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CARSON

report

FUTURE UNLIMITED

Fall Issue 2014

Juneteenth



Fourth of July



Some recent
events from
Summer
2014



Philippine Independence Day



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.

Rhambo Appointed as Carson's New Assistant City Manager



After a successful 33-year career in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Cecil W. Rhambo, Jr. now serves the City of Carson as the new Assistant City Manager. Rhambo officially started his new position on July 7.

"After my first week, I can truly say that it will be as challenging as it will be

rewarding. There are some fantastic people working here. Everyone has been extremely receptive and friendly making me feel right at home and comfortable," said Rhambo.

Prior to his new appointment, Rhambo served in the position of Assistant Sheriff and commanded over 5,000 sworn and non-sworn personnel.

Rhambo is no stranger to Carson. He began his public service career in 1976 when he started out as a lifeguard, swim instructor and coach at Victoria Park – at a County Park located in the city. He has also been assigned to patrol the City of Carson as a line deputy sheriff, a lieutenant, and as a Division Chief over the entire southwestern patrol area.

Rhambo has extensive experience working with a very diverse multitude of cities that contact services from the Sheriff's

Department. In his diverse career, he supervised and headed various projects in the areas of Homeland Security, Emergency Operations, Internal Affairs, and Special Weapons and Tactics, to name a few.

Rhambo has also overseen the budget and personnel for several large divisions within the Sheriff's Department. The budget in his last assignment was over \$500,000,000 of the Sheriff's Department's over \$2.3 billion budget.

Rhambo looks forward to the city's forthcoming developments and projects.

"The Mayor and Council definitely have the city on the move and is transforming it into a destination location right before our very eyes," said Rhambo. Being part of that is an irreplaceable experience that I am truly blessed to have," added Rhambo. ■

Positive Changes through Grants and Saving the Environment

Many great things are happening in Carson especially with the City securing several sizeable grants to make capital improvements around town. Not only is the City saving money by securing grants, the City's projects are being done keeping the environment as the priority. Described below are some of the several grants that the City of Carson was awarded in the past few months.

Bike Lane Installation: \$2,588,400

On November 2013, the City of Carson was awarded \$2,588,400 to install bike lanes on various locations on Figueroa Street, Main Street, Victoria Street, Carson Street, University Drive, Avalon Blvd., Central Avenue, Del Amo Blvd., and 223rd Street. Of the total project cost of \$2,876,300, the City of Carson will be able to offset \$2,588,400 of its cost to this grant fund.



Carson Park Pool Improvement: \$290,000

The City of Carson was recently awarded a \$290,000 grant for improvement of its capital park-related projects by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

The City of Carson will be using the \$290,000 grant for the Park Pool Improvement Project in Carson Park.

The grant will be used to complete the renovation to the pool site in Carson Park. Variable frequency drive pool pumps will be installed as well as upgrades to the lighting with new LED fixtures for the deck and parking lot. A 75-gallon tankless water heater will be installed and included is the purchase of

continued on page 8

Carson Women's Club Awards Scholarships



L-R: Miguel Martinez, Michelle Franco, Frances D. Cottrell (Scholarship Founder and Chairperson), Frankie Stewart (Emcee), and Essence Tupuola



Academy; Opemipo Akerele and Elijah Sisson from King Drew Medical Magnet; Jaly Feagin from New Millenium Secondary School; Kathia Avalos, Christal and Christina Cotton from Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School; and Adrianna Miller from St. Mary's Academy.

The continuing college student recipients were: Omobolanle Adeniran, Britney Carpenter, Jennifer Alcomendas, Roye Love, Jr., Joi Dwight, and Taylor Walker.

The Carson Women's Club (CWC) held its annual scholarship luncheon on May 24, 2014 at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center awarding 15 deserving high school seniors a \$1,000 scholarship and 6 continuing college students a \$500 scholarship.

The high school senior recipients were: Jamie Marcos and Olivia Solis from the California Academy of Math and Science; Miguel Martinez, Essence Tupuola, and Michelle Franco from Carson High School; Oluwajomiloju Adeniran, Trevor Anesi, and Malik Rivers from Harbor Teacher Preparation

Scholarship applications will once again be available in December of this year for the 2015 graduating high school seniors and continuing college students that meet the requirements. For more information, please contact CWS Scholarship Founder and Chairperson, Frances D. Cottrell at (310) 635-3726 or (310) 604-3387. ■

Juneteenth Rhythm & Blues Celebration



Juneteenth marks the date in U.S. history when African-American slaves in Texas first received word that all slaves were free. The news came to Texas in June 1865, two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth is a day of reflection, a day of renewal, a pride-filled day. It is a moment in time taken to appreciate the African-American experience inclusive of all races, ethnicities and nationalities.

In Carson, it is this part of U.S. history that created the annual Rhythm and Blues Juneteenth Celebration. Carson resident Harry Wilson has been attending Juneteenth Celebration for the past five years.

According to Wilson, "It is very good entertainment for the entire family. A great summer time show to celebrate an important time in history. The atmosphere is always good. It is good family entertainment," added Wilson.

For Danielle Dejean, she drove down from Hollywood to see what her friends here in Carson have been talking about.

For ten-year Carson resident Shirley Davenport, this is the first year that she's attended a Juneteenth Celebration. She was encouraged by a friend to come out and see what the celebration is all about.

"I brought my granddaughters out to learn what Juneteenth is all about," said Davenport having visited the display booth that explained the story of Juneteenth.

This year's celebration was headlined by American R&B and gospel singer

continued on page 8

Carson Celebrates July 4 with Music and Festivity



Kids enjoy the fireworks show patriotically waving American flags.

For the fifth year, the Carson community celebrated Independence Day with fireworks, music, food booths, arts and crafts, and other activities for every member of the family to enjoy at the StubHub! Center.

Hundreds of families turned out to see the fireworks display and watch the non-stop entertainment on stage that started at 1 p.m. Hundreds of volunteers also came out to ensure the success of this annual event.



Family enjoying the 4th of July Celebration.



Children enjoyed face painting.

A member of the 4th of July Celebration planning committee, Olivia Verrett, has volunteered her time for the past four years.

"It is important to all Americans all over the country to celebrate this holiday. This is really our way to commemorate the declaration of independence," said Verrett. With the increased number of spectators each year, Verrett concludes



An umbrella came in handy on the sunny day.

that this must be a sign that the residents enjoy celebrating the holiday with fireworks, music, food, and vendors.

In the same event, Philippine-American Friendship Day was also celebrated affirming the continuing strength of Filipino-American friendship and the enduring bonds and the concept of "special relations" between the Philippine and the American republics.



It was a great day to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

"I feel that Philippine-American Friendship Day marks the real connection between the Philippines and the United States. It is quite historical to have this celebration. I value that the celebration is being held where I have my business," said Evelyn Andamo, Vice President of Special Projects for the Federation of Philippine Chamber of Commerce. ■



All-Day Festival Mark Carson's Philippine Independence Day Celebration



An all-day festival featuring non-stop cultural and patriotic performances and various entertainment for the entire family marked the 116th anniversary of Philippine Independence Day.

Topping the list of this year's guests was actor Geoff Eigenmann. He was joined by numerous up-and-coming Filipino artists, as well as Carson's own local talents.

"I look forward to this event every year," said resident Jane Canja Palsis. There is something for every member of the family to enjoy. My kids take part in the

earlier performance with our church choir and learn about the Filipino culture and heritage from the display booths. We have lunch on-site and in the afternoon, we get to enjoy a variety of performances of Filipino artists from here and the Philippines," added Palsis.

A parade of reigning beauty queens also represented various regions from the Philippines that capped the celebration. Hundreds of volunteers in the community dedicate their time every year to ensure a successful festival.



Actor Geoff Eigenmann was in attendance for an appreciative audience.

President of Philippine Independence Day Foundation, Emil Loyola, has volunteered for over 15 years for this annual event.

"I have always been actively involved in the preparations of the Philippine Independence Day Celebration, not only because I am a trustee of the Philippine Independence Day Foundation, but more so because I am a proud Filipino. The Celebration gives us the chance to share to everyone our rich Filipino talents, culture, food, and traditions. It is also a time for all our kababayans to get together and bond. These make all our hard work worthwhile," Loyola said.

The celebration of Philippine Independence Day is a yearly festival that draws thousands of both Filipinos and non-Filipinos of all ages from all over Southern California. It is a commemoration of the birth of the Philippine republic after over 400 years of Spanish rule.

The annual celebration was a joint undertaking of the City of Carson and the Philippine Independence Day Foundation. ■



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?

Upcoming SFAN ("Safety First, Act Now") Program Survey Days and Feedback Meetings

NEIGHBORHOOD	SURVEY DATE/LOCATION	FEEDBACK DATE/LOCATION
Centerview	September 13th Ambler Elementary School	October 1st Ambler Elementary School
900 Block of E. Gladwick Street	October 11th Mills Park	October 29th On E. Gladwick Street (exact location TBD)
Dominguez Village	November 8th Dominguez Park	November 19th Dominguez Community Center

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

West Nile Virus Prevention Begins at Home



In its advocacy to reduce the risk of anyone being infected with the West Nile Virus (WNV), the City of Carson held its annual Public Awareness Meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center.

If you did not get an opportunity to attend that meeting, you can still reduce your risk of being infected with the WNV if you take extra precautions against breeding mosquitoes in your own home.

WNV is a serious disease present in the United States. Primarily a disease in wild birds, WNV can also spread to people and other animals by infected mosquitoes. Not everyone infected with WNV will get sick. Eighty percent of infected will experience no symptoms, while 20% will experience symptoms such as fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days, though even people have been sick for several days.

To avoid the possibility of breeding mosquitoes in your home, make sure to check for and remove all sources of standing water. Mosquitoes can breed in very small amounts of water. A swimming pool that is not well maintained can breed thousands of mosquitoes each week. Mosquitoes lay their eggs

in standing water and can complete the cycle from egg to adult in just five days.

It is also important to change the water in wading pools, birdbaths and pet bowls twice weekly. Mosquito eating fish should be placed in ornamental ponds and water gardens.



Don't let mosquitoes into your home. Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.

Reduce your risk of mosquito bites by cutting your time outside when mosquitoes are most active during the evening and early morning hours (dusk to dawn). If you must go outdoors during these times, wear long pants, long sleeved shirts and other protective clothing to avoid mosquito bites.



Finally, use insect repellents (10-30% DEET for adults and children over 2 months of age) on exposed skin according to label instructions.

For more information, or to report a dead bird, please contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (www.glacvcd.org) at 562-944-9656. ■

Upcoming Events for Months of September-November

Dominguez Channel Cleanup

Sunday, September 14, 2014
183rd Street

Mariachi Festival

Sunday, September 21, 2014
TBD

Jazz Festival

Saturday, September 27, 2014
Anderson Park

Senior Recognition Banquet

Thursday, October 9, 2014
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center

Country Western Fair

Saturday, October 11, 2014
Dominguez Park

Miss & Mr. Teen Carson and Miss & Mr. Carson

October 2014
TBD

Red Ribbon Week

October 19-25, 2014
Various Locations

Halloween Carnival

Fri. October 31 - Sun. Nov. 2, 2014
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center

Tri-Carson

Sunday, November 2, 2014
CalState Dominguez Hills

Why I Like Carson Essay-Writing Contest Awards Ceremony

Monday, November 17, 2014
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center

Veterans Day Celebration

Tuesday, November 11, 2014
Veterans Park

Juneteenth

continued from page 4



Howard Hewett. Hewett was the former lead vocalist of the R&B group Shalamar. He was joined by other R&B artists and a variety of musical talents.

The festivities took place at Mills Park and offered non-stop entertainment and features various stage activities, carnival games for kids, and a variety of arts and crafts, food and display booths.

For twenty-seven year resident La Donna Willis, her hope is that funding for these types of event continues in the years ahead. She describes the event as “a great time to enjoy music and socialize among family and friends”. ■

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.

...Grants and Saving the Environment

continued from page 3

a new solar thermal hot water system. All of the improvements will help reduce the city maintenance cost for facility usage and improve energy efficiency.

Car-Free Carson Event 2016: \$100,000

Metro recently awarded the City of Carson \$100,000 to hold Car-Free Carson. Car-Free Carson is an open street event that temporarily closes streets to cars and opens them to bicyclists and pedestrians to experience and enjoy their community from a new perspective.



Car-Free Carson is expected to be held along Carson Street and Santa Fe Avenue to highlight Carson Park, Santa Fe Park, the Civic Center, and many local businesses. It will be held in Spring 2016 to coincide with the completion of the Carson Street Master Plan -- Carson's new pedestrian-oriented district.

Through its Active Transportation Plan, Carson Street Master Plan will create a pedestrian-friendly street for Carson. Carson's proximity to the Metro Blue Line's Del Amo station will allow pedestrians and cyclists throughout Los Angeles County to attend Car-Free Carson without using a car.

City of Carson is dedicated to promoting walking and biking through its approval of the City of Carson Master Plan of Bikeways. Last year, Carson Master Plan of Bikeways received \$3 million in grant funding to create 32 miles of bike lanes in Carson.

Open street events have been proven to serve as a valuable opportunity for creating long-term change for livable communities. Studies on previous open streets events in other cities show that open events increase participants' physical activity, improves sense of community pride, and increases local business sales by over 50 percent.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Path: \$1,259,000

The City of Carson recently secured funding through a competitive grant process from Metro for \$1,259,000 to develop a bicycle/pedestrian path along the Dominguez Channel between Main Street and Avalon Boulevard. This bike path will connect with the existing path on the west side of Main Street which runs to the Harbor Gateway Transit Center – a key hub for bus rapid transit through the South Bay and Los Angeles.

This bike path is a critical piece in Carson's Masterplan of Bikeways While Carson has already received \$3 million for bike lanes throughout Carson, the bicycle/pedestrian path is separated from traffic and dedicated exclusively to bicycles and pedestrians, making it an extremely safe route for navigating Carson.

By providing this connection to the Harbor Gateway Transit Center, the City of Carson and Metro aims to contribute to promote public transit use and contribute to regional efforts to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

The City of Carson has been actively working on several programs in its ongoing efforts to make Carson a walkable, bikeable, livable community such as a new Active Transportation Plan to help Carson residents make healthier choices every day. Active transportation refers to walking, biking, or taking public transit to get around to work, school, shopping or recreational activities.

The City has been fortunate to offset its cost to grants from the State and Metro. ■