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Summer Issue 2014

Carson Celebrates CINCO DE MAYO





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.

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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.

Hernandez Named Carson's New City Manager



Operating Officer for the City of San Diego. Highlights of his lengthy career in public administration include the positions of serving as Assistant Economic Development and Senior City Planner for the City of Montebello, and Community Development Director for the City of Ventura.

Hernandez expressed great enthusiasm in working for a "city with so much history and tremendous opportunities. He added that, "Carson is a city that has a lot going on for its size with a major university, industrial land, opportunities to revitalize commercial corridors and great neighborhoods."

Hernandez conveyed his appreciation for the confidence by the City Council in appointing him as the next City Manager, as he commended them for being "very engaged with the community."

The City Council, for its part, expressed confidence over Hernandez, who was selected from a long list of highly qualified candidates. "We are thrilled with our decision in selecting Mr. Hernandez,"

says Carson's Mayor. "Carson certainly stands to benefit from Mr. Hernandez' noteworthy leadership and extensive experience in various aspects of city management. I'm confident that my colleagues and I have made a great choice in him."

Hernandez attended UCLA where he received his Bachelors in Political Science, and he graduated from the MPA program at the City University of New York. He also completed several certificate programs: Housing and Community Development Community from Harvard University; Transportation Planning from UC Riverside; Real Estate Finance from Urban Land Institute and Advance Management from Cal State University, Long Beach.

Hernandez also has a record of superior federal service. He worked at the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) in the capacity of Senior Associate Director, Housing and Community Investment where he was responsible for developing affordable housing and community investment policies and regulations of approximately \$500 billion annually over Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks. ■

Nelson Hernandez officially took the helm as Carson's City Manager on May 7.

Hernandez' appointment was announced at the City Council meeting on May 6 concluding several months of executive search to fill the position. Director of Administrative Services, Jackie Acosta, temporarily held the position as Acting City Manager prior to Hernandez' appointment.

Prior to accepting the City Manager appointment for the City, Hernandez served as the Assistant Chief

Announcing the HOME Program for Housing Repairs and Seismic Safety Improvements

The city has received \$700,000 from the state to assist first-time home buyers and help low-income home owners with significant home repairs. This will supplement the city's longtime Neighborhood Pride Program, which has served hundreds of homeowners over the years.

The new program provides loans of up to \$25,000 that do not have to be paid until the home is sold or refinanced. Items eligible for rehabilitation include

roofing, new driveways, exterior painting, stucco, faulty plumbing, heating and hazardous wiring repairs and security lighting. Seismic upgrades such as bracing and bolting to a foundation are also eligible.

The first-time home buyer program offers loans up to \$60,000 for down payment assistance to low-income families. Workshops for new home owners are provided by the city as part of the program. Applications to be placed on



the waiting list for both of these programs are available at city hall. ■

Cinco de Mayo Celebration Makes Successful Debut Back to Carson Park



Cinco de Mayo, one of Carson's biggest cultural events every year made a successful debut back to Carson Park after four years, bringing in thousands of people together for a fun-filled event.

The annual celebration, held May 4, was another successful showcase of food, arts and craft displays and entertainment to commemorate a historical day remembered by many Mexicans and those have Mexican ancestral ties as an important cultural event.



The celebration began at 12 noon with welcome remarks from the City Council followed by non-stop entertainment that took place on stage and the park filled with various booths and activities for everyone in the family to enjoy.

"The entertainment was wonderful and the food was great. We loved the car show," commented the Miyake family. Other attendees were also excited about the game booths, the boxing show, and the car show.

Carson resident Carlan Owens loved the fact that the event was "very family oriented and liked that the staff was very helpful" while resident Ashley Gallegos was excited about meeting new people at this event.

Flor D'Luna, Grupo Folklorico Faisan, Veterans SportsComplex Salsa Group, Mariachi Academy, and Xipe Totec Danzantes Aztecas were only a few of the many performances that were showcased during the five-hour program.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the 1862 victory by Mexican forces, including ordinary citizens, over invading French soldiers. The battle,



known as La Batalla de Puebla, or the Battle of Puebla, occurred on May 5.

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo has become increasingly popular along the U.S.-Mexico border and in parts of the U.S. that have a high population of people of Mexican culture, food, music, beverage, and customs. The rich Mexican-American culture is an essential part of what makes Carson unique because it is a city that celebrates diversity and harmony. ■

Things Every Resident Should Know...



- Parking is not allowed on grass or unpaved areas. Vehicles receive parking citations ranging from \$100-\$500 each violation.
- Trash & recycling containers are not allowed to be visible from public right-of-way except AFTER 6 p.m. the day before scheduled pick-up & until 10 p.m. the day of pick-up. Smaller containers can be requested from Waste Management (310-328-0900).
- Appliances, furniture, trash, & other items are not allowed to be visible from the public right-of-way. Large/bulky item pick-up can be requested through Waste Management (310-328-0900).
- Nothing can be placed on the public right-of-way, including basketball hoops, signs/flyers on utility poles or parkway trees, televisions, computers, etc.

• Abandoned, wrecked, inoperable vehicles with obvious signs of damage such as flat tires, broken windows, etc. are not allowed to be parked visible from the public right-of-way, including on the street.

• Auto repair is restricted in residential areas to minor repairs of vehicles & is not allowed on the public right-of-way (street, alley, etc.).

• A business license or permit must be obtained for any & all business conducted in the city, including yard sales, from the Revenue Division (310-952-1748).

• Resident must maintain vegetation on property, including bushes & trees, so that it does not become overgrown, dead/dry, &/or obstruct public right-of-way. No more than 12" grass, weeds & hedges, and flowers.



• A building permit must be obtained through the Building & Safety Division (310-952-1766) for any alteration to a structure such as re-roofing, window change outs, room additions, etc. PRIOR to work being done.

• There is a limit of 3 animals at one location & certain animals such as pigs, chicken, and roosters are prohibited in the city.

• Residents are responsible for maintaining property free of graffiti.

For questions regarding Code Enforcement, contact the Public Safety Department at (310) 952-1786. ■

Dear Carson Resident,

The Summer Issue of the Carson Report was recently mailed out to all residents. On page 5, in the article entitled, Carson Adopts Anti-Bullying Ordinance, it was incorrectly stated that the Carson City Council adopted an Anti-Bullying Ordinance on its May 6, 2014 Council meeting.

On the May 20, 2014 meeting, the City Council initiated and agreed to an anti-bullying campaign instead. In lieu of an ordinance, the City will be holding forum discussions to consider methods to combat bullying. Report and recommendations will be given in the next 60-90 days in a City Council meeting.

We apologize for any confusion that the Carson Report story may have caused.

Sincerely,
The Public Information Office

Safety First, Act Now

A Joint Project by the City of Carson and the Carson Sheriff's Station



Sheriff's Park Enforcement Team, Carson Sheriff's Community Oriented Policing Team, and Carson Sheriff's Reserves and Explorers walked through three neighborhoods, walking house to house to ask residents questions regarding public safety and other issues concerning the community.

One week prior to each survey date, the City and Carson



Sheriff's Station personnel will notify the residents of the neighborhood of the upcoming survey by delivering flyers directly to the homes.

The results compiled by the Carson Sheriff's personnel will be presented in three community meetings for neighborhoods around the vicinity of Carson Street Elementary School on May 14, Mills Park on May 21, and Towne Avenue Elementary School on June 25.

More survey locations are expected to be added in the next few months. If you have any questions, please call (310) 952-1713. ■

To improve safety in the City of Carson, Carson's Mayor Pro Tem spearheaded a program called "Safety First, Act Now" – a joint project with the Carson Sheriff's Station that allows information about community safety to be collected directly from Carson residents who, through a survey, will allow the City and the Carson Sheriff's Station to assess the safety of their neighborhood/community, allow residents to express their views on safety issues, and express public safety concerns and make suggestions.

On designated Saturdays during the month of April and May, the City's elected officials, staff, and community volunteers worked with the Carson



The Native Garden Will Help to Conserve Water in This Time of Drought WEST BASIN DEDICATES OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN TO CITY OF CARSON

Community partners, City of Carson Mayor and City Council, and West Basin Municipal Water District dedicated the Ocean Friendly Demonstration Garden at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center (Community Center) with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 20. The garden features drought-tolerant plants that thrive in dry climates and will save up to 80 percent of the water previously required for landscaping.

"As California faces one of the worst droughts on record, these Ocean Friendly Gardens provide an opportunity for communities to make



small yet impactful changes that conserve water and are sustainable," said West Basin Director Ron Smith.

"I commend the Mayor, the Council and representatives of the Community Center for taking the initiative to bring this resource to Carson and inspire others to implement the same principles at their homes and businesses," added Smith.

The initial garden began with local citizens taking part in a free workshop that provided

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Carson Resident Lotto Winner Transforms Neighborhood Baseball Field

When April Fernando won a small lottery prize, she did not spend it on a shopping spree or a trip to Hawaii. Instead, April made a financial donation to transform what was a practice baseball field at Calas Park into a second fully functional game field.

April and a group of her co-workers won a small lottery prize. Their pool matched five out of six numbers in the Mega Million draw on April 6, 2012 splitting a prize of \$272,000.

Calas Park Volunteer Association had put out the call for contributions for their dream project, but they got a limited response. The Fernando family reached out to baseball coach, Joshua Aguilar and offered to make the Association's dream of a second playing field a reality.

"Everybody [April's co-workers] had their own different ideas and dreams of what they're gonna do [with their lottery winnings]. Ours was

to come here and help the kids," said April. Coach Aguilar and Calas Park Recreation Center Supervisor Kenneth Harris described how surprised they were that once the Fernando family made a donation, other families and volunteers started stepping up to help out.

"It was a total unexpected blessing," described Harris. "We were trying to raise the bare minimum amount of money to transform the practice field into a game field. Not only did we meet that, we also got other coaches and volunteers several Saturdays and Sundays to help build the field after the Fernandos donated," added Harris.

"It took me by surprise," said Aguilar. "Not just anybody can do that. The Fernandos plopped down approximately \$3,500 to revamp the field," added Aguilar.

When asked if the Fernandos missed out on the money, April responded, "No. For me it was



easy. It was a swipe of a pen. It wasn't money I earned so it was an easy choice." April's husband Maverick also said that he did not miss the money. For Maverick, seeing his son play baseball with the other neighborhood kids is "the greatest thing to see." ■

Carson Celebrates Children's Day Celebrating the Child Within All of Us



On April 26, the City of Carson celebrated its 4th Annual Children's Day celebration with a variety of fun-filled event dedicated to the children in the community.

In collaboration with Gardena-Carson YMCA and Children's Day USA, Children's Day celebrated kids' health and promoted healthy habits for kids and families. The event also

encouraged active play and inspired physical activity.

With hundreds of attendees, some families described the event as a day not just for the children but a day for the family to enjoy and learn.

Carson resident Richard Bis shared his enthusiasm in attending the community event.

"My kids and I enjoyed the various activities and resources," said Bis.

"My daughters especially liked the opportunity to participate in the hands-on activities such as the bracelet making. They were very excited in



watching the various performers. One of my daughters was picked to be on stage during Ronald McDonald's magic show. I would definitely take my children again next year," added Bis.

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Children's Day

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Executive Director of Gardena-Carson YMCA Audrie Echnoz expressed appreciation to the City of Carson for the success of the event and the growing number of volunteers and participants that come each year to Children's Day.

"The collaboration between the City of Carson and the Gardena-Carson Family YMCA was a tremendous success resulting in hundreds of families coming together to honor and serve our Carson and Gardena children," said Echnoz.

"Families spent the day enjoying dancing and music, as they received health and educational resources to get their families started on a healthy and safe summer at the YMCA! We are truly grateful for the collaboration and know that our community will be stronger because of it," added Echnoz.

It is the City of Carson's goal for Children's Day celebration to eventually be a global remembrance with equivalence in magnitude to Father's and Mother's Day. ■



WEST BASIN DEDICATES OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN

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instruction in sustainable gardening techniques; followed by a hands-on installation alongside local leaders on September 27, 2013. In coordination with West Basin, the City of Carson, G3LA, the Surfrider Foundation and Cal Water, citizens gained knowledge about local plants, water-efficient irrigation devices and proper installation and maintenance.

"The coordinated efforts of the Ocean Friendly partnership helps to create gardens that restore the natural California landscape and uses water more efficiently than turf landscaping," said Carson Mayor. "We hope our residents take this garden concept and implement similar gardens at their homes and reduce the size of their lawns. Once these gardens are established, they will grow on our local rainfall of around fifteen inches."

The Ocean Friendly Garden program is part of West Basin's Water Reliability 2020 Program, which aims to reduce dependence on imported water in half by the year 2020 by doubling water recycling, doubling conservation and adding a small amount of desalinated ocean-water to West Basin's water supply portfolio.

The program allows West Basin to work toward its conservation goals and increase water use efficiency by reducing the amount of water used outdoors (the top water wasting practice in residential communities). The garden is located at the renovated Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center for residents and visitors to enjoy. This garden was fully funded by the Department of Water Resources, California Water Service Company and the Metropolitan Water District.

For more information regarding the Water Reliability 2020 program and how you can conserve water in your home through other means such as using high efficiency toilets, landscape and irrigation efficiency devices, please log on to www.westbasing.org or call West Basin at (310) 217-2411. ■



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