



Spring Issue
2015





**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) 952-1786

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) 847-3500

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

Jobs
Career Center
(310) 952-1762

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) 847-3520

Sheriff's Station
(310) 830-1123

Street Sweeping
Street Maintenance
(310) 847-3520

Telephone
AT&T
(310) 515-7979

Trash Collection
Waste Management
(310) 847-3508
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/Successor 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 Citizen's Budget
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
Elito M. Santarina

Councilmember
Mike A. Gipson

Councilmember
Lula Davis-Holmes

Councilmember
Albert Robles

City Clerk
Donesia Gause

City Treasurer
Karen Avilla

City Manager
Nelson Hernandez

Editor:
Margie Revilla-Garcia

Graphic Designer:
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.

Address: 701 E. Carson St.,
Carson, CA 90745

Tel: (310) 952-1740

Fax: (310) 549-1466

E-mail: 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 re-
port 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 avail-
able 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 irrespon-
sible 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 percent-
age 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 power-
ful 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'S Measure Utility User's Tax Measure



Would continue to provide funds needed to save vital City services and programs.

Since 2010, the City has used its 2% Utility User's Tax (UUT) on gas and electric bills to fund essential services such as police, social services, street repairs, parks, recreation programs and other services that are vital to our residents' quality of life.



The ballot measure will again appear on the March 3 municipal election ballot, along with the election for two council seats, the City Clerk, and the City Treasurer. This is not a new tax or a rate increase. This extends the 2% UUT tax that expires in 2016.

The UUT of 2% will continue to be on the monthly gas and electric bills of all Carson businesses and households which cost an average of \$3 per month for a typical household with a combined monthly gas and electric bill of \$150.

Due to changing technology, recent court rulings and new Federal regulations, the City has placed "Measure A" once again on the ballot this March to update the existing UUT ordinance language. The amended language will include UUT collected for water, telephone, and cellular phone utilities.

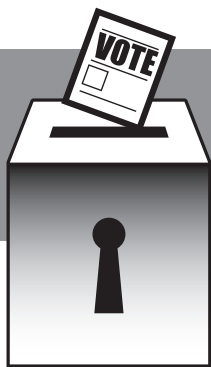
The revised language will ensure that all residents are treated equally regardless of the telecommunication service they use.

Currently, a significant percentage of taxes paid by Carson residents end up going to the State government. By law, all revenues collected by the UUT stay in Carson for the benefit of our local residents.

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Utility Users' Tax by Comparison

Cities with UUT	UUT Rate
Carson	2%
Lakewood	3%
Paramount	3%
Rancho Palos Verdes	3%
L.A. County (Unincorporated)	4.5%
Redondo Beach	4.75%
Gardena	5%
Long Beach	5%
Downey	5%
Hawthorne	5%
Lawndale	5.5%
Norwalk	5.5%
Hermosa Beach	6%
Torrance	6.5%
Bellflower	7%
Compton	10%
Inglewood	10%
L.A. City	10%
Seal Beach	11%



Voters to Decide on

Measure A Utility User's Tax Measure

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Without the renewal of the existing UUT, the City may be forced to make reductions in community programs, or enact increased fees for services to the public.

Residents who are 62 years or older whose names appear on the utility bill, as well as "lower income" households (4-person household earning less than \$5,000 per month) are exempt from



paying the Utility Users' Tax.

The UUT is projected to generate approximately \$10 million annually, with 80% of that amount expected to be generated from the utility bills of Carson's business community.

Services that will be affected if Measure A is not passed include Sheriff's patrol of local neighborhoods,

911 Emergency Services, street



maintenance and pothole repairs, gang prevention and graffiti removal, youth programs and early childhood and after-school programs. Senior citizens



Measure A on March 3



could also lose their “Meals on Wheels” program, Dial-a-Ride, the Stroke Center and the Computer Technology Center, and the wide variety of recreation programs offered to senior citizens.

Elimination or reduction of essential services could negatively affect the property values in Carson if streets are not maintained, and crime prevention measures are not kept at current levels.



Individuals Exempt From Utility User's Tax

- **Senior Citizen**
(62 years of age or older)
- **Low Income Household**
(4-person household earning less than \$5,000 per month)
- **Tenant/Resident** in a
in a Mobilehome Park or
Multi-Family Developments
- **Commercial/Industrial Customers**

For more details and to apply for exemption, please log on to the City of Carson website:
<http://ci.carson.ca.us/>

Unfortunately, the City of Carson only receives less than 7 cents for every dollar paid in property taxes to the County. This amount translates to a mere \$7 million per year, which is not sufficient to cover even the cost of the City's Sheriff's Department contract.

If passed to continue implementing the UUT tax, revenues from this measure will help maintain the current levels of City services that residents receive from the City of Carson.

For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at (310) 952-1740. For voter registration and other information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 952-1720. ■

Park Programs, Local Attractions and Cultural Diversity Top Students' List of



Twenty-six essays written by students from Carson stood out in describing their love for their city during the 2014 "Why I Like Carson" contest, which concluded with an awards ceremony in November 2014.

The winners include 23 students from various schools in Carson and three at-large students -- or students who live in Carson but attend a school outside the city -- received prizes ranging from \$50 to \$150, medallions, and certificates of commendation from the Carson City Council, State and County elected offices.



A project of the Public Relations Commission, the contest was started in 1996 by former councilmember Mary Anne O'Neal in an effort to foster community pride among Carson's

youth. The contest generates wide participation from the local schools with hundreds of essays received each year. In 2003, the contest opened to at-large participants to allow students who live in the city but are homeschooled or attend schools in other cities, to participate in the contest.

Students have different reasons why they like Carson, as described in their essays, with local attractions -- ranging from the world-class StubHub! Center to the once-a-week Farmers' Market -- being one of the top reasons.

Another favorite on the students' list is the city's parks and the numerous activities such as after-school programs and sports activities that keep them busy year round. Micah Dacanay, an eighth grader from Stephen M. White Middle School, likes Carson parks because of the scenery.

"I like how the whole place [parks] is clean, nicely constructed and that is great for all ages. When I visit the park, I always see people running to the point where when I look at them, it makes me feel happy," wrote Dacanay.

Students also agree that the cultural diversity in Carson is an aspect that makes them not

only like their city, but actually makes them proud citizens. "Carson is a place where people of many nationalities, traditions, and ideals live in peace," observed Michelle Hernandez, an eighth grader from St. Philomena School. To seventh grader Ashleigh Ogan, also from St. Philomena School "all the wonderful cultures and customs make the city colorful, unique and full of life."

When asked the question what they can do to make Carson a better place to live, many students wrote that volunteering in the community and doing more to help the city recycle is how they can make a difference.

Fourth grader Maile Boyer from Del Amo Elementary School volunteered her time by helping pick up trash and helping clean Dominguez Park after the Country Western Fair.

Siamara Pataua, a fifth grader from 232nd Place Elementary would like to see Carson be a greener place by encouraging each other to recycle.



"If you want to compliment about how beautiful the city you live in is, then you should spread the word and tell them to recycle and pick up their trash," wrote Pataua.

So whether it is the local attractions, the parks and park activities, and the city's cultural diversity, eighth grader Dacanay summarizes her position: "Carson may not be the Big Apple, but it's home. Memories, friends, my happiness all packed in a place. For me, it's the happiest place on earth. Carson is my Wonderland, my Neverland, my happy ever after." ■



Captain's Corner

Captain Chris Marks

I am pleased to contribute the newest addition to the Carson Report, the "Sheriff's Corner." At the suggestion of the Mayor Pro Tem, the Carson Station will contribute articles in each publication of the Carson Report regarding crime prevention efforts, public safety, and informative topics to help bridge communication about the services each member of the Sheriff's Department provides to the community.

First, I would like to introduce myself as your newest Sheriff's Captain. On November 16, 2014, Interim Sheriff John Scott promoted our previous Sheriff's Captain, Reginald Gautt, to the position of Area Commander and subsequently promoted me as the Carson Station Captain. Carson Station has a long legacy of successful leaders who have served as your Captain. Interim Sheriff Scott being one of them, Assistant Sheriff Todd Rogers, Area Commander Eddie Rivero and now Area Commander Reginald Gautt. It is with great honor I accept the privilege to serve the Carson community.

My career with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department began in 1987 Being a deputy sheriff was a dream and goal I held as a child that never changed.

Since joining the Sheriff's Department, I have been assigned to the Men's Central Jail, Lynwood Station, Industry Station, Norwalk Station, Lakewood Station, Temple Station, Operation Safe Streets Bureau, and Sheriff Headquarters. Since early 2013, I have managed the Department's test and evaluation project of body worn cameras. As you may have been informed by the Mayor, in 2014 Carson Station was selected as one of the four patrol stations to test the body worn cameras. The testing of the cameras continues and will conclude this Spring.

As part of the first Captain's Corner article, I am pleased to inform you the Part 1 crime rate, which include violent and property crimes for the City of Carson reduced by nearly 7% in 2014. The success in the crime reduction is directly attributed to the commitment of public safety resources by the City of Carson and the cooperation of you, our community. Since my arrival to Carson Station, I have been overwhelmed with support for the public safety mission by both the community and the city of Carson. Looking forward to 2015, the Carson Station will remain focused on crime suppression by coordinating efforts with the City of Carson and the community to combat graffiti, promote our Gang Diversion program, increase enforcement against street racing, and curbing crimes against persons and property. Our personnel remain committed to providing safety for residents to live, shop, and dine in our city, and very soon

attend movies at our SouthBay Pavilion.

If you need to contact the Carson Sheriff Station for non-emergency purposes, please call (310) 830-1123. For any emergency always call 911. As an option to residents, the Sheriff's Department now offers the ability to file crime reports for certain crimes online. If you wish to report, when there is no suspect information, of a lost or stolen cell phone valued \$950 or less, lost or stolen property valued \$950 or less, vandalism, excluding graffiti, where damage is valued under \$400, theft from an unlocked vehicle valued \$950 or less, theft from an open or unsecured area valued \$950 or less, or a Supplemental Loss Form (Must already have a LASD report number), you may do so by visiting our website at www.carson.lasd.org and clicking on the "File Online Police Report." You may still call Carson Station and have a deputy respond to your location.

Lastly, the Community Relations Office is currently seeking residents to become members of our Volunteers on Patrol program. Our Volunteers on Patrol provide a minimum of 16 hours of their time per month to assist Carson Station performing non-hazardous patrol duties. If you are interested in helping Carson Station and serving the community, please contact the Community Relations Office, Sergeant Carlos Veramendi, at **310-847-8386. ■**



City of Carson SFAN Program (Safety First, Act Now) COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

The Carson Sheriff's Station, in conjunction with the City of Carson, will be conducting a survey in your area seeking to improve safety in the City of Carson through the newly-developed "Safety First, Act Now" Program (SFAN).

We encourage you to express your concerns and suggestions on how safety can be improved in the City of Carson regarding CRIMINAL and NUISANCE activities and how to solve the issues. Also, are you satisfied with the services?

The next SFAN survey date is scheduled for
Saturday, February 21st, 2015 for the **Dominguez Village/Lincoln Village area** from **10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

The SFAN team will meet on January 26th to determine the feedback date for this area as well as other survey and feedback meeting dates.

For more information or to volunteer, please call (310) 952-1713.

Applications Now Accepted for Student Exchange Visit to Japan in July 2015

The Carson Sister Cities Association (CSCA) is seeking students interested to participate in a two-week student exchange visit to its sister city Soka, Japan this summer. The 2015 Student Cultural Exchange visit will take place on the last week of July and first week of August.

To be eligible for the student exchange program, students must be between 16 and 21 years old at the time of travel and a full-time high school or college student, maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.5 for either the last three semesters or last six quarters. Applicants must also be a member of the CSCA and must submit proof that they reside in Carson for at least one year.



Carson and Soka began their sister city relationship in 1979 and under the Student Cultural Exchange Program, over 25 visits have taken place between Carson and Soka over the last 35 years. The program provides delegates with a unique, first-hand knowledge and

appreciation of the Japanese culture as they stay with host families and experience the Japanese way of life. Delegates will also participate in various official and educational activities hosted by the City of Soka throughout their two-week visit.

Applications for the program may be picked up from the Public Information Office at Carson City Hall, 701 E. Carson Street, Monday through Thursday,

7 a.m. to 6 p.m. or may be downloaded from the City's website at <http://ci.carson.ca.us>. Applications will be accepted until May 4, 2015.

For more information, please call (310) 952-1740. ■

Carson Remembers the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a Tribute Show

The City of Carson held its annual year-opener event with a tribute to the late civic leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The show was held on January 16 at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender- McDonald Community Center with entertainment line-up that included local homegrown talents from Sophisticated Dance, Tiffany Holmes, Henry Johnson, and youth from the City of Carson's Enrichment Program.

"The theme [Time to Take a Stand] reminds me of a quote from Man of La Mancha, said performer Henry Johnson. "No battle is too great that man cannot defeat if he believes in himself."

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Nation's Top High School Football Players Mentor Carson Youth in a Semper-Fidelis Community Day



western halves of the country were chosen not only because they are among the most talented players in the nation, but also because they bring something more to the game.



The Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl is one of several annual showcases for the top high school football recruits in the country. What sets it apart is the fact that the process for choosing players is not based only on their on-field ability.

140 students between the ages of 5 thru 12 hung out with a hundred of the nation's top high school football players at the 3rd Annual Semper-Fidelis All-American Bowl Community Day held at Carson Park this past January 2.

In an afternoon filled with games and activities designed to mentor young athletes, the students learned how to pass, catch and kick a football.

Every participant received a special gift pack and invitation to the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl game that took place on January 4 at the StubHub! Center.

The Semper Fidelis Football Program helps Marines reach out to hometown communities by celebrating their well-rounded student athletes and exposing them to Marine Corps leadership lessons that will enable future success.

The Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl is the culmination of a nationwide

All-American player selection tour that collectively celebrates academic excellence, proven physical fitness, and quality of character; values that parallel those of the Marine Corps.

"These are not just outstanding athletes," said Col. Robert G. Golden III, Chief of Staff, MCRC. "These players were hand-picked from thousands across the country because these young leaders have also proven themselves academically and in their communities."

The Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl is designed to be different than other bowls. The players selected to represent the eastern and

It's an event supported by the United States Marine Corps. The official site of Semper Fidelis states those picked to participate "bring something more to the game" aside from being great football players. Things such as community service are weaved into the schedule in the days leading up to the game. ■





Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute

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Lynetta Johnson of Sophisticated Dance expressed similar sentiments.

"The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. He taught us through his example — the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership," said Johnson.

"Sophisticated Dance is privileged and honored to help celebrate such a great occasion by making it our commitment to serve our community with the vibrant spirit of unconditional love through dance," added Johnson.

This year's special guest speakers were Dr. Willie J. Hagan, President of

CalState University, Dominguez Hills, and Reverend Darryl E. Walker, Senior Pastor of New Philadelphia AME Church. Both provided a message of hope and inspiration.

Chairperson of the Senior Advisory Commission and Mistress of Ceremony, Frankie Stewart, said that "it is an honor to be associated with and part of a celebration that honors one as legendary as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

The Martin Luther King, Jr. event is an annual project of the Cultural Arts Commission.

Cultural Arts Commissioner and long-time resident Barbara Cole who has been involved in the planning of the Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. annually since 1992 is very proud to volunteer her time for the event.

"I feel Dr. King was instrumental in encouraging minority young people to make something of themselves. He raised their self-esteem, and the encouragement they got from his speeches made them realize what they could become with education and the opportunities that are available in today's society," said Cole. ■



CARSON WOMEN'S CLUB Scholarship Application

**Scholarship Applications
due by
February 13, 2015**

Send completed applications to:
Frances D. Cottrell
Scholarship Chairperson/Founder
Carson Women's Club
P.O. Box 4543
Carson, CA 90749

(310) 635-3726 or
(310) 604-3387 (for Information)

City Council Unanimously Approves No Fee Increase for Direct Service Programs in 2015

On December 16, 2014, the Carson City Council unanimously adopted the 2015 Schedule of Fees (effective January 1, 2015) with no increases and some reduced fees for programs in human and recreation services.

Annually, a review is conducted of all City department fees to determine if adjustments for City services, programs, and materials, are warranted. Any charges to the

Schedule of Fees is not intended to generate additional revenue, but rather, to recover increased cost of city services, programs and materials.

The City continues to strive to be more efficient in order to keep fees low and allow resident affordable access to city services. Of the over 500 fees contained in the new Schedule of Fees, less than 1% of fees were even increased at all. ■

Reduced Fees:

- Senior Special Events (Las Vegas Luncheon)
- Senior Softball Tournaments
- Men's Baseball

No Fee Increase:

- Early Childhood Program
- Special Interest Classes
- Fine Arts Programs
- Enrichment Programs
- Carson Kids Club
- Swimming Lessons
- Youth Sports
- Adult Sports
- Veterans SportsComplex (Membership Fee)