City Council Names Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, Welcomes New Councilmembers

At its December 8 City Council Meeting, the Duarte City Council appointed Bryan Urias from District 6 as Mayor and Margaret Finlay from District 4 as Mayor Pro Tem for the upcoming year. The Council also welcomed back Toney Lewis as well as new Councilmembers Jody Schulz and Vinh Truong.

Mayor Urias was first elected to the Duarte City Council in November of 2018. During his first term, Urias served as the council representative on the Duarte Community Coordinating Council and an alternate for both the Gold Line Joint Powers Authority and the Duarte Community Services Council. For eight years prior to joining the Council, Urias represented Duarte residents as District 5 Director on the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Board and also worked with the City as a staff member for then Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis and later Congresswoman Judy Chu. “It is an honor and a privilege to serve Duarte in this new capacity,” said Mayor Urias. “The Council has challenging work ahead, and we’re committed to building an even stronger future for our City.”

Mayor Pro Tem Finlay formerly served as mayor for six terms. Her accomplishments include the installation of the soundwall on the south side of the 210 freeway, expanding programs for senior citizens, serving as chairperson for the successful 1998 Measure B School Bond effort that improves aging Duarte schools since Kindergarten and attending DUSD since her children graduated from Duarte High School.

At the Council’s public meeting in December, the Council elected its officers, including Mayor Urias as well as District 1 Councilmember - District 2, Toney Lewis; District 2 Councilmember - District 3, Jody Schulz; District 3 Councilmember - District 7, Vinh Truong. District 4 Councilmember - District 7, Toney Lewis was appointed by Mayor Pro Tem Finlay to the Board of Education Four-Year Term Count.

For nearly a century, the Chamber has been vital in promoting and supporting the Duarte business community, organizations, and its membership. In the last 99 years, the Chamber has not

BE A CHAMBER CHAMPION

Top (L-R): Victor Benavides (City of Hope), Dillon Wang (OneWest Bank), Kevin Morris (Duarte Unified School District). Bottom (L-R): Alex Cabrera (Cabrera’s Mexican Cuisine), Karen Wilson (Plastic Junkie Tupperware) and John Basana (Councilmember City of Duarte)

An Open Letter to the Duarte Community from Outgoing Mayor Sam Kang

This year certainly has been an unprecedented year for many of us. We experienced so many significant events that usually would have spread over a decade, but I guess it is life. Since January, our city has been working closely with our Department of Public Health on a possible pandemic escalation. Unfortunately, the worst scenario happened, and COVID had claimed over 30 of our citizens here in Duarte.

Voters Elect Carroll, Finlay, and Ku to Duarte Unified School Board

Three seats on the Board of Education for the Duarte Unified School District were on the November 3 General Election ballot. Based on the official certified results announced by the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk, voters elected to return incumbents Ceci Escarcega Carroll and James Finlay to their positions, and elected new member, Jaqueline Ku. All three members will complete a four-year term. Sitting members, Reina Diaz and Ken Bell, remain on the Board and were not up for election this cycle.

The final canvass of the vote was completed officially on November 30. View the canvass count reported by the LA County Registrar/County Clerk below.

Board of Education Four-Year Term Count:
- James Finlay: 5,179
- Ceci Escarcega Carroll: 5,144
- Jaqueline Ku: 5,016
- Tom Reyes: 3,988
- Francisco Figueroa: 3,790
- Melissa Redmond: 2,631

Ceci Escarcega Carroll has served as a member of the Board since being elected in 2018. Prior to this she was appointed to represent DUSD on the California School of the Arts Board from 2016-2018. She has been an involved member of the Duarte community for over 18 years. During this time she was active within the PTA, served as the co-chair of the District-level Community Education Council and Valley View Site Council. Mrs. Carroll also actively participates in the Duarte Education Foundation and the Duarte Rotary. Key achievements include receiving the 2016 PTA Honorary Service Award, 2017 Golden Oak Award, and California Teachers Association Coat Award. She affirms her focus will be on lending her unique perspective as an involved community member and business owner. Most importantly, she is the proud mom of two children. One is currently a Duarte High School student and the other a DUSD graduate who is attending UCLA.

Dr. James Finlay was raised in Duarte and attended DUSD schools since Kindergarten and graduated from Duarte High School in 1999. Following his undergraduate degree in Biology (BYU) he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Michigan State University. He then went on to complete a Residency and PhD in Comparative Medicine, and currently serves as the Associate Director of the Center for Comparative Medicine at the City of Hope in Duarte. Dr. Finlay and his wife of 17 years proudly sent their children to schools in Duarte on the same campuses he attended a generation before. He is the
As I am writing this article, 2020 is almost over. Talk about an “E” Ticket ride! One of the things that we know is that we continue to walk through this journey together. I have watched too many businesses close. Others have been able to adapt, open, adapt some more and forge on. Through it all I watched them go forward with one goal – to continue to serve our community as best they can. It is uplifting to see these businesses devotion to our community.

November was busy around our town (and nationwide) with the elections kicking off the month. Both of our local elections resulted in high vote counts and changes in the city council and school district. To meet the new members on both governing bodies and learn more about the reorganization of the city council, and a reflective article by the outgoing mayor please see the articles in this issue.

Also, in November we launched our new “Chamber Champion” campaign. This campaign is in response to challenges that our Chamber is facing as a result of the pandemic. See the article starting on page 1 for more information on becoming a Chamber Champion.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Chamber Champion campaign started just three days after we launched our new website! We have the same website address (duartechamber.com) but it has been totally revamped and even has a translator built into it! We hope you love it as much as we do.

We also continue to adapt some of our key projects like workforce development. On page 11, there are some great reports on the subject, as well as an introduction of our newest Workforce Development/Education Committee member Mary Ann Lutz.

December continues to be very busy with changes around every corner. December always brings a desire for many to help others. Some of our members did just that with their donation of Christmas Trees complete with gifts of at least $100 to be given away to the winner which will be drawn after this issue has been submitted. I want to give a special shout out and thanks to those participants: Curo Managed Print Production, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Lemon Drop Cookie Shop, Plastic Junkie Tupperware by Karen Wilson, Realtor Rana Madain from Deasy Penner Podley, Rotary Club of Duarte, ServPro, Sierra Autocars and Westminster Gardens.

Additionally, other members gave at least $25 to the grand prize tree, which has over $650 worth of prizes! A heartfelt thank you to: Baskin Robbins, Burttiee, Crossroads Drug & Alcohol Testing, Delafield Corporation, DLL Technologies, Duarte Community Coordinating Council (DCCC), Duarte Historical Museum/The Hellers, Duarte Kiwanis Club, Duarte Women’s Club, Kathy Kirchner, Origami Owl presented by Designer Cheryl Reynolds, Simply Divine Apprenticeship Training Center/Beauty Supply, Soyfoods of America, Thai City Restaurant, Tina Carey & Associates, Turner & Stevens Live Oak Mortuary, and Wonder Dog Ranch.

And as I finish editing this issue, Target Duarte has donated several Christmas trees. We will be giving them to some of our Duarte organizations to bless those in need this holiday.

With that, the Duarte Chamber is looking forward to 2021. We will continue to serve our member remotely until it is safe to resume office operations. You can leave us a voicemail or send us an email. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Take care and enjoy this issue of the Duarte View.

Duarte Chamber to Present Business Seminar Series – New Year – New Virtual World

2020 has been a challenging time for all businesses. As the Duarte Chamber has continued to support our members, a need was discovered – how do we work productively in this new virtual world. In response to this need, the Chamber has created a new Business Seminar Series focused on key elements needed not only to survive, but succeed in the virtual world.

This will be a six-week series beginning on February 4, 2021. Each seminar will be held on subsequent Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Topics will include: Leading Teams in a Virtual World; Technology Solutions; Legal, Labor, Benefits and Processes in the Digital World; and Practicing Self-Regulation During Challenging Times. For six weeks, professionals will bring valuable information, allow discussion, and give you tools to identify, implement and evaluate change. The final session will be March 11, 2021. For full information, visit our website at: www.duartechamber.com/virtual-world-business-seminar-series.

Kaye Biggs, Duarte Kiwanis Champion for Students

Kaye Biggs is one of those “Community Champions” – one who supports many organizations; The Carmelite Sisters at Santa Teresita, St. Vincent DePaul, Friends of the Duarte Library, and, of course, the Duarte Kiwanis Club. Kaye has been a member of Duarte Kiwanis since 2017 and was the President of the Club in the 2019/2020 year. Through all of those years, Kaye has been the club’s representative to the Duarte High School Key Club, California School of the Arts Key Club and the Mountain View Key Club as well.

In recognition of her continuing service, the club has awarded Kaye with a Youth Service Award.

If you are interested in joining the Duarte Kiwanis or presenting at a future meeting, please contact Tina Carey at timc51@aol.com. The club is currently meeting virtually through Zoom.

By Sheryl Lefmann
Executive Director/CEO

Contribution of Directors

The Duarte View is an official publication of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. It has a bi-monthly circulation of 10,000 and is available to residents and businesses of Duarte, Bradbury, and portions of surrounding areas. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without the expressed written permission of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Articles deemed of community interest and printed herein are received from many sources and do not necessarily represent the views of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. The Duarte Chamber of Commerce is not responsible for claims or representations by its advertisers, sponsors, or contributors.

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Deadline for articles and ads for the March 2021 – April 2021 issue is February 4, 2021.

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www.DuarteChamber.com • Info@DuarteChamber.com
Duarte Kiwanis Recognizes Carmelite Sisters

By, Tina Carey
President, Duarte Kiwanis Club

The Carmelite Sisters in Duarte have been serving the community through the Hayden Child Care Center since 1967. Countless children benefited from their tireless work. Due to the current pandemic, the Hayden Child Care Center has closed permanently. In recognition for the ongoing work of the Carmelite Sisters, the Duarte Kiwanis Club provided a donation and a certificate of appreciation to Sister Myriam and Sister M. Aloysious.

If you are interested in joining the Duarte Kiwanis or presenting at a future meeting, please contact Tina Carey at tinac51@aol.com. The club is currently meeting virtually through Zoom.

Duarte Chamber Visits Duarte Kiwanis

By, Tina Carey
President, Duarte Kiwanis Club

In a recent Duarte Kiwanis Club meeting, Duarte Chamber CEO, Sheryl Lefmann, shared some very interesting topics. The Chamber has launched a new website - and a great new program for “Chamber Champions”. The Duarte Chamber has been in business for close to 100 years, and in this year of pandemic, can use the help of Chamber Champions throughout the area! Neil Savedra from KFI’s Fork Report joined a virtual Zoom call and was inducted as the first “Honorary” Board member of the Duarte Chamber. The Chamber will be sharing a number of Christmas Trees being decorated and filled with presents from various Chamber Members. These trees will be available through raffle tickets sold through the Chamber website (www.duarte-chamber.com). Sheryl also shared the remarkable work the Chamber has done to keep the Duarte Chamber members informed of special needs and regulation due to Covid-19.

If you are interested in joining the Duarte Kiwanis or presenting at a future meeting, please contact Tina Carey at tinac51@aol.com. The club is currently meeting virtually through Zoom.

Marilyn Mays – Creative Advocate for Youth

By, Tina Carey
President, Duarte Kiwanis Club

Marilyn Mays has been an advocate for kids for her entire career. Her most recent assignment has been Duarte’s Teen Center programs including the Duarte Boxing Club. Marilyn is also an active leader in the ACT-SO program for the San Gabriel Valley. Marilyn has also been a member of the Duarte Kiwanis Club, and in Non-Pandemic times, the Teen Center serves as the club’s meeting location. Marilyn’s creativity in leadership includes creating the city’s Family Feud event as well as the Amazing Family Race event. Recently, she has participated with the Duarte Youth in the annual Unity March.

Marilyn was presented with a Youth Service Award for Duarte Kiwanis Club in recognition of her continuing service.

If you are interested in joining the Duarte Kiwanis or presenting at a future meeting, please contact Tina Carey at tinac51@aol.com. The club is currently meeting virtually through Zoom.

Duarte’s Halloween Howl a Howling Success

By, Tina Carey
President, Duarte Kiwanis Club

Duarte Kiwanis members are always ready to serve! At this year’s City of Duarte’s Halloween Howl Aida Torres and Kaye Biggs stepped up to the plate in classic devilish order. Over 600 kids were served at this drive-through event in our time of pandemic. Pictured from left, Board Members, Aida Torres and Kaye Biggs.

If you are interested in joining the Duarte Kiwanis or presenting at a future meeting, please contact Tina Carey at tinac51@aol.com. The club is currently meeting virtually through Zoom.
Residential Refuse and Recycling Rates to Increase Beginning January 1, 2021

Effective January 1, 2020, Duarte residents will see a modest increase of approximately $0.72 cents to their monthly residential refuse and recycling rates. This estimated rate adjustment from $26.71 to $27.4 is based on the most common form of residential service covering one 90-gallon trash container, one 60-gallon recyclable container and one 60-gallon green waste container.

The City of Duarte’s solid waste services agreement with Burrtec calls for a review and adjustment of rates annually. Rates are adjusted up or down based on various cost factors including Consumer Price Index, fuel prices, tipping fees, and State mandates such as minimum wage increases. This year’s adjustment is a 2.7 percent increase based on the cost factors. Burrtec also requested a slight $0.03 cent increase for residential street sweeping raising the fee from $1.90 to $1.93 per month.

Commercial customers will also experience rate increases. The most common level of refuse service, one 3-yard bin serviced once per week, will increase by $8.63 per month from $190.61 to $199.24. Commercial street sweeping will also see an increase in 2020 by $0.07 cents going from $3.66 to $3.73 per month.

Duarte continues to maintain some of the lowest rates in Los Angeles County.

Burrtec Waste Services began providing franchised refuse collection and recycling services in the City of Duarte in 1996, with the most recent contract extension approved in 2020. In recent years, Burrtec completed the conversion of the diesel fleet to alternative fuel trucks, implemented a used oil curbside collection program, and integrated free paper shredding and compost giveaway at Community Cleanups, introduced a construction and demolition processing option, and most recently, rolled out a new commercial food recycling program.

For more information on Burrtec Waste Services and the cost increases, call 1-(800) 325-9417.

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**Duarte Parks and Recreation**

Until the department can get back to in-person recreational classes, some of the department’s most popular offerings for youth to seniors are now available virtually from your own home! You can browse all current recreation classes at accessduarte.com and then by clicking on the City News icon at the bottom of the webpag. Additionally, here are some upcoming department events that the community can enjoy safely:

- **Senior Center**
  - Essay Contest
    - Students grades 9th-12th will compete in an essay-writing contest on why they are inspired by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Entry deadline is January 12th at 7:00 pm. 200 word minimum – 500 words maximum. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and will be announced on Instagram on January 14th at 4:00 pm. Essays can be e-mailed to maysm@accessduarte.com.

- **Virtual Boxing Training**
  - Come join our coaches for virtual boxing training! These are interactive sessions where participants learn shadow boxing, footwork, conditioning, technique and more! Training classes are available Monday through Friday at the following times: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Call the Teen Center for more information at (626) 303-0863. Register at www.accessduarte.com.

- **Fitness Center – Aquatics**
  - The Duarte Senior Center is temporarily closed, we are staying active in many ways virtually! Classes being offered include: Low Intensity – Easy Movement, Piano, Tai Chi/QiGong, Western Line Dance, and Yoga. Visit accessduarte.com to create a profile and register for any of these Senior Center classes.

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City of Hope Psychologist Offers Tips for Coping With the Continuing Pandemic

BY WAYNE LEWIS

Jeanelle Folbrecht, Ph.D., head of the Division of Psychology in City of Hope’s Department of Supportive Care Medicine, shares a few ideas for how — and how not — to cope emotionally and psychologically with the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

DO: Stay connected to people.

“Reach out to others, and tell them what you need,” Folbrecht said. “This might be as simple as finding the opportunity to care for ourselves. Your outlet might be regular phone calls, texts or video chats with those who are important to you.

DO: Get up and move.

“Exercise is an excellent stress reliever,” Folbrecht said. “It’s difficult for many of us to find the opportunity to care for ourselves. This might be as simple as stopping, centering yourself and taking a deep breath.

DO: Practice self-care.

“It’s important to you. It’s about you,” Folbrecht explained. But when worry and disappointment reach the point that motivation is gone or we withdraw from friends or family, that is the time to reach out for help.

DON’T: Develop bad habits.

“Resist the urge to overeat or to abuse alcohol or other substances,” Folbrecht said.

DON’T: Binge on the news.

“Some of us feel the compulsion to remain plugged in to news about the coronavirus, but such wall-to-wall coverage tends to fuel anxiety,” Folbrecht said.

DON’T: Demonstrate gratitude.

“Sometimes you kind of have to limit your media exposure.”

A Brave New Year

BY DR. EDWARD C. ORTELL Citrus College Governing Board Member

If there was ever a year that put sayings like, “With great challenges come great opportunities,” and “Crisis brings out the best in people” to the test, it was certainly 2020. In retrospect, we can safely conclude that these maxims passed a trial by fire with flying colors and will long endure as part of our lexicon.

As a lifelong participant and seasoned observer of the state and direction of community college education, I have often noted that this nimble academic paradigm mirrors the life and times of society. In assessing societal challenges and responses through the prism of higher education this past year, much has been learned.

To unsuspecting students and college educators, the year started off positive. Innovation was flourishing and the possibilities seemed endless. Students pursued training for high tech, high paying jobs of the future. Time and cost saving options, such as early college, a program where our local high school students simultaneously earn both high school and college credit, were becoming widely available and receiving high marks.

Higher education was delivering good student outcomes in efficient, innovative ways, and students were achieving success. Then spring arrived, and with it a global pandemic. Suddenly the conversation turned to the need for first responders, doctors and nurses, and the focus became ways to educate students in these fields as quickly and safely as possible.

Citrus College students were praised for their eagerness to take on the challenge and serve in a moment of tremendous need. At the same time, colleges and universities closed their doors to “stop the spread.” Long recognized as leaders in online education, community colleges once again lead the way in developing courses and educational delivery systems that were safe and effective and would keep students on track to achieving their goals.

As the summer progressed, the message from educators to students was that, even though college campuses were closed, teaching and learning was still happening. Students were encouraged to not waste a year on inaction, but to seize the moment and earn a degree or certificate while they waited for the COVID-19 storm to pass.

This fall, thanks to tech-savvy students and innovative teachers, students are learning and achieving in some of the most unlikely programs using remote and hybrid instruction. These include performing arts, automotive technology, nursing and nearly all other disciplines across the curriculum.

COVID-19 will no doubt continue to impact us as 2021 unfolds. Rest assured that community colleges will continue to provide safe, effective and often exciting academic offerings, as we resolutely march forward into a brave new year.

About the Author:

Dr. Edward C. Ortell is the senior governing board member at Citrus College and a Professor Emeritus at Pasadena City College. He has served on the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) state board of directors and 11 terms as president of the Citrus College Board of Trustees.

Christmas Tree Recycle

Through Burtec Waste Industries, the City of Duarte will provide a Christmas tree collection service for residential customers.

Christmas trees will be collected on regular trash collection days from December 26, 2020 through January 18, 2021. All decorations, tinsel, and stands must be removed. Flocked trees will not be accepted.

For more information about the Christmas tree recycling program in the City of Duarte, contact City Hall at (626) 357-7931 or Burtec Waste Industries at 1-(800) 325-9417.
Superintendent Message

GORDON AMERSON, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Duarte Unified School District
#ProudSuperintendent

We are quickly approaching the winter holidays, and this season holds even more significant meaning this year in light of the pandemic. I keep in my heart and thoughts those who have lost their lives, those who have been sick, and everyone who has been impacted by the destructive COVID-19 virus. Each day I pour over the latest updates and guidance provided by the LA County Department of Public Health in hopes the data will show a trend in a positive direction. Unfortunately, we remain in the most restrictive Purple Tier.

To keep instruction consistent for our students and staff, our Board approved continuing with 100% Distance Learning at least until the completion of the first semester. This proactive decision supports our students and staff’s well-being by providing certainty for the remainder of this semester, and we can now make solid plans for both school and home. I acknowledge that remaining 100% Distance Learning is not without its difficulties and presents a hardship for some of our families.

For this reason, our Board also took action to put in place interim support measures for our highest-need students. We have opened our full-day/full-year pre-school program on a limited enrollment basis to serve families that meet state criteria. Supervision during the instructional day is now provided by Think Together. Together with our district mental workers and students with targeted needs in Grades TK-8. In addition to these actions, our district has implemented in-person 1:1 assessments and supports for English learners and students receiving special education services. Our team is also exploring targeted academic and extracurricular supports for our high schools and continues interim measures to meet students’ needs in all grade levels.

Please know we will continue to plan for all possibilities with regard to second semester, and our district will be prepared for when reopening our schools is possible. As always, I will keep you apprised every step of the way. I want to thank the members of the Board for their thoughtful decisions under challenging circumstances.

I also promise that as long as remote learning is required, a top priority will be to support our students’ social and emotional well-being. Our team of counselors has put additional supports in place, and we have expanded our partnership with D’Veal Family Services. Home visits and interventions, when needed, are under-way by our School Resource Officer, and our Community Schools partnership with LACOE provides resources and networking for our families in need. We have also launched “Margaret’s Place” for our high school students who need a safe virtual place to talk and receive counseling. These are but a few of the measures we are taking, knowing many of our students rely on the support often only available to them when at school.

While we continue to deal with the challenges of living in this COVID-19 era, I am amazed each day by how our community has come together to help one another through these difficult times. Please know our district is always striving to help in any way we can. So I am pleased to share as a result of the Board’s action, we were able to bring 2.5 million dollars back into Duarte’s community through the refinancing of our bond issuance at a lower interest rate. During these times, your support has never been more critical, and you can count on us to do our part by being forward-thinking in all that we do to serve you better.

The results of the November 3 general election were also crucial for the future of our school district. A large portion of the Duarte community cast their ballots. Regarding DUSD, the voters approved returning James Finlay as the Superintendent of Schools Partnership with CSArts-SGV Continues Virtually

Since the start of our proud partnership with the California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley (CSArts-SGV), an additional benefit of our one-of-a-kind venture has been the ability to provide all DUSD students in Grades TK-8 the opportunity to participate in dance and movement classes during the school day at all five of our Academies. This year due to Distance Learning, the dance instruction will be provided through weekly videos that have been produced by CSArts-SGV instructors, who are also industry professionals from Elements Dance Space, designed specifically for each grade level (TK-8). Our DUSD teachers will share these videos with their students to enhance performing arts and physical education opportunities.

Thanks to our partnership with CSArts-SGV, this program will be offered at no cost to our district along with the Dragon Kim Afterschool Music Program which is also offered free to DUSD students in our elementary grades by CSArts-SGV. This incredible program is being provided virtually this year too.

Margaret’s Place Provides Emotional Support for our Falcons

Margaret’s Place is a safe space for students who need emotional support dealing with trauma or want to learn how to end the cycle of violence. Services are FREE and include individual counseling, group counseling, hangout times, and a peer leadership club.

To introduce students to Margaret’s Place, DHS hosted a Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign week. There was an activity each day of the week that included a Virtual Open House after school to explain what exactly Margaret’s Place is, a Kahoot game during lunch to test domestic violence knowledge, and encouraging students to read, watch, or listen to something that spreads awareness about domestic violence.

School Connectedness During Distance Learning

Although virtual learning has us at a distance, we wanted to provide our students with some much-needed socialization during their break times during the school day. To conduct this safely, several of our proctors have now transitioned to online supervision. Head sets and computers have been provided to each proctor for them to engage with students while the students “hang out” with their school friends. This is another great example of how we are creating innovative ways to enhance distance learning for our students.

Duarte Unified TK-8 Grade Dance Program in Partnership with CSArts-SGV Continues Virtually

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Superintendent Message

Continued from page 6

Also, Measure S passed above the 55% threshold. When our Board made the difficult decision to place Measure S on the ballot, we realized it was a lot to ask of our community, especially considering the economic havoc COVID-19 has caused. Based on all of the feedback we had received, we also knew our needs are significant, and the vote shows our community is in agreement. Our district is now positioned to repair our aging school facilities, modernize classrooms and labs, and update technology so that every student and teacher can thrive in a school setting with the safe, modern, creative spaces that they deserve. On behalf of DUSD, I wish to thank the voters for your support.

I am encouraged by the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead for our district. But, there will continue to be challenges, and we will need to confront them. Patience and hope will be essential, and we know based on what we have already been through that we are always stronger together, and together is how we will move forward.

As we continue to do everything in our power to keep our students and staff safe within our district and make smart plans for the future, it's confounding that common-sense measures to control the spread of COVID-19 are not in place nationwide. We are now seeing surges in states across the country that could have been prevented, and a rise again in LA County. News that a vaccine may be released within the near future is reassuring, but until that time, we must continue to protect the lives of our loved ones and ourselves by being vigilant about what we know does work. Please routinely wash your hands, wear a mask, and physically distance.

It’s easy to see why people are struggling with what being called “COVID Fatigue.” Living our lives virtually since last March away from our loved ones and friends is not easy, but if it will help us safely get to the other side of this pandemic, it’s necessary. I hope it is with this in mind that you plan your holiday celebrations this year. Please follow the guidance of the Department of Public Health and the Safer at Home Orders. Let’s find other ways and new traditions that are safe to let the special people in our lives know how much we appreciate them this year.

As we leave 2020 behind and usher in a new year, let’s be sure to follow these protocols so that our students, families, staff, and community can be safe and healthy. Thank you, everyone, and please enjoy a safe and restful holiday.

School Board

Continued from page 1

third generation of family members to have served in an elected position with his mother serving on the Duarte City Council and Grandfather serving on the DUSD Board of Education. As a product of Duarte schools he has seen how far the schools have come and he looks forward to working with students, parents, teachers, board trustees, and community members to guide DUSD forward and meet the challenges that are ahead. Jaqueline Ku graduated from San Jose State with a BA in elementary education and minor in K-8 mathematics. Mrs. Ku received her Masters of Arts in curriculum and instruction from Colorado Christian University, while receiving her teaching license in secondary mathematics. Along with her husband, she moved back to Duarte, where her husband had grown up, and in the 2018-19 school year, she taught at Duarte High School as a math teacher. She has also spent time in the Peace Corps teaching in Liberia. Currently, she works as the Global Manager for the UCLA mathematics project, where she provides logistical support for professional development offered to teachers and administrators in Southern California. Mrs. Ku shares she is excited to have the opportunity to work with the Duarte School Board to work within the best interests of our students, teachers, administrators, and staff. She looks forward to all of the important work ahead.

“I congratulate Mrs. Carroll and Dr. Finlay on their return to the Board. They will continue to offer fresh ideas as well as experience to our governance team. They are prudent stewards and always seek to serve the best interests of the children and staff of Duarte Unified. Their efforts have helped guide our district through these challenging times,” stated Dr. Gordon Amerson, Superintendent of Schools.

“I am also pleased to welcome new board member, Mrs. Jaqueline Ku. As an educator, her insight into our governance needs will be beneficial to the team. I am eager to work with each member of our Board to continue the positive momentum that has positioned Duarte Unified to be a destination for education within this region.”

The recently elected board members will be officially sworn in to take the oath of office at the Special Meeting held on December 14, 2020.

Duarte View

January 2021 – February 2021

DUSD SCHOOL NEWS

Duarte Preschool Offers In-Person Instruction for Full-Year/Full-Day Students

Duarte Preschool is committed to providing high-quality services to all families in our community. Equally important is meeting the needs of essential workers by providing a safe environment for their children during the day. With this in mind, Duarte Unified has reopened our full day/full-year preschool program for in-person instruction on a limited basis at Beardslee in compliance with the state, county, and local public health authorities. This program is only available for families eligible according to State criteria. View a virtual tour of our preschool facilities and protocols at duarte-preschool.org.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2020 General Election by casting your vote. With the support of our community, we are thrilled to announce that Measure S has passed. The official results certified by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk are provided below:

YES 6,782 57.30%
The passage of Measure S will position our district to repair our aging school facilities, modernize classrooms and labs, and update technology so that every student and teacher can thrive in a school setting with the safe, modern, creative spaces that they deserve.

Today’s teaching and learning standards have changed, requiring more and different instructional spaces, and our schools need ongoing safety and security upgrades. Additionally, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are creating additional challenges for school districts trying to meet current health and safety standards. Over the past years, Duarte Unified School District has received feedback from the community, parents, and teachers on our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), Competitive Advantage Plan (CAP), and Facilities Master Plan. Measure S is the result of these community conversations and provides a prudent, responsible plan to address our most critical facilities needs. On behalf of DUSD, we wish to thank the voters and volunteers for your support.
**Outgoing Mayor**

Continued from page 1

Friends and neighbors, as winter is here, we must continue to stay vigilant, be strong, assist each other and continue to do our part to stop the spread of this virus by staying at home if you are sick, wear masks, and frequently wash hands. Many of us had gone through significant challenges this year including myself, and I understand many of us are mentally, emotionally, and physically exhausted from this pandemic.

Prior to the pandemic, the City Council and staff listened as I passionately raised flags about what I feared was about to happen. I want to thank the City staff for taking it seriously and their prompt response to making sure City Hall was able to adapt and provide services to our community in new and varied ways.

Several businesses in town have been permanently closed. It is incredibly heartbreaking to see our beloved restaurants and shops where we regularly gather and socialize, not be able to make it. But along with the Duarte Chamber, we have been finding unique ways, such as the Duarte Stronger Together, to keep many small businesses going as I honestly believe that small businesses are the secret sauce to a thriving economy.

As if the pandemic wasn’t enough during my tenure as mayor, we also continued to address issues regarding race relations. I am proud that our city does not condone it and took steps to ensure that our voices were heard. While Duarte had one of the highest unemployment rates in the San Gabriel Valley prior to the pandemic, it is critically that we help the unemployed retrain immediately to ensure they don’t fall further behind. Once again, we are addressing this issue head on and continue to ensure that we are properly represented and getting our citizens the services they deserve.

2020 also delivered record heatwaves which we combated through the opening of numerous cooling stations, wildfires erupted in summer with an unprecedented three major fires, the Bobcat, Dam, and Ranch fires.) From these fires, the city had recently implemented the state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligent Thermal Imaging Camera facing the foothill mountain to automatically notify the public safety of any fire with a radius of just six feet. Fortunately, no human life or property were lost. Unfortunately, the Ranch fire was caused by an altercation between two homeless parties over a stolen bicycle. I had conveyed this, and I will say it again. Enough is enough. Not only are the homeless engaged in trespassing and dumping, but there is also a strong presence of other illegal matters as well. The final draw for many of us is the fire burned so closely to our assets. Many of us spend our lives paying down the mortgage, paying taxes, and building our nest egg. I will not let this group burn any part of our town down. These people are endangering themselves and they are endangering us.

I am not naïve that with COVID and current financial crisis, homelessness is going to increase all-over Southern California. They need substantial help, and my colleagues and I are committed to working with our adjacent cities, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and our US Congress to find a holistic solution soon. We are not looking for a Band-Aid on the situation. We need to find them permanent shelters so they can be out of the riverbed safely. One day, you and I can enjoy the riverbed safely again. Until then, know that we will continue the efforts to remedy the situation.

As a community, we continue to struggle, our city is working with many non-governmental organizations like Footprint Unity to offer donations of food at the Senior Center. I would like to personally thank the Duarte’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) team for volunteering the many hours of your service to our most needed people.

Friends, it has been a wild ride this year. All these events that happened in the same year certainly has taken its toll on all of us. I would like to encourage all that we will all come out of this stronger. With strong economic development in mind, we will create new jobs with multiple new developments coming on Huntington and the Wyndham Hotel. Additionally, the City of Hope has started their expansion, doubling their size to accommodate 10,000 workers in Duarte to find a cure for cancer and continue research in diabetes and other life-threatening diseases. In the near future, we will be embarking on the town center on Buena Vista and Huntington.

Lastly, I want to end my year as Mayor by thanking and saluting those city workers, chamber, volunteers, firefighters, deputies, and my fellow city council colleagues who have picked up the slack that keeps our city running especially during these tough times.

When coronavirus vaccines arrive next year, and the economy resurges, we will have a robust Duarte. Join me as we eagerly look forward to the year ahead.

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to have been your Mayor.

Cheers!

Sam

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**Target Duarte Gives the Gift of Christmas**

The Duarte Chamber of Commerce was performing business visits in the Mountain View Plaza in early December. During their visit with Duarte Target’s Store Director Jose Ramos, he related that he had Christmas trees he would like to donate to go to the Chamber and the community if we could help. We told him of our Chamber Champion Christmas Tree Event, and he loved the tie between the two.

We were thrilled to assist! Not only were we able to raise funds, we delivered trees to member organizations, including the Duarte Community Service Council (DSCSC) which support needy families in Duarte. And what a wonderful reminder each holiday of the caring of Target. The Chamber cannot express its gratitude to Target for their generous donation.

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**2021 LA County Homeless Count Cancelled**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has exempted the Los Angeles Continuum of Care from conducting a 2021 Unsheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Count, also known as the 2021 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.

Every January, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) conducts the count, the largest homeless census count in the nation, to gather data that can be used to inform policies and strategies to end homelessness in Los Angeles. Over the course of three days and nights, thousands of volunteers traverse the Los Angeles Continuum of Care to determine how many homeless individuals and families are in the region, identify their demographic characteristics and record their locations. After conducting the count, LAHSA compiles the data into a summary and presentation for the public as well as county, state and federal governments.

After listening to community partners, receiving guidance from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and taking into account curfews and stay-at-home orders across the region, LAHSA determined that there is no safe way to gather the 8,000 volunteers necessary to conduct the 2021 PIT Count and collect data as accurately as it has done in previous years.

“Since the pandemic first came to our region, LAHSA has put the health and safety of our clients, volunteers, and community first. We did not come to this decision easily, but it is the safe one, and the right one,” LAHSA Executive Director Heidi Marston said.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many obstacles to conducting a safe and accurate PIT Count, including:

- The safety and well-being of staff, community partners, and volunteers is of concern. In addition, because our unsheltered population is being infected at a lower rate, bringing more people into their areas may add unnecessary risk.
- The State of California and Los Angeles County has released a new public health stay-at-home order, including an overnight curfew regarding non-essential activities due to increased infection rates, limiting our ability to conduct a nighttime count.
- Due to limited planning time, our ability to recruit volunteers and partner staff have been hampered.
- Meeting public health requirements, including acquiring personal protective equipment as recommended by HUD, would be difficult, especially given the increased need for PPE seen by healthcare operators and homeless service providers during this latest surge.
- Feedback from community partners and volunteers regarding resources and capacity indicates that the community does not have the bandwidth to support an unsheltered count. This feedback was received via surveys sent to service providers, municipalities, volunteers, the Homeless Count Advisory Board, the Los Angeles Continuum of Care Board, lived

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**See Homeless Count on page 9**
CNH Division 35 Kiwanis Family partnered with Building Bridges — Rose River Memorial Project

By Tina Carey
President, Duarte Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Family of Clubs in the San Gabriel Valley learned recently about a unique artistic opportunity. Building Bridges Art Exchange, a non-profit art organization in Santa Monica is hosting a unique project with world renowned artist, Marcos Luytens and co-founder Tilly Hinton. Marcos and Tilly have a vision for a collective “grieving” process for all of us experiencing loss due to Covid-19. From this vision, they have created the Rose River Memorial Project. The concept of this project is to create a rose in memory of every person whose life was lost due to Covid-19. The exhibit will travel to many communities to help express the grief of the entire community.

When Mary “Happy” Price, Kiwanis, Lt. Governor of Division 35, heard of this project shared by Tina Carey, Lt. Governor Elect of Division 35, she had a vision. Normally, Kiwanis Family Clubs and the SLP (Service Leadership Programs), especially Key clubs and KIWINS from all the local high schools in Southern California would be decorating floats during the Christmas holiday for the annual Rose Parade — of course that cannot happen in 2020. So, instead the students and their families can create felt roses as a part of the Rose River Memorial Project. The Lt. Governors of three SLP Division 35 programs (Hilary Wong, LTG D35W, Catherine Nguyen, LTG D35W and Juliana Miranda, LTG Goldstone KIWIN’S) all agreed that this would be a great holiday project and intend to share it with their counterparts within the Cal-Nev-Ha District throughout California, Nevada and Hawaii. Petra Eiko, Director of Education for Building Bridges, will be delivering 200 kits for these students and their families to work on (a total of 1600 roses). Then the roses will be delivered and added to the installation scheduled to take place at Santa Monica, Bergamot Station prior to the delivering 200 kits for these students and their families to work on (a total of 1600 roses). Then the roses will be delivered and added to the installation scheduled to take place at Santa Monica, Bergamot Station prior to the exhibit closing on January 16, 2021.

“At Building Bridges we feel very honored to have the possibility to bring Rose River Installation to Bergamot Station and have a collective grieving for the community of Santa Monica” said Marisa Caichiolo, Founder and Director of Building Bridges Art Exchange. “Currently as a product of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the world population is experiencing a series of losses at different levels that has caused a collective sadness, grieving is needed and will have to be processed little by little as soon as this confinement ends. The installation will be a sacred space where people can connect with their own feelings and senses to experience their own grieving, individually or in a collective way (with families and friends).”

“For this memorial, our goal is to include as many locally handmade roses as possible, to deeply engage the community with this act of collective grief,” said Rose River memorial co-founder Marcos Luytens. “People who make roses tell us that it brings them great comfort and peace in these difficult days. Family members who are grieving are comforted by this idea of strangers recognizing and remembering the enormity of this pandemic in such a beautiful way.”

Jody Schulz, a first-generation college graduate who holds a Master of Science degree, will now represent District 3. Councilmember Schulz has served the Duarte community as public safety commissioner. She will leverage her skills of tracking issues, analyzing data, increasing efficiency and advancing strategic thinking in her role. Councilmember Schulz is an active member of the community and belongs to several community organizations that represent Duarte’s diverse population, including the Duarte Rotary Club, Duarte Chamber of Commerce and Duarte Women’s Club.

Vinh Truong, serving Duarte’s 2nd District, is the child of Chinese immigrants who came to the United States in the 1970s and settled in Duarte in 1985. Councilmember Truong attended Duarte schools through high school and went on to become a licensed life and health agent. He has held a seat on the Duarte Economic Development Commission and served as a board member of the Santa Anita Family YMCA. In 2019, Councilmember Truong was appointed to Duarte’s Financial Advisory Task Force, which allowed him to learn about the City’s financial condition and engrain in him the value of economic growth.

Homeless Count
Continued from page 8 experience advisory groups, regional homeless coalitions, and councils of governments.

- We are concerned that the accuracy of a 2021 unsheltered count would not be comparable to past and future unsheltered counts given these impediments.
- While LAHSA will not conduct a 2021 PIT Count, it will proceed with its sheltered PIT count and Housing Inventory Count. LAHSA conducted the last annual count prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in January 2020. It will continue to serve homeless populations through its advocacy and funding efforts in conjunction with nonprofit partner agencies.
Chamber Charley “Get Your Kicks on Route 66” Bucket List Item Completed!

Chamber Charley has had long wanted to spread her wings and travel down the Mother Road, Route 66. Thank goodness that Charley knows Duarte City Councilmember Margaret Finlay (known to Charley as Auntie Margaret), her husband Brad, and three of her grandchildren, Nora, Bo, and Joey. They took Charley on a once in a lifetime trip down Route 66 this November. We wanted to share some of her photos that they sent.

Charley went on her first flight to the beginning of Route 66 in Chicago. Horses aren’t used to flying, so Nora and Bo made sure she had a good time. Joey joined them all and landed square in the middle of the largest candy store in the U.S. – Sweeties Candy in Cleveland. And pizza, she found out she LOVES pizza! They also went to the Amish country and Charley loved the fact that they use horses to travel. She felt so at home with her kin.

As she continued across America, she stopped at the Petrified Wood National Park, overlooking the Painted Desert. Seeing all the wild mustangs just made her heart race. And the picture of her looking over the land just made us realize how much she has been enjoying the sites. We look forward to her coming home and telling us all about her adventures. Thanks Auntie Margaret for making this girl’s dreams come true.

Chamber Champion

Continued from page 1

only been a champion of the business community, but also an integral part of the fabric of the community at large.

The economic challenges that 2020 has presented are unlike anything the Chamber has seen since its inception in 1921. In response to these challenges, the Duarte Chamber of Commerce is embarking on a prolonged strategic capital campaign. The objective of the “Chamber Champion” campaign, is to address the short-term and long-term fiduciary impacts the Chamber has sustained as a direct result of this pandemic.

On November 16, 2020, the Duarte Chamber of Commerce officially launched the Chamber Champion campaign with a fun online event. Neil Saavedra from KFI AM 640’s Fork Report joined us on the event and was installed as an Honorary Board Member. He has shown himself to be a perfect example of what a Chamber Champion looks like. Neil has helped to promote our events, programs, and members even though he does not have a direct tie to our community. Additionally, at the launch event, we announced the re-design of our website, a new online merchandise store and released a video showcasing several Chamber Champions. Thank you to John Fasana (Councilmember City of Duarte), Alex Cabrera (Cabrera’s Mexican Cuisine), Kevin Morris (Duarte Unified School District), Dillon Wang (OneWest Bank), Karen Wilson (Plastic Junkie Tupperware) and Victor Benavides (City of Hope) for being a part of this video. To view the video, along with our new website, please visit www.DuarteChamber.com

Our first fundraiser for the Chamber Champion campaign focused on the spirit of Christmas giving – Chamber Champion Christmas Trees. 10 magnificent Christmas trees were decorated and sponsored by local businesses Curo Managed Print Production, Lemon Drop Cookie Shop, Plastic Junkie Tupperware by Karen Wilson, Rotary Club of Duarte, Sierra Autocars, Realtor Rana Madain from Deasy Penner Podley, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Westminster Gardens and SERVEPRO. The winners of each tree received at least $100 worth of gifts on them. The winner of our grand prize tree won $600 worth of gifts cards and presents from our members. Thank you to all who participated.

The Chamber Champion campaign is a program that you will continue to hear about as time goes on. We have some very exciting programs and ideas in the works. Please visit DuarteChamber.com/ChamberChampion to learn about the various ways that you can help support us. The Chamber needs your help. Become a Chamber Champion today to help usher in the next century of services and support that can only be provided by the Duarte Chamber of Commerce.
Seidner’s Collision Centers Joins Workforce Development Advisory Board

BY AMY FOELL
Workforce Development Consultant for the Foothill Consortium http://Foothill.org
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Got a skills gap in your workforce? Reach out and get involved with the Foothill Consortium. We represent career technical education (CTE) across five high schools in the San Gabriel Valley: Azusa, Charter Oak, Gladstone, Duarte and Monrovia High Schools. CTE students learn technical skills needed in high demand, high growth industry sectors. It is imperative local companies sit at the table with our K12 teachers and administrators to highlight skills needed in the workforce. We’ve been fortunate to have an altruistic membership within the Duarte Chamber of Commerce community.

A case in point, Gene Lopez, of Seidner’s Collision Centers has taken proactive measures in joining our Automotive Technology Advisory Board. He is collaborating with both instructors at Azusa High School and Monrovia High School to ensure students are aware of the incredible opportunities within the collision repair industry. During our initial advisory meeting Gene reiterated the top five skills needed to obtain entry level employment within collision repair. This type of information is extremely helpful for our teachers to pass on to students enrolled in automotive technology programs.

Career technical education when done right involves industry every step of the way from guest presenters to internship hosts. The consortium offers students exposure in medical, sports medicine, engineering, computer science, digital media arts, business entrepreneurship, biotechnology, culinary, and automotive technology. Our students are ready to learn from you!

Big thanks to our businesses who have responded to the call to action: Seidner’s Collision Centers, MADIA Tech Launch, Foothill Unity Center, Arcadia Association of Realtors, Simply Divine Apprenticeship / Beauty Supply, City of Hope, Foothill Transit, OneWest Bank and Wonder Dog Ranch.

Challenges and Opportunities for Workforce Development Professionals

BY MONICA BANKEN
Workforce and Economic Development Deputy, Office of LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger

As I write this, the job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent closure of many businesses by the government are staggering. Over the past two decades, according to a UC Irvine analysis of job growth by UC Irvine, Los Angeles County has suffered almost twice the level of industrial job losses as the nation. During this period, we led the state in growth of low-paying service jobs, adding 867,000 of them. That is a 48 percent increase over the number of those jobs in 2000, but it came at a cost. We lost approximately 41,000 high wage jobs, possibly to other states that are more business friendly.

This year, Los Angeles County saw a high of a 21.1 percent unemployment rate. Analysis by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation shows the sectors most impacted, hospitality, food services, and tourism. Unfortunately, it was these sectors that also were the kindest to those entering the workforce. A study published by the RAND Corporation highlighted that the tourism industry hired more people entering the workforce for the first time, regardless of age, and gave them skills that transferred to other sectors. The closure of theme parks, museums, and restaurants will have an impact on entry-level workers that will be seen for many years.

What types of jobs will be available in the future that will withstand job losses if there are subsequent government closures of sectors? As workforce professionals, I advocate for you to think deeply about this question. I remember discussing what negative impacts technology would have on jobs and how to adapt when robotics can replace workers two decades ago. And now we see on a regular basis self-checkout lines at grocery stores, and fast food restaurants are using robots to put together hamburgers. Robots do not complain, do not request a higher minimum wage, and are always dependable if kept working. But those employees who used to have those jobs will need new skills and find new jobs. Those entering the workplace will have fewer entry-level opportunities available.

We should consider how to help those interested in working in high growth sectors. The County has focused on, such as partnering with our community colleges to teach aerospace manufacturing, cloud computing, and digital career skills. What are skills that we will need in the new economy, and how can we help others obtain soft skills and technological prowess without sectors like hospitality, transportation, and tourism? Let us work together to answer that question and help grow our job base in Los Angeles County for a better tomorrow.

A Welcome from Your Newest Citrus College Board of Trustee Mary Ann Lutz

BY MARY ANN LUTZ

We have a solemn responsibility to the next generation to prepare our college students for career, continuing education, and life. That’s why I ran for a Board Trustee for Citrus Community College District, to help fulfill this awesome responsibility. Now, more than ever, we need our colleges to be ready to meet the challenges ahead. To be ready to help our community meet its future.

I am so happy to be your next Board Trustee to Citrus College District representing Duarte, Monrovia and Bradbury. It is a wonderful experience to connect with my friends at the Duarte Chamber of Commerce and to be part of the collaboration between business and education. Together with the Duarte Unified School District it is my hope that I will be able to strengthen the connections between Citrus College, Duarte schools and businesses.

My past experiences as a business owner, past mayor and city council member, and board member of the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce have taught me that connections and relationships are the key to success. I am available to you at any time: maryann@maryannlutz.com.

Career Technical Education (CTE) is a mainstay for Citrus College students. Citrus boasts more than 50 Certificate programs including: Child Development/Early Care and Education, Cosmetology and Barbering, Automotive Technology, Licensed Vocational Nursing, Emergency Medical Services, water technology and many more.

Citrus will be all online for the Spring Semester 2021. Classes begin February 17th and registration is open right now.

Citrus College can be your ticket to a new career, advancement of a current career, or the steppingstone to a four-year college or university. The future is in our hands!
WELCOME OUR NEWEST DUARTE CHAMBER MEMBERS!

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