

Community Services Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Are there programs for pre-schoolers?

Yes, we have a variety of classes designed for the pre-schoolers and limited toddler classes. For the current list of pre-school programs and classes please check in the [current brochure](#).

Can non-Downey residents participate in classes, activities, special events held at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center or other park facilities?

Yes, unless specified otherwise.

Do we need a membership to participate in the activities at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center?

No membership required to participate in any programs in the Community Services Department.

Do the seniors play Bingo?

Yes, Bingo for those aged 62+ is played each Wednesday and Friday, 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM in the Congregate Meal Program at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

Do you offer any computer training?

The City of Downey Library offers various computer training classes and they can be contacted at (562) 904-7360 or visit them at www.downeylibrary.org for class information.

Do you offer a Head Start Pre-school Program?

We offer a variety of pre-school classes and detailed information is available in the Community Services Guide at www.downeyca.org. State Head Start full and half day programs are coordinated for locations in Downey by Plaza De La Raza Child Development Services, Inc. and they can be contacted at (562) 776-1301 to learn more about eligibility and program rules.

Does the City of Downey offer transportation services?

Yes, the City provides two transportation options for Downey residents.

Downey Dial-a-Ride (DAR) provides curb-to-curb services for seniors (65+) and persons with disabilities within the boundaries of Downey (exceptions: Kaiser Bellflower Hospital and Cerritos Community College). Cost is 25¢ per person each way. To learn more click here ([LINK](#))

Dial-A-Ride Service Hours:

Monday – Friday: 8 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday: 8 am – 3:30 pm

Sunday: 7 am – 1:30 pm

The DowneyLink bus service provides transportation within the City of Downey using four routes that traverse throughout the community. Cost is 25¢ per person

each way. Effective August 16, 2010 the cost is 50¢ per person each way. To learn more click here (LINK)

DowneyLink Service Hours:

Monday – Friday: 6:30 am – 6:30 pm

Does the City of Downey provide notary service or attorney service for seniors? No, we do not provide these forms of service.

I am a senior and I need assistance understanding Medical / Medicare?

A HICAP counselor can help you with questions or problems relating to Medicare (Parts A & B), Medicare billing and claims, managed care, supplemental insurance and long-term care insurance including Medical. This program is for those 65+ or disabled adults on Social Security. To make an appointment or for more information, please call the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center at (562) 904-7223 to meet with Zaida Theiss, CA State-registered Counselor (bilingual English/Spanish). Appointments are held each Tuesday from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

I am a senior citizen and when can I sign up for tax preparation assistance at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center?

Income tax preparation is offered by AARP for those 50+ and is conducted each Monday and Wednesday by appointment or walk-in basis between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. This service is provided February 1st – April 14th. Reservations for appointments begin in mid-January of each year by calling (562) 904-7223.

Is there a senior meal lunch program offered through the City? Yes, the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center hosts a Congregate Meal Program administered by Human Services. Lunch is served, Monday – Friday, at 11:30 AM. A nutritionally balanced hot lunch costs a suggested donation of \$2.25 per person over 60+ or \$4.50 for non-senior participant accompanying a senior 60+ in the meal program. Reservations are required a day in advance by calling (562) 862-8800. Bingo played each Wednesday and Friday, 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM. Limited space for same day reservations based on first-come first-serve.

- Meals for homebound Downey Residents. These programs are not administered by the City of Downey and interested parties should call each program to determine the best fit.

Meals-on-Wheels: (562) 806-1815

Human Services Association/ Home delivered meals – (562) 806-5400 ext. 136 (Bernice Garcia) or ext. 162 (Elizabeth Ruiz)

What adult classes are available?

There are many types of classes for all abilities and interests offered at the Barbara Riley Community & Senior Center and other local park facilities. Examples include Yoga, Salsa Dancing, Golf Instruction, Ice Skating, and those specifically for the older adult 50+. For the current list of adult classes please check in the [current brochure](#).

What are the operating hours of the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center?

Monday and Friday, 8 am – 6 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8 am – 9 pm
Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm
Sunday – CLOSED

Closed on City Observed Holidays.

What clubs are the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center?

The Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center is home to various Senior Citizen Clubs and Organizations that meet on a frequent and regular basis. These clubs are coordinated independently and are not administered by the City of Downey. Please contact each organization for membership or club details.

- *AARP Chapter 262* meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month, 11 :00 AM – 3:00 PM
 - Contact: Pearl Koday, (562) 633-4355
- *Bocce Ball Club* meets every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (men) and women meet every Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00 PM at courts
 - Contact – men: John Fiorenza (562) 927-2490
 - Contact – women: Marie Puch (562) 869-4366
- *Downey Senior Citizens Recreation Club* meet every Tuesday, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM.
 - Contact: Nadine Morris, (562) 923-9422
- *Senior Californian's of Downey* meet every Thursday, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
 - Contact: Lorene Frazier, (562) 861-6075

What are the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center age requirements to use the fitness room? What are the orientation and workout hours?

Kaiser Permanente of Downey is a generous supporter of the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center (BJR) and are partners in assisting us in providing equipment for the fitness center bearing their name. Participants 50+ are able to access the Fitness Room during all regular BJR operating hours after they have completed a one-time, one-hour orientation on use of the equipment. The orientation hours are held each Monday and Friday from 2:00 - 3:00 PM and each Saturday from 9:30 – 10:30 AM by appointment only.

Fitness Training Orientation: (Required **BEFORE** using equipment)

Mon & Fri 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Sat 9:30 - 10:30 AM

(Fitness Room **CLOSED** during Training Hours)

Fitness Room Workout Hours:

Mondays and Fridays 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM / 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Tues, Wed, & Thurs 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Saturday 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Kaiser Fitness Center provides an opportunity to help keep older adults healthy and active through a complete array of fitness equipment for aerobic and weight training. Equipment includes:

- 4 – treadmills
- 4 – stationary bicycles
- 1 – multi-station gym
- 1 – leg press
- 1 – recumbent stepper
- Free weight variety

All participants must bring a towel and wear appropriate rubber soled shoes. No children or those under 50+ allowed in the fitness room.

What is the Strength Training and Conditioning class offered for seniors at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center?

This free on-going class for those ages 60+ is offered by Cerritos College, and teaches older adults how to use dynabands to add resistance for strength training and conditioning, while moving to the music of the 50's and 60's. The class concludes with relaxation techniques and cool-downs. Walk-ins are welcomed.

- Tuesday, 2:00 – 3:30 PM
- Friday, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Where is the Apollo Dance Building?

The Apollo Dance Building is located in the south-east corner of the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center parking lot next to the Bocce Ball Courts.

What are the hours of Downey PTA Helps? This organization is not part of the City of Downey and is coordinated by the Downey Council PTA and you can contact them at (562) 861-9833 for more information. This organization only serves those families of the Downey Unified School District.

When does the Community Services Guide come out?

The Community Services Guide is mailed out to Downey property owners and is available on-line at www.downeyca.org and released:

Fall season beginning late August

Winter/Spring beginning mid-December

Summer season is available mid-April

Unfortunately the Community Services Guide cannot be mailed to you. You may pick-up a hard copy at the Downey City Hall, Community Services Department counter or at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center or on-line.

Where do I go to sign up for a class?

Class registration is taken in-person at Downey City Hall, Community Services Department, 2nd floor, 11111 Brookshire Avenue, Downey 90241 Monday – Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:30 pm or the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, 7810 Quill Drive, Downey 90242, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, or Saturday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Registration can also be taken over the phone by calling the Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238 or the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center at (562) 904-7223 unless otherwise noted. Registration fees cannot be taken by Instructor.

What type of payment is accepted for classes and reservations?

Cash, check, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover Card

Do Downey residents get a discount for classes?

No discounts are given to residents.

What is the refund policy for classes or an excursion?

The City will issue a refund for a class, less 30% for processing, if a refund request is made prior to the first class date. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE FIRST CLASS.** All refunds will be mailed within two to three weeks after request.

A full refund will be given for an excursion if a replacement is taken from a wait list otherwise there are no full or partial refunds.

Which building and park facilities can be reserved?

Park Room & Shelter Reservation Information: Must be a resident of Downey (proof required). Reservations are taken for Saturday and Sunday only. Learn more about Park Room & Shelter Reservation fees and rules ([LINK](#)).

- **Park Shelters available at:** Dennis the Menace, Furman, Golden, Rio San Gabriel and Wilderness Park
- **Park rooms available at:** Apollo Park, Furman Park, and Golden Park
- **Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center:** This Center allows for non-Downey residents/businesses to rent rooms as available, no rentals on Sundays. There are various rooms sizes and prices to learn more [click here \(LINK\)](#)

How can facility/shelter reservations be made?

Facility reservations for park schedules and rooms can be made over the phone or in person in the Community Services Department on the second floor in City Hall. Hours for reservations are Monday – Thursday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm.

Are moon bounces allowed?

Yes, with a picnic shelter reservation. Liability insurance and a \$50 non-refundable fee is required.

Do you need a reservation to take pictures at Wilderness Park?

If it is with a professional photographer a permit is required.

When are the lakes at Wilderness Park stocked with fish?

The first and third weeks of the month.

Is live entertainment and alcohol allowed in the park?

No alcohol. No live entertainment. CD players or radios are allowed, but nothing amplified.