



*The Fabela Chavez  
Boxing Center Champs*



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 Waste  
Management  
(310) 328-0900

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) 847-3520

Sewer Clean-up  
(626) 458-4357

Senior Services  
(310) 952-1775

Senior Recreation  
(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) 225-3028

Trash Collection  
Waste Management  
(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

## 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)

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

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

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  
Albert Robles

Mayor Pro Tem  
Elito M. Santarina

Councilmember  
Lula Davis-Holmes

Councilmember  
Jawane Hilton

Councilmember  
Donesia L. Gause

City Clerk  
Jim Dear

City Treasurer  
Monica Cooper

City Manager  
Ken Farfising

Assistant City Manager  
Cecil Rhambo

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](mailto:mrevilla@carson.ca.us)  
Website:  
<http://ci.carson.ca.us>

## FRAUD HOTLINE

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 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.

# Carson Residents to Vote on Utility User's Tax

**O**n June 7, 2016, Carson residents will decide whether to renew Carson's Utility User's Tax (UUT), the ballot measure which, if passed, would renew the 2% tax on gas and electricity bills in Carson.

## Important Facts about Carson's UUT:

- Funds public safety services including sheriff's patrol of local neighborhoods, 911 Emergency Services, gang prevention, graffiti removal, senior programs, stroke center services, early childhood program, youth programs, park programs and street/repair services.
- The current 2% UUT on electric and gas usage expires in June this year. This is not a new tax or a rate increase.
- No utility tax will be collected for water, telephone or cellular phone utilities.
- The average cost to a typical household with a combined monthly gas and electric bill of \$150.00 is \$3.00 per month.
- When renewed, maintains the current revenue cap, meaning no individual company in Carson will pay more than \$1 million in utility user's tax per year.
- Preserve existing citizen oversight committee that meets monthly to make budget recommendations and to oversee the use of the funds.
- Historically, the UUT generates approximately \$8.8 million annually to fund essential city services comprising 12% of the city's general fund budget.
- 80% of the UUT is paid for by Carson businesses.

## You may be exempt from paying the UUT:

- 1) \*If you are a resident 62 or older
- 2) \*\*If you make less than \$29,050 for a family of one to \$41,500 for a family of four.

\*Must apply to the City to receive exemption

\*\*Must provide salary verification annually to qualify

# VOTE!

## HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

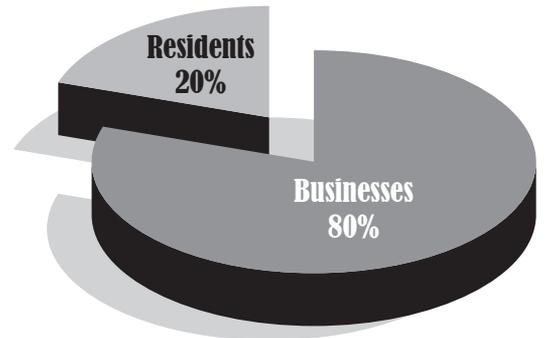
Carson residents over the age of 18 must be registered to vote by May 23, 2016 in order to vote in the Statewide Primary Election on June 7, 2016.

Registration information and location of polling places are available online at [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) under the Voting & Elections button. The Los Angeles County Voting Information Tool allows voters to check registration status, register to vote online, register to vote by mail, find your polling place and Sample Ballot or sign up for E-Sample Ballot.

Forms are also available at most public buildings including Carson City Hall, Dept. of Motor Vehicles and libraries. For more information, you may contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 952-1720.

Official Sample Ballot Booklets will be mailed between April 28-May 28, 2016. Applications for Vote By Mail ballots will be handled between May 9-31, 2016. Emergency Vote by Mail applications may be made directly to the Los Angeles Registrar between June 1-7, 2016. ■

**Projected Revenue to be Generated by UUT = \$8.8 million**



## Utility Users' Tax by Comparison

Cities with UUT	UUT Rate
Carson	2%
Lakewood	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%
Paramount	5.5%
Hermosa Beach	6%
Torrance	6.5%
Bellflower	7%
Lynwood	9%
Compton	10%
Inglewood	10%
L.A. City	10%
Seal Beach	11%

# The Fabela Boxing Gym:



For others like 15-year old Eric Escamilla, he started boxing because he wanted to lose weight.

"I got interested in boxing because I was chubby. I wanted to learn how to box just in case I needed to protect myself," Escamilla said. After three years of training at the Fabela Boxing Center, Escamilla has taken home the following belts: the Southern California State Championship,

the Blue and Gold Tournament, and the Azteca Annual Showcase title.

**F**or the past 38 years, the Fabela Chavez Boxing Center in Carson has been home to legions of boxers as young as eight years old and as old as eighty.

There is something about the smell of the place -- a combination of sweat and grime, a sense of "home" that draws boxing aficionados there for hours on end each day it is open to thud at the heavy bag and get a good workout.

Ten-year old Jacob Topete started training at the gym at the age of eight. So far, Topete has won the Southern California State Championship Tournament, Grandpa's Boxing Showcase, and the Azteca Annual Showcase.

"I want to continue boxing. It's not just for winning. It's fun," said Topete. For the young Topete, it's the fun of being in a sport like boxing that gives him the thrill. For his father, it's the idea that boxing will keep his son from getting bullied.



Armando Delamora, Jr., 20 years old, shares the same sentiments as Eric Escamilla, who got into boxing to get into shape. "It's not for competition, but more for the workout," said Delamora. Delamora spends an average of 2 hours

per day working out 5-6 times per week at the boxing gym. He attends Cal State, Long Beach and finds the balance between college life and boxing for a hobby.

Delamora has also won the Southern California State Championship Tournament, the Blue and Gold Tournament, and the Azteca Annual Showcase.

For Julian Cruz, boxing is more than just recreation. He wants to turn boxing into a career. Cruz, now 20, started at the age of 15 when he started training at the Fabela Boxing Center.

Cruz considers the boxing center as "home". "I grew up with the people I spar with. It's like home to me," said Cruz.

Cruz, like the regulars of the boxing center, comes 6 even 7 days to train 3 hours a day. When asked what prompts him so hard to put in so much time, he responded, "I want to be a pro. I want to make it big in boxing."

Followed up with the question if it's winning several belts that lights the fire for him to want a career in boxing, Cruz retorts, winning is not just winning belts, it is "all the hard work put into the training that is rewarded."

For professional boxers Efren Esquivias and George Faavae, they resonate the feeling of being "home" and that's why they continue to train in the Fabela Boxing Gym.

Esquivias, now 32, has been coming to Fabela since he was 16. It was a place that he can go to out of the streets and an alternative lifestyle.

"I used to get into a lot of street fights at an early age. I was a shy kid and

# A World-Class Boxing Center in the City of Carson



As a professional boxer having won the National Golden Gloves and the North American Boxing Federation title, Esquivias says his goal now is to collect multiple belts and get the most money he can get before he retires because boxing is a short career.

because it is my home. There is a tradition here. It is the cornerstone that I have come through here to train. It feels like just an extension of my house, like a garage, and seeing little kids that train here inspire me even at a professional level. It puts a smile on my face," said Faavae.

It's just not the boxers that come to Fabela Chavez Boxing Center that are proud to be a member, but the feeling among the coaches and staff likewise resonate the feeling of having the boxing center as a place where family meets.

couldn't really express myself. Boxing became a way to express myself and to release out some of the anger I had," said Esquivias. When asked how boxing turned his life around, Esquivias said, "It takes a lot of energy to fight in the ring. It takes a lot of discipline. It is harder than it looks. There are rules you have to follow. You can't just keep throwing punches. When I started competing in boxing, I didn't want to fight outside of the ring anymore."

For 28-year old professional boxer, George Faavae, he has been coming to the Fabela Boxing Gym since he was young. Faavae graduated from University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a football scholarship before he decided to take boxing as a career.

Recreation IV Assistant, Eddie Rodriguez, has been working for the Fabela Boxing Center for over 3 decades. When asked what keeps him at Fabela, he said he is doing something he loves to do.

According to Faavae, the driving force behind him wanting to box is his competitive nature and the ability to compete at the top of his level.



"I like the stage and being up there to win. I like the lights. The pinnacle of what I'm trying to get is the belt. In boxing, you are your own team. I took football as far as I can take it. Boxing fulfilled that hunger of my competitive nature. I have to be able to tell myself that I have given it my all. I want to win the world title someday," said Faavae.

"I would probably be here even if I wasn't getting paid," said Rodriguez. "I like working with the general public and working with people. We motivate the kids that come here. I like seeing the kids hitting the bags in here than out there in the streets. This is my

"Fabela is home. When I fight, I put Fabela Chavez as my training center

continued on page 11



# Carson Circuit: A Vintage Experience for a Point-to-Point Travel

**Y**ou've probably noticed the new Carson Circuit buses around town. I know what you're thinking... they're new? The answer is yes. They may look old school, but they run as good as modern looking buses if not better.

But that's not all that's new, the bus drivers are new too. In the beginning of this year, the City of Carson has procured a contract with MV Transit to get residents from point-to-point around town.

For more than 35 years, MV Transportation, Inc. and all its subsidiaries, joint ventures, partnerships and affiliates has provided safe, reliable, affordable transportation services to cities like Carson as well as private corporations, non-profit agencies, and community organizations.

The Carson Circuit is Carson's own bus system that service throughout Carson and connects to the Metro Blue Line and regional bus services from Torrance Transit, the MTA, Long Beach Transit and Gardena Municipal Bus Lines.

The buses run every 40 minutes on the eight Carson Circuit Routes from Monday thru Saturday from 5:20 a.m. to 6:40 p.m. All Carson Circuit routes run in one direction ONLY, while regional buses lines run in both directions. To reduce transfer time from one Carson Circuit route to another, all buses meet every 40 minutes at the bus terminal behind the South Bay Pavilion.

Regular fares are \$1.00. The elderly and disabled ride free of charge. Monthly passes are available for purchase for \$30.00 that allows individuals unlimited rides on the



Carson Circuit for the month purchased. Transfers to other Carson Circuit routes are free and transfers for regional bus or rail lines are \$0.25. All buses are equipped to transport individuals on wheelchairs.



Frequent customers of the Carson Circuit agree that the new buses and transit service are excellent. Customer Yvette Moore who has been riding the Carson Circuit for the past two years raves about the bigger buses. "I like the bigger buses. The smaller buses used to be so crowded in the afternoon. Not only that, the former buses used were not reliable and each driver didn't do the same as the next," said Moore.

When asked further what she meant, Moore commented that "the former

bus drivers did not give a courtesy to riders even when they see them coming and running to make the bus. Now, everybody's on the right track. The buses are properly conditioned, they are efficient, and they are clean."

According to Moore, she is reliant on public transportation to get to and from work so this change is a welcomed one. James and Mila Boyer who also frequently ride the Carson Circuit agree with Moore.

"The new buses are more reliable, efficient, and the bus drivers are on time," said Mila Boyer. The Boyers also like the bigger buses because they seem to be more "safe" because of their size.

Transportation Manager Rick Lovely emphasized the value of transportation. According to Lovely, "Transportation moves the city. You have several groups reliant on the public transportation on a daily basis with no car – seniors, youngsters, and families that are making ends meet that are relying on public transportation. When they get into a transit unit, they can get to where they need to go at a reasonable cost."

Pleased with the feedback from residents about the Carson Circuit operations, Lovely added, "I think we're

continued on page 11

# NFL Wrap Up

As you may know, the Cities of Carson and Inglewood were being considered last year as possible homes for the return of professional football to Southern California. The NFL recently announced that their new NFL stadium would be constructed in the City of Inglewood. We congratulate the City of Inglewood and the Rams, and wish them all the best.

We want to thank the community of Carson who came together to support the stadium project by signing the citizen petition. Over 12,000 signatures were collected in less than 10 days throughout the community - a record pace that is unmatched.

While Carson's effort was unsuccessful, there are many positives that came to the City as a direct result. First, and foremost, it is important to note that unlike many communities that have tried to secure an NFL team in Carson, at the very outset, we made it clear to the Chargers and the Raiders that the City would not spend a single dollar for this effort and that the City would only pursue this if it was agreed to that all of the City's costs of the stadium planning process would be 100% reimbursable. The year-long effort did not cost Carson anything.

The City started the NFL stadium planning process last year by forming a separate entity known as the Carson Reclamation Authority to complete the remediation of the former Cal Compact landfill. The Authority was successful in obtaining final State approval of the clean-up plan and secured over \$50 million for the remediation of site. Combined with the \$30 million in clean-up funds deposited with the Authority from the former developer, the City is now in the best position it has ever been



to complete the remediation of the site. Most significantly, for the first time in Carson's history, the City has the necessary clean-up funds, the clean-up plan approvals and has complete control of the site via the Carson Reclamation Authority. Unlike in years past when a developer would propose and commence a project, and it stalled because the developer lacked the financial wherewithal to complete the project or the land was

sold and the new buyer had different plans. The City now has complete control of the site's destiny is completely within the City's control.

A little known fact is that the water treatment extraction system and gas collection system have been approved and operating for months. In addition to conserving valuable drinking water, the Authority extended recycled water lines on to the property in September as well as other infrastructure needed for any proposed project development.

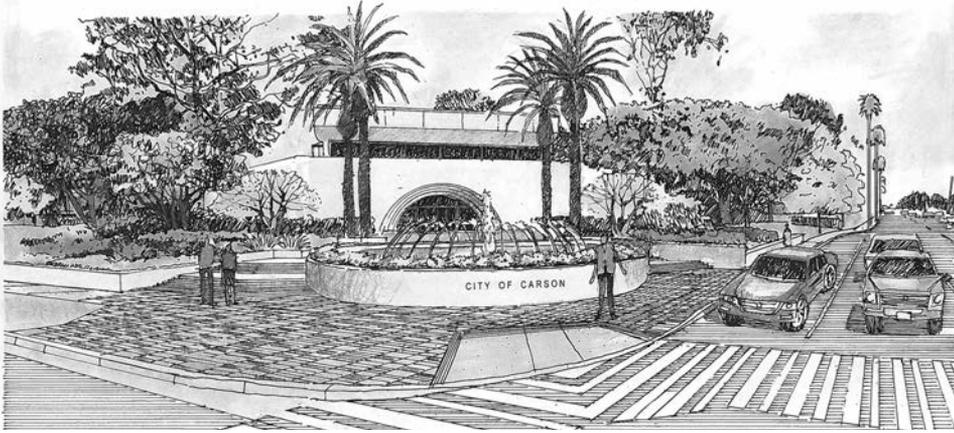
Once the final project building plans are approved, the remediation will also be completed.

Because of the proposed NFL stadium, the property was the focus of intense national media attention and it is paying off as development interest in the site and adjacent properties is peaking. Where

in the urban areas of Los Angeles and Orange County can you find 157 acres of flat land, located off two major freeways that is shovel-ready for development? The City will be announcing plans for the site in the near future.

Although the NFL will not be coming to Carson, we can thank the NFL for being the catalyst to bring an even better project to the site. Stay tuned! ■

# Carson Master Plan – A Street Made for Walking



It could be difficult driving along Carson Street with only one lane open on each side between the I-110 and I-405 freeways, but the good news is, before the year ends, the Carson Street improvements is guaranteed to please whether your pleasure is to shop, dine, or stroll through.

The Carson Street Master Plan Implementation Project will be providing 1.75 miles of new and enhanced streetscape and infrastructure for the Carson Street Corridor between the I-110 and I-405 freeways. Improvements include installation of a recycled water line, extensive colorful, drought-tolerant landscaping in parkways and medians, street furniture (benches, bike racks, and pedestrian lights), public art, entry monuments, traffic signal modifications, reconfiguration of turn lanes, reconstruction of driveways for ADA compliance, and replacement of median street lights with LED lights.

James and Mila Boyer who lives in Flamingo Gardens along Carson Street are happy that improvements are being done.

“Even though it is difficult to walk along Carson Street and we have to walk down further to catch the bus, we can’t wait to see the improvements. It’s going to be beautiful with all the new buildings.

There will be more people that come to walk along Carson Street,” said the Boyers.

Resident and business owner Baby Esperancilla who operates Louie’s Cleaners along Carson Street for over 20 years also shares the same sentiments as the Boyers.

“It’s inconvenient for my customers right now, but I’m looking at the future. Beautification of the city is always a good thing. The inconvenience right now is nothing compared to what’s ahead,” said Esperancilla.



“Doing improvements along Carson Street will bring more business because people will like driving down the street. There will be new homes. It will attract more customers. There will be more homebuyers in the area and more businesses to open in the area. The potential growth is there.

## “Who is César Chávez?” Essay Contest March 2016



The contest is open to Carson residents:

- Grade 12 high school students. Participants may be enrolled in a high school outside of Carson, but must be City of Carson residents.

For more information, please call (310) 952-1742

A lot more people will want to reside and do more business in Carson,” added Esperancilla.

Other improvements on Carson Street include upgrading the City Hall entrance at Carson Street and Avalon Boulevard including landscaping and improving ADA accessibility, and landscape and hardscape upgrades for Avalon Boulevard between 220th Street and I-405 freeway.

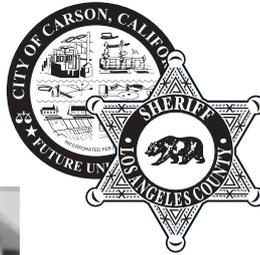
The budget amount for the Carson Street Masterplan Project is \$22.3 million. The project is entirely funded by the Carson Successor Agency Bond Funds.

No general fund budget is being used for this project.

For more information about the Carson Street Master Plan, please visit <http://ci.carson.ca.us/departments/communitydevelopment/streetmasterplan.asp>. ■

# Captain's Corner

by Captain Chris Marks



## TRAIN AND PREPARE YOURSELF

Happy New Year Carson! As we look back on 2015, I think we all will remember the horrific acts of violence that occurred in San Bernardino and Paris. This may cause you to think about what the Sheriff's Department does to prepare and train for such incidents and more importantly, what you can do to better prepare yourself. The Sheriff's Department requires each patrol station to perform "active shooter" training annually. For Carson Station, this training is performed at local school campuses in collaboration with the Fire Department, Los Angeles School Police, and the California State University, Dominguez Hills Police Departments. We also maintain response plans for our schools and major facilities. However, our preparations are primarily focused on our response to an incident. The Sheriff's Department encourages you to educate yourself and your family on what to do if you are ever faced with such incidents. I recommend viewing the Surviving an Active Shooter video produced by the Sheriff's Department at <http://www.activeshooter.lasd.org/>. If you have children in school, I encourage you to have them watch it several times during the year. Mentally preparing yourself on how to react in such situations will increase your chances of surviving. Next,

communicate a plan with family members on where and how to locate each other in emergencies. You will likely not be able to use cellular phones during major emergencies due to the number of people using their cell phones during

such incidents, so pre-select rally points so you know where to meet. This also applies for other emergencies such as earthquakes or anytime one of your family members attends events with large amounts of people - communicate a plan beforehand. Finally, the Sheriff's Department also assists businesses and local government with assessing security of facilities and providing training. The City of Carson has been very assertive in addressing security concerns at city facilities and providing training to employees. We always encourage you to report any suspicious activity to the Carson Sheriff's Station at (310) 830-1123.

## CARSON SHERIFF'S STATION SUPPORT FOUNDATION

Our Carson community is one of the most supportive of all the communities the Sheriff's Department patrols. As an example of this support, in 2006, our community and business leaders founded the Carson Sheriff's Station Support Foundation (CSSSF). This non-profit organization, led by residents and local businesses, joined forces to support the sworn deputies, the professional staff, and volunteers of the Carson Sheriff's Station.

Emergencies 9-1-1

Calls for Service (310) 830-1123

Watch Commander (310) 830-1123

Community Relations (310) 847-8386

Visit our website at [www.carson.lasd.org](http://www.carson.lasd.org)

With the generous financial support of the growing membership comprising of residents, community organizations, and businesses, the Foundation has made significant contributions to meet special needs and enhance public safety operations in our City. In addition to the valuable support, the CSSSF hosts an annual distinguished service award luncheon for individuals who performed outstanding acts of heroism or service in the Carson community. To learn more about supporting the CSSSF and attending the 10th Annual Awards Ceremony on May 18, 2016, please visit the website <http://www.csssf.org/>.



## LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

In closing, Carson Station wishes to bid one of our own station family members, and long-time local resident, a fond farewell into retirement. After 49 years of service to Los Angeles County, and the past 21 years here at Carson Station, we congratulate Carolyn Curry on a well-deserved retirement. She proudly served as the Captain's Secretary for the past seven captains at Carson Station. Carolyn, thank you for your professionalism and dedicated service to the men and women of Carson Station and the residents of Carson. ■

# Contest Winners Give Props to Carson's Civic Amenities – Sports, Parks, and Festivals – in the WHY I LIKE CARSON ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST



The Carson City Council recognized 27 student winners of an essay-writing contest who tackled the essay topic “Why I Like Carson”. The annual contest, now in its 20th year, was sponsored in part this past year by the Chargers and Raiders teams. The teams contributed \$2,500 towards the cost of the prizes.



Several of the winning essays wrote about the recreation opportunities and sport venues in Carson including the StubHub Center where the L.A. Galaxy soccer team plays.

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. Xavier

McFarland, a seventh grader from Glenn Hammond Curtiss Middle School, likes Carson parks because they have a lot of sports that kids can participate in like flag football and basketball.

Fifth grade Maile Boyer said that there are many reasons to love Carson. “Carson has so many wonderful parks that help keep kids active. It is my home, my community, and the city of the future,” added Boyer.

Students also agree that the cultural diversity in Carson is an aspect that makes them not only like their city, but actually makes them happy citizens. “In Carson, you can meet people from all over the world,” observed Miguel Tapia, an eighth grader from Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School.

“If you are visiting Carson and get hungry, don’t worry because Carson has many restaurants with different cultural foods from all over the world,” added Tapia.

The essay contest drew more than 100 submissions from students in grades 3 through 8. First place winners received a \$150 gift card and a gold medal; second place winners, a

\$100 gift card and a silver medal; third place received a \$75 gift card and a bronze medal; and honorable mention received \$50 gift card and a bronze medal. The contest concluded with an awards ceremony on November 2015.



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. ■

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## The Fabela Boxing Gym

continued from page five

community. I'm doing something that I love to do and getting paid for it. I think that's everybody's dream."

When asked why it is important for the Carson community to have a boxing center, Senior Recreation Center Supervisor DeNize Hunt who has been managing the boxing center for the past 9 years says that boxing teaches self-discipline, determination, sportsmanship and confidence. "No other sport challenges athletes to establish these qualities more than boxing. Our staff and coaches are some of the most talented dedicated individuals. We aspire to provide quality programs for children and carry on the tradition of USA Amateur Boxing."

Senior Boxing Coach Jermaine Lefeiloai who has worked at the Fabela Boxing Center for the U.S. Amateur Program for the past 12 years says that the boxing club's purpose is "to serve at-risk youth

from 8-17 years old and give them a safe haven."

Volunteer Coach, Arturo Velasquez, has been coming to Fabela Boxing Center after work for at least a couple of hours a day to help kids train in boxing.

The Fabela Boxing Center opened its doors in 1978 and has had many famous athletes walk through its gym doors over the years. The gym was a tone time managed by World Boxing Hall of Fame inductee, Fabela Chavez, also known as "Fabulous Fabela" in his fighting prime. Ricky Romero, Golden Gloves winner and California Boxing Hall inductee, and Sytell Willbarn, Golden Gloves Champion are some of many names that train at Fabela.

Recently, the boxing gym has partnered on several occasions with Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Productions and hosted the Showtime Boxing Media Event at the gym to highlight top pro boxers like Julio Chavez, Jr.,

Shawn Porter, Abner Mares, and Chino Maidana.

"The Recreation and Human Services Department has provided a unique experience of boxing at the Fabela Chavez Boxing Center. It has provided countless hours of fitness to youth and adults. There is nothing that can compare to the physical test of boxing," said Community Services Director Cedric L. Hicks, Sr. ■



### ***Introducing the Technology Advancement and Innovation Commission***

The City Council created the Technology Advancement and Innovation Commission on December 16, 2014. The mission of the Technology Advancement and Innovation Commission is to improve the quality of life for Carson's residents and local businesses as well as to promote economic development by keeping Carson at the forefront of education, innovation and technological advances by advising the City Council with strategic direction designed to move Carson into the 21st Century with state of the art technology. The commission is made up of Carson residents selected by the City Council for their expertise in technology and strong ties in the community and is supported by the Information Technology Division. The Commission requests Carson residents to contact the Information Technology Division staff for recommendations and involvement.

**Call (310) 952-1734 for more  
information and meeting times.**

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## Carson Circuit

continued from page six

headed in the right direction. I see the potential of improving to make positive steps into the future. After all, it's all about serving our customers and that's why we are here."

"The City of Carson Transportation Division is committed to providing reliable, clean and safe transportation for the residents of Carson. The new buses provide a vintage travel for a point-to-point experience. If public transportation is needed please do not hesitate in using the Carson Circuit. The best transportation connection in the South Bay!" said Community Services Director Cedric L. Hicks, Sr.

The 8 new Carson Circuit buses were not purchased from the City of Carson's general fund budget. They are funded by the Metro funding from the Proposition

A and C sales taxes. The Proposition A sales tax, approved by voters in 1980, is one-half of 1% tax of most retail sales in the County. Metro return 25% of the Proposition A tax to the cities in the County for transportation purposes.

The Proposition C sales tax, approved by voters in 1990, is an additional one-half of 1% tax on retail sales in the County. Metro returns 20% of the Proposition C tax to the cities in the County for transportation purposes.

The Transportation Services Division provides citywide transportation programs related to improving fix-route public transit support of city park programs, and regional air quality issues. For more information, please call the Transportation Division at (310) 835-0212 ext. 1489. ■