City of Carson Community Services / Parks and Recreation Department

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT







COMMUNITY SERVICES / PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

2020 was a unique year for staff and residents alike. The Community Services Department spent the majority of the year adjusting and adapting to the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Department has become increasingly agile and continues to adapt to new challenges and seeking ways to provide unique recreational experiences to the public. Most notably, the Department successfully implemented the COVID Task Force, a multi-departmental initiative established by the City Council to assist the community in coping with the challenges of the pandemic. This has included a safety net of services for those in our community that are most at risk. The Task Force has been instrumental in helping residents secure essential food, testing, and wellness opportunities on a daily basis. This report summarizes many of the highlights from the Task Force's accomplishments this past year.

In addition to this new responsibility, the Department has continued to deliver quality programs and experiences in new ways, utilizing technology and distance learning to connect with residents online. Most of the City's signature special events were transitioned to virtual experiences as well as drive thru in-person opportunities for several of the seasonal celebrations. All programs proved to be successful and well received by the community; although we are eager to resume our traditional in-person festivities as soon as it is safe to do so. That said, several of the essential services provided by the Department continued with minimal interruption. This included the Kid's Club after school programs as well as the popular Early Childhood Education Program. Both did so under the most careful considerations and guidelines to ensure safety of all staff and participants. Moreover, these programs were made successful by the use of on-site Wi-Fi equipment which allowed youth to access the internet for online education required by schools through most of 2020. The Kid's Club program was especially versatile during this time by expanding services to include all day care and assistance with schoolwork during the academic year.

The Department was also very active during the pandemic closures by pursuing a number of grants to assist with capital improvements at various park sites in the coming years. This included applications to the competitive Prop 68 State Parks Grant Program, LA County's Measure A grant opportunities, Carson Events Center enhancements, and planning for the return of fixed route bus service in 2021. Finally, in preparation for the coming year, staff has been busy setting up a new online platform for registration and reservation services via ActiveNet. In the Winter the platform will make it possible for residents to manage their family account, view room and field availability, and sign up for programs and services from their personal computer or smart device. One more project in the works is the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan study, slated to kick-off in the Fall of 2021. The project will include a comprehensive community engagement campaign to solicit feedback from residents on what facilities, programs, and services the community would like to see in the next five to ten years. 2021 promises to be an exciting and busy time for the Community Services Department. We are looking forward to welcoming our residents back to our parks and programs. Stay tuned and enjoy many of the accomplishments from the past year highlighted in this report!

ROBERT LENNOX

Director of Community Services Department



WHO WE ARE



5 DIVISIONS

ADMINISTRATION

- Department Planning
- Budget Administration

RECREATION

- Aquatics
- Enrichment
- · Family Support and Prevention
- Fitness Centers
- Kids Club/Summer Day Camp
- Park Facility Reservations
- Special Events
- Veterans SportsComplex
- Youth & Adult Sports

HUMAN SERVICES

- Cultural Arts
- · Early Childhood Education
- · Senior Independence Support
- Senior Recreation
- Social Services
- Special Events
- Special Interest Classes
- Stroke Center
- Therapeutic Recreation

COMMUNITY CENTER

- EOC Evacuation Center
- Events
- Hospitality/Event Planning
- · Information Hub
- Meetings/Trainings
- Room Reservations
- Sales

TRANSPORTATION

- BREATHE Program
- · Carson Circuit
- · Dial-A-Ride
- Internal Charters
- Lvft

MISSION STATEMENT

The Community Services / Parks and Recreation Department embraces and enhances community diversity through programs, services and facilities that improve the quality of life for people of all ages and abilities throughout the community.

VISION

To be the South Bay's leader in accessible and safe quality parks, facilities, and recreational opportunities for all.

CORE VALUES

Fun

Safety

nclusiveness

Teamwork

Communication

Leadership

Commitment



OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID TASK FORCE was originally established to assist the community with emergency programs and resources in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At its inception, services included offering meals to residents and forming a call center to respond to community inquiries, and later evolved to providing Covid testing. Of particular concern was creating innovative ways to deliver services to an elderly population with little technical knowledge. To meet this challenge, the Task Force conducted welfare checks on homebound seniors and distributed flyers of all current services, including the daily Grab-N-Go lunch program. Toward the end of the



fiscal year, the Task Force offered Covid vaccinations through a collaborative effort with local pharmacies, corporations, and non-profit organizations. To date, 2,813 vaccines have been given to the public.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

196,573		3			
			37,740	109	1512
				109	ISIZ
	GRAB & GO MEALS		TESTS GIVEN	TEST HOME VISITS	*CETG 2.0

DISCONTINUED PROGRAMS

	11,146	
300		1,656
FOOD DONATION	MEALS ON WHEELS	*CETG

*Carson Essentials To Go



Silver Cheer is a program that started during the COVID-19 pandemic. The seniors of the Carson community were homebound, and many of them isolated making it difficult to keep morale and spirits up. Beginning during the winter holidays with the help of Santa, City employees were invited to sponsor a senior by providing anonymous gifts to some of these isolated seniors. The response was overwhelming and has become an ongoing program again at Valentine's Day, and with Summer "keep cool" gifts.

GIFT BASKET DONATIONS



PARKS & RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES MASTER PLAN

Since the City of Carson's incorporation in 1968, it has not undertaken an extensive evaluation of its Community Services-related facilities, programs, and services to ensure that it is meeting the needs of the community. In an effort to fill this gap in understanding and insight, the Department has embarked on an assessment of its sites and operations with the assistance of qualified consultants in the Parks and Recreation industry.

This endeavor commenced with a review of Request for Proposals (RFPs) developed and released by other agencies to determine a methodology that would best provide the information required to guide future undertakings in the Department. Once the RFP was completed, it was released on May 17, 2021.

A pre-proposal meeting was held on June 1, 2021, with interested firms and staff to both provide a brief outline of what is desired in the proposal and the Master Plan process, as well as to respond to any questions. Four submissions were received by the RFP deadline, June 10, 2021.

A pre-selected group of reviewers from various City Departments examined each proposal on criteria that included knowledge of the subject, experience with developing prior Master Plans, and cost. Ultimately, RJM Design Group (RJM) was selected as the recommended firm. At its June 24, 2021, regular meeting, the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission accepted staff's selection, and recommended that the City Council approve a contract services agreement with RJM Design Group to develop and prepare the Master Plan.

Established in 1987, RJM is a multi-disciplinary landscape architectural, planning, and design firm committed to serving the needs of cities, public agencies, communities, and organizations throughout California. Among the firm's staff are licensed landscape architects, architects, and planners, most of whom are LEED Accredited Professional. RJM has completed similar projects for an extensive list of former clients that include Chino Hills, Dana Point, Huntington Beach, Riverside, and Santa Clarita.

A City Council item was approved to request the execution of a contract services agreement with RJM on July 6, 2021. A kickoff meeting was held on August 26, 2021, and the anticipated completion date of this initiative is April 30, 2022.



RECREATION DIVISION

BY THE NUMBERS





Multipurpose Sports Fields





Meeting/Small Activity Rooms Picnic Shelters

































RECREATION DIVISION



Recreation provides meaningful environmental, social, and recreational experiences to serve the City's diverse population, and the needs of all segments of the community. The Division also advocates and provides opportunities that promote mental awareness, physical fitness, and personal development.

To these ends, the Division supports an active youth and adult sports program, enrichment, aquatics, day camps, and after-school programs. Recreation ensures that there is adequate open space that preserves, enhances, and restores the natural environment. It also manages citywide special

events and supports a number of local organizations that stage events.

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic led to the suspension of all programs and services, and the closing of all facilities. Following Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH) guidance, facilities reopened and programming gradually resumed, beginning with the tennis courts, permitted use of outdoor park areas to running, jogging, walking, as well as sitting on the grass and picnic areas for limited periods of time. A reduced-enrollment Summer Day Camp commenced and limited access to all four City pools was permitted. By the end of the year, all programs and services and all areas of park facilities reopened. However, with the changing landscape brought on by Covid-19 variants, Recreation continues to monitor and follow LADPH guidelines with respect to programming and facility use. As recommendations evolve, services will be revised to ensure the health and safety of the community.

Sports Programs

ADULT SPORTS: Number of Participants

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Adult Sports programs were suspended.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

- · Kids Club 2271
- Summer Camp 2510
- · Enrichment Virtual Classes 567
- · Teen Enrichment Camp 77

YOUTH SPORTS: Number of Participants

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all Youth Sports programs were suspended.



PARKS & FACILITIES



Anderson Park 19101 Wilmington Avenue, Carson. CA 90746 310-603-9850



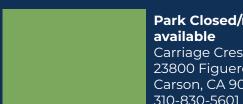
Dominguez Park 21330 Santa Fe Avenue Carson, CA 90810 310-549-3962



Calas Park 1000 E. 220th Street Carson, CA 90745 310-518-3565



Hemingway Park 700 E. Gardena Blvd. Carson, CA 90746 310-538-0018



Park Closed/no pics available Carriage Crest Park 23800 Figueroa Street Carson, CA 90745



Mills Park 1340 E. Dimondale Drive Carson, CA 90746 310-631-3130



Carson Park 21411 S. Orrick Avenue Carson, CA 90745 310-830-4925



Foisia Park 23410 Catskill Avenue Carson, CA 90745 310-830-8310



Del Amo Park 703 E. Del Amo Blvd. Carson, CA 90746 310-329-7717



Stevenson Park 17400 Lysander Drive Carson, CA 90746 310-631-2252



Dolphin Park 21205 S. Water Street Carson, CA 90745 310-549-4857



Veterans Park 22400 Moneta Avenue Carson. CA 90746 310-830-9997

PARKS & FACILITIES

SPORTS COMPLEX



Veterans SportsComplex 22400 Moneta Avenue Carson, CA 90745

AQUATIC CENTERS



Center
21330 Santa Fe Avenue,
Carson, CA 90810
(310) 830-2391
Email: dac@carsonca.gov

Dominguez Aquatic





Friendship Mini-Park 21930 S. Water Street Carson, CA 90745 310-549-4857



Center 16605 S. San Pedro St., Carson, CA 90746 Phone: (310) 324-2515 Email: hac@carsonca.gov

Hemingway-Aquatic



Perry Street Mini-Park 215th & Perry Street Carson, CA 90745 310-518-3565



Carson Pool
21436 South Main Street,
Carson, CA 90745
Phone: (310) 830-1053
Email:
carsonpl@carsonca.gov



Reflections Mini-Park 21208 Shearer Street Carson, CA 90745 310-830-4925



Foisia Pool 23410 Catskill Ave., Carson, CA 90745 Phone: (310) 549-9051 Email: FoisiaPool@carsonca.gov



Walnut Mini-Park 440 E. Walnut Street Carson, CA 90746 310-538-0018

Fabela Chavez Boxing and Weightlifting Center at Foisia Park



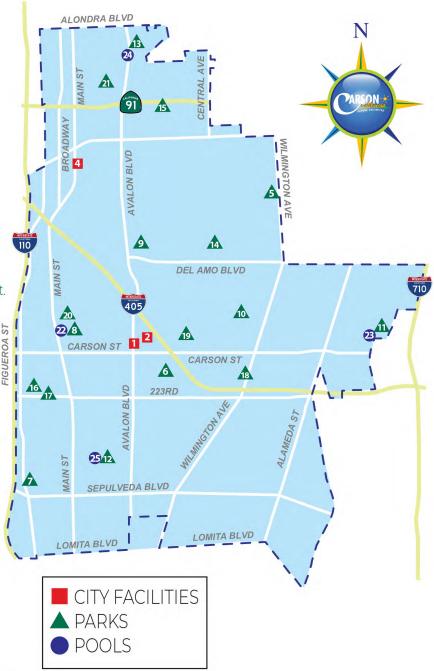
23410 Catskill Avenue Carson, CA 90745 (310) 830-6439

CITY FACILITIES

- 1 Carson City Hall, 701 E. Carson St. (310) 830-7600
- **2 Carson Event Center**, 801 E. Carson St. (310) 835-0212
- **2 Carson Stroke Center**, 801 E. Carson St. (310) 952-1763
- **4 Corporate Yard**, 18601 S Main St. (310) 847-3570

PARKS

- 5 Anderson Park, 19101 Wilmington Ave. (310) 603-9850
- **6 Calas Park**, 1000 E. 220th St. (310) 518-3565
- 7 Carriage Crest Park, 23800 S. Figueroa St. (310) 830-5601 (CLOSED UNTIL 2020)
- **8 Carson Park**, 21411 S. Orrick Ave. (310) 830-4925
- 9 Del Amo Park, 703 E. Del Amo Blvd. (310) 329-7717
- **10 Dolphin Park**, 21205 S. Water St. (310) 549-4560
- **11 Dominguez Park**, 21330 Santa Fe Ave. (310) 549-3962
- 112 Foisia Park / Fabela Chavez Boxing & Fitness Center, 23410 Catskill Ave. (310) 830-8310
- **13 Hemingway Park**, 700 E. Gardena Blvd. (310) 538-0018
- **14 Mills Park**, 1340 E. Dimondale Dr. (310) 631-3130
- **15 Stevenson Park**, 17400 Lysander Dr. (310) 631-2252
- **16 Veterans Park**, 22400 Moneta Ave. (310) 830-9997
- **17 Veterans SportsComplex**, 22400 Moneta Ave. (310) 830-9991
- **18** Friendship Mini-Park, 21930 S. Water St.
- 19 Perry Street Mini-Park, 215th and Perry St.
- 20 Reflections Mini-Park, 21208 Shearer Ave.
- 21 Walnut Mini-Park, 440 E. Walnut St.



POOLS

- 22 Carson Pool, 21436 S. Main St.
- 23 Dominguez Aquatic Center, 21330 Santa Fe Ave.
- 24 Hemingway Aquatic Center, 16605 S. San Pedro St.
- 25 Foisia Pool, 23410 Catskill Ave.

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Human Services plans, administers, and coordinates the City's extensive senior social service programs: Senior Recreation Program, Social Services Program, Senior Assisted Living Program, and the Senior Citizen Technology Center. In addition, the section manages the Early Childhood Education Program, Therapeutic Recreation, and the Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center. Community services and activities that promote cultural arts and special interest are also within its jurisdiction.

The Covid-19 pandemic suspended all programming and services in March 2020. Given that the Division serves the most vulnerable members of the Carson community – seniors, the disabled, and very young children – it was imperative that any efforts to restart programming be done cautiously. Following guidelines set forth by the State of California, in July Early Childhood reopened with reduced enrollment and via Zoom. Using Los Angeles County Department of Public Health recommendations, senior programs gradually returned, initially via Zoom and in-person by the end of the fiscal year.

JOSEPH B. JR. AND MARY ANNE O'NEAL STROKE CENTER

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center 801 East Carson Street Carson, CA 90745

The mission of the Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center is to serve the needs of people living with the effects of stroke, and to provide support for their families. This facility features rehabilitative fitness equipment, and offers a variety of activities including group exercise, numerous therapies, support groups, social activities, and more. The only requirement is that the stroke survivors are at least 6 months post-stroke. During the pandemic, the Stroke Center remained closed, but Dr. Paul Penoliar continued to provide remote Occupational Therapy to several survivors who had access to Zoom.

SENIOR RECREATION

The Senior Recreation Program provides recreational programs for adults 50 years and above. During the pandemic, both virtual and in-person classes were provided, including fitness, dance, basketball, and open fitness centers with machines and weights.

Virtual Classes

- · Zumba Total Participants: 184
- · Functional Fitness Total Participants: 518
- · Salsa Total Participants: 172
- · Yoga total Participants: 516

In-person Classes: Carson Park

- · Hula Hoop Fitness Total Participants: 346
- · Zumba (Tue) Total Participants: 824
- · Yoga Total Participants: 362
- · Zumba (Thurs) Total Participants: 1076
- · Basketball Total Participants: 25

In-person Classes: Stevenson Park

- · Yoga Total Participants: 140
- · Functional Fitness Total Participants: 126
- · Zumba Total Participants: 774

In-person: Foisia Park/Gym

- · Fitness Center Total Participants: 55
- · Basketball Total Participants: 71

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION



The Therapeutic Recreation Section is designed to meet the recreational, social, and physical needs of individuals with all disabilities. Our focus is to improve the quality of life for all participants through structured programming carried out by trained staff. It was valuable to offer programs during these times to keep our population active while being able to

socialize with peers and staff. Some of the programs included Art, Cooking, Trivia, Exercise, Social Club and Skill Builders Occupational Therapy in partnership with the CSUDH OT program. Therapeutic Recreation also held a Virtual Autism Awareness 5K in support of Autism Awareness/Acceptance Month. Participants were able to complete the 5K at their leisure between April 1st – April 8th by walking, running, biking or any other form of movement.

Total Registration (October 2020 - June 2021): 274

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early Childhood is a year-round preschool program for children ages 3-5 years old. Part time programs are located at the Carson Community Center and Dolphin Park. Full time programs are located at the Carson Community Center and Carson Park.

- · Part Time Registration (May 2021 June 2021): 55
- · Full Time Registration (May 2021 June 2021): 67

Virtual Classes

Early Childhood utilized Zoom as a safe alternative to in-person learning. The daily curriculum was condensed into a two-hour daily session on site in the classroom environment. Zoom provides a sense of normalcy and connection for the students, parents and teachers.

Total Registration (September 2020 - June 2021): 479

SENIOR INDEPENDENCE SUPPORT

The mission of Senior Independence Support is to help Carson residents age 60 and older age in place safely and with dignity. Geriatric Aides are assigned to assist homebound seniors who need a little extra help with tasks like light cleaning, grocery shopping, and running errands. Staff members also facilitate multiple support groups such as Caregiver Support and Bereavement Support. Finally, staff members connect seniors with important resources such as Emergency Alert Response Systems, Food Stamps and Medi-Cal applications, housing resources, legal assistance, and more. During the pandemic, a new program called Silver Cheer was created. City employees volunteered to purchase small gifts that were delivered to homebound seniors to remind them that they are not alone. Over 100 homebound seniors received thoughtful gifts for Christmas, Valentine's Day, and over the summer.

COMMUNITY CENTER



The Carson Event Center offers 40,000 square feet of versatile meeting and event space, including a 12,000 square foot ballroom, meeting rooms that accommodate up to 1,200 guests, and has a has audio visual and sound contractor available for events. Catering is providing through Choura Venue Services. The facility also houses the

Transportation Division office; Human Services offices and programs/classes, an Early Childhood Education site, and the Career Center.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Community Center was closed in March of 2020, effectively shuttering Transportation, Human Services, and Career Center offices, and suspending all programs, services, and special events housed/held in-person at the facility. Following State of California guidelines, for Early Childhood reopened via Zoom initially, then later in-person. Per Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, guidelines for programming gradually returned, initially via Zoom, and in-person by the end of the fiscal year.







TRANSPORTATION



The City of Carson's Transportation Division provides an array of city-wide transportation programs to the community and City staff: the Carson Circuit, the City's fixed-route public bus service; Dial-A-Ride, a specialized elderly and disabled transit program; on-demand rideshare, Lyft; transit support of city park programs; and BREATHE, a staff-directed initiative to encourage the use of commuter travel modes to the City's three major worksites. Transportation also works directly with LA Metro, South Bay Cities Council of Government (SBCCOG), and South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) on a variety of transportation policies, new initiatives, and funding opportunities.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several changes were made to the programming offered by the Division. The Carson Circuit was suspended effective March 28, 2020, to protect the public's

health and to slow community spread of the virus. The program has not yet been reinstated. In the interim, the City has been in ongoing negotiations with Long Beach Transit (LBT) to operate this service. Dial-A-Ride was expanded to allow all residents to utilize this service within City limits upon proof of residency with a CA identification card or Driver's License.

Additionally, a number of new services were established to support the community during the pandemic. A program intended to provide free transportation for all Carson residents to City-designated vaccination site – the Covid-19 Vaccination Taxi – was implemented. Also, from May 24, 2021, through June 11, 2021, temporary student transportation was provided to high school-aged pupils that attended either Carson High School or Rancho Dominguez Preparatory High School (most elementary and middle school children attend schools in their neighborhoods).



Dial a Ride total passengers

22,809

Lyft total rides

_4,623

AWARDS



Founded in 1946, the California Parks & Recreation Society (CPRS) is a non-profit, professional and public interest organization whose mission is to advance the park and recreation profession through education, networking, resources, and advocacy. With other 4,000 members, CPRS represents over 535 local parks and recreation agencies throughout the state.



CPRS conducts an annual awards program that recognizes the outstanding achievements of agencies and individuals in the areas of community improvements and programming, facility design and park planning, marketing and

communications, and professional citizen leadership. Winners are announced each March during the CPRS Conference.



In 2020 the City of Carson Recreation Division was honored to receive the California Parks & Recreation Society (CPRS) Excellence in Design – Park Planning Category for the Dolphin Park All Abilities Playground. The playground offers inclusive and multi-sensory benefits, cooperative play, accessibility groupings, a social environment, and quiet spaces. Other highlights are ADA accessible ramps, as well as a seated spinning wheel and a multi-user rocker, both of which are wheelchair accessible. Two additional ADA compliant picnic shelters were also installed.

This project was a joint effort between the City of Carson and Marathon Petroleum Corporation Los Angeles Refinery.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most special events and special programs were canceled in Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The few that did take place were presented either virtually or in an in-person manner that allowed for maximum social distancing.

Halloween Drive-thru Event

The Halloween Drive-Thru Event was held on Saturday, October 31st from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Carson Community Center. Multiple Halloween displays and scenes were created by staff to entertain over 256 registered cars and 75 unregistered vehicles for a total of 331 attendees. Every child that attended also received a bag of treats.

Zoom with Santa

In lieu of private, in-home visits with Santa Claus, Human Services staff coordinated personalized online Zoom sessions for the Carson community. At the scheduled time, Santa would greet the children virtually from his home at the North Pole, and using his "Good List" binder, have a 15-minute conversation with them that included personalized details. Santa Listened to each child's wish list, and talked to them about how their year had been. Staff also scheduled group Zoom calls for the Early Childhood Education children who were learning virtually from home. It was as exciting and uplifting for Santa and staff as it was for the children, and it was provided for free in a heart-warming gesture that was needed by all during a time of confusion and uncertainty.





Holiday of Lights Drive-Thru

The Holiday of Lights Drive-Thru took place on Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Carson Community Center. Similar to the Halloween Drive-thru, Christmas displays and scenes were constructed by staff for the public to drive through and enjoy. In the days leading to the event, 577 cars and 1378 children preregistered, and approximately 470 registered vehicles and roughly 75 non-registered cars (or 2,450 total people, of which 1,350 were children) attended on the evening of the program. The Carson Citizens Cultural Arts Foundation and California Grand Shrine Daughters of Sphinx sponsored the nearly 700 toys that were distributed at the event, and a total of about 800 toys were distributed altogether. Additionally, 83 letters to Santa were dropped off at the drive-thru.

Black History Month Celebration

The Black History Month Celebration was the first virtual special event presented by the City of Carson. It included prerecorded musical performances, inspirational messages, and a keynote address by the President of California State University Dominguez Hills, Dr. Thomas Parham. The event was viewed 161 times during the month of February, and served as a springboard for future virtual events.



Cinco de Mayo Celebration - May 5, 2021

Carson Park hosted the first Virtual Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Wednesday, May 5th from 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm. This event was streamed on our city website & Facebook live. Families were able to sit back from the comfort of their homes to enjoy Aztec Dancers, Mariachi's, Myah Valenz and Alma de Oro. Cinco de Mayo was viewed over 1,500 times and continues to stream on the City of Carson's Facebook page & YouTube.



Philippine Independence Juneteenth 2021



Eggstravaganza 2021



Juneteenth 2021

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE



The Event Center will be going through a series of capital improvements within the next year. On tap are the remodeling of five (5) sets of restrooms throughout the facility, the upgrade to the lighting and audio-visual equipment in Carson-Dominquez and the Main Halls, and the replacement of the coiling walls in the Main Halls.

The Community Services Department is excited to introduce a new reservation system. ACTIVE Net is a cloud-based Registration and Facility Reservation software program provided by ACTIVE Network, LLC. The software enables reservations for park programs and facilities to be made and administered online. Residents will have access through the city website and they will be able to register and make payments online. App's will also be available upon development. The target Go-Live date is December 6, 2021. Residents will be able to see registration information for Recreation, Human Services, Transportation, and the Community Center. They will also be able to view calendars of availability for facility reservations for the parks and CommunityCenter.

