



**POLITICS**  
Voters to select two new council members

**OPINION**  
You don't need to be elected to make a difference

**NEWS**  
Warren High robotics team wins competition

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
Rudolph: The Musical returns to Downey theatre

SEE PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 5

SEE PAGE 4

SEE PAGE 7

## Dia de los Muertos festival leaves a lasting impression

■ Now in its 10th year, Downey's Dia de los Muertos art festival has become Downey's most popular public event.

By **Lorine Parks**  
Society Editor

**DOWNEY** – This was Downey's 10th Dia de los Muertos, and those entering from the Firestone side were greeted by a Garden of Katrinas, a set of 10 figures each at least 10 feet tall. A winding path led you around so you could appreciate their glittering party clothes and made-up skeletal faces. Santa Ana winds had been predicted but the air was calm and the sky blue, a perfect day. Some even carried ruffled sombrillas.

An invitation to the community to participate in the new Downey Community Altar on the Theatre's temporarily named Plaza del Recuerdos (Plaza of Memories) brought Martha Sodetani over from the Downey Unified School District booth.

"I put a picture in the altar," she said. Martha looked splendid in a big straw hat with a brim full of red roses that her daughter Skylar gave her. The oversized altar by the fountain in the plaza held candles, flowers and an apron of marigolds, with space for the commemorative photos.

For the two days between Oct. 31 and Nov. 2, it is believed that the veil between the living and the hereafter is lifted, and the spirits of the dead may come back to visit. The altar, or ofrenda, is what the whole celebration is about, as altar maven Carolina Estrada del Toro, who is from Nyarit, told me four years ago.

"It's a collection of offerings dedicated to the person being honored," she said. "Altars are created to show the souls of the dead that they haven't been forgotten."

New too was a Pet Altar and residents were encouraged to bring photos. Words cannot say how deeply pets can be family. Also new: The Dodger Altar: our boys in blue. A picture of rookie Jackie Robinson audaciously stealing home in his first World Series. Vin Scully. Golden memories. Bowls of peanuts, boxes of Cracker Jack and bags of sunflower seeds represented the crowd.

Outstanding and new, too, is Car Altar Alley, with 10 vintage automobiles that had been converted to altars for the day. It was worth going to the parking spaces beyond the white vendor tents and food coaches, to see the beautifully polished and preserved vehicles. Pictures of the family member who had passed were placed on the hood, and candles, incense and marigolds on the front bumper. These were not the sleek sports cars from today, but more appropriately, they were restored, rare from 1930's and 40's.

Inside, the Downey Theatre housed the annual Downey Arts Coalition art show, and Pat Gil and Alistair Hunter were there to oversee it. "190 pieces in the show," said Alistair. "That's a big show." This year's Art Festival was sponsored by Downey Kiwanis.

Food trucks: My granddaughter Lawren and I sampled Papa Churros's confections with ice cream, and at the face painting booth I had a red flower painted on my cheek- impressive technique.

There were calaveras/sugar skull decorating and demonstrations. Wine and beer in the Theatre Patio, and live music and dancing in the zocalo.

Friends of the Library had racks of gently used books, and coloring pages for kids. Many organizations had tent booths. I found Carol Kearns on the patio behind the library with the amazing student art display.

Earlier, when the day began, Aztec dancers had performed wearing headdresses, called "penachos," towering creations of pheasant, eagle and other colorful feathers. Once they had done their ceremonial dance to the sun, they were gone, but dancing groups and family entertainment continued all day.

Originally the Dia used to be celebrated more privately, at first by immigrant families, as a time for family remembrance with home altars that held favorite foods, fruits and drinks to entice the spirits. Now it has become a cultural event for the whole community. That variety of faces filling the Civic Center show how we are all interconnected.



Martha Sodetani with granddaughter Kennedy, who arrived from the USC women's soccer game. "Face painting took front and center," said Martha.

## Neighbors oppose restaurant's expansion plans



Residents living near Tempo Cantina say their neighborhood is plagued by trash, traffic congestion and noise.

■ Tempo Cantina submitted plans to double its outdoor patio space but neighbors are opposed.

By **Eric Pierce**  
Editor

**DOWNEY** – A proposal by a popular Downey bar and restaurant to expand its outdoor seating area is receiving pushback from neighboring residents.

Tempo Cantina, located at 12056 Paramount Blvd., filed for a conditional use permit that would allow it to more than double its outdoor dining area.

The restaurant has 3,405 sq. ft. of indoor space and it opened a 944 sq. ft. outdoor patio in 2020. The proposed permit would give Tempo Cantina an additional 1,000 sq. ft. of outdoor dining with alcohol service.

Residents and property managers living near the restaurant, however, said they already suffer from excessive noise, trash and parking congestion, and increasing the bar's capacity would make matters worse.

Victoria Fujimoto is a property manager for the Villas at Downey, an apartment

complex adjacent to Tempo Cantina. She said she has lost tenants due to issues attributed to the restaurant.

"As you can imagine this is disruptive to the quiet and enjoyment of our residents," Fujimoto said. "The residents are looking at us for answers and our hands are tied, we cannot seem to get the help we need. We've had more unit turnover in the building than ever before due to the noise, lack of street parking, debris and pest issues."

Ron Kolar, owner of L'Abri Management, said the city has done little to nothing despite more than two years of complaints.

"We first brought this issue to the city via phone calls and messages to the city code enforcer back in January 2021," Kolar said. "We didn't see any improvements and we then wrote a letter back on July 15, 2021 addressed to city councilmember Sean Ashton and copied to code enforcement. In this letter we addressed the ongoing noise level, loud gatherings in the patio, debris and traffic congestion. We addressed the fact that we had lost two residents due to the noise level coming from the establishment."

Kolar said "numerous residents" also called or wrote letters to the city complaining about the noise levels.

"Zero response from the city and no resolution to our problem," Kolar said.

According to a report prepared by the city's planning department for the Planning Commission, Downey Police were dispatched to Tempo Cantina 272 times between Oct. 20, 2018 and Oct. 12, 2023; of those calls, 81 were noise complaints.

As part of the permit application, city officials stipulated that the restaurant provide a noise study "with determinations for how to control noise generated by the new outdoor dining." Televisions and speakers would also be required to be equipped with noise monitoring devices that limit the equipment from surpassing a specific decibel sound.

Tempo Cantina is also requesting a permit to operate on-site valet parking. Of the property's 53 parking spaces, 37 would be designated for valet services.

The Planning Commission is expected to consider the permit applications at a later date.

## Court officials defend zero-bail system

■ Early data suggests public safety has not been negatively impacted, according to Superior Court officials.

By **City News Service**

**DOWNEY** – Los Angeles County's zero-bail system, which was implemented Oct. 1 amid concerns from some law enforcement and elected officials, has worked "exactly the way it was intended" and has not decreased public safety,

Superior Court officials insisted Monday as they released data on the system's first three weeks of operation.

Most notably, the report compiled by the court found that less than 3% of people who have been booked on suspicion of a crime were subsequently re-arrested and booked again during the first three weeks of the Pre-Arrestment Release Protocols, or PARP, system.

"The preliminary PARP

Report released today demonstrates the undeniable public safety benefits of utilizing individualized risk determinations to assess conditions of release, as opposed to basing conditions of release solely on an arrested individual's ability to pay traditional money bail," Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner said in a statement.

Continued on page 2

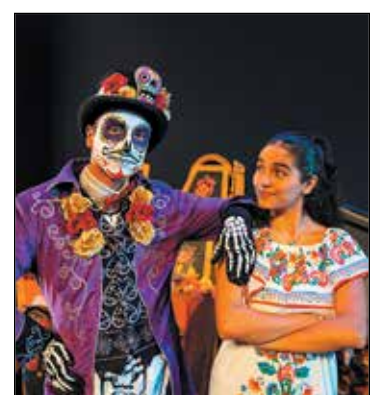
### Weekend at a Glance

Friday 83°

Saturday 81°

Sunday 79°

### SOMETHING TO DO



**WHAT:** Sugar Skull is a touring bilingual, bicultural musical appropriate for all ages. It will play one performance in Downey. Limited tickets still available.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Nov. 4, 4 pm

**WHERE:** Downey Theatre

### ON THIS DAY

**1936:**

The British Broadcasting Corporation officially launched its first television channel, which was also the world's first regular TV service.

**1947:**

Aviator and filmmaker Howard Hughes piloted the Spruce Goose, an eight-engine wooden flying boat intended to carry 750 passengers, on its only flight—one mile.

**1976:**

Jimmy Carter, the Democratic former governor of Georgia, was elected 39th president of the United States, narrowly defeating Republican Gerald R. Ford.

**1983:**

President Ronald Reagan signed a bill designating the third Monday in January a national holiday in memory of Martin Luther King, Jr.

**1988:**

A computer science student released the first computer worm onto the Internet; meant as an experiment, it brought some 6,000 computers (one-tenth of the Internet) to a halt.

**2000:**

The first resident crew—including one American and two Russians—arrived at the International Space Station.

**2020:**

"Baby Shark" overtook "Despacito" as the most-viewed video in YouTube history, with over 7 billion views.

### BIRTHDAYS

College football coach **JEFF TEDFORD** (62), Grammy winning singer **K.D. LANG** (62), "Friends" star **DAVID SCHWIMMER** (57), rapper **NELLY** (49), and "Queer Eye" star **KARAMO BROWN** (43).

# L.A. County eliminated bail last month

Continued from page 1

"This new system is working exactly the way it was intended -- the vast majority of those determined by a magistrate to be a significant risk to public and victim safety, or a significant flight risk, are being temporarily held in jail prior to arraignment, while the vast majority of those who pose little risk to public or victim safety and are likely to return to court are being released with non-financial conditions.

"Under the previous money bail system, these same high-risk individuals would be able to buy their release from jail if they had access to money, and the low-risk individuals would remain in jail for days, weeks, months, or even years if they did not have access to money to purchase their release."

The zero-bail system largely eliminates the existing cash bail system for all but the most serious of crimes. Most people arrested on suspicion on non-violent or non-serious offenses are either cited and released in the field or booked and released at a police or sheriff's station with orders to appear in court on a specific date for arraignment once they are actually charged with a crime.

Arrestees who are believed to present a heightened threat to the public or be a flight risk are referred to a magistrate judge, who reviews the case and determines whether the person should be held in custody pending arraignment or released under non-financial restrictions such as electronic monitoring.

Once a person is charged and appears in court for arraignment, a judge could change or revoke the defendant's release conditions.

Some law enforcement officials, including Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna, expressed concern about the system before it took effect, saying it would reduce public confidence in the justice system by quickly releasing people arrested for a variety of offenses.

More than a dozen Southland cities — including Downey — have filed a lawsuit seeking to overthrow the zero-bail system, saying it would be detrimental to public safety.

Superior Court officials on Monday, however, said the arrest data from the program's first three weeks belies those concerns. Jessner called claims that the system is harmful to public safety misinformation and "dangerous and negligent

rhetoric."

The report released Monday analyzed 5,113 bookings that occurred between Oct. 1, when the new system took effect, and Oct. 21.

According to the report, 40% of those bookings were for more serious offenses that were ineligible for zero-bail consideration. A total 1,213 cases were referred to a magistrate judge for further review, and of those, 64% of the arrestees were ordered to remain in custody pending arraignment.

The report found that 85% of people released under the zero-bail system were considered low-risk offenders, while 71% of the people held in custody pending arraignment were considered medium- to high-risk.

The report found that only 2.5% of people who were booked during the first three weeks of the program were subsequently re-arrested for another offense and re-booked. Of that 2.5%, nearly half of the re-arrestees had been arrested for a serious or violent crime and were free only because they posted cash bail. Only two people who were released after a review by a magistrate judge were re-booked during the first

three weeks of the program, according to the report.

"Despite a significant amount of misinformation circulating regarding the new bail policy's impact on public safety, we are encouraged that the first three weeks of data reveal the new system is actually keeping communities safer," Superior Court Executive Officer/Clerk of Court David W. Slayton.

"By providing individualized risk assessments for many of those arrested in Los Angeles County prior to their release, rather than arbitrarily releasing individuals based on whether they can afford a certain amount of money bail, this new system better ensures that those who present a significant risk are held while those who present little to no risk are released prior to trial."

Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michel Moore, who was among those expressing concern about the zero-bail system before it was implemented, said in a statement Monday he was "comforted" that most of the arrestees who were referred to a magistrate judge were kept in custody pending arraignment.

"However, I remain very concerned that 42 individuals

who were arrested for felony crimes after October 1st and subsequently released due to ... zero-bail policies or a cash bailout, were later re-arrested by LAPD officers and booked for committing additional felony crimes," Moore said. "We will continue to work closely with the Los Angeles Judicial Council to find the appropriate balance between the rights of the accused and our duty to protect the city of Los Angeles."

Luna issued a statement Monday in response to the court's data analysis, saying, "We are closely monitoring the progress of the Superior Court new pre-arraignment policy and the impacts to public safety. The early results of PARP are showing that individuals who don't score high on the risk assessment scale are being released with specific conditions and those who score high are staying in custody through their arraignment.

"I am encouraged by the collaboration between the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, our Department, LAPD, and representatives from the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs as the Superior Court shows a willingness to work with local law enforcement officials. We will continue to closely examine the crime rates,

jail population, and any other factors that impacts public safety within Los Angeles County," Luna said.

The new system was developed in response to long-held criticism that traditional cash bail favored the rich, meaning well-heeled people arrested for even the most serious of crimes could pay their way out of jail, while low-income people languished behind bars for far lesser offenses. The new system is based not on cash, but on the risk an offender presents to public safety or the possibility the person might fail to appear in court.

The county implemented a zero-bail system during the COVID-19 pandemic in an effort to prevent crowding in jails. Then in May, a Los Angeles judge issued a preliminary injunction essentially reinstating the system by ordering an end to cash bail by the Los Angeles police and sheriff's departments.

The Los Angeles Superior Court in July announced plans for the PARP system, with Jessner saying, "A person's ability to pay a large sum of money should not be the determining factor in deciding whether that person, who is presumed innocent, stays in jail before trial or is released."

But the idea of zero-bail generated public safety questions. Several members of the county Board of Supervisors said last month their offices had been swamped with calls from residents concerned about the system, particularly following a recent wave of mob-style, smash-and-grab burglaries and reports of suspects in those crimes being arrested but then quickly released, only to commit new crimes.

**Gil Contreras Legaspi**  
**Downey City Council, District 3**

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DISTRICT 3

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# Downey elections set for Tuesday

■ Six candidates are vying for two open seats on the city council; voting centers are now open.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Two special elections will be decided next week, determining which two of six candidates will serve the remainder of two terms for District 1 and District 3.

While the election officially takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 7, residents of the two contested districts are able to cast their ballots already at two voting centers located at Furman Park and Iglesia de Cristo Ministerios Llamada Final church, open daily from 10 am to 7 pm through Election Day.

Ballots can also be turned into the L.A. County ballot collection box outside City Hall.

The following is a summary of each candidate.

## DISTRICT 1

District 1 includes the southeast portion of the city. It is represented by Timothy Horn, who was appointed to the seat to replace then mayor, now Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco. He is not seeking reelection.

## Ramon Casas

Ramon Casas Jr. seeks to bring Downey back to more conservative, “family values.” If elected, he has said he wishes to audit every city department, and hopes to be able to leverage connections with private equity in order to attract quality businesses to the city. He has also vocally

opposed Downey’s yearly Pride event, saying instead that the city needs more “inclusive” events, such as a “Downey Community Fest” and 4th of July parade. In addition, he has been outspokenly critical of his opponents for their lack of attendance at city meetings.

Casas did not report any financial contributions.

Casas is an English teacher at St. John Bosco High School.

## Horacio Ortiz

Horacio Ortiz has made public safety and code enforcement, reducing homelessness, quality of life, and small business his priorities during his campaign.

Ortiz is endorsed by a handful of local community leaders, including LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Congressman Robert Garcia, Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco, Senator Bob Archuleta, Mayor Pro Tem Mario Trujillo, former mayor Mario Guerra, City of Paramount Councilmember Brenda Olmos, City of Lynwood Mayor Pro Tem Jose Luis Solache, City of Montebello Councilmember Salvador Melendez and Mayor Pro Tem Angie Jimenez.

Ortiz has raised \$65,582, including \$10,100 in loans. A large portion of his financial backers come from small businesses and restaurants. He has spent \$49,077.98.

Ortiz currently sits as the chair of the Planning Commission. He also is a board member with the

Downey Rose Float Association, a volunteer with Downey Kiwanis and Gangs Out of Downey, and a Neighborhood Watch Captain.

He is owner of El Pescador Restaurant.

## Elvira Meraz

Elvira Meraz says she wants to “bridge the gap” of what has been a “divisive council.” Her campaign focuses on police recruitment and retention, enhanced street lighting and road improvements, homelessness solutions and neighborhood watch expansion, and establishment of business and job programs.

Meraz is endorsed by Mayor Claudia Frometa, Councilman Timothy Horn, and former mayors Kirk Cartozian, Keith McCarthy, Rick Rodriguez, and Roger Brossmer.

She has raised \$24,215, including several thousand from Cartozian and his subsidiaries, and a \$1,000 loan to herself. She has spent \$21,274.

In addition to being a part of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis, Meraz is an ambassador of the Chamber of Commerce, and an active PTA president and Neighborhood Watch Block Captain.

Meraz is a real estate broker.

## DISTRICT 3

District 3 encompasses the northwest section of the city of Downey. Its council seat remains

vacant after the recall of former councilwoman Catherine Alvarez earlier this year.

Whoever wins the seat will complete the remainder of the current term, through December 2024.

## Gil Contreras

Gil Contreras Legaspi has taken a hard stance against crime while on the campaign trail, promising to put more boots on the ground and hire more police officers, while also expanding initiatives to address homelessness.

Legaspi has received endorsements from State Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco, Senator Bob Archuleta, LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Downey Councilman Timothy Horn, former mayors Fernando Vasquez and Kirk Cartozian, La Mirada City Council member Anthony Ortero, and the Los Angeles Police Protective League, among others.

The biggest fundraiser of the election, Legaspi has reported \$89,807.63 in total contributions, including \$25,800 in loans to himself. His funders span across law enforcement, real estate, law offices, the business community and other supporters. He has spent \$76,610.16.

Legaspi is a member of the Rotary Club of Downey, an ambassador with the Downey

Chamber of Commerce, and a member of Gangs Out of Downey. He also sits on the board of The Arc, and chairs the Local Government Relations Committee under the Downey Association of Realtors.

Legaspi is a real estate broker and a sworn reserve LAPD officer.

## Dorothy Pemberton

Dorothy Pemberton is running her campaign on a platform of community safety, quality of life, economic development and fiscal responsibility. Specifically, Pemberton has called for the hiring of more police officers, installation of another dog park, and the development of a community garden.

Pemberton was given the endorsement of several current and former council members, including former mayors Mario Guerra, Rick Rodriguez, Kirk Cartozian, and Alex Saab, current Mayor Claudia M. Frometa, council members Hector Sosa and Timothy Horn, School Board President Giggy Perez-Saab, school board member Nancy Swenson, and former school board members Martha Sodetani and Tod Corrin.

Pemberton has reported raising 52,928, including \$9,000 in loans to herself, and \$36,716 in expenditures. Her funding is fueled in large part by residents, volunteers, and local businesses

within Downey.

Pemberton is known for her volunteerism and involvement in the city, including with Soroptimist of Downey, Downey Family YMCA, Gangs Out of Downey, and Downey Council PTA. She was also one of the faces of last year’s recall of former councilwoman Catherine Alvarez.

Pemberton is a realtor / broker, and is a substitute teacher for the Downey Unified School District.

## Ernesto Valle

Ernesto Valle’s platform puts the youth first, and stands on a four-pillar foundation: to measure policy by its impact on youth, residents, the city’s bottom line, and the city’s brand. His pitch includes construction of a multi-level parking structure at Furman Park, with tennis courts placed up top.

He did not seek any major endorsements.

Valle raised \$19,220, a majority (\$12,700) of which from loans to himself.

In terms of prior city engagement, Valle is a former president of Northwest Downey Little League and president of Maude Price Downey PTA.

Valle is an insurance agent with Farmers Insurance.

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## OLPH Women's Guild hosting blood drive

**DOWNEY** – The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is hosting a blood drive on Sunday, Nov. 12, from 8 am to 2 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall to benefit the American Red Cross.

The hall is located at 11231 Rives Ave.

Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code OLPHCC.



9408 Robotics of Warren High School celebrates after winning the FIRST Robotics Competition.

# Warren High robotics team wins competition

■ A rookie team of robotics students won SoCal Showdown, beating 33 other teams.

**DOWNEY** – 9408 Warbots, a pre-rookie robotics team from Warren High School, won SoCal Showdown at the FIRST Robotics Competition last month.

It was the team's first time competing in the competition, where they faced-off against 33 veteran teams from across the region.

Held in El Segundo from Friday, Oct. 6 through Sunday, Oct. 8, the competition was part of this season's game, Charged Up.

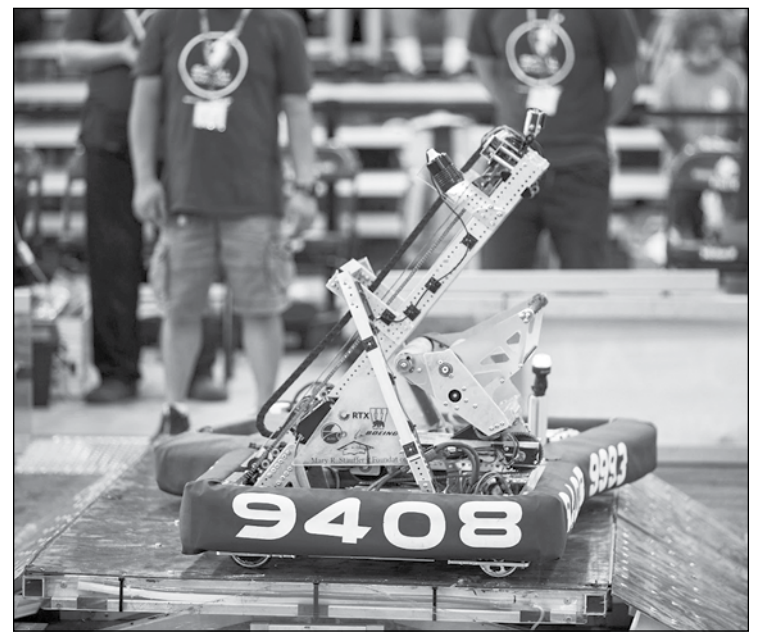
"Everyone on the team has been working their hardest for months now and it was amazing to see the robot out on the field for the first time not just working, but winning matches,"

shared Team 9408's strategy and business operations lead, Natalee Paez.

In order to be ready for this competition the team spent weeks preparing their robot and themselves for their first ever FIRST Robotics competition. Team 9408 Warbots had the very first pick of alliance and partner at the competition. They formed an alliance with team 696, then 7042, and finally 1452, that ultimately brought them the winning title.

"I felt so proud of everyone's hard work before we had even walked through the doors. I knew that everyone was nervous but excited so there was a unique energy in all of us," said Amy Flores, Lead Scout of 9408 Warbots.

9408 Warbots, formally known as 90241, changed from VEX Robotics to FIRST Robotics last year with the hopes of moving on to greater



things. Lead by coach Aaron Tostado from Warren High School and through the support of parents, mentors and sponsors, team 9408 Warbots aims to continue innovating, engaging, and inspiring interest in STEM by building skills in technology and creating life-changing experiences.

Having won multiple awards during their time competing in VEX, including being a California state finalist in the VEX program, which secured their spot at VEX Worlds in Dallas, TX last year, 9408 Warbots looks forward to what's to come as they enter this new field of competition.

## POET'S CORNER

### November 2: Día de los muertos

The dead:  
They take over the town like beach vacationers, returning tourists getting into everything:

*I had my honeymoon here, they say, and are always full of contagious nostalgia.  
But it's all right. They go away, after a while.*

They go, and you miss them all over again.  
The *papel picado*, the cut blue and red and green paper decorations,  
The empanadas and coconut candy, the boxes of *cajeta*, *saladitos*,  
Which make your tongue white like a ghost's—

You miss all of it soon enough,  
Pictures of people smiling, news stories, all the fiestas, all this exhaustion.

The coming night, the sweet breads, the bone tiredness of too much—  
Loud noise, loud colors, loud food, mariachis, even just talking.

It's all a lot of noise, but it belongs here. The loud is to help us not think,  
To make us confuse the day and our feelings with happiness.

Because, you know, if we do think about our dead,  
Wherever they are, we'll get sad, and begin to look across at each other.

**Alberto Rios, A Small Story About the Sky, Copper Canyon Press, 2015**

*Born in 1952, Alberto Ríos is the inaugural state poet laureate of Arizona. This year Downey holds its 10th Dia de los Muertos event, a day filled with art, culture, and tradition. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.*

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# You don't need to be elected to make a difference

By Eric Pierce

Eric Pierce is editor of the Downey Patriot.

With Downey in the thick of two hotly-contested city council races, it's easy to forget that the most profound changes in our communities often come from the everyday heroes who don't hold any political office.

The truth is, you don't need to be a mayor, council member, or senator to make a significant impact in your community. In fact, some of the most enduring and positive changes happen because of the efforts of ordinary people who care deeply about their neighborhoods.

As the saying goes, "All politics is local." This phrase reminds us that the most meaningful changes in our lives often start right in our own backyards.

Many people who effect change in their communities do so because they are deeply passionate about a specific cause or issue. Their commitment drives them to work tirelessly, volunteer their time, and engage with others who share their passion. This kind of dedication can be far more potent than any political title.

Throughout history, we've seen countless examples of grassroots movements changing the course of society. From the Civil Rights Movement to environmental conservation efforts, ordinary people have banded together and achieved extraordinary results. These movements are often the catalysts for policy changes.

Making a difference in your community often involves creating strong social networks. These connections can lead to partnerships and collaborations that bring diverse talents and resources together, strengthening the community's overall capacity to address its challenges.

Elected officials may have to juggle various issues and concerns across a large constituency. Us regular, non-elected people have the advantage of knowing their neighbors and their specific needs intimately. This personal touch can lead to tailored, effective solutions.

When ordinary people take action and make a difference, they inspire others to do the same. Their actions set a positive precedent, encouraging more community members to get involved and make an impact.

So, how can you, as an ordinary individual, make a difference in your community?

1. Identify a cause that speaks to you and that aligns with your passions and values.
2. Join local clubs and organizations working towards your chosen cause.
3. Volunteer your time, skills, and resources to support initiatives and projects that matter to you.
4. Connect with like-minded individuals who share your vision and collaborate on local initiatives.
5. Raise awareness about important issues through social media, community meetings, or local events.
6. Advocate for change by engaging respectfully with elected officials and encouraging them to address community needs.

The power of change lies within each and every one of us. You don't need a political title to create a positive impact in your community. Your passion, dedication, and actions can be the driving force behind the changes that make our neighborhoods better places to live.

## Downey elections

Dear Editor:

The vacant seat for City Council District 3 is up for grabs; the seat that Catherine Alvarez once occupied and was recalled from with great effort by Dorothy Pemberton and her team leading the charge. I feel that Dorothy would bring some diversity to a group that needs some new sensible perspective. I am sure your readers have seen the Facebook comments and the news articles, giving countless opinions. Mine will add to that number.

When voters go to cast their ballots, I hope that they will not base their votes on race, gender, political affiliation, or due to someone saying they speak Spanish. This is not what this serious election is about. It is about getting the City back to business, District 3 having a long list of unattended issues addressed and the residents of District 3 hopefully having their voices heard again.

I think being "new and diverse and.... inclusive" as said by Esther Symonds in her October 26 article doesn't necessarily make you a potential good council member. For example, Catherine Alvarez! I highly recommend listening to the Talking Downey podcast by Mario Guerra to learn more about what our City is experiencing right now and where the funds for these candidates are coming from.

I, as a Latina resident of over 40 years, do not want a repeat of the embarrassing two years held by you know who. We need a seasoned leader; someone with no outside interests.

I hope you will consider Dorothy and elect her.

**Cynthia Draper  
Downey**

Dear Editor:

Ernesto Valle visited my house the other day and gave me an hour of his time explaining his passion for this city and most importantly the youth. He could have been walking several places but decided to pour his heart out about how disappointed he is with the current position of our city.

Youth is definitely at the top of the list for Ernesto. He has tons of ideas and believes the city should do more to provide relevant resources that will get our youth excited enough to participate and tell their friends.

He mentioned a specific case about a 15-year-old kid with huge baseball potential, who was all of a sudden taking pictures with Pro Club shirts and looking thuggish as he described. Being influenced by social media and his friends was a big part of it. Ernesto went on about how he has reached out to this kid several times to bring him back to the sports circle but outside influences are just too superior.

Ernesto mentioned that a solid program outside of baseball that is teaching kids at 15 years old is necessary and if rolled out the right way, could be the life jacket this kid needs.

As the only candidate that is not a real estate person, and has whole heartedly served his community for over 10 years, Ernesto is the right choice.

**Carlos Gomez  
Downey**

Dear Editor:

Enough with the Gil Legaspi campaign signs and banners being placed on public property, businesses and private residences without permission. He even put them on the Paramount and Lakewood freeway on-ramps and Caltrans removed them because they were in violation.

As someone who claims to be for law and order, this shows little respect for our city's regulations and its residents.

Recently, one of Mr. Legaspi's team members was witnessed and photographed stealing Ernesto Valle's signs at Tacos Gavilan. After throwing them in the dumpster and confronted, he said, "Yes, I did it."

All this is happening in a special election to elect a city council representative for a one-year term. Is this what we will be forced to endure next year if he decides to run for the four-year term? It's time to let Gil Legaspi know that we have had enough already.

**Christina Medler  
Downey**

Dear Editor:

Gil Legaspi appears to be a good candidate for the position of Downey City Council. With this said, however, we have to go beyond good and evaluate who is the most deserving, most qualified and who is the person with whom we can depend on to get things done.

This person is Dorothy Pemberton.

Dorothy worked tirelessly to successfully remove Catherine Alvarez as council member by leading a recall - not once but twice. Her active roles in the community are: 10 years having participated in Gangs Out of Downey; past president and 30 years with Soroptimist International of Downey; 20 years and past chairperson with Downey YMCA; 20 years and past chairperson of Assistance League of Downey; and four years and vice chairperson of the Public Works Committee.

Additionally, Dorothy is a graduate of the Downey Police Citizens Academy and is supported by many current and past city officials.

Most importantly, as a very qualified and deserving candidate, Dorothy is running for all the right reasons: to give credibility and honest representation to residents in District 3. With her capable leadership abilities and being a lifetime resident who loves Downey, Dorothy is the candidate to best represent our interests and concerns in District 3. She has my vote.

**Martha Morrissy  
Downey**

## Overnight RVs

Dear Editor:

Does anyone have any information on when (if ever) the city is going to start enforcing no overnight parking on Woodruff Avenue?

The dilapidated RVs are lined up. Chairs, bicycles and trash are all around.

This is only making the homeless problem worse in Downey.

**Carol Fields  
Downey**

Dear Editor:

It was a privilege for me to serve the 1st District of Downey (southeast) as its representative on the City Council from 1996 to 2004.

In the past, I have spoken with candidates Elvira Meraz and Horacio Ortiz in order to understand their positions and their capabilities. The choice was clear then, and the choice is now clearer than ever: Elvira Meraz is the right person at the right time in the right place.

She thinks independently, she takes action and does what she says she'll do.

Elvira Meraz is the right person in the right place at the right time. Vote for her!

**Keith McCarthy  
Pasadena**

Dear Editor:

As many who know me know, I love the City of Downey. I have lived here my entire adult life. I served for eight years on the Downey City Council, twice as mayor, served for 22 years as chaplain for the Downey Police Department (mentioned for ID purposes only), and now have my office in Downtown Downey.

I will be retiring here someday. I raised all five of my kids here and now I am helping to raise two of my grandchildren in Downey. I am invested and care very much what happens to our community.

And unlike others, I have stayed here long after I've served as your mayor.

As your two-time former mayor of Downey I am proud to endorse Horacio Ortiz for Downey City Council in the upcoming special election for District 1. I join other elected leaders from various levels of government in supporting Horacio's candidacy.

This includes Mrs. Brenda Gafin, the widow of former Downey Mayor David Gafin who previously represented District 1. Mayor Gafin was my dear friend and cared very much about our city. He used to call me "Downey's Best Cheerleader" and I took great pride in this title coming from him. Mrs. Gafin told me last week that Horacio will do well and will carry on Dave's legacy representing the same district as Dave. That's why she is also supporting him.

I have worked with Horacio closely on several volunteer boards and have seen his motivations, passion, and dedication for Downey. I currently work with him on the Downey Planning Commission and can vouch for his leadership and character and he knows Downey well. He grew up in Downey and has lived here his entire life (except the four years he was away getting his college degree at UCSD). He will do a great job representing us.

By the way, the Former Downey Mayors Coalition never endorsed anyone in this race. Out of five former mayors, three said no, thus no selection. I know, I was in the room and was one of the "no" votes. Unfortunately, some keep misrepresenting the facts.

Horacio Ortiz's unwavering passion for our city, combined with his well-thought-out positions on critical issues, makes him the ideal candidate to represent District 1 on the Downey City Council. He is a leader who will work tirelessly to improve the lives of our residents and ensure a brighter future for Downey.

I urge you to join me in supporting Horacio Ortiz for Downey City Council. Downey has a shining past and an even brighter future. Together, we can continue to build upon the successes of our city and create a better Downey for all. Character and leadership are vital to representing us all.

**Mario Guerra  
Downey**

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to a recent letter in which Vickie Smith, Trish Morris, Gail Rabe, Monica Gross, Dee Bacus, Cheryl Van Rensselaer, Dania Janczak and Bonnie Travers expressed their opinion that Gil Legaspi is not a true police officer because he is "in fact a reserve police officer."

As the wife of a dedicated reserve police officer, I feel compelled to respond to this letter and convey my heartfelt opinions on the matter.

First and foremost, it's disheartening to read that these women seem to undermine the risks and sacrifices that reserve police officers make across America. As wives, mothers, sisters or daughters of reserve police officers, it is a slap in the face to hear these women belittle the worries, fears and concerns that we suffer daily when the brave men and women who serve the public as reserve police officers go to work.

Whether they work part-time or full-time as U.S. soldiers, police officers or any other first responder, we all know that the imminent risk is the same when they put on their uniform. The possibility of injuries or even death is an ever-present reality, irrespective of the number of hours they put in. It's essential to remember that these courageous individuals put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe.

It's crucial for those who make such comments to understand the gravity of their words. They should feel ashamed for diminishing the commitment of reserve police officers and all first responders. Reserve police officers are often called upon to serve in times of crisis or emergency. The dedication and courage displayed by these individuals, my husband included, should be commended, not questioned. Reserve officers, just like their full-time counterparts, carry the burden of safeguarding our society, which often comes with immense sacrifices.

These women have shown a complete lack of understanding and respect for the sacrifices made by reserve police officers and their families. I hope that they apologize for any offense caused to Gil Legaspi and his family. These women need to take a moment to reflect on the weight of their words and appreciate the unwavering commitment of reserve police officers like Gil Legaspi. These heroes put their lives on the line each day the step into their roles, irrespective of the number of hours worked.

Their dedicated and service should be acknowledged, respect and celebrated. It's high time we come together to support those who ensure our safety, recognizing the shared risk and sacrifice that all first responders and their families bear.

**Marisol Perez  
Downey**

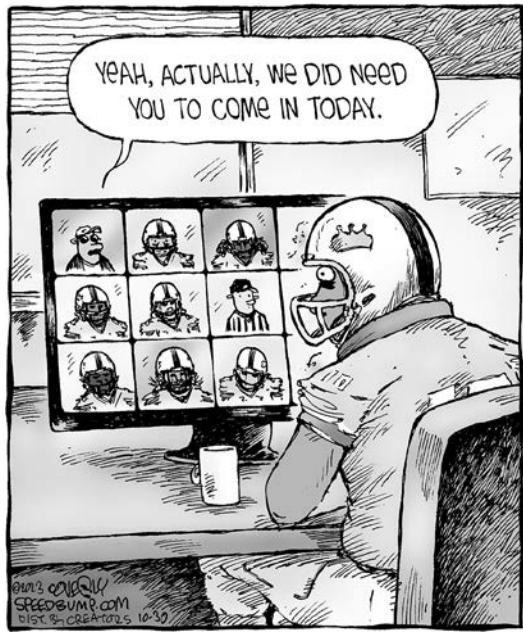
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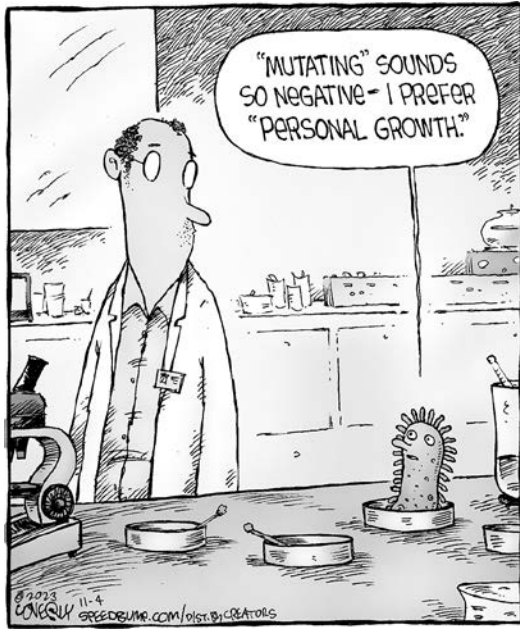
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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### CITY MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.  
 1st Tue., 4:00pm.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.  
 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.  
 3rd Tue., 6:00pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.  
 3rd Thurs., 6:30pm: CERT, at Downey City Council Chamber at City Hall, for more info call 299-5462.  
 4th Mon., 5 pm: Green Task Force, at City Hall.

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### MONDAYS

7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 869-6478.  
 4:30 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 New St, 2nd Floor, call 213-545-6810.  
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

#### TUESDAYS

9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.  
 9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Irene Vallini at 328-7039.  
 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.  
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Mel Sanchez 562-665-4125.  
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.  
 6:30 - 9 pm: Civil Air Patrol - Los Angeles Cadet Squadron 138, at Downey Adult School, Room M104, call 714-402-5157.  
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.  
 7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 441, at Apollo Park, email scoutmaster@downeyboyscouts.com.  
 7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.  
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.  
 1st Tues., 7:30 pm: Downey Amateur Radio Club, EOC room Downey Fire Station #1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.  
 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.  
 3rd Tues., 12 pm: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.  
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.  
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.  
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

#### WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.  
 9 am: Quilters Group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.  
 10:30 am: Ballroom dance class, at Downey Community Center, call 776 7270.  
 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.  
 7 pm: Royal Rangers Outpost 132, at Desert Reign Church, call 562-861-6011.  
 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.  
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.  
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.  
 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.  
 2nd Wed., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.  
 2nd Wed., 7 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 484-8415.  
 3rd Wed.: Downey Dog Obedience Club, for information please call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.  
 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call 860-8821 or 927-3635.  
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.  
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

#### THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.  
 7:30 am.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.  
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barbara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.  
 12 pm: Bingo, at Woman's Club of Downey - Proceeds benefit Rancho.  
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.  
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.  
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.  
 1st Thurs., 6 pm, All other Thurs. 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 283-2335.  
 2nd Thurs., 12 pm: Creative Purposes, call Bill Wallace 923-2311.  
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.  
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Mimi's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.  
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.  
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.  
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

#### FRIDAYS

7:30 am: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618.

#### SATURDAYS

9 am: Farmers Market, Downey Avenue at 3rd Street, call 904-7246.

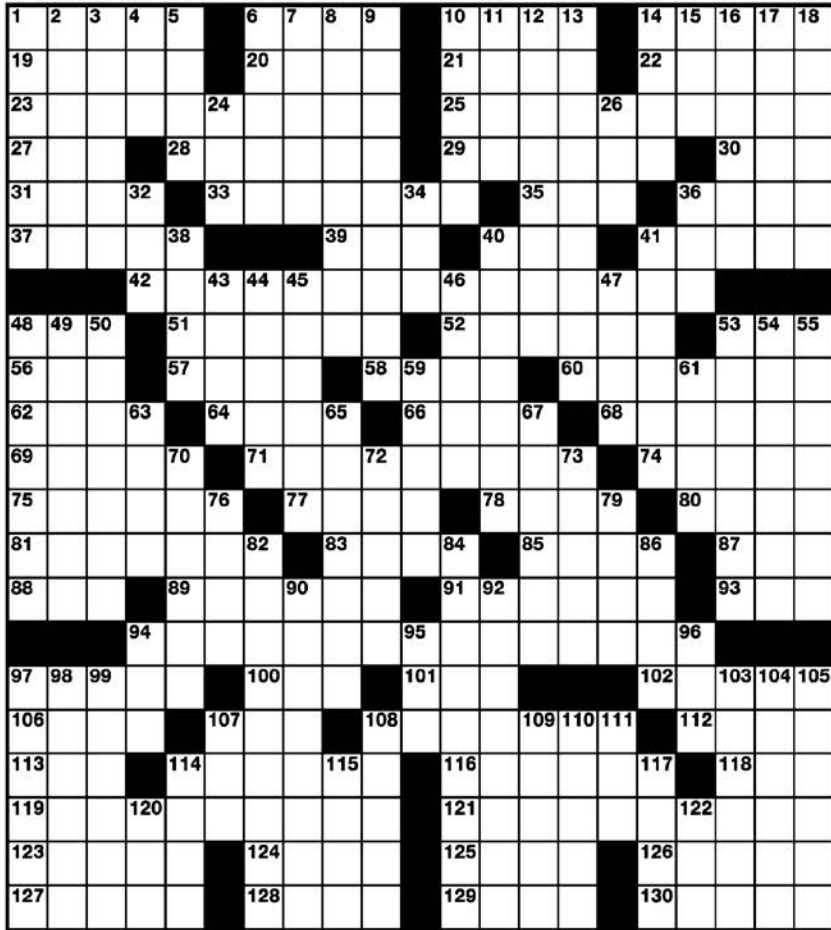
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- |  |  |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                      | 74 Small segment of a market                                     | <b>DOWN</b>                         |
| 1 Kid-lit elephant king                            | 75 Strong dislike  | 1 C substitute                      |
| 6 Artist Chagall                                   | 77 In ___ of (rather than)                                       | 2 Easternmost national park         |
| 10 Long-running CBS drama                          | 78 M*A*S*H star (no, not him)                                    | 3 Have membership                   |
| 14 Sort of snake                                   | 80 Small plane name  | 4 Common crawler                    |
| 19 Postcard picture                                | 81 Earthquake  | 5 Lagoon barrier                    |
| 20 It's a thought                                  | 83 Dept. heads   | 6 Bishop's hat                      |
| 21 Jazz great Fitzgerald                           | 85 Hotshot pilots  | 7 Graphics software brand           |
| 22 Voting area                                     | 87 Slipper tip   | 8 Email button                      |
| 23 Summer blouses [FIRST PART]                     | 88 "My lips ___ sealed"  | 9 Detective's dossiers              |
| 25 <i>Monster's Ball</i> Oscar winner [FIRST PART] | 89 Blood blank supply  | 10 M*A*S*H refreshments             |
| 27 Needless fuss                                   | 91 Water near Olympus  | 11 Extended family                  |
| 28 Ineffective                                     | 93 Danson of TV  | 12 Squandered                       |
| 29 Serving a sentence                              | 94 Language that gave us "bulwark" and "buckwheat" [CENTER PART] | 13 Certain holey roll               |
| 30 Walton of Walmart                               | 97 <i>American Buffalo</i> playwright                            | 14 Dict. notation                   |
| 31 Boxing venue                                    | 100 Telecast   | 15 Forest female                    |
| 33 "J'Accuse...!" subject                          | 101 Chk. alternative   | 16 Fin descriptor                   |
| 35 <i>Nova</i> broadcaster                         | 102 Whom cops collar   | 17 Schwab.com alternative           |
| 36 Figurine mineral                                | 106 In any way   | 18 Go and throw                     |
| 37 Clip-on communicator                            | 107 Stallone film opponent                                       | 24 Obviously embarrassed            |
| 39 Grafton's ___ for <i>Alibi</i>                  | 108 007 before Craig   | 26 Frozen Wasser                    |
| 40 ___ culpa                                       | 112 Absconded with   | 32 Comprehend                       |
| 41 Merchant's markdowns                            | 113 Nothing  | 34 Hangout for NCOs                 |
| 42 November 1, to 71 Across [CENTER PART]          | 114 Geographical necks   | 36 Mr. Gatsby                       |
| 48 Word heard on 71 Across                         | 116 91 Across island   | 38 MLB hurlers who aren't southpaws |
| 51 LensCrafters rival                              | 118 Snowboard cousin   | 40 Little girls                     |
| 52 High regard                                     | 119 Lettuce or endive [LAST PART]                                | 41 Biblical strongman               |
| 53 Nutrition label listing                         | 121 Rather rare [LAST PART]                                      | 43 Snake-like swimmers              |
| 56 Rural lodgings                                  | 123 Lagoon barrier   | 44 Proverbial mountain mover        |
| 57 Lost traction                                   | 124 "Rule, Britannia!" composer                                  | 45 Trying time                      |
| 58 IRS IDs   | 125 Author Wiesel  | 46 "___ interrupt this program..."  |
| 60 Where <i>Otello</i> premiered                   | 126 Road reversal  | 47 Needing a battery charge         |
| 62 Secluded valley                                 | 127 Of current interest  | 48 Job for a supercomputer          |
| 64 Fr. holy women                                  | 128 Whisper for attention  | 49 Web regular                      |
| 66 Metal money                                     | 129 Snowboard cousin   | 50 Phrase on a 66 Across            |
| 68 '50s singing style                              | 130 <i>Carmen's</i> title character                              |                                     |
| 69 Prepared to wear                                |  |                                     |
| 71 Tripartite theme of the puzzle                  |  |                                     |

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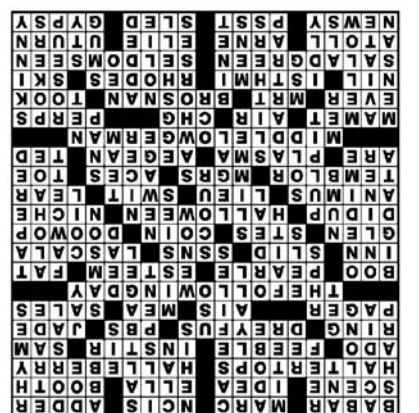
- |                                |  |                             |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 53 An original Charlie's Angel | 79 Task force                          | 103 Rebelled                |
| 54 Traditional luau tune       | 82 Speeder catcher                     | 104 Hearth tools            |
| 55 Narrowed gradually          | 84 Carpentry supports                  | 105 Willowy                 |
| 59 Scrub well                  | 86 Break cleanly                       | 107 NYC hoops arena         |
| 61 Corkscrew's shape           | 90 Moves like 43 Down                  | 108 IQ test developer       |
| 63 Lacking feeling             | 92 Diner discard                       | 109 "Really!"               |
| 65 More willowy                | 94 Cousteau's sea                      | 110 Threw in                |
| 67 Grammy category             | 95 Text-scanning technology, for short | 111 Prefix for natal        |
| 70 Preacher's podium           | 96 Take-home                           | 114 Without purpose         |
| 72 Within the rules            | 97 Smart set member                    | 115 Part of YMCA            |
| 73 Not as mean                 | 98 Take flight                         | 117 Too confident           |
| 76 Peddled                     | 99 Chilled out                         | 120 Two of the Unser family |
|                                |  | 122 Where swine dine        |

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**You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.**

Other notable operas that had their premiere at La Scala (60 Across) include *Madama Butterfly* and *Turandot*. *Templario* (81 Across), a Spanish word for "earthquake," is a close relative of "tremble." Pierce Brosnan (108 Across) portrayed James Bond in four films from 1995 to 2002, Daniel Craig taking over for Brosnan in 2005.



# Rudolph musical becoming a Downey tradition

■ Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer will kick off its national tour at Downey Theatre later this month.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – A holiday classic cartoon will soon light its way back onto the Downey Theatre stage for a live performance in just over a week's time.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical will feature on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 6:30 pm.

The show is a for-stage adaptation of the beloved 1964 stop motion TV special.

According to Bob Penola, who helped develop the show, there was great care put into honoring the source material.

"As you might imagine, given the fact that [the show] was originally a claymation special with puppet figures, doing this was going to take some imagination and some creative ideas in order to translate what you remember – or those of us who are old enough to remember – that special when it first premiered as something that was unique and very Christmassy, and to bring it to life without losing the things that people love the most about it," said Penola.

In addition to retaining the music from the original show, the show also includes songs from the catalog of Johnny Marks, who wrote the score for the special.

"We found a couple of really great chestnuts that we added into the show in a very natural way to give a little more production value and excitement at different points in the show," said Penola. "We feel, and I think anybody who sees the show, will totally love the addition of these songs."

Talia Gloster, who plays the titular reindeer of the show, said that Rudolph represents an "open, unadulterated, unassuming curiosity and openness of other people."

"Rudolph just really takes everyone at face value, which is why he meets some really

wonderful people," said Gloster. "Because he understands what it is to be sort of shunned, he treats people with the kind of openness that I think he's hoping he'll receive back, and then in putting out that good in the world he receives it from the people around him."

Gloster suggested that Rudolph serves a very unique purpose for many of its young audiences.

"For a lot of kids, and we talk about this as a company, this is a lot of kids' first experience with live theater in general, so I think that is a really wonderful way, this is the perfect show for them to really be experiencing that for the first time in that it is totally okay that they interact with the characters," said Gloster.

For adults, it strikes a different chord.

"I think for a lot of adults, it's such a representation of so many years of holidays and Christmases, and this movie has been around and continues to be around so I think there's a lot of nostalgia associated for people who see these characters represented so accurately on stage," said Gloster.

Tickets can be purchased at the Downey Theatre box office, or online at [www.downeytheatre.org](http://www.downeytheatre.org).

# Downey Symphony opens 68th concert season

■ The symphonic concert featured a performance by accomplished baritone Anthony Moreno.

By Lorine Parks  
Society Editor

**DOWNEY** – On the same night that the City of Downey held a celebration of its 150th anniversary, the Downey Symphony Orchestra opened its 68th season with Tides of Love.

Early-bird patrons enjoyed the art exhibit that the Downey Arts Coalition put on.

"We have 100 pieces by 21 local artists," said Pat Gil, president. "That's a big show."

The theme was Bliss, and there were ceramics and blown glass vases as well as paintings. Eloise Ball helped out and DAC's Alistair Hunter roamed the exhibit. The gallery on the mezzanine level is easily reached by the glass elevator.

Many also came early to hear Music Director Sharon Lavery's 7:15 pm pre-concert talk about the music she was about to conduct. Audiences love Conductor Sharon for her dedication to Downey.

Seen in the lobby was Larry Dusich, of the Downey Civic Light Opera, who handled the lighting effects so well at the recent Symphony's fundraiser, The Phantom of the Opera's Garden Party. Adele Alexander, Hop Morrison and Tom Hutchinson came early, while Mary Stevens ably held forth at the table where the printed programs were. Marge and Larry Lewis, and Katie and Bill Hare, with daughter Janet, arrived.

Jim Reed, who wore a cape and mask at the Phantom Party, chatted with eth Gendreau and Dorothy Pemberton, who always puts Symphony concerts on her busy schedule. "I will work on increasing attendance with awareness and advertising to surrounding cities to help fill the theatre," she said.

The Downey Symphonic Society's 2023-24 season includes the well-attended Pops in the Park in August, and two subscription concerts in the Downey Theatre, this one and an April 6, 2024 concert, Springtide, that will include the lively auction for the composer's baton.

"Also, in cooperation with the Downey Unified School District," said Sharon, "we will produce two children's concerts. There will be one especially scripted for the third grade, and another for the fifth grade. All those Downey students will be bussed here to the Theatre for two mornings of music. This is part of the DSS's Music in the Schools Outreach Program, and the kids love it."

Mark Keller did the honors of welcoming the audience, and the artists who were exhibiting were recognized. The combination of the arts and music is a natural.

Baritone Anthony Moreno

was deeply effective in singing the Lieder, songs by Gustav Mahler set to poems by the poet Friedrich Rückert that were both intimate and spiritual.

This lyric output put the audience in the mood for the Tchaikovsky's heart-on-sleeve passionate Fifth Symphony, to which the entire second half of the evening was dedicated. The performance lasted almost fifty minutes, and the audience was rapt the entire time.

Heads turned and nodded as the second movement's luscious main theme appeared. Then the Fate motive undergoes various metamorphoses, emerging triumphant in the conclusion.

The winds and the brass were joined by a strong string section that brought out all the subtleties of tone and texture of the instruments. Percussion and the deepest notes were provided by three timpani.

Attendance was lower than expected, but "our musicians poured their hearts and souls into that Tchaikovsky," said Conductor Sharon. "It's difficult to play to rows of empty seats. They played as if it were a full house, so I'm deeply proud of them."

"Our Theatre's attendance was also low for the recent Barbra Streisand and Whitney Houston tribute shows," said a Theatre personnel. "Audiences just haven't come back yet for the performing arts."

Plans are underway for another special gala fundraiser in January. The April 6, 2024 concert will feature Beethoven, Mozart and Mendelssohn, and a festive champagne reception on the Theatre patio for the audience and musicians after the performance.

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# Social Security overpays billions to people, many on misability. Then it demands the money back.

■ The Social Security Administration is trying to reclaim billions of dollars in overpayments.

By David Hilzenrath and Jodie Fleischer, Cox Media Group

**J**ustina Worrell, 47, works part time as a kitchen helper in an Ohio nursing home. She has cerebral palsy, an intellectual disability, and a cardiac condition that required she get an artificial heart valve at age 20.

A year ago, she was earning \$862 a month and receiving about \$1,065 in monthly Social Security disability benefits when a letter arrived from the federal government. The Social Security Administration had been overpaying her, the letter said, and wanted money back.

Within 30 days, it said, she should mail the government a check or money order.

For \$60,175.90.

“Social Security should be to help people, not to destroy them,” said Addie Arnold, Worrell’s aunt and caregiver.

The Social Security Administration is trying to reclaim billions of dollars from many of the nation’s poorest and most vulnerable — payments it sent them but now says they never should have received.

During the 2022 fiscal year, the agency clawed back \$4.7 billion of overpayments, while another \$21.6 billion remained outstanding, according to a report by SSA’s inspector general.

One consequence is a costly collection effort for the government and a potentially devastating ordeal for the beneficiary.

“We have an overpayment crisis on our hands,” said Rebecca Vallas, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation think tank.

“Overpayments push already struggling beneficiaries even deeper into poverty and hardship, which is directly counterproductive to the goals” of safety-net programs.

The Social Security Administration declined an interview request from KFF Health News and Cox Media Group and would field questions only submitted by email.

The agency declined to say how many people have been asked to repay overpayments.

“We do not report on the number of debtors,” spokesperson Nicole Tiggemann said in a statement.

The agency rejected a May 2022 Freedom of Information Act request for documentation of every overpayment notice sent over several years, and a March 2023 appeal is pending.

Jack Smalligan of the Urban Institute, who has done research on Social Security, estimated that millions of people have received notices saying the agency overpaid them.

Most are on disability, and many cannot afford to repay the government, Smalligan said.

Overpayments can result from Social Security making a

mistake or from beneficiaries failing to comply with requirements, intentionally or otherwise. But much of the fault lies within the system — for example:

- Rules are complex and hard to follow.

- Limits on what beneficiaries can save or own have not been adjusted for inflation in decades.

- The Social Security Administration does not have adequate staffing to keep up with its workload, much of which is done by hand.

- The system has built-in lags in checking information such as beneficiaries’ income and relies heavily on data submitted by beneficiaries themselves.

That’s the picture that emerges from agency employees, advocates for the disabled, policy research, SSA publications, reports by the inspector general, records of individual cases, and interviews with more than a dozen people in five states who received repayment notices.

The Social Security Administration is required to be a good steward of the money entrusted to it. That means keeping overpayments to a minimum — and recovering them when they happen, the inspector general has written.

When the agency determines it has overpaid, SSA can ultimately reclaim money from beneficiaries by, for instance, reducing or stopping their monthly benefit payments, garnishing wages, and intercepting federal tax refunds.

The agency tracks its overpayments through quarterly “payment integrity scorecards.” In the most recent scorecard for one Social Security program, the agency said \$265 million of overpayments in the 2022 fiscal year were “within the agency’s control.” In other words, the agency blamed itself.

“We were aware of information but failed to take action, or we took incorrect action when the recipient or third-party provided requested information,” the scorecard said.

A much larger source of overpayments in that program, the agency said, was that beneficiaries did not report information, such as changes in their wages or assets.

By the time the agency catches a mistake, years can pass. In the meantime, the beneficiary is likely to have spent the money, and the amount involved can grow to overwhelming proportions.

“We understand getting notice of an overpayment may be unsettling or unclear and we work with people to navigate the overpayment process,” Tiggemann, the agency spokesperson, said by email.

The agency’s payment accuracy is high, Tiggemann said, but given the volume of payments it issues — almost

\$1.2 trillion in the 2021 fiscal year — “even small error rates add up to substantial improper payment amounts.”

Tiggemann noted that the SSA is developing a program to tap payroll data from outside sources. The agency plans to use that information “when appropriate” to automatically adjust the amounts it pays beneficiaries, she said.

Congress authorized that project almost eight years ago.

## Tangled Safety Nets

When people hear “Social Security,” they may think of retirement benefits — the monthly payments the government issues to millions of retired workers and surviving family members under the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance program.

But the Social Security Administration does much more than issue those checks, and its clawbacks for overpayment commonly involve payments under other programs with complicated eligibility requirements.

With certain benefits, how much money — if any — beneficiaries are due each month can change as their circumstances change.

Most of the overpayments involve the Supplemental Security Income program, which provides money to people with little or no income or other resources who are disabled, blind, or at least 65.

In the 2021 fiscal year, more than 7% of that program’s outlays were overpayments, according to the agency’s most recent annual financial report.

Some overpayments involve the Disability Insurance program, which assists disabled workers and their dependents.

Lori Cochran, a beneficiary disabled by multiple sclerosis, said she got tripped up by a life insurance policy she took over from her mother.

After she reviewed her finances with a Social Security representative, she recounted, she received a letter saying she owed \$27,000.

“I started having, like, heart palpitations,” she recalled.

Cochran said she didn’t know the insurance policy had a cash value of \$4,000.

The agency told her that, for every month she held the policy, she wasn’t entitled to any of her \$914 monthly benefit, she said. The agency said it would recoup the \$27,000 by deducting \$91.40 from each of her future checks. At that rate, she would be paying it back “way into my elderly age,” she said.

Cochran has asked SSA to reconsider. In the meantime, she cashed out the life insurance policy — only to learn that, instead, she could have signed a paper saying she had no intention of cashing it out.

“So now I’m left with no life insurance,” she said. “When I die, my daughter will have no money to bury me.”

## A ‘Kafkaesque Minefield’

If beneficiaries believe that an overpayment wasn’t their

fault, that the claim is unfair, or that paying the money back would cause hardship, they can ask the SSA to waive repayment.

They can also negotiate to repay what they owe gradually.

Cheryl Bates-Harris of the National Disability Rights Network recommended that people who receive overpayment notices appeal, because the information in the notices may be inaccurate.

But trying to resolve an overpayment involves plunging into a “Kafkaesque minefield,” said Darcy Milburn, director of Social Security and health care policy at the Arc, which advocates for people with disabilities.

Another beneficiary named Lori described her journey through the minefield on the condition that her last name be withheld. She provided a copy of an administrative law judge’s ruling in her case.

In 2017, SSA informed her that, since 2000, she had been overpaid \$126,612, according to the judge’s ruling.

“I almost threw up when I opened that letter,” she said. “Myself and my husband were like, we were like frantic.”

According to the judge’s ruling, the government based its calculation on her receipt of workers’ compensation benefits as well as disability benefits. She argued that she had told the SSA about the workers’ comp. Lori worked for the U.S. Postal Service until she injured her back.

As her struggle unfolded, the government reduced her monthly benefit checks and then stopped them. She and her husband sold their car and their house and moved from Florida to Georgia, where the cost of living was lower.

She said she ran up credit card debt and called lawyer after lawyer but was told no attorney would help because there was no money to be made from a Social Security case. Then she found one through legal aid.

After six years of battling SSA, including multiple appeals, Lori prevailed. An administrative judge ruled in her favor and wiped away the debt.

Lori had spent her benefit money in the belief she was entitled to it, the judge wrote, and “requiring repayment would be against equity and good conscience.”

A family in Covington, Georgia, had a similar experience.

In 2018, Matt Cooper was shot in the face while working as a police officer there. Since then, he and his wife, Kristen, have depended on Social Security payments to help support their two young children.

“Every decision that we made for our family was based on the benefits that we were supposed to receive,” Kristen Cooper said.

But the Social Security Administration recently demanded the family pay back \$30,000 and reduced the children’s benefits. Cooper said the agency failed to correctly include her husband’s workers’ compensation in its calculations.

“Situations like this come up and it just brings back a level of anger and just the need to protect my family,” she said. “The system has definitely let us down.”

## Too Late

Alex Hubbard, 30, has autism and said he works in a mailroom to keep busy.

“I like to be busy because I don’t want to be bored at home,” he said.

In 2019, Hubbard received an overpayment notice for \$11,111.43.

“I’m supposed to report my wages, but I just don’t know how, how it works,” said the Seattle resident.

The agency has cut off his benefits, Hubbard said, but it would have been better if it had stopped them before he owed all that money.

“They should have let me know, like, years back that I owed back that much,” Hubbard said.

Now, the agency is trying to collect the money from his mother, who is unable to manage his benefits since having a stroke, Hubbard said.

Dealing with the Social Security Administration can be exasperating, beneficiaries said.

Letters from the agency don’t provide clear explanations, and, if people on the receiving end of overpayment notices can get through to a human, agency employees give inconsistent answers, beneficiaries said.

SSA employees interviewed for this article, speaking as union leaders, said they can relate.

Beneficiaries “struggle getting through to an agency that has all but become non-responsive to the public at this point due to understaffing,” said Jessica LaPointe, a claims specialist in SSA’s Madison, Wisconsin, field office and president of a union council representing Social Security employees.

Tiggemann, the agency spokesperson, cited the challenge of “staffing losses and resource constraints” in her written statement.

In a March 2023 budget message, SSA’s acting commissioner, Kilolo Kijakazi, said SSA was “rebuilding” its workforce after ending the 2022 fiscal year “at our lowest staffing level in over 25 years.”

New workers need a long time to get up to speed, employees said. Complex rules cause trouble for employees and beneficiaries alike.

Members of the public “often struggle to really understand what they’re supposed to report,” LaPointe said.

## Rules for the Beneficiaries

Disability benefits are meant for people who can’t do a lot of work.

For disabled people who aren’t blind, the government generally draws a line at earning \$1,470 or more per month.

It’s not just bank balances or paycheck amounts and the like that can affect a person’s benefits. In the SSI program,

if a family member gives them meals or a place to stay, that can count as “in-kind support.”

Part of the trouble with SSI, critics say, is that limits on the assets that beneficiaries are allowed to hold without forfeiting benefits haven’t been adjusted since 1989. The asset limits stand at \$2,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for couples.

Had the asset limits been indexed for inflation since 1972, when the program was created, they would be almost five times as much as they are today, according to a July 2023 report by researchers at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Maintaining eligibility for SSI benefits leaves people with little money to fall back on — let alone to repay a large debt to the government.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced a bill on Sept. 12 to raise the limits.

The SSDI and SSI programs include rules meant to encourage people to work. However, “if beneficiaries attempt work, they are likely to be confronted with an overpayment, and it is likely to be large,” Smalligan and Chantel Boyens of the Urban Institute said in a March 2023 report commissioned by the Social Security Advisory Board.

## ‘In a Very Bad Place’

Justina Worrell’s aunt and caregiver Addie Arnold, 69, who took her in when she was orphaned as a child, said neither of them has \$60,175.90 to repay the government.

The August 2022 letter demanding repayment of that amount was not the first or the last word they have received from the Social Security Administration about possible payment errors. The matter involves two streams of benefits — one from the account of Worrell’s deceased father, and another related to her disability, Arnold said.

“I’ve been confused ever since this started,” she said.

A February 2023 letter from the SSA claiming to explain how “we paid her [Worrell] \$7,723.40 too much in benefits” includes difficult-to-decipher data going back to 1996.

The SSA has dropped its claim on some of the more than \$60,000 it sought a year ago, but most remains outstanding, Arnold said.

Arnold believes part of the problem is that Worrell’s employer asked her to work additional hours at the nursing home, where she runs a dishwasher and carries trays.

“She is so afraid of losing her job that she will do whatever they ask her to do. That is part of her mental state,” Arnold wrote in a letter appealing to the Social Security Administration.

“I truly do hope and pray that she is allowed to stay on SSI,” Arnold wrote, “because she has to continue to live and without it she will be in a very bad place.”





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petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) FABRIZIO HERNANDEZ ALDRETTE to Proposed name (1) FABRIZIO ALDRETTE  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: **DECEMBER 11, 2023, Time: 9:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312**  
The address of the court is **12720 NORWALK BLVD., NORWALK, 90650**  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county: **Downey Patriot**  
OCTOBER 17, 2023  
JUDGE OLIVIA ROSALES  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**FABRIZIO HERNANDEZ ALDRETTE**  
**11969 YEARLING STREET**  
**CERRITOS CA 90703**  
**(562) 972-5933**  
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The Downey Patriot  
10/19/23, 10/26/23, 11/2/23, 11/9/23

### PROBATE

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF SHERILL J. MOTLEY**  
Case No. 23STPB11417

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of SHERILL J. MOTLEY  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Mark Motley in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Mark Motley be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to

administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on Nov. 22, 2023 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 29 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

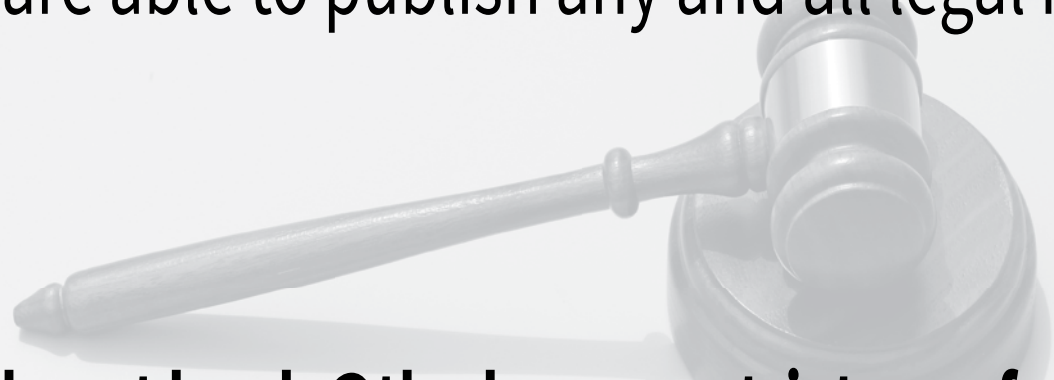
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:  
**MARY E MULLIN ESQ**  
SBN 162163  
10419 BOGARDUS AVE  
STE 125  
WHITTIER CA 90603  
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**DOWNEY FOUNDATION**  
FOR INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM

Dear Downey Patriot Valued Reader,

On behalf of The Downey Patriot, I am thrilled to announce the establishment of the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism, a non-profit foundation launched by the Downey Patriot newspaper. As a cherished member of our community, I wanted to share this exciting news and invite you to be part of our journey.

For several years, the Downey Patriot has been dedicated to providing reliable and unbiased news coverage, championing the principles of journalism, and serving as a beacon of truth in our community. We strongly believe that independent journalism is a cornerstone of a thriving democracy, and it is with this conviction that we have founded the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism.

The Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism aims to ensure the sustainability and integrity of local news reporting, fostering an informed and engaged citizenry. Our mission is threefold: to support the training and professional development of journalists, to promote investigative journalism, and to enhance access to reliable local news for all residents of our community.

To achieve these goals, we are seeking tax-deductible donations from generous individuals like yourself who share our commitment to independent journalism. Your support will play a crucial role in empowering local journalists, enabling them to cover important stories, hold those in power accountable, and provide unbiased information to our community.

With your contribution, we will establish scholarships and training programs for aspiring journalists, ensuring that the next generation is well-equipped to uphold the principles of ethical and accurate reporting. We will also dedicate resources to support investigative journalism projects, fostering in-depth reporting that uncovers truths, reveals corruption, and sheds light on critical issues affecting our community.

Additionally, the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism aims to address the challenge of access to local news in underserved areas. We will explore innovative approaches, such as expanding our digital presence, partnering with community organizations, and launching initiatives to bridge the information gap for those who face barriers to accessing reliable news sources.

We kindly invite you to contribute to the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism and become a vital part of our mission. Your tax-deductible donation, no matter the size, will make a difference in supporting local journalism and nurturing a vibrant democracy.

Thank you for considering our request and for your commitment to the ideals of independent journalism. Together, we can make a lasting impact and ensure that our community remains well-informed, engaged, and empowered. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide further information on how your contribution will be utilized. Please contact our office at (562) 904-3668 or [jennifer@thedowneypatriot.com](mailto:jennifer@thedowneypatriot.com).

We look forward to your support and the possibilities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer DeKay*

Jennifer DeKay  
Chief Executive Officer  
Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism

Donations can be mailed to:  
Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism  
10927 Downey Avenue, Suite C  
Downey, California 90241

# DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

**Crochet Workshop**, 10 am to 12 pm and 2-4 pm. Explore the basics of crochet in this free workshop. The class is intended for beginners with no previous experience. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

**Quartermania Fundraiser**, 11:15 am. Bring your quarters for bidding and your dollars for opportunity drawings at this fundraiser for the Friends of the Downey City Library. Tickets are \$30 and include lunch. Doors open at 11:15 for lunch and the event begins at 12, with final drawings at 3 pm. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

**Sugar Skull**, 4 pm. Sugar Skull is a touring bilingual, bicultural musical. Using traditional regional music and dance from Mexico, it tells the story of 12-year-old Vita Flores, who things her family has gone loco planning a celebration for deceased loved ones. But when a spirited candy skeleton springs to life, Vita finds herself on a musical journey to unravel the true meaning of Dia de los Muertos. This musical is intended for young audiences and families. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**Type 1 Family Fun Day**, 1-5 pm. Gather with your local Type 1 diabetic families and get to know each other. RSVP to Brittany Cychosz at (562) 392-0737. Furman Park, 10419 Rives Ave.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

**Ribbon Cutting**, 1:30 pm. Join the Downey Chamber of Commerce at a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome new member Optum Care Therapy, 9449 Firestone Blvd.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**Creative Purpose Club**, 11:30 am. Dean Claiborne, former owner of Metal Dynamics in Downey, is guest speaker at Creative Purpose, a club that discusses politics, science, biblical controversy, and more. Sizzler, 10315 Lakewood Blvd.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**Block Party**, 2 pm. Bastards hosts its annual U.S. Marine Corps birthday and Veterans Day block party, with live entertainment, beer garden, veteran vendors, veteran resources, and more. Downtown Downey

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**Veterans Day Ceremony**, 10 am. Join the City of Downey in honoring our nation's military veterans. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

**Food Packing Event**, 5:30 pm. Join Downey Federal Credit Union as it works to pack, seal and share 20,000 meals for local families. Sign up as a volunteer at DFCUFoodPacking.eventbrite.com NewStart Housing Corporation, 3355 Gage Ave., Huntington Park

**Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer**, 6:30 pm. Get in the Christmas spirit early this year with the beloved TV classic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical" as it soars off the screen and onto the Downey Theatre stage. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

**Book Club**, 12-1 pm. Join other book lovers in a discussion of "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng. New members welcome. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

**Steve Blum**, time tba. Meet prolific voice actor Steve Blum. Autographs also available. Tickets required. OG Collectibles, 8124 Firestone Blvd.

**Fall Flea**, 11 am to 4 pm. Shop from various small businesses, young entrepreneurs and artists at this flea market supporting the Downey High School dance team. Downey High (main office), 11040 Brookshire Ave.

**Friendsgiving**, 5-8 pm. Join your Downey neighbors for a family-friendly dinner with a speaker and good times. Sign up with Legacy Church to bring a dish or side to share. Legacy Church, 8333 2nd St.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

**Small Business Saturday**, 3-9 pm. Join Downtown Downey in celebrating and supporting small businesses and all they do for their communities.

**Carpenters Legacy: A Christmas Portrait**, 8 pm. Direct from Las Vegas, "Carpenters Legacy: A Christmas Portrait," starring Sally Olson as Karen Carpenter and Ned Mills as Richard Carpenter, takes the audience back in time to an old fashioned Christmas. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

**A Night in Monte Carlo**, 7-10 pm. A casino night fundraiser benefiting the 10-20 Club. Dress in dapper attire while enjoying casino table games, drinks and appetizers, with raffle and cash prizes. The Arc, 12049 Woodruff Ave.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

**Crochet Workshop**, 10 am to

12 pm and 2-4 pm. Explore the basics of crochet in this free workshop. The class is intended for beginners with no previous experience. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

**The Nutcracker Ballet**, 2 pm and 6:30 pm. The Nutcracker Ballet, featuring the timeless score by Tchaikovsky, is an enchanting tale of a young girl who has a very special Christmas. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

**Christmas Market**, 5-9 pm. Vendors, food, live music and a real snow playground. Imago Dei Church, 9826 Priscilla St.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

**Downey Christmas Parade**, 1 pm. Downey's annual Christmas parade returns with floats, marching bands, classic cars and, of course, Santa Claus.

**The Nutcracker Ballet**, 2 pm. The Nutcracker Ballet, featuring the timeless score by Tchaikovsky, is an enchanting tale of a young girl who has a very special Christmas. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

**Tree Lighting Ceremony**, 6-8:30 pm. This free event features entertainment from local schools, a snow play area, arts & crafts, photos with Santa Claus, and more. Downey Civic Center, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

**Cirque Musica**, 8 pm. An all-new musical journey that will transport audiences to a magical land far away for a fun-filled holiday-themed show experience they will never forget. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

**Intro to Computers**, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Learn the basics of using a computer and become familiar with peripherals, programs, files, browsing, emails, and more. Free but registration is required by calling (562) 904-7366. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

**Downey Posadas**, 5-9 pm. Celebrate Las Posadas at this free, outdoor festival in Downtown Downey, featuring shopping, food trucks, family activities, and more

**Apollo Lighting**, 6-8 pm. The Downey space center's annual Christmas tradition returns with the lighting of its Apollo capsule. Plus an appearance by TubeChristmas. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

**Excursion to LA Zoo Lights**, 4-9 pm. LA Zoo Lights brings you a winter wonderland, featuring seasonal magic,

wildlife-inspired displays, fantastic photo ops, immersive interactive experiences, and dynamic projections and lights. Cost is \$40 for Downey residents and includes transportation and admission. Sign up at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

**Jose Feliciano**, 7:30 pm. Jose Feliciano takes the stage to perform "Feliz Navidad" and his array of hits from an iconic six-decade career. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

**Creative Purpose Club**, 11:30 am. Richard Tuttle, retired Downey police officer, is guest speaker at Creative Purpose, a club that discusses politics, science, biblical controversy, and more. Sizzler, 10315 Lakewood Blvd.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

**Wreaths Across America**, time tba. Join Wreaths Across America as they place wreaths on the graves of local veterans. Downey Cemetery, 9073 Gardendale St.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

**Robert Cazimero in Concert**, 3 pm. Robert Cazimero is a Grammy-nominated recording artist who has performed from the stage of Carnegie Hall in New York to stages in Japan, Australia, Hong Kong, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle. See him live at the Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**America's Ideal Miss California Pageant**, 2 pm. Young women will compete for prizes, scholarships and the title of Ideal Miss California. Downey Theatre,

8435 Firestone Blvd.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**Coffee with the Superintendent**, 6 pm. Join Downey Unified School District superintendent Dr. John Garcia for coffee and conversation. Sussman Middle School, 12500 Birchdale Ave.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**TLC 5K**, 8 am. Save the date: the TLC 5K run/walk returns with proceeds benefiting Downey Unified School District's TLC Family Resource Center

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**Stomp**, 8 pm. Matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, and more fill the stage with energizing beats at Stomp, the inventive stage show that's dance, music and theatrical performance blended together. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

**Stomp**, 8 pm. Matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, and more fill the stage with energizing beats at Stomp, the inventive stage show that's dance, music and theatrical performance blended together. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 6

**Downey Symphony Concert**, 8 pm. Titled "Springtime," the concert features performances of Beethoven's Coriolan Overture, Mendelssohn's Symphony No.

4 "Italian," and Mozart's Piano Concert No. 20 in D minor with Cameron Akioka on piano. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 7

**The Dennis Kamakahi Music Festival**, 3 pm. The Rev. Dennis Kamakahi is considered one of the most prolific Hawaiian songwriters of all time. Watch him perform live at the Downey Theatre, joined by special guests. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

**Coffee with the Superintendent**, 6 pm. Join Downey Unified School District superintendent Dr. John Garcia for coffee and conversation. Lewis Elementary, 13220 Bellflower Blvd.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

**Carpenters Legacy**, 8 pm. Direct from Las Vegas, Carpenters Legacy is the definitive show celebrating the music and legacy of the famed brother-sister duo. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, MAY 18

**Mark Yamanaka, Kupaoa, Hoku Zuttermeister in concert**, 7 pm. An authentic Hawaiian concert featuring three talented, award-winning recording artists. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

Submit Downey events to [eric@thedowneypatriot.com](mailto:eric@thedowneypatriot.com)



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**Upcoming Events ...**

November 4th- 4:00pm

**Downey Theatre presents:  
Sugar Skull!**

November 15th- 6:30pm

**Downey Theatre Presents:  
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical**

November 25th- 8:00pm

**Carpenters Legacy:  
A Christmas Portrait**

December 2nd & 3rd

**The Nutcracker Ballet**

December 7th- 8:00pm

**Downey Theatre presents:  
Cirque Musica**



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