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CARSON

report

FUTURE UNLIMITED

Fall Issue

2013



*2013 Soka, Japan
Student Cultural Exchange Delegation*



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) 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) 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
Sam Ghaly

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.

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<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.

PROPOSED CITY BUDGET

The City's staff presented a proposed General Fund budget for the City Council's review and consideration on June 4, 2013.

A budget session was held by the City Council on June 14th, followed by a public hearing on June 18th and a continued public hearing on July 2nd, at which time the public hearing was closed. The proposed budget, which consists of the base budget, decision packages and budget referrals, was discussed in detail at a budget study session on July 10, 2013, and was discussed further at another budget study session on July 29, 2013.

The proposed FY 2013/14 budget is based upon the Statement of Financial Principles & Guidelines unanimously approved by the City Council on January 17, 2012. The City's original proposed General Fund budget is a good news story with a greatly lowered projected operating shortfall of \$1.7M compared to



last year's \$5M. Revenues are projected at \$67M based on current year-to-date figures adjusted with information obtained from a variety of sources. Expenditures are estimated at \$68.7M and include the following unavoidable cost increases and Council approved commitments:

- Higher employee retirement contribution rates
- Increased Sheriff's Department contract costs
- Higher employee medical rates

- Employee step and merit increases
- Contribution to the Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) trust
- Public services funding for local non-profit organizations
- Increased Commission, Committee and Board stipend costs due to increased number of members

The City Manager's recommended budget is comprised of decision packages, which when taken as a whole, will balance the FY 2013/14 budget. The decision packages are a combination of revenue enhancements and expenditure cuts, which will ensure a balanced spending plan with minor service and staff reductions.

The proposed budget will most likely be adopted on August 6, 2013, at the regular City Council meeting. ■

Step Outside, and Meet Your Neighbors!

The City Council recently declared July 2 of each year Good Neighbor Day. It is the kick-off of a new program that will take place each summer from July 2 until the end of September. Lots of new and existing homeowners are finding out that there is a lot of value in having a relationship with your neighbors. More and more of us are taking time to get to know those who live near us and developing a community spirit that can enrich your daily routine. That is the purpose of the meet Your Neighbor Program - to encourage residents to reach out and get to know their neighbors and take advantage of the benefits of having a friend right next door.

Being a good neighbor means living peacefully with others in a social community called a "neighborhood." People talking in their front yards, children playing on the sidewalk, people

walking their dogs, and similar activities are all part of being neighbors. People are what make a neighborhood a living community rather than just a group of houses.

One of the ways to get to know your neighbors is by starting a neighborhood watch group. These groups have shown to be extremely effective in many diverse communities, and good relationships between neighbors can go a long way in preventing criminal activity in a neighborhood. As a side point, these kinds of initiatives can also help to raise property values, or alternately, prevent them from dropping. Not to mention the quality of life that goes along with knowing that your neighborhood is safe and your home is enjoying the protection of a community watch program.

Another benefit of knowing your neighbors is leaning on your neighbors for

help. Many households have cats, dogs or both. When neighbors are away, these animals need care. Some homeowners rely on professional pet sitters to visit the home and take care of the basic needs of their pets. However, for those who have strong relationships with their neighbors, an informal arrangement can help families avoid some of the high costs of pet sitting and pet boarding. Another benefit of knowing your neighbors is then you will also know who is not a neighbor, thereby alerting you to strangers who may be in the neighborhood for nefarious purposes. Being able to recognize someone who doesn't belong in your neighborhood and calling the Sheriffs could help prevent an imminent crime.

So reach out to a resident you haven't met! Participate in the Meet Your Neighbors Program by hosting a block party, delivering homemade goodies when a

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Carson Residents Rave about Carson Park Grand Re-Opening Debut A 45th Anniversary Signature Event



Residents gather in front of the new Carson Park Facility.

The long wait for the re-opening of the City's namesake Carson Park came to an end June 22 with the official grand re-opening of the newly remodeled park marked by an all-day affair which began at 10 a.m. with the City of Carson's elected officials, civic and business leaders, and members of the City family gathering under a huge tent to rededicate the park during the City's 45th anniversary year.

Highlighting the morning event was the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. At the end of the morning affair, the guests were offered a tour of the remodeled facility, kicking-off an all-afternoon community fair to complete the all-day celebration.

Dozens of booths offering food and various products and services catered to the hundreds of people who flocked to the opening fair. As the crowd visited the booths, they were treated to non-stop entertainment featuring local and homegrown Carson talent.

Residents in the surrounding area are delighted at what they describe as a new innovative facility. "Carson Park is

bigger, better, and beautiful," said resident Angel Soriano. The programs they have will help the kids come to the park and become more active," added Soriano.

Other residents say that they like that Carson Park has something to offer for every member of the family while others say they enjoy a diverse group of people they interact with at the park.

"The park provides a lot of activities for children and adults and helps bring the community together," said resident Priscilla Shandy.

"Carson Park is very family oriented and diverse. It's a home away from home," said Blaze Nunn.

Several community members and City staff commented that the renovation of Carson Park has exceeded their expectations.

"Our community had a vision of a safe and fun environment for our children. This amazing facility has exceeded my expectations tremendously," said Ramie Barajas. "The park looks amazing. The staff provide fun activities and

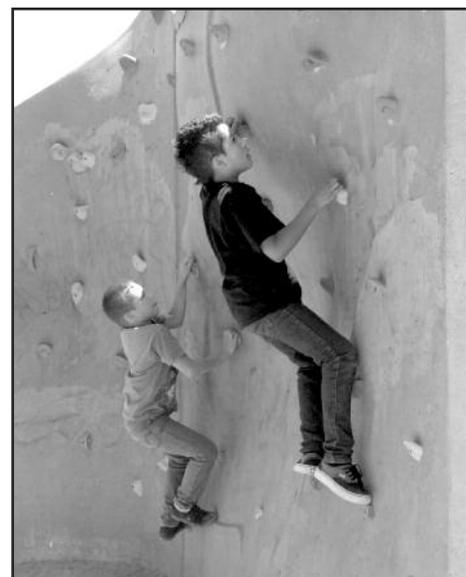
programs that my kids enjoy," said Lisa Hernandez.

"Carson Park turned out better than what I expected," said Superintendent of Recreation and Human Services, Cedric L. Hicks, Sr. "It is truly the flagship park for the Carson community."

Elizabeth Casique commented that the features and additions to the landscaping and the buildings of the newly remodeled park are truly remarkable.

The mid-80s temperature provided the perfect backdrop for the ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked this important 45th year Anniversary signature event. Flanked by members of the community and dozens of swimsuit-clad youngsters anxiously waiting to take a splash in the newly renovated Carson Pool, this project was completed perfectly in time for the summer months.

"The grand opening was an exciting day! I was glad to see our mayor, city council, and all the community come out and support Carson Park. I hope everyone enjoys the new park," said Kim Cortado. ■



Two boys enjoy the new rock climbing wall at the renovated Carson Park.

Carson Hosts Student Cultural Exchange Delegates from Soka, Japan

The City of Carson hosted a delegation of students from Soka, Japan from July 21 to August 4 as part of the Carson Sister City Association Student Cultural Exchange program between the two cities.

The students, ages 15-18, are Michinosuke Akiyama, Ruri Ikuta, Konomi Kikuchi, Rihoko Sasaki, Ryoma Sashida, and Kasho Masaumi. They were accompanied by an adult chaperon, Isao Aoyagi, and stayed with host-families in Carson throughout their two-week visit.



Soka Student Delegates accompanied by Carson Sister Cities Association members and one of the host families on a trip to Universal Studios.

The delegation was welcomed by the City of Carson elected officials and employees on July 22 with a breakfast at City Hall and a welcome dinner co-hosted by the Carson Sister Cities Association at the Carson Doubletree by Hilton in the evening.

It is the first student exchange delegation to be hosted by the City after a two-year unofficial suspension of student exchange visits between Carson and its sister city due to budget cutbacks.

The delegation's itinerary included participation at City co-hosted events such as the Carson Relay for Life on August 3. They also toured popular landmarks and destinations in Southern California, among them the Huntington Library, the Getty Museum, Knott's Berry Farm, the Queen Mary, the Long Beach Aquarium, Disneyland and Universal Studios.

The delegates admitted that while they were excited to have been selected to represent Soka, Japan for the student

exchange trip, they were also nervous to travel to the United States because it is the first time that they have been away from home.



Kasho Masaumi, one of the youngest delegates was excited about the arcades and Universal Studios, but at the end of the visit he was not sure whether the tours were the most important part of the trip. "I had lots of fun here with my new Carson friends."

For 15-year old Konomi Kikuchi, spending time with other host families is the most memorable time for her. "The pool party was so fun. We went swimming all day, and even used the water slide. I put sunscreen on but still got sunburned," said Konomi.

For most of the student delegates from Soka, food was an unforgettable part of the trip. "I have never had funnel cake before coming here," said 16-year old Ruri Ikuta. "I love hamburgers," said 18-year old Ryoma Sashida. "I have had one too many hamburgers already so I don't think I will crave hamburgers anymore," added Ryoma with a smile.

The City of Carson has hosted over a hundred students from Soka, Japan ever since the two cities began their sister cities relationship in 1979. The Carson Sister Cities Association meets every fourth Wednesday of the month at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center. If you are interested in becoming a member, please call the Public Information Office at (310) 952-1740. ■

City Council votes to support local businesses

The City of Carson is now using the City's own purchasing power to support local small businesses. In July of this year, the City Council adopted an ordinance that gives preference to local small businesses when the City buys equipment and supplies or contracts for certain professional services. In adopting the new "Local Business Preference Ordinance," the City is promoting and supporting small business owners that choose to make the City of Carson their home. In approving the new policy, the City knows its dollars will work harder and longer to support the City's own businesses, employees and households than they would without the policy

BENEFITS OF BUYING LOCAL

Studies have shown that local preference ordinances, like the one adopted by the City of Carson, result in many economic benefits to local businesses and the local economy. There are the obvious benefits of buying supplies, equipment and services from local businesses. That is, we know that when the City buys paper from a local paper supplier, the local paper supplier makes more money.

But there are other real benefits to the City's businesses and residents when the City buys local that are less obvious. For example, the same local paper supplier the City buys paper from will likely use part of the money he or she makes from the City to hire a local accountant to prepare his or her taxes or buy coffee supplies from a local coffee vendor. Additionally, the same paper supplier will likely hire a Carson resident to deliver the paper. Finally, that Carson resident who delivers for the local paper supplier, that local accountant hired by the local paper supplier and local coffee vendor who supplies the local paper supplier will likely spend the money they earn from the local paper supplier buying food at local restaurants or paying for their child's haircut at a local barber shop.

So, you can see that the same dollar that was given to the local paper supplier has the potential to go through two, three, or maybe a dozen local hands before it might travel out of the community. These effects of a local preference ordinance causing a city's money to recirculate in the community have been proven in a number of studies.

For example, one study conducted by two professors from the University of Texas, Austin, showed that spending \$100 with a local business resulted in \$45 staying in the community, whereas only \$13 stayed in the community when spent buying from a large national vendor. Another study prepared for the City of Fresno, showed that a local preference ordinance may cost approximately \$240,000 in higher spending for the City's supplies and services but would result in a \$3.3 million economic benefit to the local economy.

So now we can see the City's new Local Business Preference Ordinance can do some great things for the City and its businesses and households!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Understanding the new Ordinance is simple. The Ordinance works by doing five things.

First, it defines "Local Business"

Under the new Ordinance a business is local and qualifies for the City's buying preference when the business can declare it is all of the following:

- Headquartered or has a primary office in the City
- Has a City Business License and Certificate of Occupancy
- Is certified by the State Department of General Services as a "Certified Small Business"

To qualify for State certification, a business has to be independently owned and operated, have 100 or fewer employees and annual gross receipts of less than \$14 million

The process is easy and free and can be done through the internet at:

<http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/OSDS/GetCertified.aspx>

Second, it gives a "Preference"

Local Businesses are given a 5% preference on their bids for City contracts for purchase of supplies and equipment or contracts for services. Below is an example of how this works in practice:

- A non-local paper supplier bids for a City contract to supply paper for \$90,000.
- A Carson paper supplier bids for a City contract to supply paper for \$93,000.
- The City is required to award to the lowest bidder.
- This City is also required under the new Ordinance to give a 5% preference to the Carson paper supplier. That means the City will reduce their bid amount by 5% before awarding the contract. With the preference, the local paper supplier will be considered to have bid \$88,350.
- The Carson paper supplier is the lowest bidder. The City will contract with the Carson paper supplier to supply paper for \$93,000.

Third, it limits the contract amount

To help ensure the City's new Ordinance, is legal, the Council capped the amount of a contract that local preferences are given to contracts and those under \$100,000.

Fourth, it requires the Local Business to stay local

If the Local Business that has been given an award stops meeting the definition for being a "Local Business," the City can choose to either stop paying the business or recover what it has paid.

Fifth, it requires the work to be local

In addition to requiring the business to be local, the work must be done local. When the City purchases supplies or equipment, at least two-thirds of the work done to provide the supplies and equipment must be performed in the City. When the City contracts for services, the services must be performed by employees whose primary working location is in the City.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

The new Ordinance is a great tool. As adopted, the Local Business Preference Ordinance will increase the market for locally-owned and operated businesses and will help the City's economic development staff and the City's officials in promoting the local economy. In the coming weeks and months, City staff will be working to let local businesses know about the program. To learn more about the new local small business preference ordinance, please (310) 952-1748. ■

Residents Urged to Protect Against West Nile Virus



Residents are urged to report any daytime mosquito activity after invasive Asian tiger mosquitoes were spotted recently in certain areas of 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.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a disease transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus is now endemic in California. Originating in parts of Africa and the Middle East, it was first detected in the U.S. during 1999 in New York City. The disease spread rapidly across the country, and was reported in humans, mosquitos, sentinel chickens, wild birds, and other vertebrates.

WNV debuted in California in 2003. By the end of 2011, the virus had infected over 3,100 people and caused over 110 fatalities. WNV is a potentially deadly disease that will remain in California. Proper protective measures can be taken to reduce your risk of infection.

The summer of 2012 marked the biggest national outbreak of WNV since 2002. In all, 2,873 cases of West Nile neuroinvasive disease, the most severe manifestation of the virus, were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including 286 deaths.

Cases of West Nile disease were detected in all states in the continental United States, with central U.S. reporting the highest number of West Nile severe cases. States with large West Nile outbreaks are California, Illinois, Louisiana, and Michigan – together the top five states suffered 56% of the reported national neuroinvasive disease cases.

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.

Surveillance and treatment efforts largely fall to municipal and state services, but you can reduce your risk of being bitten by infected mosquitos by doing the following:

- Avoiding outside activities at dusk when mosquitos are at their most active.
- Wearing long clothing to cover exposed skin.
- Using insect repellent spray.
- Cleaning up potential mosquito breeding habitats on your personal property.



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 all types of mosquitos 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 mosquito fish 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 the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 or at www.glacvcd.org ■

Suicide Reaches Beyond One Person's Death

National Suicide Prevention Week (NSPW) is the week surrounding September 10 (National Suicide Prevention Day). NSPW is an annual week-long campaign in the United States to inform and engage health professionals and the general public about suicide prevention and the warning signs of suicide. By drawing attention to the problem of suicide in the United States, the campaign also strives to reduce the stigma surrounding the topic, as well as encourage the pursuit of mental health assistance and support people who have attempted suicide. As part of the campaign, health organizations conduct depression screenings, including self-administrated and online tests, and refer interested individuals to a national toll-free telephone number.

The City Council adopted Resolution No. 12-089 last year and proclaimed September 12 as Kevin's Cause Day in the City of Carson. Kevin's Cause is a non-profit organization founded to promote the



prevention of suicide through education and awareness. After grappling with the loss of her beloved son to suicide, a mourning mother, Wanda Jackson decided to open a non-profit agency that would educate others on the connection between depression and suicide. On March 4, 2010, "Kevin's Cause" was established. Named after her son Kevin, Kevin's Cause is a suicide prevention and awareness, non-profit organization in Carson. The mission is to save one life at a time and bring comfort to others that have already lost loved ones to suicide.

On October 26, 2013, Kevin's Cause will be hosting their fourth Annual 5K Run/Walk and Health Fair to raise awareness about suicide prevention. The event will be held at Victoria Community Regional Park, 419 E. 192nd St, Carson, CA 90746, from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., 5K Run/Walk begins at 9:30 a.m. ■



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Upcoming Events

Jazz Festival Breast Cancer/Health & Wellness Expo

September 28, 2013
Anderson Park

45th Anniversary Parade

October 5, 2013

Neighbors

continued from page 3

new neighbor moves in, meeting informally at a neighbors home to share information on programs and activities in the community or by simply going for a walk together after a long day of work. These are just some of the main

Gala Ball

October 12, 2013
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Community Center at Carson

Halloween Carnival

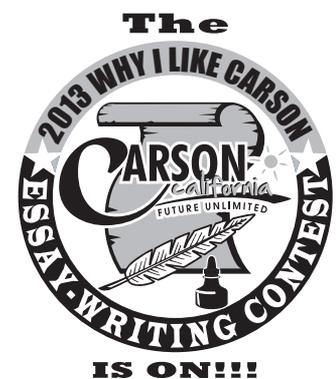
October 31 - November 3, 2013
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Community Center at Carson

Veterans Day

November 11, 2013
Veterans Park

reasons for getting to know the families around you. Investing in your community is almost sure to pay off in terms of the quality of life you enjoy at home and the environment around your home. All it takes is a friendly hello, a shared laugh, the occasional plate of cookies and a willingness to coexist in harmony. ■

ATTENTION *Young Writers*



The contest is open to:

- All students grades 3-8 who attend Carson schools
- Students grades 3-8 who live in Carson, but attend schools outside the city, charter schools or home-schooled

For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at (310) 952-1740.