

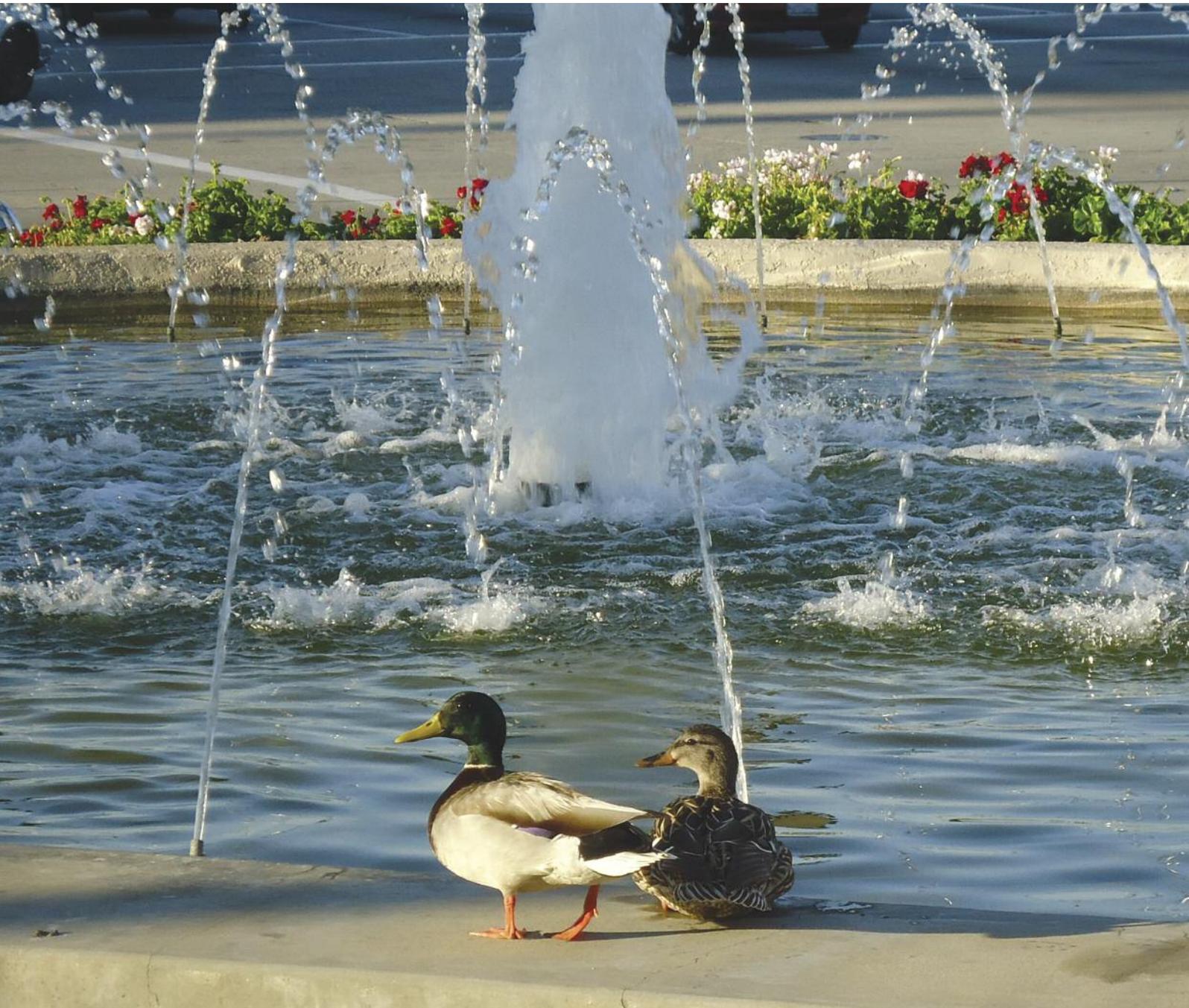


Public Information Office—Carson  
701 E. Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745

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**Police & Fire Emergencies** 911

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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

Cultural Arts Commission  
6 p.m., 1st Monday  
(only when necessary)

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

Youth Commission  
7 p.m., 2nd Wednesday

Historical Committee  
6:30 p.m., 4th Wednesday

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

Utilities Users Tax Oversight Committee  
(only when necessary)

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

Relocation Appeals Board  
(only when necessary)

Community Civic Engagement Board  
6:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday

Sister Cities Association  
6:30 p.m., 4th Wednesday

## 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  
**Donesia Gause**

City Treasurer  
**Karen Avilla**

City Manager  
**David C. Biggs**

Editor:  
**Zarah Cruz**

Writers:  
**Zarah Cruz**  
**Margie Revilla-Garcia**

Graphic Designers:  
**Carlos Esquivel**  
**Victor Gastelum**

**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:** [mrevilla@carson.ca.us](mailto:mrevilla@carson.ca.us)

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY TREASURER

The City of Carson has established a Fraud Hotline to fight fraud and protect taxpayer's dollars. The Hotline is an option for anyone wishing to anonymously report illegal or unethical activity on the part of the City, its officials, employees, contractors or vendors. The Hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and interpreters are available in 20 different languages.

Calls placed to the Hotline are confidential and handled by a third party vendor. You do not have to give your name and your call is not recorded through the use of recording devices, caller identification equipment or any other means.

The City of Carson has taken a pro-active step against fraud by establishing the Hotline. In the event that you become aware of unethical, illegal or irresponsible activity, don't ignore it. Call the Fraud Hotline toll-free telephone number at 1-877-7 HOT TIP or 1-877-746-8847.

## 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.

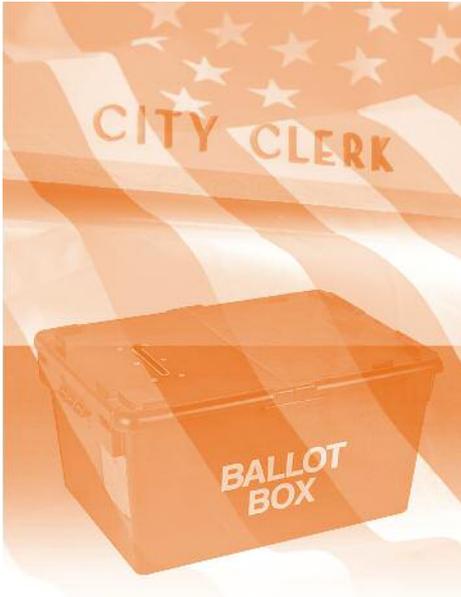
The social composition of Carson is California in miniature. It is a city with a balanced ethnic and cultural mix living together in harmony and prosperity.

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.

## Carson City Council Appoints Donesia Gause as New City Clerk



**T**he Carson City Council has named Donesia Gause as its new City Clerk, replacing longtime City Clerk Helen Kawagoe, who left office on December for health reasons.

Gause, an analyst in the City Clerk's Office in the City of Long Beach was appointed during a special meeting held on February 28, over three others who were also on the Council's short list of candidates.

The City Clerk position has been vacant since January 1 following Kawagoe's retirement and resignation from office at the end of 2011 after serving as Carson's City Clerk for 37 years. The appointment was made within the

60 days prescribed by the Government to either appoint or call a special election to fill the vacant position.

Gause is a Certified Municipal Clerk, who also previously worked as the Deputy City Clerk for the City of Compton, prior to joining the City of Long Beach in 2003. The City Council interviewed all four finalists at length during the special meeting, and in the end, selected Gause.

Gause, who was sworn into office by City Attorney William Wynder immediately after the City Council vote, will serve the remainder of Kawagoe's unexpired four-year term, which began in March 2011.

## City Officials Dedicate Carson's Newest Mini Park

**C**ity of Carson officials led the community in a special ceremony held on January 21 to mark the grand opening of Reflections Mini Park, Carson's newest mini park.

Aptly named Reflections Mini Park, the "passive park" located at 21208 Shearer Avenue is designed for quiet enjoyment and relaxation, was built on a former "Brownfield" – an actual or potentially contaminated site -- by Car-

son's Redevelopment Agency, before the agency shut down in late 2011.

In addition to an environment suitable for quiet reflection, the mini park is adorned by drought-resistant plants that require minimal maintenance and promote a healthy, sustainable environment.

In 2006, under the oversight of the Re-

gional Water Quality Control Board, the Redevelopment Agency conducted the appropriate environmental remediation to make it suitable for a neighborhood park. The project that cost approximately \$955,000 is an example of many of the recently-defunct Redevelopment Agency's accomplishments in eliminating blight in Carson through environmental remediation and creating an alternate use for troubled or contaminated properties.

## New Captain Heads Carson's Sheriff Station

**L**ieutenant Eddie Rivero officially took the helm as Captain of the Carson Sheriff's Station on April 1. Lt. Rivero has served as the acting captain since April of 2011.

Rivero joined the Sheriff's Department 22 years ago and spent his early career as a training officer. He taught patrol tactics, hate crime investigation,

cultural diversity and workplace rules on harassment.

Rivero was promoted to Sergeant in 2000 at the Norwalk Station, and handled the department's response to harassment and discrimination complaint prior to serving as a Chief's Aide at the Correctional Service Division Headquarters. He was promoted to Lieu-

tenant in 2006 and assigned to Court Services Division. In 2007, Rivero was assigned to the Carson Station as Watch Commander and then an Operations Lieutenant.

Carson station oversees the City of Carson and unincorporated areas adjacent to Harbor Gateway, Harbor City, and East Rancho Dominguez area.

# Carson's Special Needs Program: Enhancing the Quality of Life of Individuals with Disabilities for Over 30 Years



Participants learning new skills and socializing with friends through the Special Needs program.

Over 30 years since its inception, the City of Carson Special Needs Program has remarkably evolved from a physical fitness and recreation program to an important advocacy group for individuals with mental and physical disabilities and their families.

Housed in the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center, the program provides a nurturing care to Carson's special needs population through various physical and social activities. Its goal is to enhance the quality of lives of individuals with disabilities by addressing loneliness and isolation, utilizing existing community resources.

The program was piloted by Carson resident Costella Franklin in the late 1970s in order to find activities for her two children

affected with Down Syndrome. Since then it has grown in scope and the activities have expanded tremendously to its current state where activities include everything from arts-and-crafts to basketball. Except for nominal fees for transportation and miscellaneous costs for sports and special excursions, the special needs program is offered by the City of Carson free of charge.

Many of the participants have grown together in the programs and have formed long time friendships.

Sixty-nine year old resident and mother, Eunice Dixon, has been coming to the Special Needs Program with her 42-year old son Darrell since he was 11 years old. Darrell currently participates in bowling, monthly dances, basketball, and

Special Olympics. According to Eunice, these physical and social activities are extremely important for her son Darrell.

"It gives Darrell something to do with his time, meet other people, see his friends, socialize, and try something new," said his mother. Since there are a limited number of activities and peer-centered activities for adults with disabilities outside of the special work program through the regional center called Workshop, Darrell does not have much other activity to occupy his time at home.

For 50-year old resident and participant, Anthony Clark, participating in recreational and social activities is extremely important. According to his sister, Loretta Clark, over the years, since activities have dwindled due to budget cuts,



**Bowling program offers the fundamentals in a competitive yet supportive environment.**

Anthony has gained weight since he does not have any group sports that he can attend like Carson's Special Needs Program.

For Loretta, the importance of having Anthony participate in the Special Needs Program is to have him learn skills with other participants that have similar needs. "It is more beneficial for Anthony to participate in a group sport like basketball with his peers because he is more inclined to do it, he pays attention and he learns something new individually and how to deal with other people," said Loretta.

There are currently over 400 registered clients participating in the various activities of the Special Needs Program. The City of Carson is the only city in the South Bay Area known to offer recreational and social programs for the mentally and physically disabled adult population.

Forty-six year old, Reiko Ramos, has been attending the program since high school. She can only attend the weekend recreational activities now since she works during the weekdays but looks

**"I just want some type of normalcy for them. I don't want to see them shortchanged and I want to see them have the chance to enjoy life like everyone else"**

forward to the monthly dances to see her friends that she grew up with in the program to catch up and socialize. Cedric Berry, 42, is also a long-time active participant of the program and is involved in three different sports for the Special Olympics.

Sandra Barber, who has worked over 20 years as the Special Needs Coordinator, wants nothing more for the participants but a "good quality of life as every person deserves." "I just want some type of normalcy for them. I don't want to see them shortchanged and I want to see them have the chance to enjoy life like everyone else," Barber said.

Aside from recreational programs, classes are currently offered at Scott Park Mondays thru Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. while Carson Park is under renovation. The classes offer an opportunity for developmentally disabled individuals to socialize, learn new skills in a fun and accepting atmosphere. Appropriate social behavior is emphasized as the group studies nutrition, discuss safety issues, do arts and crafts, play games that develop methods for their self-expression, social interaction and promote independence.

On April 21, 2012, the South Bay Special Olympic 2012 Area Games will be held at the Veterans Park Sports Complex from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open and free to the public. The event features Special Olympic athletes from the South Bay and surrounding areas who will compete in basketball and bocce.

For more information on the City's Special Needs Program, please contact Sandra Barber at 310-835-0212, ext.1465.



**Learning new skills and developing methods of self-expression in a fun accepting atmosphere.**

# Property Owners Asked to Vote on Proposed Increase in Street Lighting Assessment

**C**arson Property Owners will receive a Street Lighting Assessment Ballot to seek their approval on a proposed increase on their current assessment in order for the County of Los Angeles Lighting District to fund ongoing street light services in Carson's neighborhood.

Property owners will be asked to vote whether or not to approve the proposed increase to \$35/year from the current \$1/year per single family residence. Larger commercial, industrial and governmental properties will pay a proportionally higher rate, if approved by voters. Under Proposition 218, approved by California voters in 1996, property owners have the right to vote on whether or not they approve of new or increased assessment rate.

A "Yes" vote will ensure street light service remains at current levels. A "No" vote may result in street lights

being turned off and light poles removed, and cost property owners if they later change their minds and have the street lights reinstalled. Passage of the new assessment rate requires a 50 percent or more of the ballots returned.

The proposed rate increase, equivalent to 9¢ a day, is a result of the continuing cost of electricity, operation and maintenance of street lights. Property tax revenues have been on the decline in the last few years to the decline in assessed property value, while at the



Street Lighting Assessment Ballot sent out to residents on proposed rate increase.

same time, Southern California Edison rates have continuously increased over the same period. As a result, the reserve funds for street lighting are now exhausted, making an increase in the assessment rate necessary.

*continued on page 8*

## Residents Urged to Take Advantage of Assistance Programs Offered by Automotive Repair Bureau

State of California  
**LICENSED**

**SMOG  
CHECK**



**R**esidents are encouraged to take advantage of the assistance programs offered by the Department of Consumer Affairs - Bureau of Automotive Repair (DCA-BAR) designed to help improve the air quality in California.

Through DCA-BAR's Consumer Assistance Program, individuals who meet the low income eligibility can receive financial incentives amounting to \$1,000 to \$1,500 when they retire an aging vehicle. CAP also provides qualified individuals who own a vehicle that fails its biennial Smog Check

inspection up to \$500 in financial assistance toward emissions-related repairs. Last year, the City Council adopted a resolution in support of these programs, which it found to be beneficial to the environment, but also to its fixed-income families, seniors, single parents and other families experiencing financial difficulties during these tough economic times.

Applications for these programs are available online at [www.smogcheck.ca.gov](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov) or by calling the DCA at 1-800-952-5210.

# The “Rock” Makes Unexpected Overnight Stop in Carson



The 340-ton rock making a surprise stop along Avalon Blvd. on its overnight trip to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for an exhibition later this summer.

**T**he 340-ton boulder that traveled through 22 cities made an unscheduled overnight stop in Carson on March 8, allowing curious residents and other spectators to take a close look at the famous “rock.”

The two-story high chunk of granite, which originated from a quarry in Riverside County, was originally scheduled to travel through the streets of Carson at 1 a.m. on March 8.



Every precaution possible was taken to ensure safety and minimize interference to traffic in the transportation of the giant rock.

However, due to a delay caused by tight clearances along Atlantic Avenue in Long Beach, the “rock” had to park along Avalon Boulevard, at Pacific, near Sepulveda Boulevard, and remained there throughout the day until it was ready to resume its journey the following evening.

Residents were pleased with the unexpected overnight stop as it allowed them to see the famous rock whose journey had attracted a following since it left the quarry on February 28. From Riverside County, it traveled in the middle of the night for 11 nights at a speed of 5 mph, making stops in the cities of Ontario Airport, Diamond Bar, Rowland Heights, La Mirada, Lakewood, Long Beach, Carson, and Los Angeles.

The “rock” transporter drove north on Avalon, and eastward into Carson Street, and south into Vermont and made one more overnight stop before reaching its final destination, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art after completing the 105-mile journey. The “rock” will take center stage in an exhibit by Michael Heizer called “Levitated Mass” this summer.

## Upcoming Events

### April

#### 20th Annual Youth Conference

Saturday, April 14, 2012 • 10:00 a.m.  
California State University,  
Dominguez Hills

#### Parent Conference

Saturday, April 14, 2012 • 9:00 a.m.  
California State University,  
Dominguez Hills

#### The Great American Cleanup

Saturday, April 21, 2012 • 7:30 a.m.  
Dominguez Channel

#### Special Olympics 2012 Area Games

Saturday, April 21, 2012 • 9:00 a.m.  
Veterans Park & Sports Complex

#### 2nd Annual Children's Day

Saturday, April 28, 2012 • 10:00 a.m.  
SouthBay Pavilion

### May

#### Cinco de Mayo

Saturday, May 5, 2012 • 1:00 p.m.  
Veterans Park

#### Memorial Day Celebration

Friday, May 25, 2012 • 10:00 a.m.  
Veterans Park

### June

#### Philippine Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, June 9, 2012 • 8:00 a.m.  
Veterans Park

#### Juneteenth Celebration 2012

Saturday, June 16, 2012 • 11:00 a.m.  
Mills Park

# Residents Urged to Take Measures Against Invasive Tiger Mosquitoes



The Invasive Tiger Mosquito is distinctive for its white striped body.

Residents are urged to report any daytime mosquito activity after invasive Asian tiger mosquitoes were spotted last fall in certain areas of the Los Angeles County.

According to the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD), mosquito activity subsides during the winter, but warming weather triggers egg hatching and adult biting activity.

Invasive Asian tiger mosquitoes, described as black and white in color, are persistent day-biters and are extremely costly to manage. This mosquito breed significantly alters how people enjoy the outdoors and increases the risk of disease wherever it is present.



Residents are asked to call the GLACVCD if they see any small, black and white mosquitoes or if they are being bitten by mosquitoes during the day. In addition, they are urged to follow these steps to keep the Asian tiger mosquito from breeding around their homes:

- Search for and discard any containers, cans, buckets, old tires, and trash around the home. Store items in a covered area or indoors to prevent water from accumulating.
- Drill drain-holes in tubs, containers, trash cans, and tire swings that must be kept outdoors.



- Look closely under all bushes and behind walls for trash, plastic bags, tarps or children's toys that may collect water. Discard or store them indoors.
- Store recyclables inside covered trash cans or sealed plastic bags.
- Remove any water saucers from beneath potted plants and drill drain holes in all decorative flower pots.
- Do not store water in uncovered buckets or rain barrels. Ensure rain barrels are completely sealed to prevent mosquitoes from entering.



- Empty bird baths and small fountains completely or clean them thoroughly every 3 days. Request FREE mosquitofish for ponds or larger fountains.
- Clean out rain gutters and lawn drains to ensure water does not collect.
- Water plants at the soil level. Water that collects in the leaves and axils of plants will breed mosquitoes.
- Spread the word! Talk to your neighbors about preventing mosquitoes from breeding.

For more information, or to request service, contact: Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District 562-944-9656 or [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org)

## Street Lighting Assessment

*continued from page 6*

The assessment rate started at \$14/year in Fiscal Year (FY) 79/80 to a maximum of \$26/year in FY 90/91. The rate then dropped to current \$1/year beginning FY 94/95 when the reserve funds had reached a robust level. For the past 18 years, the reserve fund was able to operate and maintain the street lights.

Property owners are urged to review the informational materials they will receive along with the street assessment lighting ballot, in order to make an informed decision on the issue. For more information, please contact the County of Los Angeles Lighting District at (800) 618-7575.