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Spring Issue
2014



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



Black History Month Celebration

February 21, 2014

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center at Carson



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

Acting City Manager
Jackie Acosta

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY TREASURER

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

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

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

CITY OF CARSON POSITION STATEMENT

Carson is a vibrant city with a small town atmosphere where relationships are important. This is clearly visible throughout the community, from the stable single family neighborhoods, which make up nearly eighty percent of the city's residences, to the partnership between businesses and volunteer driven agencies which strengthen the city's remarkable social fabric.

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

The community takes pride in the large percentage of Carson students who attend college, many to California State University, Dominguez Hills, a valuable asset to the city.

Carson's strategic position in the heart of the powerful economic engine that is Southern California attracts international corporations which recognize the city's bright future. The city's proximity to the West Coast's two major ports, as well as its intersection by four Southland freeways, makes it a major gateway to the Pacific Rim.

We, the people who live and work in Carson, take pride in our city and will continue to build relationships which ensure that future.

It's Not Too Late: Join the City of Carson 5,000 lb. Weight Loss Challenge and Community Health Fair on March 1

On March 1st from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Veterans Sports-Complex, Carson will highlight its commitment to community health and wellness with a Community Health Fair featuring the 5,000 lb. Weight Loss Challenge, Connecting Carson Public Workshop, children's games, giveaways, food, music, and more.

Carson's 5,000 Pound Weight Loss Challenge was launched on September 7th with participants making a 6-month commitment to a healthier lifestyle. The program offered participants the chance to learn about nutrition and exercise to help them reach their ideal weight and body composition. The final weigh-in for those that participated in the challenge will occur on March 1st. But if you missed the chance to participate in this 6-month challenge, don't worry—it's never too late to start new habits for a healthy lifestyle! This free event is open



to the entire community. Everyone is invited to come to Veterans SportsComplex on March 1st to participate and learn more about healthy active living including tours of the Veterans Sports-Complex exercise facilities, classes, membership discounts, giveaways from local health groups and vendors.

While the 5,000 Pound Weight Loss Challenge is a great way to kick-start a healthy lifestyle, City of Carson is also working on a new Active Transportation Plan, Connecting Carson, to help Carson residents make healthier choices every day. Connecting Carson is a joint project by UCLA and the City of Carson funded through the Los Angeles County

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City Seeks Contestants for Miss Teen Carson & Miss Carson Scholarship Pageants

The search is on for young females who will be crowned the 2014 Miss Teen and Miss Carson.

Both contests are open to female residents between the ages of 14 to 18 for the Miss Teen Pageant and female residents between the ages of 19 to 26 for the Miss Carson Pageant. Contestants for Miss Teen Carson must carry a minimum of 2.5 grade point average to qualify.

The crowned 2014 Miss Teen and Miss Carson will receive a scholarship. Winners of both pageants will be honored in the City's events throughout the year

and move on to the statewide pageant.

The winners will be selected at a pageant scheduled later on this year. Candidates will compete in the areas of sports and evening wear, swim wear, short speech, an essay, and question and answer.

Information is available at the City of Carson Recreation and Human Services Division. For other qualifications and contest rules, please call the Recreation and Human Services Division at (310) 847-3570. ■

Upcoming Events:

February

Black History Month Celebration
Friday, February 21, 2014; 6 p.m.
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Community Center at Carson

Parent Conference
Saturday, February 22, 2014; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Community Center at Carson

March

**5,000 lb. Weight Loss Challenge
Culmination and Health Fair Event**
Saturday, March 1, 2014; 10 a.m.
Veterans SportsComplex

Veteran Women's Symposium
Friday, March 21, 2014; 8:30 a.m.
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Community Center at Carson

Youth Conference
Saturday, March 22, 2014; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Community Center at Carson

Tribute to César Chávez
Sunday, March 30, 2014; 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
California State University,
Dominguez Hills

April

Volunteer Banquet
Friday, April 4, 2014; 6 p.m.
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Community Center at Carson

Autism Play Day
Saturday, April 12, 2014; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Mills Park

**Special Olympic Spring
Tournament**
Saturday, April 19, 2014; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Veterans Park

May

**Returning to Carson Park
Cinco De Mayo Celebration**
Sunday, May 4, 2014; 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Memorial Day Celebration
Friday, May 23, 2014; 6 p.m.
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Community Center at Carson

Carson Community Comes Together to Aid to Typhoon Haiyan Victims of the Philippines



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Volunteers meet to unload donations at the CJMM Community Center parking lot.

Through a unanimous vote by Council on November 19, 2013, the City of Carson established an emergency relief fund to allow community members to make donations to the victims and survivors of Typhoon Haiyan which struck the Philippine Islands on November 8, 2013 that took thousands of lives and displaced millions of people.

Several events took place to raise funds and collect donations spearheaded by the Mayor Pro Tem and another Councilmember. There were several drop-off centers at local businesses, schools, and churches, a concert, a vigil, a telethon and hundreds of volunteers which included community leaders and municipalities in surrounding cities that

worked, attended and made donations towards this worthwhile cause.

According to volunteer Daniel Valdez, it was sad but it felt great to help. "I am proud I contributed and proud of everyone else [who assisted]," said Valdez. Community member Tommy Fa'avae who helped with the disaster relief effort said that helping other countries is what a community who is as diverse as Carson does in times of crisis.

"When I first heard of the disaster, it came naturally to do whatever it took to step up an aggressive campaign - help collect goods, clothing, blankets, canned goods, medical supplies to ship to the Philippines," said Fa'avae. "It is what we do in a diverse community. I'm proud to be a long time resident of Carson," added Fa'avae. ■



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Business is Growing in Carson



Buffalo Wild Wings
736 Del Amo Blvd.
Carson, CA 90746



99¢ Only Stores
Opening on 2/13/14
619 E. University Drive
Carson, CA 90746



Planet Fitness
123 E. Lomita Blvd.
Carson, CA 90746

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



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

The evening concert was held on January 10 at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center with entertainment line-up that included local homegrown talents from Sophisticated Dance, Unified Choir, Praise Dance, and youth from the City of Carson's Enrichment Program.

For City's Director of Community Services Cedric L. Hicks, Sr., the life that Dr. King lived was an outstanding journey of hopefulness – a man whose legacy of inspiration and faith continues today.

"This year's tribute was distinctive as our special guest speakers were Dr. Munashe Furusa, Dean of Arts and Humanities from Cal State Dominguez, and Veronie Steele-Small, one of the first female African-American Los Angeles County Fire Department Battalion Chief.

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CARSON AFRICAN AMERICAN EMPOWERMENT COALITION SCHOLARSHIP

CAAEC is offering scholarships to deserving high school seniors and continuing college students

For application and more information, contact:

Juanita S. Cannon

Scholarship Chair – (310) 635-5289
jgccannon@sbcglobal.net

Vera Rhone, Scholarship
Co-Chair – (310) 637-3840

DEADLINE to submit application and qualifying documents:

April 7, 2014

THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM



The Neighborhood Watch Program is a program that was implemented by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in the early 80's as part of a national program to involve and facilitate participation of local residents in helping to promote cooperation within the community by observing neighborhood activ-

ities and to build a working relationship with the citizens, City, and Sheriff's Department.

The City of Carson and the Carson Sheriff's Station agreed in 1981 to this partnership to increase the level of public safety in the City of Carson. The residents are trained to recognize and report crime and suspicious activities in their neighborhood with the implementation of crime prevention and self-help programs.

The program is directed, coordinated, supervised and administered by the Sergeant assigned to the Community Relations Office, who acts as advisor to the local residents on law enforcement crime prevention matters and conducting Community Watch meetings. The City of Carson provides partial funding and

support staff (Public Safety Specialist) for Crime Prevention Programs.

The Crime Prevention Program consists of quarterly meetings for the Block Captains, a quarterly newsletter, an annual picnic recognizing the person (or persons) designated as Block Captain of the Year, Crime Prevention Seminar, and the Annual Community Night Out (March and Rally Against Crime and Violence). Support staff attends public functions to bring awareness to the citizens and businesses of Carson and the Carson Sheriff's Station patrolling area. The City of Carson is always in need of new block captains. If you are interested, please contact Anita Kincherlow, Public Safety Specialist, at the City of Carson's Public Service Center at (310) 830-7600 or the Carson Sheriff's Station at (310) 830-1123. ■

Juvenile Delinquency: Who Do You Call For Help?

If your son or daughter is a juvenile offender, or if dealing with strong-willed children is just too overwhelming for you, do you know who to call for help?

Not knowing what services are available to them, a lot of parents may simply charge their teenagers' offenses to parenting experience. In a lot of cases, this lack of information on the part of parents, often results in repeat offenses.

In the City of Carson, various services ranging from parenting classes to a more stringent program administered by the Sheriff's Department are available to curb juvenile delinquency in the community. These services are made possible through the Juvenile Accountability In-

centive Block Grant funds (JAIBG) awarded to the City by the California Office of Criminal Justice Planning. Through these funds, the City's Youth Services Division has developed the Carson Youth Accountability Network (CYAN), a network of partners from the law enforcement, judicial system, local schools and community based organizations to address the problem of juvenile delinquency through intervention.

The services provided through CYAN include:

1. Teen Court – conducted at Carson High School by a Superior Court Judge, the teen court targets high school students to act as jurors for cases of first time juvenile offenders.
2. VIDA Program – administered by the Sheriff's Department, this program targets juvenile offenders with incorrigible behavior and at-risk of becoming offenders.
3. Drug Prevention and Education Program – targets first time drug offenders and drug users.
4. Youth Services Community Liaison Officer – who serves as probation officers to follow up on youth offenders.
5. Parenting Classes – a program that targets parents of juvenile offenders either mandated by court or personal desire to learn how to control their strong-willed adolescent children.

To find out more how the City of Carson can help you in dealing with problems related to juvenile delinquency, please call the Public Safety Department at (310) 952-1786. ■

Are you concerned about your child's behavior?



Are they doing poorly in school and getting worse? Are they talking back to you and have changed from the loving child they once were? Is your child becoming more and more out of control and you don't know what to do about it?

Don't wait. Get help early before the negative behavior goes any further.

The City of Carson's Youth Services Division of Public Safety can provide you assistance. We have three Youth Services Officers (YSOs), and a county Deputy Probation Officer. We offer the following services to help you and your child get back on the right track. All of our programs are court and probation approved.

1. **Case management:** At no cost to you, YSOs go to your child's school to check on their attendance / grades, and interact with school personnel as an advocate for your child. We will also do home visits as needed. Our criteria for case management is:
 - a. You live in Carson or;
 - b. Your child attends school in Carson or;
 - c. Your child was arrested or received a ticket in Carson.
2. **Programs:** We offer a variety of low-priced after-school programs.
 - a. Anger Management for Teens – An educational, life-skills oriented six week series to teach youth how and why they should control behavior.
 - b. Parent / Teen – Parenting classes to learn how to control your strong-willed adolescent child. There is also a corresponding teen program meeting at the same time as the parent's 10-week series of classes (English and Spanish).
 - c. Drug & Alcohol – This is an educational class, not a therapeutic one. It is taught by a licensed drug and alcohol counselor. Random drug-testing is a requirement of the class and we refer you to a local lab that charges a minimum cost.
 - d. Youth & the Law – A two day class, offered bi-monthly, that teaches youth what they can and cannot do as a minor. The second day, the minor and their parent listen to a group of parolees talk about how they started in a life of crime and how to avoid it.
 - e. Community Service – This is a weekend -- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- service that is for court-ordered youth. It is not meant for school credits.
3. **In-school Programs:**
 - a. Street Smart – This is a five-week, no-cost, middle-school gang prevention and intervention program taught by a Youth Officer during school hours. Contact your child's middle school principal to see if it is available at their Carson school.
 - b. Teen Court – This is an intervention program offered at Carson High School for minors that are first-time offenders. The minor (from another school) are tried by a jury from Carson High School and a Superior Court Judge and if convicted, are placed on six-month informal probation. This court is legally binding.

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The Basics of Tree Pruning in Carson

Carson residents are very proud of more than 20,000 trees in the parks and parkways of the city. Chapter 9, section 3911 of the Carson City Code states that the Public Works Division of the City of Carson is responsible for pruning all City trees in Carson. A City tree is any tree planted within the City's right-of-way or City owned or maintained property. The parkway which, in most cases, is the area between the curb and the sidewalk is part of the fully improved street right-of-way. The Public Works Division is responsible for the pruning of these trees. Residents may not prune, deface, poison, kill, or cut down parkway trees without an approved permit from the City of Carson.

Most trees look and grow best when left to their natural habit. Prune trees for reasons such as: to remove dead, damaged or diseased branches; to eliminate crossing or inwardly growing branches; to open up a tree that has become too dense; in the case of fruit or flowering trees, to increase the crop and improve its quality; and to shape fruit trees for convenience or cultivation.

When pruning your own trees, always cut back to the trunk, a branch, or a bud. Callus tissue will form and over time seal off the wound. Use a tool with a sharp blade to clean cuts. Cut diagonally about a quarter of an inch above any bud pointing in the direction that you want the new growth.

Most young trees do better if pruned or trained early. This encourages a sturdy trunk from which strong, well placed main limbs will grow. Prune newly planted trees only to remove dead or broken branches. For each of the next 3 years, gradually prune the tree for structure, removing or reducing double leaders and lateral branches that are 1/3 or more the size of the leader. As the tree matures encourage main branches at evenly spaced intervals up the trunk and spaced around it.

For mature trees (three years and older) thin and selectively prune damaged branches, and branches that are growing beyond the canopy or too low, removing no more than 25% of the foliage in any year. For some established trees like Pines, the recommended amount is no more than 10%. This enhances their appearance and may reduce the need for water. Pruning also cuts down on the danger of fire because dead wood and litter removal reduces their flammability. Major pruning cuts should be saved for the dormant season, which for most trees begins about 1 week after the leaves fall.

The general shape of a tree should be established by pruned while still young. The most common tree shapes are standard, pyramid, v-shaped, spreading, and for fruit trees: goblet, fan, espalier and cordon. Find out the natural shape of the tree and work with it, not against it.

Trees should never be "sheared" into "lollipops" or boxes. This practice ruins the structure of the tree and greatly reduces the working surface area of foliage, thus stunting the tree and reducing the oxygen, nutrition, and desired shade produced. If you want a smaller tree, plant a smaller type of tree. The last four tree shapes listed are for fruit or flower production and are not appropriate for street trees.

- 1) **Standard** (lollipop shaped): Prune to outward or upward pointing buds to maintain the shape.
- 2) **Pyramid** (Christmas tree shape): Prune so that the side shoots are kept very short to withstand heavy weight of fruits.
- 3) **V-shaped** (inverted cone)
- 4) **Goblet** (open-centered cup): Prune so that the arms are outwardly spreading. Be sure that the light gets into the middle of the trees.
- 5) **Fan**: Prune to let two shoots grow at 45 degrees to the ground. In early spring let a number of the branches shoot to form your fan.
- 6) **Espalier**: Prune to have central stem grow vertically. Laterals grow out but at right angles.
- 7) **Cordon**: Prune the main stem at a sharp angle to the ground and keep laterals short.

For more information, please call the Public Works Division at (310) 847-3520. ■



Senior Citizen Discount for Trash Collection Services

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A **50% ANNUAL DISCOUNT** ON TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES:

- ✓ Owner of Single Family Homes in Carson ✓ Must Live on Property
- ✓ 62 Years of Age or Older (by July 1, 2014)

Sign up dates: APRIL 7, 2014 (Monday) – APRIL 10, 2014 (Thursday) • 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sign up: CITY OF CARSON

Location: CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD COMMUNITY CENTER at CARSON

801 E. Carson Street, Carson CA 90745 • ROOM #132

You must bring: ✓ Current Property Tax Bill ✓ Valid Picture

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL PUBLIC WORKS AT (310) 847-3520

...5,000 lb. Weight Loss Challenge and Community Health Fair...

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Department of Public Health's HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living) Program. Active transportation refers to walking, biking, or taking public transit to get around to work, school, shopping or recreational activities. Research indicates that when exercise is built into one's daily routine, people more likely to engage in exercise than car commuters, and less prone to gain weight than car commuters, even those that exercise regularly.

Katy Cisneros, a Carson resident and a Cal State University Dominguez Hills student, has been volunteering for Connecting Carson to "learn more about community health and development."

Katy states that she is "excited to be a part of building a healthier future for Carson."

The first public workshop for Connecting Carson will be held during the Community Health Fair.

The City wants to hear from you! We need your input for identifying key networks for walking, biking and taking public transit in Carson. We need your help prioritizing policies for encouraging active transportation promoting safety.

Come to Veterans SportsComplex on March 1st to tell us where you want to walk in Carson, what you think of sidewalks, crosswalks and lighting, and how we can make Carson a safe and enjoyable place to walk and bike for everyone.

For more information on the Active Transportation Plan, please follow Connecting Carson on Facebook or contact the Connecting Carson Project Manager Lauren Grabowski at lgrabows@carson.ca.us ■



...Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ...Tribute

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Both provided a message of hope and inspiration as the vision of "I Have A Dream" speech," said Hicks.

The Dr. 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. ■

...Childs Behavior?

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To receive a resource guide, and/or to find out more on how the City of Carson can help you work through problems you are experiencing with your at-risk child, contact Youth Services at (310) 952-1700, ext. 1671, 1789, 1672. ■

**"Who is César Chávez?"
Essay Contest**



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.
- All CalState University Dominguez Hills students

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



**The Office of the City Clerk
located in Carson City Hall
is a Passport Application
Acceptance Facility for the
U.S. Department of State and
accepts passport Form DS-11.
Passport Photo services is
not available at this location.**