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City of Carson Remembers the 10th Anniversary of 9/11



Cast of Hit 70's Show "Emergency!" Reunite in Carson



C I T Y O F C A R S O N , C A L I F O R N I A , F A L L 2 0 1 1



Police & Fire Emergencies 911

Animal Control
Carson Animal Shelter
(310) 523-9566

**Birth, Death,
Marriage Records**
County Registrar-Recorder
(562) 462-2137

**Building Permits
Building & Safety,**
(310) 952-1766

**Public Transit and
Dial-A-Ride**
(310) 952-1779
Hearing Impaired
(800) 252-9040

Cable Television
Time Warner Cable
(888) 892-2253

**Chamber of
Commerce**
(310) 217-4590

City Hall
(310) 830-7600

Code Enforcement
(310) 952-1700, ext. 1786

Community Center
(310) 835-0212

Crime Prevention
Neighborhood Watch
(310) 847-7481

**Disaster
Preparedness**
(310) 952-1700, ext. 1603

Dump
Transfer Station
(310) 217-6300

Electricity
Southern California
Edison Co., (800) 950-2356

Gas
Southern California Gas Co.
(800) 427-2200

Graffiti Removal
Landscape & Buildings
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3500

Hospital
Harbor General UCLA
Medical Center
(310) 222-2345

Jobs

Job Clearinghouse
(310) 233-4888

Libraries

Carson Regional
(310) 830-0901
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
(310) 327-4830

**Parking
Enforcement**
(800) 654-7275

Parks & Recreation
(310) 847-3570

Post Office
Main No., (800) 275-8777

Sandbags
Street Maintenance
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520

Sewer Clean-up
(626) 458-4357

Senior Services
(310) 952-1775
(310) 835-0212

Sidewalk Repair
Street Maintenance
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520

Sheriff's Station
(310) 830-1123

Street Sweeping
Street Maintenance
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520

Telephone
AT&T
(310) 515-7979

Trash Collection
Waste Management
952-1700, ext. 3508
or (310) 830-7100

**Tree Trimming/
Street Maintenance**
(310) 847-3520

Water
California Water Service
Company, (310) 257-1400
Golden State Water
Company (800) 999-4033

Youth Services
(310) 952-1788

Meetings

Meetings are in City Hall
and the Community Center
unless otherwise noted,
and are open to the public.

**City Council/Redevelopment
Agency 6 p.m.,
1st and 3rd Tuesdays**

Citywide Advisory Commission
7 p.m., 2nd Thursday
(Only when necessary)

Economic Development
Commission
8 a.m., 1st Thursday,
Community Center

Environmental Commission
6:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday

Fine Arts and Cultural
Commission
7 p.m., 1st Monday

Historical Committee
6 p.m., 2nd Tuesday &
4th Wednesday

Human Relations Commission
6:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday

Parks and Recreation Commission
6:30 p.m., last Thursday

Planning Commission
6:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th Tuesday

Public Relations Commission
12:00 p.m., 4th Tuesday,

Public Safety Commission
6:30 p.m., 3rd Thursday

Public Works Commission
6:30 p.m., 2nd Monday

Senior Citizen Advisory
Commission
4 p.m., 2nd Monday

Veterans Affairs Commission
6 p.m., 3rd Monday

Women's Issues Commission
6 p.m., 4th Monday

Mobilehome Park Rental
Review Board
6:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th
Wednesdays

Youth Commission
7 p.m., 2nd Wednesday

Relocation Appeals Board
(Meetings are held when required)

Sister Cities Association
7 p.m., 4th Wednesday

Beautification Committee
6:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday

Elected Officials

Mayor
Jim Dear

Mayor Pro Tem
Julie Ruiz-Raber

Councilmember
Elito M. Santarina

Councilmember
Mike A. Gipson

Councilmember
Lula Davis-Holmes

City Clerk
Helen S. Kawagoe

City Treasurer
Karen Avilla

City Manager
David C. Biggs

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The Carson Report
is published by
the City of Carson

to provide those who live and
work here with information
about the city's programs,
services, and issues.

All questions, comments,
and contributing information
should be directed to the
City of Carson's Public
Information Office.

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E-mail: Zcruz@carson.ca.us

**Website/E- newsletter
subscription:**
<http://ci.carson.ca.us>

CITY OF CARSON POSITION STATEMENT

Carson is a vibrant city with a small town atmosphere where relationships are important. This is clearly visible throughout the community, from the stable single family neighborhoods, which make up nearly eighty percent of the city's residences, to the partnership between businesses and volunteer driven agencies which strengthen the city's remarkable social fabric.

The social composition of Carson is Californian miniature. It is a city with a balanced ethnic and cultural mix living together in harmony and prosperity.

The community takes pride in the large percentage of Carson students who attend college, many to California State University, Dominguez Hills, a valuable asset to the city.

Carson's strategic position in the heart of the powerful economic engine that is Southern California attracts international corporations which recognize the city's bright future. The city's proximity to the West Coast's two major ports, as well as its intersection by four Southland freeways, makes it a major gateway to the Pacific Rim.

We, the people who live and work in Carson, take pride in our city and will continue to build relationships which ensure that future.



**Parks, Recreation &
Human Services Guide**

**NOW IN A
SINGLE,
COMBINED
ISSUE**

Biggs Named Carson's New City Manager

David C. Biggs officially took the helm as Carson's City Manager on September 26. The City Council hosted a reception breakfast on his first day in Carson to welcome him to the City family.

Biggs' appointment was announced at a special City Council meeting on August 25, concluding six months of executive search to fill a position previously held by Jerome Groomes who left in January. Economic Development General Manager Cliff Graves temporarily held the position prior to Biggs' appointment.

Prior to accepting the City Manager appointment for the City, Biggs was serving as the Interim Assistant City Administrator in the City of Montebello as part of the Kosmont Companies. Highlights of his lengthy career in public administration include the positions of City Manager for the City of Tustin and the City of Morgan Hill, Assistant City Manager for the City of Redondo Beach and Economic



Development Director for the City of Huntington Beach. He also has prior experience as the Downtown Development Project Manager for the City of Long Beach, and a variety of economic development and redevelopment roles for the City of Santa Ana.

In his first address to the community, Biggs expressed great enthusiasm in working for a "world-class city with great amenities, a community with a notable state university in California State University Dominguez Hills, good residential stock and a culturally diverse community."

He conveyed his appreciation for the vote of confidence by the City Council in appointing him as the new City Manager, as he commended them for "adapting well to the tough economic times, and for the economic turnaround it is currently experiencing."

The City Council, for its part, expressed confidence over Biggs, who was selected from a long list of highly-qualified candidates. "We are very excited about bringing Mr. Briggs on board," says Carson's Mayor. "Carson will certainly benefit from Mr. Biggs' remarkable leadership and extensive experience in the different

continued on page 8

City of Carson to Make Prescription Discount Cards Available to Carson Residents

The Carson City Council has approved a program that would help residents with some relief from the high cost of prescription medications. Sponsored by the National League of Cities (NLC), the City of Carson will provide free prescription cards to citizens, once the program is in place.

The NLC Prescription Discount Card can be used by all residents of the City of Carson and has no restrictions based on a resident's age, income level, or existing health coverage.

Residents can save an average of 23 percent off the retail price of prescription medications with the discount cards. The cards can be used at CVS pharmacies around the city, as well as at more than 60,000 participating retail pharmacies across the country.

The City partnered with NLC on the program to help residents who are completely uninsured, and those who have insurance but have specific medications that are not covered by their insurance. In both scenarios, residents experience significant

savings on prescription medications not covered by health plans.

Residents can obtain a free NLC Prescription Discount Card in a number of ways. They can print them from the internet at www.caremark.com/nlc, or get a card at Carson City Hall beginning late October.

For more information on the program, please contact Dani Cook in the Human Services Division at (310) 835-0212 ext. 1480, or CVS caremark, which administers the program at 1-888-620-1749.

Early Childhood Program's Unique Curriculum



"It makes me feel that I have made a difference in a very important part of the children's life, especially during that developmental stage when the children hold and absorb what you say like gospel."

Preschoolers camp under the stars during summer fun activity in the classroom.

Parents of senior high school students cross their fingers that their child gets to attend a good college to get quality education. But for over 200 Carson parents whose children are between the ages 3-5, their hope is to get their children in the City of Carson's Early Childhood Program.

The City of Carson Early Childhood Program has been in place since the 1970s and has seen many successes in the children that are now adults who attended their program. Unlike other day care programs and preschools in the area, the Early Childhood Program teaches a curriculum based on

Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines, otherwise known as "emergent curriculum" developed by the State of California Department of Education.

"It is very rewarding to see many success stories of the children that attended this program," says Early Childhood Program Supervisor, Zenora Bellard. "It makes me feel that I have made a difference in a very important part of the children's life, especially during that developmental stage when the children hold and absorb what you say like gospel."

Ms. Raquel, who started out as an Assistant Teacher and eventually moved up to become a full-time teacher in the Early Childhood Program, chose to stay and preferred teaching here over other facilities because she likes the curriculum that they teach which prepares the children for kindergarten.

"Other facilities teach creative curriculum. Over here, we teach what's called an emergent curriculum. When children leave here, they are set. They know their numbers, colors, shapes and 3 letter words...they know how to write,"



Preschoolers experience sensory fun with shaving cream during water play.

Makes Children Well-Prepared for Kindergarten

“I like how the teachers run things and I feel secure with the location just right next to the Sheriff’s Station.”

Ms. Raquel said in describing the curriculum.

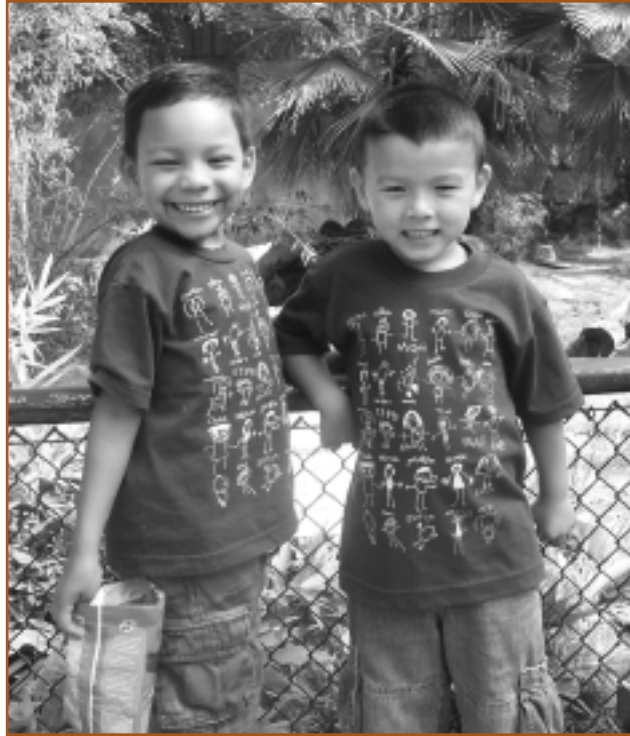
Many parents have had more than one child attend the Early Childhood Program and are extremely proud of the fact that the first school that their children ever attended is this program offered by the City.

“Twenty years ago, my daughter attended pre-school here and now my son Owen comes here because I really like the program. I like the teachers, the participation from other parents. My son’s cousins are here too,” said parent Sandy Silorio.

Nina Franco, whose first child attended the program seven years ago was extremely excited that her daughter Julia got into the program after being on the waiting list for almost a year. “I kept calling practically every week on some months because I didn’t want to miss the opening of possibly enrolling my child. I know the quality of education here and I wanted to make sure she made it in,” said Franco. “The teachers here are the best. They treat us like family.”

Chad Respicio likes the ideal location of the Early Childhood Program for his child. Respicio has received many referrals from family members about the program and thinks that overall, it is just the right one for his child.

“The cost of what we pay for this well developed program is significantly less than other surrounding preschools,” said



Field trip at LA Zoo

Respicio. “I like how the teachers run things and I feel secure with the location just right next to the Sheriff’s Station.” For Dennis Arca, he knew that he would send his son Dennis to no other program

other than the City’s Early Childhood Program. “Two years ago, my first child got a good head-start in kindergarten after having attended here. She was already advanced at the beginning of her kindergarten year. The teachers, teacher’s assistants are excellent. It is also pretty inexpensive compared to surrounding preschools,” said Arca.

Aside from the Early Childhood Program located at the Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center, there are two park locations that have an Early Childhood Program run by the City – one at Dolphin Park and currently at Veterans Park because of construction at Carson Park.

For more information about the Early Childhood Program, please call (310) 835-0212 ext. 1482 or 1485.



Early childhood participants enjoy an ice cream social to learn the letter “I” for the week.

City Council Adopts a Balanced Budget

The City Council adopted a balanced budget for fiscal year 2011/12, based on estimated revenues of \$65.8 million and expenditures equaling the same amount.

The adopted budget will also generate a surplus of \$88,277 and bring the City's general fund balance to \$21,093,939 at the end of the fiscal year on June 12, 2012.

The increase in projected revenues for the current fiscal year is due primarily to an anticipated \$1.5 million increase in sales tax revenues, offset by a \$200,000 reduction in intergovernmental revenues and a \$279,000 in fees.

In addition, the city's 2% Utility Users Tax (UUT) is anticipated to bring in

additional \$775,000 if the cap is removed. Revenue increases can also be attributed to modifications in the city's schedule of fees, in which certain fees are adjusted to be more in line with the cost of providing services.

The adopted budget projects expenditures to be \$65,754,318, which is approximately \$3.8 greater than the year-end estimates for the last fiscal year. The most significant increases are the return to work schedule for the city's workforce, in which employees did not need to take furloughs; \$1 million increase in retirement and health insurance costs; \$500,000 increase in Capital Asset Replacement Fund and additional \$440,000 in the cost of the Sheriff's contract.

New High School Opens in Carson



Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School, the new school constructed in the Carson area has opened its doors to 1,250 students from grades 6 through 12 on the first day of school this fall.

The new school, which is part of the Los Angeles Unified School District, was built to relieve the overcrowding at the two high schools that currently

serve the area – Carson and Banning highschoools.

Rancho Dominguez is located on Santa Fe Avenue, on the border of a residential area of Carson and industrial area of Long Beach, and includes a small middle school, a ninth-grade academy and two themed academies for 10th through 12th grade.

Rancho Dominguez Preparatory is one of nine new LAUSD school sites that opened this fall, and part of the District's \$19.5 billion New School Construction and Modernization Program to provide a safe and healthy neighborhood on a traditional, two-semester calendar for every student.

For more information about Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School, please call (310) 847-6400.

Carson Community Gathers to Commemorate 10th Anniversary of 9/11



Carson's elected officials led the community in a special ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

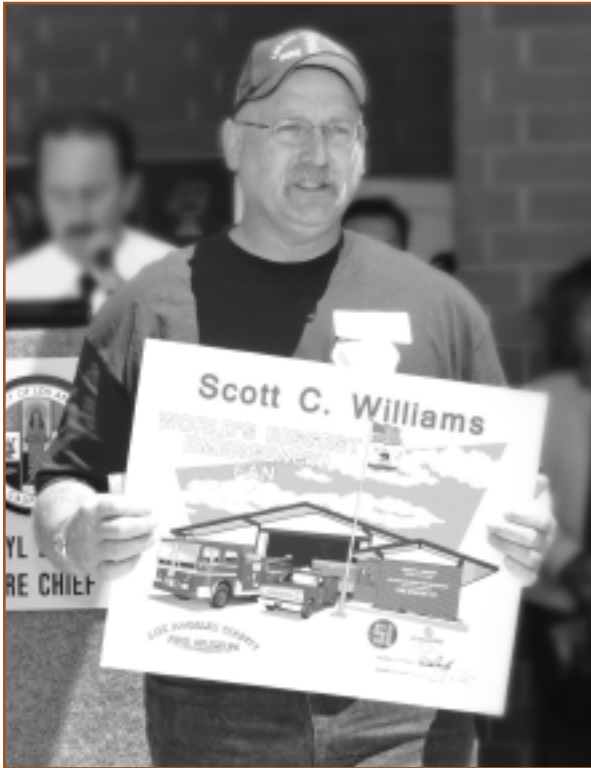
The Sunday afternoon ceremony featured special performances by Lisi Masalosalo, the Apollo West Carson Players, and church choirs from the St. Philomena Church, Mission Ebenezer, and Central Baptist Church.

Commander Todd Rogers, former captain of the Carson Station of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department before his promotion to the Department's Region II Field Operations, was the evening's Keynote Speaker. Battalion Chief William Mayfield also addressed the community on behalf of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Both speakers lauded the heroism of police and fire personnel during the tragic attacks on America that took place exactly 10 years ago, and urged the community to continue to remember 9/11 and its place in American history.

Candles were lit at the end of the ceremony as a tribute to the countless victims, the survivors and the heroes 9/11.

Cast of Hit 70's Show "Emergency!" Reunite in Carson



World's Biggest "Emergency!" Fan

The cast and the engines that starred in the famed 70's television show "Emergency!" reunited in Carson this summer for the first time in more than three decades after show went off the air.

Dubbed as "51 in Quarters," the event held just outside Fire Station 127 on 223rd Street in where the TV show was originally filmed, drew loyal fans from as far as Europe, Canada and the East Coast who came to Carson to witness the reunion of Squad 51 and Engine 51, the fictitious fire squad and engine featured in the show.

The series ran on NBC for seven years and each hour-long episode followed fictional yet real-like exploits of the Los Angeles County Fire Department firemen and paramedics as they braved their way through three or four separate emergencies at a time when paramedicine was a burgeoning field.

The event was organized by the Los Angeles County Fire Museum, a non-profit organization consisting of nearly 3,000 firefighters whose mission is to tell the history of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and its contribution to American Fire Services by showcasing its collection and educating its visitors. The association also acquired the engine and restored Engine 51.

Actors Robert Mantooth and Mike Stoker participated in the reunion event and signed autographs for fans, which consisted of people who followed the show during the '70s and new fans who discovered the show

through re-runs on the internet.

"This reunion may not ever happen again so I had to make sure to come out here," said Scott Williams, who flew in from Alberta, Canada after

winning the top place for "Emergency!'s Greatest Fan" contest. Williams recreated his backyard with "Emergency!" as its theme.

The second place winner, Jack Whobrey, a seven-year old boy from Atlanta, Georgia, flew in with his mother and was more excited over going to the "Emergency!" reunion than going to Disneyland. "He has learned a lot of medical terms from the show," said his mother Suzanne over her son's fascination with the show. "He plays the recorded show over and over again and has memorized many of the lines. For Christmas, he wants a real defibrillator. This show has really been a great imagination builder for Jack," she said.

Los Angeles was one of the first U.S. cities to have paramedics, typically firefighters, trained to deliver critical care at the scene of an emergency. During its run, the show has been recognized numerous times over the years for being a major force in driving the implementation of advanced life systems throughout the Los Angeles County during the 1970s.



The original engine from the show was restored by the Los Angeles County Fire Museum.

Community Center Upgrades Near Completion



Upgrades also include the replacement of the marquee adjacent to Carson Street, the chandelier in Hall ABC, retrofit of parking lot lighting, replacement of existing water

The ongoing improvements to the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center which started last April are nearing completion.

The project involved the removal and replacement of the old roof, ventilation and air conditioning replacement and installation of solar panels, which were all completed in September.

heaters with tankless water heaters, replacement of intercom system, and installation of security cameras.

The installation of solar panels is expected to save the Community Center \$42,000 in its current energy consumption.

The remaining work is expected to be completed in November.

New City Manager

continued from page three



New City Manager David C. Biggs poses with city employees during the reception on September 26.

aspects of city management. I'm confident that my colleagues and I have made a great choice in him."

Biggs attended California State University, Fullerton, where he received his Bachelors in Political Science, and is a graduate of the MBA program at the University of California, Irvine. He also completed a Certificate program in Continuous Improvement and Quality Management from the University of California, Santa Cruz extension program.

Biggs is a resident of Redondo Beach and an active member of the California Association for Local Economic Development for which he is a past Board Member and Chair. He also is a member of the California Redevelopment Association, serving on the Marketing and Publications Committee; the International Association of Shopping Centers; and the International City/County Management Association with the Credentialed Manager designation. He is also a member of the Urban Land Institute, and is a former Chair of Orange Country District Council.

Carson Park Closes for Construction



Carson Park has temporarily shut down to give way to construction scheduled to take place from October 2011 to October 2012.

The project, which costs around \$13 million, will involve the construction of a 21,210 sq. ft. building for a gymnasium, activity room, dance room, computer room, a workout area, childcare facility and a concession area.

The proposed improvement plan also includes upgrades or enhancements to the

basketball courts, baseball fields, and reconstruction of the parking lot including the addition of 41 parking spaces.