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CARSON report FUTURE UNLIMITED

Winter Issue 2013/14



CITY OF CARSON
45th
ANNIVERSARY
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER
1968 * 2013





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

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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<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.

Hundreds Celebrate Carson's 45th Anniversary



Hundreds of people, comprising of citizens, community leaders, business owners, elected officials and members of the Carson family gathered on October 12th to celebrate the City of Carson's 45th Anniversary Gala Ball.

The doors of the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center opened at 6 p.m. By 7 p.m., men and women in their special evening attire walked the red carpet, smiled for the cameras, and packed the elegantly-decked main halls.



Katrina Saroyan set the evening's mood playing the harp and serenading the crowd with her easy-listening repertoire.

Flor D' Luna Band captivated the audience during dinner time with passionate rhythms, funky bass lines, clean harmonies, and singing melodies that did more than answer the call, they touched the soul with decades of experience in Jazz, Salsa, Rock, Soul, Funk Latin Music and Flamenco. Booming toms, walking bass lines, jumpin' rhythms, roaring horn lines topped with smooth crooning vocals of Douglas Roegiers were the ingredients found after dinner as the Phat Cat Swinger Band sent some of the audiences to the dance floor and kept them on their feet musical number after musical number as they performed their billboard favorites.

Along with dessert, the audience heard from and danced to rhythm of the Grammy Award winning Dazz Band with

their harmony-based balladry and funk jazz fusion playing their smash hits like "Let It Whip," "Joystick" and "Let It All Blow".

All the 45th Anniversary events this year were a cooperative effort of community volunteers who comprised the 45th Anniversary Planning Committee. The group began planning the 45th Anniversary activities as early as November 2012, through monthly meetings – and sub-committee meetings in between – and came up with five major projects to celebrate the milestone anniversary year.

The first activity was the Saturday Night at the Fights held last February, a few days after the City's actual date of incorporation, which is February 20, 1968, followed by the Carson Park grand re-opening in June. Last September, the City held a Miss Carson Scholarship Pageant.



The parade was the fourth of the five projects and it featured celebrities, colorful floats, equestrian units, and various bands that highlighted the City of Carson's 45th Anniversary.

The parade took place on October 5th along Main Street, between 213th Street and Carson High School on 223rd

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A Free Zumbathon Kicks-off City of Carson's 5,000 Pound Weight Loss Challenge Program



The City of Carson kicked off its 5,000 lb. Weight Loss Challenge Program with a free zumbathon that took place on September 7 at the

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center.

The 5,000 lb. Weight Loss Challenge Program is a city-wide challenge that spun off from the 50 Million Pound Challenge started by Dr. Ian Smith who initiated the national campaign to encourage everyone to join forces and fight the risks of being overweight for families and communities. The City of Carson is believed to be the first city in California to host the 5,000 lb. weight challenge program.

Hundreds of men and women of all ages danced to the Latin rhythms. The program event was staged at the East Wing Parking Lot of the Community Center. The City is providing weigh-in stations at

its fitness centers at Carson Park, Scott Park, Stevenson Park, and the Veterans Park SportsComplex as well as other fitness locations throughout the city for this weight loss challenge program.

The zumbathon event also featured a wide variety of health booths, a kid fit zone, zumba gold, raffles, and giveaways. The City of Carson's 5,000 lb. Weight Loss Challenge is co-sponsored by Gardena-Carson YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Carson, West Coast Fitness, Kaiser Permanente, and SouthBay Pavilion.

For more information or to participate in the challenge, please call the City of Carson Recreation and Human Services at (310) 847-3570. ■

Lenny Williams Topbilled Carson's End-of-Summer Jazz Festival

Legendary American jazz, blues and singer Lenny Williams took center-stage at the Carson's End-of-Summer Jazz Festival on September 28th, at Anderson Park. But this year, not only did Carson have a Jazz Festival, the City also had a Breast Cancer Awareness/Health and Wellness Expo at the same time.

The event took place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and featured non-stop live jazz entertainment as well as activities for every member of the family.

Lenny Williams is known for his work in the R & B and soul music genres. During the 1970s, he was the lead vocalist of Power. As a soloist, he made several hit recordings, including the 1977's "Choosing You" and 1978's "Cause I Love You".

Williams lead a host of jazz performers which included Barbara Morrison, Jazz in Pink, Guitar Shorty, Aalon, and Carson's very own Erin Blunt also known as DJ Alcatraz.

Aside from non-stop jazz entertainment, the festival included a wide variety of food, crafts and health booths, a kiddie area with carnival games, contests and various stage activities. It was also a showcase of talents in dancing as musicians, soloists, and bands took turns entertaining the crowd.

"It is a good event to relax and have lots of fun," said attendee Sandra M. Lewis. Juanita Matthews looks forward to the Jazz Festival annually because to her it



is about "fellowship with Carson neighbors and supporting vendors."

Dozens of booths enclosed Anderson Park selling a variety of products and promoting upcoming events and health and wellness in Carson.

"It is a fantastic gathering of people in the Carson community," said Leticia B. Tan, Carson Regional Library Manager,

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State of the City Address

Covered Carson's 45 Years of Progress

The annual State of the City Address delivered by the City's Mayor on October 17, 2013, covered the major accomplishments of the City of Carson over the last 45 years as the year's speech coincided with the City's 45th year of incorporation.

With black-and-white pictures flashing on a big screen, the Mayor took an audience over 200 at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center on a nostalgic trip down memory lane as he emphasized "how much progress the City has achieved and how many opportunities are still ahead."

Forty-five years after it was incorporated, he said, "Carson is gearing to be a prime shopping and entertainment destination with the construction of The Boulevards at South Bay project at the old landfill near the 405 and 110 freeways."

The Boulevards is only one of many ongoing developments in Carson, an indication, according to the Mayor, that business is still good in Carson, despite the economic challenges afflicting the nation and surrounding cities in the South Bay. He attributed this to the

abundance of undeveloped land in Carson, its strategic location because of its proximity to major Southland freeways, and the absence of some of the taxes other cities impose on businesses.

Among the other ongoing construction the Mayor was referring to are the development of the Porsche Experience Driving Center, Cinemark Movie Theatres, Inland Kenworth truck dealership, a Walmart Neighborhood Market, Win Hyundai automotive dealership, and a Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant at the SouthBay Pavilion.

The Mayor also cited a major construction project on the 405 freeway, namely the 405-Wilmington interchange, an example of infrastructure improvements and big investments the City is making to continue to make Carson a great place to live, work, play and do business. Other City projects include the construction of Arbor Green housing development and Phase 2 of the Via 425 project a few blocks away from City Hall.

The Mayor also underscored that the City is stable despite the ripple effects of the great recession and the loss of rede-



Tara O'Brien, pictured here with Walter Neil, received the Future Unlimited Award for Kaiser Permanente.

velopment. Overall, the city stands to remain financially stable with a general fund balance estimated at \$36.4 million as of June 30, 2013. This represents a 22.8% increase from the fiscal year 2011/12 general fund balance of \$29.6 million.

Past achievements and future indicators, according to the Mayor, suggest that Carson's 45 years of progress will continue in the years to come. "Truly the future that our founding fathers had envisioned for this community forty-five years ago is happening now," he said. ■

Carson to Consider Prohibiting Use of Chain Link

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on November 26, 2013, to consider prohibiting the use of chain link and/or barbed wire within the front and side yards of commercial and industrial properties that are located on major arterials such as Figueroa Street, 223rd Street and Sepulveda Boulevard.

The Planning Commission will also conduct a public hearing on December 10, 2013, to consider prohibiting the use of chain link within the front and side yards of residential properties that are

adjacent to a public street. Both public hearings will take place at 6:30 p.m. in Carson City Hall Helen Kawagoe Council Chambers located at 701 E. Carson Street in Carson.

According to the Planning Division, fences are recommended to be wood, metal, vinyl or similar material and installed with the posts or structural supports inside with the finished surfacing facing the public street.

In residential districts, the maximum height recommended by the Planning

Division for fences and/or hedges is 42 inches (3 1/2 feet) along the front yard and 6 feet along the side and rear yards, except as otherwise provided in a Specific Plan for the development of the neighborhood.

The Planning Commission will also consider increasing the height of fences and/or hedges to a maximum of 48 inches (4 feet) in the front yard. If you are interested in obtaining more information, please call the Planning Division at (310) 952-1761. ■



City of Carson Hosts a Tribute to Filipino-American Labor Leader Larry Itliong

In 1970, Larry Itliong founded and became the president of the Filipino American Political Association (FAPA), the first national political Filipino American organization and a crucial alliance between Filipino professionals with 30 active chapters throughout the United States.

In October 2010, the Carson City Council passed a resolution establishing October 25th as Larry Itliong Day in Carson. On October 2, 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed an amendment to Assembly Bill 123 (AB 123) – that requires the state curriculum to include the contributions of Filipino Americans to the farm labor movement in California. The goal of AB 123 is to supplement California’s rich farm worker history with the contributions of the Filipino American community.

AB 123, prior to its amendment this past October, required the State Board of Education to ensure that the state curriculum included instruction on Cesar Chavez, and the history of the farm labor movement in the United States, and that the state criteria for selecting textbooks included information to guide the selection of textbooks that contain sections that highlight the life and contributions of César Chávez, and the history of the farm labor movement in the United States.

The amendment to AB 123 now requires that the state curriculum and framework, include instruction on the role of immigrants, including Filipino Americans, in the farm labor movement.

“By signing AB 123, Governor Brown has made an unprecedented move to give students a more complete account of California’s farm labor movement and ensure that important leaders, such as Larry

Itliong, are remembered by future generations of Californians,” explained Assemblymember Rob Bonta, introducer of the bill amendment.

Filipinos and Filipino Americans have been contributing to California and the United States for hundreds of years, ever since October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” set foot in Morro Bay, California, on board the Nuestra Señora de Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship.

In the first decades of the 20th century, thousands of Filipinos in California worked in agricultural fields throughout California and became a critical element in the growth and political economy of the state, often enduring harsh labor conditions and poor wages, but persevering and creating a strong legacy of mutual support, strikes, and organizations for farm labor unionization.

The Filipino American population is currently the largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in California and the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States.

In Carson, Filipinos make up about 30% of the City’s population. Filipino-American History Month is annually celebrated on all four Saturdays in the month of October at the South Bay Pavilion with various types of entertainment to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Filipino-Americans in America.

“Larry Itliong is a hero championing the rights not only of the Filipino farm workers but the immigrants who built America. He carved a name in the history of the labor movement,” said Fe Koons, a member of CONFAA and the Planning Committee of Larry Itliong Day Celebration in Carson. ■

The City of Carson and the Confederation of Filipino American Association (CONFAA) joined the entire community in honoring the life’s work and legacy of Larry Itliong – a Filipino-American labor leader and organizer.

The tribute took place at the USW-Local 675 Union Hall, located at 1200 E. 220th Street in Carson on October 25th. The event featured music, refreshments, inspirational messages and awards presented to the labor awardees, Pilipino Worker Center of Southern California and Louie Diaz – Vice President of Teamsters Local 848 and a 2013 Labor Leader Award Winner.

Larry Itliong was responsible for organizing immigrant farm workers and cannery workers for over 30 years. He helped establish the Alaska Cannery Workers Union in the 1930s and helped get a contract that called for an eight-hour day with overtime pay.

In 1965, Larry Itliong led the successful “Great Delano Grape Strike” to protest the low wages and miserable working conditions. In 1966, he led the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and merged with the National Farm Workers Association led by César Chávez to form the United Farm Workers union.

Patriotic Ceremony Marks Celebration of Veterans Day

The Carson City Council led the community in joining the entire nation in observing Veterans Day on November 11.

The celebration, which was held at Veterans

Park, featured traditional military rites and patriotic musical numbers and was enjoyed by a wide audience of various veterans organizations, local civic groups, and members of the community.

Veterans Park is home to the City’s Veterans Wall where names of local residents who have served in the war are displayed. ■

"Leaves of Carson"

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Outstanding Volunteers Receive "Leaf" on Carson Tree

Twenty-two individuals and a non-profit organization received their "leaf" on the Carson Tree for their outstanding volunteer work in the Carson community. The recipients of the 2013 Leaves of Carson Awards will also be recognized at a Ceremonial Presentation Meeting that is going to be held in December.

The awardees include: Kouros Hanganfarin, business category; Perlita Rasing, Carson resident; Betty Addison, education; James A. Boyer, public sector; and the late individuals – **Ann Tatnall, Dorothy Carter, Elizabeth Sybil Lewis Brown, Fumi Takahashi, Isabella Meni, Jacqueline Hawes, John Manley, Larry E. Grant, Letha Cruz, Mary Elizabeth Little, Mary Ellen Morris, Nathaniel "Nate" Riddick, Princess Louise Perry, Quincy Beaver, Rita McCormick, Ruby Robinson, Tom Clayton, and Ysletta Cockrell.** The Erasto Batongmalaque Foundation received the award for the non-profit organization category.

The awardees were selected based on nomination papers submitted by members of the Carson

community and reviewed by a panel of judges composed of City commissioners, former Leaves of Carson recipients, and sheriff's personnel. The awards program is a project of the Public Relations Commission in its fourth cycle since it made its debut in 2003.

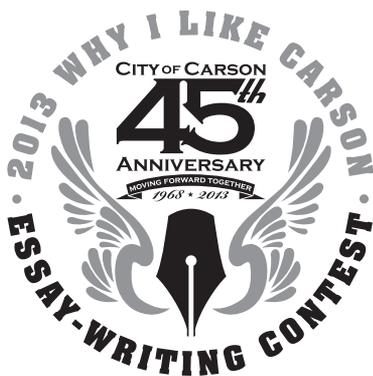
Kouros Hanganfarin is a key contributor to the City of Carson on many levels. As a Commissioner of Economic Development, he plays a crucial role in helping generate ideas for revenue and jobs. He is a member of Cal-Chamber and Carson Chamber of Commerce where he helps to bridge the gap between state and local interests to help position Carson as a first choice for state backed projects and benefits. He has a direct impact on over 6,000 Carson families through his role as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gardena-Carson YMCA.

Perlita Rasing is a retired Registered Nurse who volunteers and participates in various service organizations throughout the City. She is the past Chairperson and a current member of the

Public Relations Commission and the Friendship Club. She is actively involved in the Carson Women's Club, Carson Sister Cities Association, Philippine Independence Day Foundation, Lion's Club of Lakewood and she serves as the current President of the Southern California Allied Neighborhood program. She involves herself in many of these organization's fundraising efforts to give student scholarships and to help the underserved.

Betty Addison is a retired teacher. Her many membership and leadership roles include being a member and former Board Member of the National Sorority of Beta Pi Sigma Sorority, Inc. Long Beach Chapter, whose goal is to enable African American students to gain academic achievement nationwide. She is also a member of the California Reading Specialists which prepared her to help students achieve and pass their expected reading levels.

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Twenty-eight essays written by students from Carson stood out in describing their love for their city during the 2013 "Why I Like Carson" Essay-Writing Contest, which concluded with an awards ceremony on November 12.

The winners included 28 students from grades 3

Local Attractions, Park Programs and Cultural Diversity Top Students' List of Why They Like Carson

through 8 from various schools in Carson that received cash prizes ranging from \$50 to \$150, medallions, and certificates of commendation from the Carson City Council and Federal, State and County elected offices.

A project of the Public Relations Commission, the contest was started in 1996 by former councilmember Mary Anne O'Neal in an effort to foster community pride among Carson's youth. The contest generates wide participation from the local schools with hundreds of essays received each year.

Students have different reasons why they like Carson, as described in their essays, with local

attractions – ranging from the world-class Stub-Hub Center to the once-a-week Farmers' Market -- being one of the top reasons. Other favorites on the students' list are the city's schools, parks, and the numerous activities such as after-school programs and sports activities that keep them busy year round.

Fourth grader at-large participant Kayle Craigen sees these programs and events at the parks to be an opportunity to spend time with friends.

Students also agree that the cultural diversity in Carson is an aspect that makes them not only

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45th Anniversary

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Street. The parade has been a tradition in the celebration of the City's milestone anniversaries, with the last one taking place in 2003, during the City's 35th Anniversary.

With the City's 50th Anniversary just around the corner, the Carson community looks to a brighter future "moving forward together". ■

Why I Like Carson Essay Writing Contest

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like their city, but actually makes them proud citizens. "Everywhere I go in the city, I see familiar faces and it feels like one big family," observed Simiya Fells, a fifth grader from Catskill Elementary.

To seventh grader Christine Samala from Stephen M. White Middle School, just going to the supermarket will make you "feel as if you went on a trip around the world."

"You get to encounter a different ethnicity with just a turn on the grocery aisle," added Samala. But according to Christine the best part is that the "diverse ethnic groups co-exist harmoniously. They respect each other's beliefs."

Carson's booming housing and economic development didn't go unnoticed by the students.

Jazz Festival

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who hosted a booth to disseminate information to the community regarding library services and programs that the Carson Library offers.

One of the longest running events in Carson, the Jazz Festival draws a huge crowd annually from all over the South Bay, having prominent performers in past years such as Ronnie Laws, Loose Ends, Angela Bofill, and other big names in the jazz music industry.

This year's Jazz Festival Breast and Cancer Awareness/Health and Wellness Expo was sponsored by the Carson Citizens Cultural Foundation and the City of Carson.

The students expressed delight in their essays over the number of new and modern houses being built and the rapid increase in commercial and retail businesses in the city.

Finally, the students concur that they like Carson because they feel safe because of the protection they enjoy from the Sheriff's Department.

So whether it is the local attractions, the parks and park activities, the cultural diversity, the city's booming economy or the friendly sheriff's deputies, seventh grader Samala summarizes her position:

"Carson is like an unpolished diamond. What we see now is not a finished product. Improvements are being done day by day. There's still more to come."

My city has almost everything that I want. It is not perfect but it is growing and the citizens who live and work here are learning together." ■

Whether it is your first or your fifteenth time, Carson's Jazz Festival is both mesmerizing and memorable – with a long line up of jazz performers and a plethora of booths offering a variety of delicacies, arts and crafts, games and activities for kids. With the addition of the Breast Cancer Awareness/ and Health and Wellness Expo, health screening and wellness information were also made available.

At least six months of planning and thousands of hours put in by community volunteers working through different committees are involved in putting together each annual seven-hour event. ■

Leaves of Carson

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James A. Boyer currently serves as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner. He has occupied different commission posts in the past. He was formerly a member of the Beautification Commission and the Environmental Commission. He is also involved in various volunteer committees in the City of Carson such as the Bike Masterplan, the 45 Anniversary, St. Vincent de Paul, and Friends of the Carson Library. He is also an auxiliary member of the Carson Women's club, a member of the American Cancer Society, and is a Certified Emergency Response Team trainee.

Because there are numerous individuals who have left a lasting legacy through their significant contributions to the Carson community through their volunteer work, the Mayor and City Council have chosen eighteen individuals for the posthumous category.

Erasto R. Batonmalaque (ERB) Foundation has brought the federally-funded Food Bank Program to the City of Carson since 2010. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged individuals and to promote health and wellness. An average of 800 seniors receive food supplements through the Foundation monthly. There are currently 2,500 seniors registered for the program. The ERB Foundation conducts a monthly Senior Coalition Meeting at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center to promote health and wellness to seniors and engage them in discussion to live better lives through self-governance. ■