



# THE CARSON **REPORT**

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# Memorial Tribute Held in Honor of Carson's "Queen"

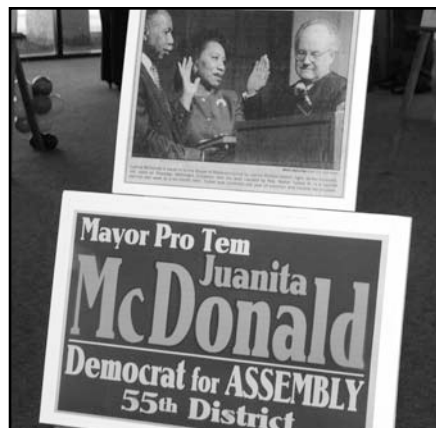
The Carson community, along with dignitaries from Washington D.C., Sacramento and other cities, gathered in Carson on June 1 for a memorial tribute in honor of the life and legacy of the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald.

Facilitated by Paula Madison, NBC Universal's Vice President of Diversity, and ABC 7 Eyewitness News Anchor Marc Brown, the two-hour program featured family members, community supporters, colleagues and former staffers, who all spoke about the impact she has made on their lives and the community which she served since 1992.

Supporters and colleagues in politics remembered her for her dedication and for her unparalleled strength. Her commitment has inspired a number of individuals who have had the opportunity to work with her, to run for office and to become public servants like her.

To them, she was a hardworking public servant who was determined to conquer challenges to achieve her goals for the good of the community. She was remembered for being a champion of gender equity and social justice and a strong advocate of HIV/AIDS awareness.

But to Ayanna Thomas, the late congresswoman's first granddaughter, she was a loving grandmother who taught her how to become a good writer.



Above: TV journalists Paula Madison and Marc Brown pose for a photo after the program. Former councilmember Mary Anne O'Neal pays tribute to a fellow "queen mother" (left). Photo below shows one of many posters that were on exhibit at the event.

*J.M.M.*

In December, City of Carson officials led the community in renaming its community center to the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center in honor of their "queen" whose political career started as a member of the Carson City Council.

A post office in Carson, along with a portion of the 91 freeway, are also scheduled to be named after the late congresswoman.

# Dirt Starts to Move on Avalon at South Bay

**F**or the past 40 years, there has been little activity on the former Cal Compact landfill site along the 405 freeway, but all that changed this spring when trucks and equipment mobilized for clean-up work in preparation for the development of the Avalon at South Bay retail, hotel and residential project.

Initial efforts on the 157-acre parcel have involved two key elements - the installation of groundwater monitoring and pilot testing for Deep Dynamic Compaction.

## Groundwater Monitoring

The remedial action plan (RAP) calls for the monitoring of the groundwater as well as the installation of groundwater collection and treatment facilities.

At this stage, the monitoring systems have been installed to determine the composition of the groundwater that is present and to ensure that clean-up activities are not adversely impacting the groundwater that leaves the site.

Currently, the groundwater that flows below the site is not treated in any way, but that will change as a result of the clean-up process during which collection and treatment facilities will be added.

## Deep Dynamic Compaction

Deep Dynamic Compaction (DDC) uses a rig (pictured) that drops a 25.5-ton weight to



A deep dynamic compaction rig is used to lift a 25.5-ton weight that is dropped to compress soils and refuse on the Avalon at South Bay site.



compress soils and refuse on the site. DDC minimizes future settlement and helps ensure the long term integrity of site improvements, like the parking lots. (Buildings will be constructed on pile foundation systems and will not be affected by any future settlement.)

Pilot testing was undertaken to calculate the drop height that will maximize compression while minimizing noise and vibration for neighboring residents. After evaluation of the test results, full scale DDC will commence and about 60 acres will be compacted over the next five to six months.

The City's goal is to keep residents informed throughout this momentous process.

Following is a recap of activities undertaken in the past three months.

## Summary of February 2008 - May 2008 Activities

- Subcontractors Opportunities Workshop was held on February 8 and attracted over 100 participants.
- Open House and Community Meeting was held on March 13 for residents living in the vicinity of the project and attracted close to 90 participants.
- Deep Dynamic Compaction (DDC) Pilot Testing commenced in April. After evaluation of pilot test results full scale DDC is anticipated to continue through the late Summer/early Fall.
- Movement of Landfill Cover Soil commenced in April. Soil movement is necessary to bring uniform thickness to the cover layer in support of DDC operations.
- Landfill Material Confirmation Excavation commenced in May. Small excavations are made to determine the depth, location and thickness of refuse material throughout the site.
- Groundwater Well Installation and Sampling Activities. Installation and sampling of a groundwater monitoring well took place in mid-May.

# Forty Years Later, the Blimp is Still

Cities are often identified by a landmark, a structure that bears a significance to the City's history or a symbol that serves as a city's identity. For Carson, this landmark is not a piece of art or a concrete structure but a giant blimp that soars above its skies for the last 40 years.

The Good Year Blimp, a familiar sight for residents of Carson and all of Southern California, has called Carson its home since January 1968, the same year that the city was incorporated.

On January 1968, the blimp, then called the "Columbia" moved into Carson from the Torrance Municipal Airport where it was temporarily headquartered, after having outgrown its old home in Los Angeles.

Around the same time, Carson was going through the process of incorporation. As the citizens



Finalists in the Good Year Blimp's card-making contest pose for a souvenir shot after the awards ceremony on May 31.

approved the incorporation and Carson officially became a city, the blimp had fully moved in, allowing for the perfect time for it to be part of the city seal that, at the time, was being designed by three young students.

Since then, the blimp has been a familiar sight for residents of Carson and all of Southern California. A giant bird that spans 192 ft, or half the size of a football field, cruising at a speed of 30 mph across the sky is



# 1 Carson's Most Popular Resident

simply impossible not to notice; more so at night, when the blimp becomes a spectacle of colors as it turns into an aerial billboard with messages and advertisements running across the length of the balloon.

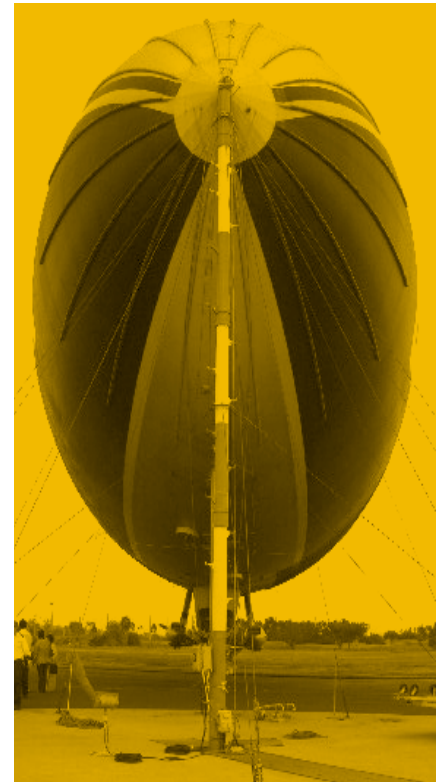
From being a marketing tool for the company, the blimp has evolved into a valuable part of coverage for television networks as it provides above-ground coverage for sporting events, parades and various events in Southern California.

The blimp now headquartered in Carson is called the "Spirit of America," christened in September 2002, as a tribute to the nation in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. Two other blimps form the Good Year fleet - the "Spirit of Good Year", which is stationed in Akron, Ohio, and the "Spirit of Innovation", based in Pompano Beach, Florida. Carson and the Good Year blimp

has shared so much history over the last 40 years and has traditionally commemorated its anniversaries together. This year was no different as the Good Year Blimp, through the Lighter that Air Historical Society, a friends-of-the-blimp organization consisting of Carson residents and chaired by community volunteer Carole Keen, organized a card-making contest in honor of the blimp's 40th anniversary. Dozens of students representing various elementary schools entered with their colorful entries, and the winner - Phillip Basobas, a second grader from Caroldale Learning Community -- got a ride on the blimp.

Similarly, when the City of Carson sponsored a 40th anniversary poster-making contest earlier in the year, most entries depicted its most popular resident - the "Spirit of America".

With its presence never going unnoticed, always a special guest in all important events in California, and having appeared in dozens of movies and television features, certainly, no other resident comes close to its popularity.



# Carson Carwash's Retro Design Makes it a City Landmark

**M**ost businesses will jump on any opportunity to take on a new look. But not Carson Carwash, which has successfully managed to maintain its original 60's façade for over four decades. In fact, it is the establishment's retro design that makes it stand out like a true city landmark.

Carson Carwash is one of the oldest businesses in Carson. The carwash opened in 1966, making it two years older than the City of Carson, which officially became an incorporated city in 1968. Forty-two years later, the car wash now serves about 330 customers per day.

But in addition to the success of the business and customer

loyalty, its manager Alfonso Gutierrez takes pride in the loyalty and longevity of its employees. Among them is Bobby Villasenor, who has been with the carwash for 40 years

and now serves as its Assistant Manager.

Carson Carwash is located on Carson Street, between Dolores and Orrick Streets.



## Maria Pilapil Honored at Older American Recognitions Day

**M**aria Pilapil is the Carson City Council's honoree at the 43rd Annual Older American Recognitions Day held May 29 in Los Angeles.

Maria has been a resident of the City of Carson for the past 29 years and has volunteered with the YMCA Nutrition Program for 15 years and by helping run the on-site congregate meals and home-delivered meals program for Carson's homebound seniors. She also visits homebound seniors in their homes as part of the City's Friendly Visitor program.



In 1987, Maria founded the Friendship Club of Carson, a

senior citizens club. She has been the club's treasurer for the past 20 years.

Maria is the current president of the City of Carson Senior Citizen Advisory Commission and a past member of the Public Relations Commission. In addition to her volunteer work with the YMCA, the Friendship Club and the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission, Maria is also actively involved in various programs and activities designed to improve the quality of life of senior citizens in Carson.

# Carson's Relay for Life Scheduled for Aug 22-23

The American Cancer Society will be presenting its 5th Annual Carson Relay for Life from August 22-23 in track field of Carson High School.

Relay for Life is an overnight team event that aims to increase awareness of cancer in the community and raises funds to fight cancer.

The relay will start at 3 p.m. on August 22 and concludes at 3 p.m. the next day. During the relays, team of people take turns walking or running laps

throughout the 24-hour period. The survivor lap, in which cancer survivors celebrate their strength on the track field, will take place at 6 p.m. The Luminaria Ceremony, a special ceremony to remember those who have lost their battle to cancer is scheduled for 9 p.m.

Relay for Life began more than 20 years ago in Tacoma, Washington and now, over three million Americans participate in relay events throughout the nation. Internationally, the program has also seen increased support, with relays now

operating or planned in over two dozen nations. Aside from raising money through sponsorship, the event creates a unique spirit of camaraderie among those who have survived cancer or currently share the same experience.

To sign up for the event or for more information, please contact Leonor Conroy, event chair at (310) 518-2870, co-chair Kathy Pasillas at (310) 952-6408, or Itelia Walker, team coordinator at (310) 404-6316.

## Citizens Encouraged to Take Protection Against West Nile Virus as Summer Approaches

As the season for barbecues and other summer activities approaches, citizens are strongly advised to take precautions against mosquito bites.

West Nile virus can be transmitted to human and other animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, nausea and/or a skin rash. They can last for several weeks or months. Severe cases can result in paralysis, coma, and even death.

In 2007, the California Department of Public Health reported three West Nile virus-related deaths in Los Angeles County. Residents can protect themselves and their families by playing an

active role in mosquito prevention and by following a few simple steps:

- ✎ Inspect front and backyards. Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, watering troughs or anything that holds water for more than a week.
- ✎ Ensure that swimming pools, spas and ponds are properly maintained.
- ✎ Change the water in pet dishes and replace water in birdbaths weekly.
- ✎ Wear long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- ✎ Use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

✎ Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

The public is encouraged to report dead birds to help with West Nile virus surveillance and control efforts, as birds play an important role in maintaining and spreading the virus. The California Department of Public Health's toll-free hotline is 877-WNV-BIRD, or visit online at: [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)

For more information, please call the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 or visit [www.glacvd.org](http://www.glacvd.org)

(Source: Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District press release)



**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) 516-7178

**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  
Victoria Park  
(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 Noon, 1st Thursday, Community Center

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

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

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  
Mike A. Gipson

Councilmember  
Elito M. Santarina

Councilmember  
Harold C. Williams

Councilmember  
Lula Davis-Holmes

City Clerk  
Helen S. Kawagoe

City Treasurer

Karen Avilla

City Manager:

Jerome G. Groomes

Public Information:

Manager: Eva Gatling

Editor & Writer:  
Zarah Cruz

Graphic Designers:  
Carlos Esquivel,  
Victor Gastelum and  
Cian Camba

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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**Tel:** (310) 952-1740  
**Fax:** (310) 549-1466  
**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 California in 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.

The City of Carson and the Public Relations Commission Jointly Present the

**2008**

*"Leaves of Carson"*

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**Thursday, July 31, 2008  
12 noon – 2 p.m.**

**Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Community Center**

**Admission: \$25**

To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact the Public Information Office at (310) 952-1740.

**THE CARSON**

**REPORT**

Public Information Office-Carson  
701 E. Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745

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