



Employees Spotlight

Kelly Barnes, Recreation Coordinator, has been a three-quarter employee with the City of Duarte for eight years. She is responsible for overseeing the Duarte Senior volunteers, assisting in special events for the Center, and escorting the adult excursions through the Recreation Department.



What Barnes loves most about working for the City is developing lasting friendships with co-workers and Senior Center volunteers. "We work together as a team," says Barnes. "Really, it's a 'work' family. No matter the task, we make sure it gets done...and done right!"

Some of her hobbies and interests are traveling with family and friends, party planning, and being a taxi driver for her two fabulous kids, son Dillon Edward, 6, and daughter Abigale Louise, 4. Barnes is proud to be a two-year member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization known as P.E.O., where women celebrate, educate, and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations.



Senior Custodian/Interim Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, Jeff Risley, has been with the City of Duarte for 14 years. He started off as an Intern with the Parks and Recreation Department and worked his way up. Some of his responsibilities include supervising part-time

fellow custodians, contractor hiring, overseeing projects, and maintaining, repairing, and inspecting safety hazards for City facilities.

Risley loves working in a small town environment with co-workers who are friendly and respectful towards one another. "You get to connect with the public and local residents, which can be hard to do in larger cities," says Risley.

In his spare time, Risley enjoys outdoor activities, such as camping, snorkeling, surfing, and playing in a baseball (not softball) league. He also enjoys spending time with his family and friends. An interesting fact about Risley is that he grew up in the City of Duarte and went to the local school from K-12.

99 Good Reasons in the City of Duarte

Duarte has 99 good reasons to celebrate with the grand opening on Thursday, March 15th of a brand new 99¢ Only Store. Doors to the 12,650 square foot store located at 1327 Huntington Dr. opened with a flourish of over 500 persons following an official ribbon cutting ceremony at 8:00 am. The company has 281 stores with 75% located in California and the rest in Texas, Arizona, and Nevada and brings 60 new jobs and additional sales tax revenues to the community.



Sierra Fiat of Duarte

The brand new Sierra Fiat of Duarte located at 1125 Central Ave. on the City's 210 free-way corridor auto row celebrated its grand opening on Thursday, March 22nd with a Duarte, Monrovia, and Arcadia tri-Chamber ribbon cutting ceremony at noon. The event kicked off a weekend-long grand opening celebration offering food, refreshments and entertainment to shoppers. The Duarte Fiat Studio will be stocked with all three models of the Fiat 500 series – the Pop, Sport, and Lounge – in a variety of colors and feature packages. The 2.1 acre site will also be undergoing a \$750,000 façade renovation and upgraded freeway signage within the first 18 months.



Welcome to our
GRAND OPENING!

Duarte Discovery Nature Camp

The Duarte Parks and Recreation Department will once again offer its annual Duarte Discovery Nature Camp this summer with daily activities and twice-weekly excursions. The Discovery Nature Camp will consist of three 2-week sessions, Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. The fee is \$180 per child 6-12 years old, per two-week session and includes a camp tee shirt, daily lunches, crafts, and all excursions. Registration begins Monday, June 11. For more information, please call (626) 357-7931.

Multicultural Fair

FAIR

Maxwell will host a Multicultural Fair on Friday, June 8, 2012 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. We will have food from around the world, dance performances, singing, and lots of fun. We will have fun for the whole family. Some of the scheduled events are Polynesian Dancers, Ballet Folklorico featuring Maxwell students, African dancers, DJ, Mariachi Band, games, crafts, and much more! So save the date and plan to attend Maxwell's Multicultural Fair.

Teen Center Upcoming Events

Club Duarte (Middle School Students)
On Friday, April 20 from 7:30 - 10:00 pm the Duarte Teen Center will be transformed into the rocking hot spot for middle school youth. Live DJ, dancing, food, and game room activities for only \$5.

Youth Employment Workshop
Wednesday, April 25, 3:30 - 5:00 pm, the Duarte Teen Center will offer a free workshop. Youth between the ages of 15-18 will participate in an employment workshop. Please register in advance at the Teen Center. Space is limited.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration
Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at the Teen Center on Thursday, May 3 at 3:30 pm. There will be traditional Mexican food for all to enjoy for \$1!

Teen Cultural Awareness Training
On Wednesday, May 9 from 3:30 - 6:00 pm the Teen Center will offer a free activity-based training designed for youth ages 14-18. Participants will explore cultural differences, discuss respecting and honoring diversity, and examine personal attitudes in regard to intolerance. Call the Teen Center for more information.

Little All Stars Soccer for Boys and Girls!

Little All Stars is an exciting non-competitive variation of soccer especially suited for young players ages 4 - 7. Practices and games will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, April 25 through May 19, at Otis Gordon Sports Park, 2351 Central Avenue. Sign up at Duarte City Hall. The fee is \$25 and includes a t-shirt uniform.

Adult Excursions



Registration began Monday, March 12 at Duarte City Hall for the following excursions. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted for purchases over \$25.

"The Capitol Steps" at Caltech's - Beckman Auditorium
Comical live theater! Lunch included.
Sunday, May 6, 12:30 - 6:00 pm, \$43

Battle of the Dance
Amazing ballroom dance performances!
Lunch included
Wednesday, June 20, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, \$45

Spring Into Shape at the Duarte Fitness Center!

It is time to get into shape at the Fitness Center, located at 1600 Huntington Drive, next to City Hall. At the Fitness Center you can choose from a wide variety of activities including strength training equipment, Stairmasters, treadmills, bikes, and Elliptical Trainers. The Fitness Center also has two courts available for either racquetball or wallyball. Aerobic classes are offered at various times daily.

The spring aquatics program began March 31. The pool is available Monday through Friday for lap swimming from 6:30 - 8:00 am and 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, and 11:00 am - 12:00 pm on weekends. Recreational swim will be held on weekends from 12:00 - 4:00 pm for all ages. Fees are \$1 for children/seniors/handicapped and \$2 for adults.

Two sessions of swim lessons will be offered this spring. Session 1 will run from May 7 - May 17, with registration beginning April 30. Session 2 will run from May 21 - June 1, and registration begins May 14. Priority registration will be available to City of Duarte residents with valid ID from 6:00 - 8:00 am the first day of registration. The cost is \$25 for 8 ½-hour lessons. All non-residents may register beginning at 8:00 am. Check with the Fitness Center for class times and levels being offered. For more information call the Duarte Fitness Center at (626) 357-6118.



Duarte to Host ACT-SO Competition

The local competition of the NAACP's Academic Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) for African-American youth, will again take place at the Duarte Senior Center on April 28th. More than 50 students from throughout the San Gabriel Valley are expected to compete in 25 categories including biology, math, and original essay.

ACT-SO, founded in 1978 by renowned author and journalist Vernon Jarrett, is an enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among those self-identifying as African-American high school students. Youth who achieve a gold medal in their category will proceed to compete in the Nationals to be held in July during the 103rd NAACP Convention in Houston, Texas.



Duarte Teen Center Director, Marilyn Mays, who once served as president and executive administrator of the NAACP in Eugene, Oregon where she oversaw the ACT-SO program for eight years, has been named to chair the Pasadena NAACP's ACT-SO competition. Duarte Deputy City Manager, Karen Herrera, Duarte Public Safety Crime Prevention Specialist, Aida Torres, and former Mayor Lois Gaston are co-chairs. Students interested in participating in the ACT-SO competition and adult professionals interested in serving as volunteer mentors or judges may contact Marilyn Mays (626) 303-0863, ext. 402.

Co-Ed Senior Softball Opening Day



Hey all you sports fans! Head out to the ballpark to watch the only home game between Duarte's two teams, the Duarte 66ers and the Duarte D-Crew. Opening day will be held on Thursday, May 3, 8:45 am at Otis Gordon Sports Park, 2351 Central Avenue. During the game we will enjoy a continental breakfast hosted by the Duarte Kiwanis Club. Reservations are requested for food orders. Please call the Duarte Senior Center at (626) 357-3513.

Earth Day in the City



On Saturday, April 21, 2012, the City of Duarte will plant drought-resistant plants donated by California American Water at the Bioswale and Nature Trail located in Encanto Park and trees at Duarte Park, donated by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. The City will also clean up various walking trails throughout the community. If you are interested in participating or would like more information or, call Duarte's Promise at (626) 357-7931, ext. 267.

Taste of Duarte

Mark your calendar for Duarte's premier event; the Duarte Chamber of Commerce Taste of Duarte and Business Expo, featuring over 70 local restaurants and businesses on May 16, 2012 at Westminster Gardens, 1420 Santo Domingo Avenue.

The popular band Cold Duck will be providing entertainment along with great food, raffles, wine tasting, networking, entertainment, new car models, and more. Advance tickets are \$25, \$30 if purchased on the day of event. For information and tickets, call (626) 357-3333 or visit www.TasteofDuarte.com.

Budget Workshop Set in April and May

The fiscal year 2012-13 budget preparation process is underway at City Hall. The annual City Council budget workshops are scheduled for Monday, April 30 and Tuesday, May 1 at 4:00 pm. Both workshops are open to the public and will take place in the Community Center located at 1600 Huntington Drive. For more information, contact the Administrative Services Department at (626) 357-7931, ext. 211.



Steve Esbenshade Retires After 23 Years



Engineering Division Manager Steve Esbenshade spent 23 years with the City of Duarte before retiring this March. "It's amazing how much has occurred in just two decades. When I first came to town Northview Intermediate School was just under construction. The old Duarte Schoolhouse was an empty shell not yet transformed into the Old Spaghetti Factory," said Esbenshade.

Most of the major businesses that we've come to depend on locally were not here when he started 23 years ago, noted Esbenshade, as he named them one by one: "Staples, Wal-Mart, CarMax, IHOP, Mitsubishi/Fiat, the Ralph's Shopping Center, Sonic, Fresh and Easy, CVS Pharmacy, Maryvale, and the numerous new research and development and medical buildings that have sprung up at City of Hope," he said. New housing including Las Posadas, Las Brisas, Duarte Gardens, Huntington Courts, were yet to be built. Where the beautiful SCPH Senior housing development now stands on Huntington Drive, was once the old Stratford Arms bar and Crystal Pools Trailer Park.

He saw Duarte increase the number of parks and recreation areas for residents to enjoy during his tenure including Encanto Park, Aloysia Moore Park Expansion, Lena Valenzuela Park, Otis Gordon Park, Duarte Plaza, Skate Board Park, Encanto Park Bioswale, the soccer field at Beardslee Park, and field and lighting upgrades for Duarte Park.

"All of these projects are due to the efforts of an exceptional City staff, both present and past who envisioned an entirely different Duarte than it was 30 years ago," said Esbenshade.

Calendar of Events

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**Community Clean-up/
Adopt-A-Block**
Saturday, April 7, 2012
 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
 City of Hope and City Hall
- 
Breakfast with Easter Bunny
Saturday, April 7, 2012
 8:00 - 9:30 am
 Community Center
- 
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 7, 2012
 10:00 am
 Royal Oaks and Beardslee Park
- 
Community Movie Night
Friday, April 20, 2012
 6:00 - 9:30 pm
 Maxwell Elem. School Field
- 
City of Duarte Earth Day
Saturday, April 21, 2012
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Teen Center
- 
Relay for Life Ice Cream Social
Saturday, April 21, 2012
 2:00 - 4:00 pm
 Ranchero's Restaurant
- 
Budget Workshop
Monday, April 30, 2012
 4:00 pm
 Community Center
- 
Mother's Day Tea/Fashion Show
Wednesday, May 9, 2012
 3:00 pm
 Senior Center
- 
Lunch and Learn
May 9, 2012
 12:00 - 1:30 pm
 Community Center
- 
Taste of Duarte/Business Expo
Wednesday, May 16, 2012
 5:00 - 8:00 pm
 Westminster Gardens
- 
Community Movie Night
Friday, May 25, 2012
 6:30 - 10 pm
 Beardslee Park

Commission Meetings

Commissions meet at the Community Center Lounge

- 
Planning Commission
 Third Monday of the Month, 7:00 pm
- 
Traffic Safety Commission
 First Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm
- 
Public Services Commission
 Second Wednesday of the Month, 7:00 pm
- 
Economic Development Commission
 First Wednesday of the Month, 6:30 pm
- 
Public Safety Commission
 Third Tuesday of the Month, 7:00 pm
- 
Parks and Recreation
 Second Monday of the Month, 7:00 pm
- 
Mayor's Youth Council
 First Monday of the Month, 6:00 pm
 * Meet at the Teen Center
- 
Youth and Family Committee
 Fourth Monday of the Month, 6:30 pm



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Sign up for Email Alerts

Interested in receiving local community events and crime trend updates? Sign up now for Duarte's email alert system. This alert system will inform you on the latest crime and community information. To begin receiving email alerts, send your name, home address, and phone number to duartecrimetrips@lasd.org.

Council Meetings

Council meetings are every second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the Duarte Community Center located at 1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte. Council meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Agendas and minutes can be obtained by visiting www.accessduarte.com.



City Snapshots



Our Kind of Town!



The City of Duarte wants your feedback on our publication. This publication is prepared by City employees to inform residents and businesses of our latest news. Please contact Karen Herrera at (626) 357-7931, ext. 221 or by email at herrerakaren@accessduarte.com with your comments, ideas, and/or photos. Consider the environment and recycle.