – Huff and Puff Respiratory, a support group based out of Downey Regional Medical Center, meets the third Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 904-5355.

**Downey Memorial Christian Church**  
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 April 9- Palm Sunday.....10:30 am  
 April 13 - Maundy Thursday.....7:00 pm  
 April 16 - Easter Sunrise Service.....7:00 am  
 April 16 - Easter Sunday.....10:30 am

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## 'Superfan' has soft spot for Warren athletics

By Scott Cobos

**DOWNEY** – On a cold windy day, a man stands with fans at the Buck Taylor Memorial Field at Warren High School. He is wearing a Warren hat and sweater, standing behind the fence watching the Downey/Warren baseball game as it comes to a breath-taking end. He's about 5-foot-6, brown hair, brown eyes, wears a Super Mario mustache, and bleeds Warren gold and blue.

Many parents know him as Jim. The rest of Warren athletics know him as "Superfan." Wind, rain, heat, or snow, Warren has a number one fan.

His name is Jim Frumento, and he is without a doubt Warren's biggest sports fan. Frumento graduated from Warren in 1976 and has been coming to games ever since. After graduation, Frumento started working at Sav-On on Florence Ave. He's been there for 30 years.

"I remember I started there on my eighteenth birthday," Frumento said. He works there as a stock clerk in the garden section of the store and has been there ever since. When he's not working, he's either keeping up with the rest of the sports world, or at his familiar spot in the stands with the rest of Warren's players' parents and fans.

Warren athletics has obviously noticed his presence. Some teams get fired up when he's there. Other Warren teams just check the stands to make sure he's present.

One year, he came to a CIF playoff game held at Warren for the baseball team and brought along a prop. One of the players on that year's baseball team, who was considerably hot at the plate at the time, was nicknamed "Moose." Frumento heard about this and brought a blow up moose head to the game.

Frumento is not afraid to follow his team on the road. This past year, he followed Warren's basketball team out to their first round match-up against Quartz Hills out in Lancaster. He described the night as fun even though it felt like a below-30 degree night.

Mainly, the players are thankful that they have a fan as big as him. Frumento has received gifts of appreciation from the various sports team on the high school campus.

Warren's football booster club gave him a pass that allows him to get into every football game and even stand on the sidelines during an event for free. Along with that pass, he was also given a Bears football t-shirt.

The basketball team this year awarded him with a plaque that thanked him for his support. According to Frumento, the engraving read something along the lines of "To Superfan: Thank you for all of your support. Warren Basketball 05-06."

The Warren baseball team even gave him a baseball hat last year to wear to all the games. Frumento is treated like royalty at every Warren sporting event he attends.

When asked about the nickname "Superfan," Frumento was just "I'm blessed to be able to come out and watch the games and players," he said. He enjoys coming out and supporting the team, but sometimes his work schedule does conflict with the games. For example, his work schedule right now is going to make it hard for him to come to baseball games.

Frumento did say if he had it his way, he would like to retire so he won't have to miss any games. He has been coming to games consistently now for six to ten years.

When he's not following Warren, or working at Sav-On, he's following collegiate sports, mostly Cerritos Community College. He says him and his best friend try to go to every Cerritos football game possible. Whenever he gets a chance, he also cheers on USC athletics, but his loyalty lies with the Bears.

If you're ever looking for a friendly face to talk to at one of the sporting events for Warren, just look for the man starting cheers with the cheerleaders, yelling at the umpires, or just rooting on Warren's team.

With his passion for sports and his enthusiasm for his Alma matter, Jim will be there.

## Women's Golf Club seeking members

**DOWNEY** – The Los Amigos Women's Golf Club is looking for more women golfers to join their club. Tee time for the group is 8 a.m. every Friday at Los Amigos Golf Course, 7295 Quill Dr.

For more information, call 634-2816.

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## Youth football registration tomorrow

**DOWNEY**—Downey Youth Football (DYF) will hold its first registration of the 2006 season tomorrow, April 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Furman Park, 10419 Rives Avenue.

DYF offers flag and tackle football and cheerleading for boys and girls ages 5-14.

For more information and requirements, call Mike Baumann at (562) 889-1193 or Louis Morales at (562) 928-0655.

## Downey water polo team recognized

**DOWNEY**—In recognition of their championship season, members of the Downey High School girls water polo team have earned CIF honors.

Stephanie Rosero was named CIF Division VI Player of the Year while Peter Muller took Coach of the Year honors. Making All-CIF 1st Team was Lauren Davis and Lauren Badalamenti.

Vivian Aguirre and Amy Mendez were named 2nd Team and Karen Aguirre and Andi Land were 3rd Team.



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**Word of MOUTH**  
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

If your teeth experience sensitivity to cold, it may be that they are eroding. Dental erosion is a chemical process that gradually eats away at teeth's outer enamel coating. This process should not be confused with cavities (caries), which result from a bacterial process that can bore through the enamel as well as through the inner dentin layer of the tooth. The major culprit in erosion is acidity. The crystalline calcium salts that comprise most of the tooth enamel start dissolving below a pH level of 5.5. Generally, the primary offenders are the mild acids contained in many beverages and citrus fruits. The worst dental erosion is produced by non-cola drinks such as ginger ale and bottled ice tea.

This column on dental erosion is prepared as a public service to help our readers better understand today's modern dental care and to offer some practical hints for you and your family. If your teeth are especially sensitive to cold consult with your doctor. If you need answers to questions about any dental health care, don't hesitate to contact us at (562) 923-3714. Even the subtlest change in your smile can make a dramatic difference in the way you feel. Our recommendations for dental treatment are always in the best interest of the patient. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307.

P.S. Eroded teeth can change shape and color, as the yellowish dentin begins to show through the thinned enamel.

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<b>Mon., April 17th – 3:00 p.m.</b> Mimi's Café 8455 E. Firestone Blvd. Downey	<b>Fri., April 21st – 11:30 a.m.</b> Szechwan 11010 Paramount Blvd. Downey	<b>Wed., April 26th – 11:30 a.m.</b> Sizzler 10315 Lakewood Blvd. Downey

<sup>1</sup> All benefits are based on the 2006 Calendar Year. <sup>2</sup> \$50 copay on hospital emergency room visits (waived if admitted). <sup>3</sup> Unlimited non-emergency transportation to and from medical appointments within our service area. <sup>4</sup> CMA HMO and CVP members will qualify for rebate. <sup>5</sup> PPO Deluxe Dental Premium \$14.95. <sup>6</sup> PPO premium \$56.

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CMS Approval # H0544\_01050601A CMA CVP & PPO (02/06)



**RIO HONDO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** – Kicked off the Character Counts Program with corporate sponsors Century 21 My Real Estate on February 28. Students sang songs, read essays and learned about the six characteristics of caring, trustworthiness, respect, fairness, responsibility and citizenship. “We are pleased to support this wonderful program. We firmly believe that good character begins with our youngest citizens and continues on through the efforts of all citizens,” said Laurie Mac Isaac, vice-president of relocation and marketing at Century 21 My Real Estate.

## Mystery novelist to speak at city library

**DOWNEY**—Robert S. Levinson, an award-winning novelist and producer, will speak and sign books at the Downey City Library, 1121 Brookshire Ave., at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4 in the Cormack Room, as part of a National Library Week celebration. The free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library.

Levinson’s career includes over 30 years as a newspaper reporter, television producer and public relations professional, working with some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry. His mystery books (*The Elvis & Marilyn Affair*, *The John Lennon Affair*, *Hot Paint/The Andy Warhol Affair*, to name just a few) feature an “insider view” of the arts and entertainment world. A new thriller of his, *Where the Lies Begin*, will be published in May. Copies of his books will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

For reservations or information, call the Adult Information desk, 904-7360 ext. 32.



**SUSAN PAINE** – A realtor with Century 21 Jervis & Associates, has completed training focused on serving mature home buyers and sellers.

## Agent completes mature consumer training

**DOWNEY** – Susan Paine, a realtor with Century 21 Jervis & Associates, has earned the designation of Century 21 MatureMoves Specialist, marking her experience working with mature consumers.

To become a MatureMoves Specialist, a realtor must successfully complete a certification program that details what features consumers approximately 60 to 80 years of age may desire in a home, including single-level floor plans and heightened security measures.

“Through the Century 21 MatureMoves program, Susan Paine will be better prepared to service the large and growing population of mature consumers in our market,” said Don Jervis, broker/owner of Century 21 Jervis & Associates.

The MatureMoves program is the first program developed by a national residential real estate organization that targets the mature consumer, according to the company.


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It's another picture perfect Sunday afternoon in Downey and it's barbecue time again at the Ortega's. Luz has a spring in her step and a smile on her face, as she prepares an array of savory dishes for her guests to enjoy. She can't help but think of how fortunate she is to have been blessed with such a great life. For this highly successful businesswoman, there is simply nothing more important than the time she spends with her beloved family. On these festive occasions, Luz, an exceptional hostess, makes sure that all of her guests have a great time. These are the treasured moments that fill her heart with joy and define who she is: For Luz, life is *All About Family*.

Luz is the eldest of seven children. She and her family, emigrated to the United States from Chihuahua, Mexico in 1969. Like many families who come to America,

they left their own country in the prospect of seeking a better life. The family settled in Maywood, California, where Luz attended Bell High School. It was there where she met her high school sweetheart and future husband Rene Ortega. This year, the soul mates celebrated their 32nd anniversary with their two wonderful children Rene Jr. and Vanessa and recently welcomed their lovely daughter-in-law Danielle into the family.

The Ortega's moved to Downey in 1988, where Luz began her career in real estate. For this caring mother, becoming a Realtor gave her the flexibility to get more involved in her children's academic and extracurricular activities. As a dedicated professional, it gave her a chance to put her communication skills to good use. Luz uses her strengths in finance and negotiation to help her clients reach their real estate goals.

Whether you are in the market for your first home, looking for an investment property, or thinking of selling your present home, remember to call Luz Ortega. This devoted representative prides herself on building lasting relationships with her clients. This is why her clients continue to seek her services and refer their friends and family to her. Luz would love to welcome you into her real estate family. After all, for Luz, life is *All About Family*.



**DOWNEY MAYOR**—Meredith Perkins appeared at the Arc Walk for Independence at Stonewood Center Saturday, March 25. The event featured a one-mile and a three mile course, and was attended by about 2,200 who raised more than \$80,000 for the Arc, which assists those with developmental disabilities in living and job training.

### American Legion meets at Los Amigos

**DOWNEY** – American Legion Post 270 meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at Los Amigos Country Club. For more information, call 869-1053.

### Victorian fashion show at Woman's Club

**DOWNEY**—The Woman's Club of Downey is finalizing plans for its Victorian Tea Fashion Show scheduled Saturday, April 8, at the Woman's Club, 9813 Paramount Blvd., Downey. The fashion show will display unique teapots filled with bright spring flowers at each table.

Doors open at 10 a.m. There will be vendors with jewelry, handbeaded articles and other items with their displays. Victorian Tea luncheon will be served at 11 a.m., followed by Nena's Fashions at noon.

The afternoon also includes a \$100 door prize.

Tickets are \$25, and for reservations, call 869-3848, or mail checks to the Woman's Club of Downey.

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Large Lot

## Healing Field opens in Downey April 19

**DOWNEY**—The Healing Field, a dramatic display of more than a thousand American flags to symbolize the numerous deaths from child abuse of children across the nation in the last year, will for the second year be presented by the Exchange Club Family Support Center at East Middle School (corner of Woodruff and Florence Aves.).

An additional 20 flags will be flown on the field to represent the children who have died in Downey and surrounding cities in the past five years.

The tribute to America's lost children, and what is in fact a jarring reality check on the prevalence of child abuse in the United States, is scheduled in Downey from April 19 through April 22. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The Exchange Club Center welcomes volunteers as they play a huge part in the four-day affair. At the same time, the Center encourages members of the community to sponsor a flag and take a part of the Healing Field home.

Opening ceremony is at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 19. The field will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 19-22, to allow everyone to experience the Healing Field. Information booths will be open until 9 p.m.

To volunteer or sponsor a Healing Field flag(s), contact the Exchange Club Center, (562) 904-9590, or visit [www.healingfield.org/downey](http://www.healingfield.org/downey).

### Report illegally dumped garbage


**DOWNEY** – Illegally discarded items may be reported for pickup by calling 904-1161. If you have items of your own to be picked up, call Calmet at 869-0901.



**MAUDE PRICE ELEMENTARY** – Honored Pat Szmagalske and Red Carpet Heritage Realty for sponsoring the school's "Danceathon", an endeavor to raise money for their computer lab. Pictured are (top, left to right) Principle Mrs. Hobson, Broker Chris Baumann and Agent Pat Szmagalski. Top Fund Raisers are (bottom, left to right) Jared Martinez, Adriana Rangel, Kayla Casas, Richard Lopez, Lizbeth Roque and Samantha Ruiz.


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 Completely remodeled 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath custom home with over 2,100 sq. ft. of living space. Family room with fireplace plus full wet bar. Central air & heat, hardwood floors and extensive use of tile and granite throughout. Sparkling pool with dressing room and 2/3 bath. Large covered patio plus 2 car garage. All this and much more for \$899,000. Call Carol now for a private showing




**NEW LISTING - NORTH DOWNEY - 14,900 SQFT LOT**  
 Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath with over 1,800 sqft of living space. Charming sunroom and separate breakfast room plus 2 fireplaces make this unique pride of ownership custom home a sure winner. Zoned R-2. Beautifully maintained and in move-in condition. All this and more for \$785,000. Call Carol now for a private showing.




**POOL PARTY - NORTH DOWNEY**  
 Spacious 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath home plus newly refurbished pool and spa. Hardwood and tile flooring, central air and remodeled baths. Immaculate and in move-in condition. Priced to sell at \$619,900. Call Carol now for the best deal.



**MOVE-IN CONDITION NORTH DOWNEY**  
 Newly painted condo with over 1,600 sqft of living space. Spacious kitchen with breakfast bar plus separate dining area. Master suite with dressing room and private bath. Laundry room, recreational room and all the storage space you will need. North Downey location with secure 2 space parking. Listed at \$399,900 Call Carol for more information.



**GREAT CENTRAL DOWNEY**  
 3 bedrooms or 2 bedrooms + family room, w/fireplace, covered patio, and oversized lot. Great area of Downey \$595,000. Call Carol for a private showing.



**NORTH DOWNEY - CHEROKEE ESTATES**  
 Spacious custom 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath home with 2,275 sq. ft. of living space. Sparkling pool and spa, formal dining room and family room open to kitchen. Granite counter tops throughout and picture perfect family kitchen. Direct access from garage. Large master suite with private bath and walk-in closet. Listed at \$885,000. Call Carol for the best deal.

**For Classified Advertising Information Call Linda Larson**

*The Downey Patriot*

**Phone (562) 904-3668**

**COLIN'S CORNER**  
By Colin Clarke  
**Technical Difficulties!**

There's a whole generation now that has grown up using computers and surfing the Internet. For them, communicating, browsing and shopping online are really second nature, so it seems natural that more and more are searching for homes on the web, and even listing their homes for sale on the Internet. Of course the World Wide Web is a powerful tool for both buyers and sellers, and that's why so many real estate agents market their services and listings online. Take special care not to eliminate the "middle man" from your next real estate transaction. Buying a home is not as simple as browsing eBay and clicking "Buy It Now!" Selling a home can be even more complicated. Even the most technically savvy computer user can list their home online at a number of "For Sale By Owner" websites but run into real "technical difficulty" when it comes time to set a fair asking price, target and screen qualified buyers, and handle the legalities of negotiations and contracts. A good percentage of listings that start "By Owner" are eventually sold by licensed real estate professionals. That's because a professional can sell the home for more money in less time, with profit outdistancing commission. Yes, the Internet is a powerful tool for buyers and sellers, especially when placed in the knowledgeable hands of a realty pro.

I'll be pleased to help you with any of your real estate needs.  
Call Colin  
(562) 904-6652



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**CHILD CARE SITE DIRECTOR**  
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**TRANSIT DRIVER**  
City of Downey. Current Vacancies exist for full time & part time. Salary: \$2,089-\$2,588 mo. + xlnt benefits, Hours flexible up to 20/wk. for part time. 2 yrs. exp. driving para-transit minibus or van (1 yr. for part time). Class B driver's license & GPPV or VTT certificate req. School Bus Certificate preferred. Apply: City of Downey, Personnel Office, 11111 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA 90241. Open until filled. EOE.

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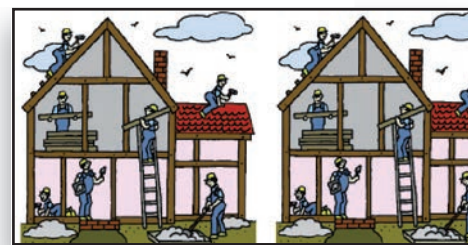
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This lovely home is conveniently located close to schools, parks, shopping and freeways. Over 5,000 sq. ft. lot. Don't let this one pass you by! Call Luther today!  
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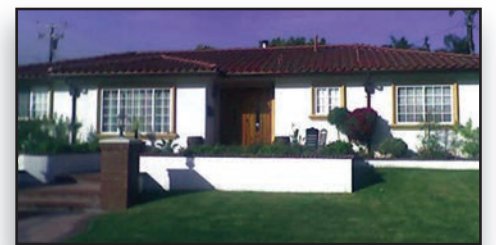
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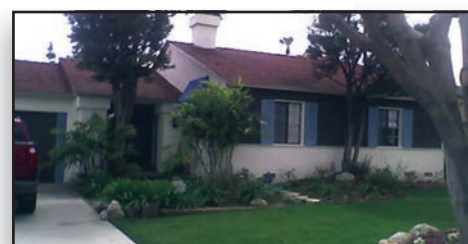
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Beautiful home in Downey's Charloma Estates, wide frontage, warm and inviting front yard, spacious 3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, new windows and doors, new exterior paint, hardwood floors in living room, family room and dining room, great floor plan, move-in condition.

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Great South Gate location for 4 Units - 1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom each - have to be decisive to get these before they are gone.

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This is a must see home in Downey - Neat and clean, ready for your move in! A nice neighborhood is home to this 4 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom home, remodeled with copper plumbing and much more.

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Remodeled home in lovely condition is waiting for new home owners, 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom, central air and heat, 2-car garage and patio for summer evenings.

(562) 927-2626

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**ORANGE ESTATES**  
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**ROOM TO GROW!**  
Located in Northeast Downey, this 861 sqft. home features 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom with an extra large 5,660 sqft. Lots of room to grow. Priced to sell at: \$474,900.  
**For more information call Jiah "Geo" Byun at (562) 861-7257**



**JUST LISTED!**  
**GREAT STARTER HOME!**  
Lovely Norwalk home with 3 bedroom. This won't last! 1432 sq. ft. living space on a 5000 sq. ft. lot. 2 car garage and covered patio. Price range: \$475,000-\$490,000.  
**For more information, please call Marie Picarelli @ (562) 618-0033 or visit her website at [www.MariePicarelli.com](http://www.MariePicarelli.com)**



**OPEN HOUSE SAT-SUN 12-4**  
**SOPHISTICATION & ELEGANCE**  
Located on the most beautiful street in North East Downey, this English Manor home built in 1986 features 5 bedrooms (3 master suites) and 4 bathrooms. With 4,286 sqft. of living space on a 10,000 sqft. Lot. This is truly a one of a kind.  
**For more information, please call Jose Garcia-Yanez @ (562) 519-4010**



**JUST LISTED!**  
This lovely home features 3 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms. 1525 sq. ft. of living space on a 7200 sq. ft. lot.  
**For more information, please call Frank Moreno @ 562-949-8139 or visit him at his website at [www.FrankMoreno.com](http://www.FrankMoreno.com)**



**PRICE REDUCED!**  
Invest in 10 acres of vacant land located in Lucerne Valley. Close to busy HWY 247. Asking price \$69,000.  
**Call for Mary Jane Lee for further details @ 562-618-0390.**



**Mario Persico**  
"Mario Moves You...24 Hours a Day!"  
**562-533-7433**

Born in Downey \* Raised in Downey  
Lives in Downey \* Works in Downey  
\*\*\*SELLS DOWNEY\*\*\*



**Ready to Move-in...Sellers are Motivated!!**  
3 bed, 2 bath Spacious & Elegant, NEWER INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINT and CARPET. Luxurious and private master suite w/ attached office/bathroom & spa-like bathroom, family room w/ fireplace, formal living & dining rooms, double door entry w/ custom glass, bright kitchen w/ built-ins, central air & heat, inside laundry & security.



**New Construction in N/E Downey!!**  
3,202 sq. ft. custom built home w/ 3 bedrooms including dual master suites, 4 full spa-like baths, custom kitchen, granite, marble and hardwood throughout, distinguished interior details, stunning heated pool and spa, custom built patio and BBQ, prestigious Downey schools. **Priced at: \$1,295,000.**



**See the Virtual Tour at [www.MarioPersico.com](http://www.MarioPersico.com)!!!**  
3000 sqft. Spanish-style beauty on an 11500 sqft. Lot, 3 beds-Dual Private Master Suites, family room w/ fireplace & step-down wet bar, library/office, formal dining room, bright living room w/ fireplace, 3 luxurious baths, several skylights, AMAZING backyard w/ pool and private spa with cabana & MORE.



**Gorgeous Northeast Downey Classic!**  
Great floor plan! 4 bedroom with downstairs master suite, formal living & dining room. Family room w/ fireplace, inside laundry, newer central air and roof, security, covered & tiled patio, french doors.  
**Priced to Sell at: \$859,000. THIS IS A MUST SEE!**

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



**Carrie Uva**  
"Let's Talk Real Estate...and Law Too!"  
**562-382-1252**  
[www.CarrieUva.com](http://www.CarrieUva.com)  
Attorney at Law, Realtor, Notary Public

Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate

**Carrie Lists & Sells Downey!**



**Affordable Buy!**  
This 2 bedrooms, 1 bath Compton home features a Sunny Living Room, 2 car garage, 1,083 square feet of living space on a 5,797 square foot lot.  
**Priced at: \$349,900**



**Splish! Splish!**  
Entertainer's Delight! Must see this 4 bedroom, 3 bath home in Pico Rivera. Home features include a large family room, large living room, dining room, master suite with Jacuzzi tub, new windows, central air & heat, plus 4 year old pool and super large Jacuzzi.  
**Priced @ \$639,900**



**Warm & Friendly!**  
Charming La Mirada home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious family room, living room and dining room, separate kitchen eating area, lovely backyard with patio and lots of fruit trees! Great Home for Entertaining!  
**\$664,900**



**VIEW! VIEW! VIEW!**  
Gorgeous North Friendly Hills home features 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room with fireplace, formal dining room, family room with marble fireplace, spacious kitchen, patio with 180 degree view of city and Friendly Hills golf course. Too many features to mention...must see this one.  
**Priced at: \$1,500,000**



**Bring Your Paint Brush!!!**  
This Downey home features 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with 1583 sq. ft. of living space on a 10,010 sq. ft. lot.  
**Call Carrie for Price and more info! 562-382-1252**

**Call Carrie Today...15+ Years Experience!**

# MICHAEL BERDELIS 562-818-6111

"The 24 Hour Agent" [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)



**89 HOMES SOLD IN 2005!**  
**Over \$57,000,000 in real estate sold in 2005**  
**Prudential's Chairman Circle Award Winner 2000-2005**

**Call for a FREE MARKET EVALUATION (562) 818-6111**



**Nice Area! Nice Price!**  
Remodeled pool home! 4 bedroom, 2.75 bath pool home on a large lot with circular driveway near Furman Park in Orange Estates. The living room and family room with fireplaces & newer sliding doors overlooks the large covered patio, pool, and gazebo. Some of the amenities include solar heated pool, replastered pool, granite counter tops in kitchen, water softener, central air & heat, and hardwood floors. Price: \$825,000  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**Colonial Home in Orange Estates**  
This North Downey home near Furman Park includes a 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath main house, guest house with kitchen and bath, 3-car garage, and huge backyard with pool & spa. The home features an elegant formal living room, formal dining room, large family room with wet bar & fireplace, sunny kitchen with newer appliances & large pantry, a playroom, and a solarium. The master suite has a walk-in closet, retreat area, full bath, and fireplace.  
Price: \$1,175,000  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**Happily Ever After**  
This 4 bed, 2.5 bath, 2 story home has a fantastic floor plan. Features a formal living room, large family room with fireplace, and a remodeled kitchen with oak cabinets (cherry wood finish), tile counter tops, and new tile in kitchen, entry, and all bathrooms. The private backyard has an enclosed patio and grass area. The home also includes a large master bedroom, forced air/heat, individual laundry room, newer windows, 2 walk-in-closets, & much more. Price \$ 719,950  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**A-1 Neighborhood!**  
3 bedroom, 2.5 bath NE Downey home with spacious bedrooms, living room with fireplace, light & bright kitchen with eating area, and inside laundry room. The property has a heated pool & spa with a separate sauna room in the backyard. Other features include newer roof, central air & heat, and alarm system. Owner says sell it! Price: \$999,950  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**Executive Home in Pico Rivera!**  
3 bedroom, 2 bath home built in 1985 with nice modern floor plan featuring a brick fireplace in the living room, a kitchen that opens up to the family room, a master bedroom with private bath, and a 2 car attached garage with direct access to the home. Other amenities: central air and heat, 2 water heaters (solar & gas), and gated community. Price: \$509,700  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**Fantastic Buy!**  
2 bedroom, 1 bath home in Downey with new kitchen, including granite countertops, new cabinets, and tile floors. Also features remodeled bathroom, newer windows, hardwood floors under carpet, and freshly painted interior. With a large backyard, a 2-car detached garage, and long driveway with new concrete, ... this property is a must see! Price: \$519,900  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**