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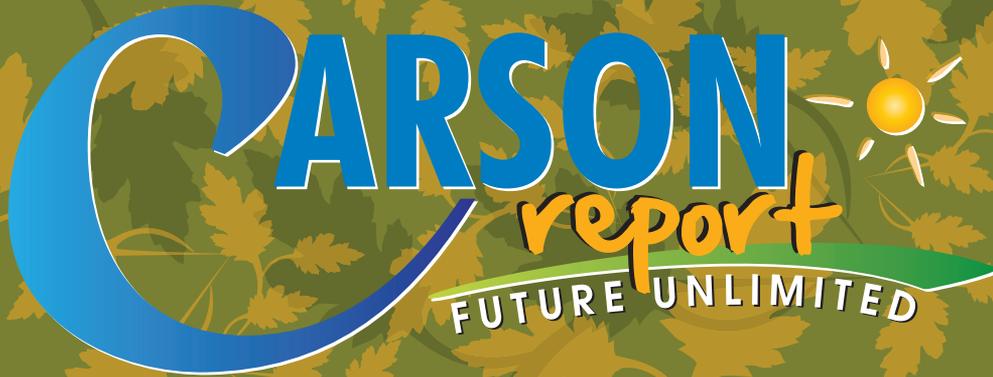
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Fall Issue 2012

CARSON

report

FUTURE UNLIMITED



In this issue:

- Master Plan of Bikeways
- City Budget Approved
- Rainbarrels for Carson Residents





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) 952-1700, ext. 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) 952-1700, ext. 3500

Hospital
Harbor General UCLA Medical Center
(310) 222-2345

Jobs
Job Clearinghouse
(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) 952-1700, ext. 3520

Sheriff's Station
(310) 830-1123

Street Sweeping
Street Maintenance
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520

Telephone
AT&T
(310) 515-7979

Trash Collection
Waste Management
952-1700, ext. 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/Redevelopment 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 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
Julie Ruiz-Raber

Councilmember
Elito M. Santarina

Councilmember
Mike A. Gipson

Councilmember
Lula Davis-Holmes

City Clerk
Donesia Gause

City Treasurer
Karen Avilla

City Manager
David C. Biggs

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.

City Budget Approved

On July 17, 2012, the Carson City Council approved a \$66.3 million General Fund Budget for the fiscal year which started on July 1st. The General Fund Budget provides the resources for important services like law enforcement, public works maintenance, parks, recreation, and senior services among others. With the recent elimination of redevelopment by the State of California, the City had to grapple with a nearly \$5.2 million shortfall for this fiscal year. Higher costs, though off-set in part by some increased revenues, were also a factor in there being a gap between on-going revenues and on-going expenses.

Like your family budget, when faced with a shortfall, you have to take action. The City Council did just that when it approved a series of decision packages which are designed to reduce expenses as part of the budget. These include some reductions in staffing and services in many areas of the City's operations. While some positions are to be eliminated, the Council's consistent direction is

that this be accomplished over time as employees retire or move on or through possible transfer of employees to other vacant and funded positions.

Even after identifying new and increased revenues, and reducing expenses, a shortfall still remained. The good news is that even after many years of tough economic times, the City has a healthy reserve and a savings balance of an estimated \$26 million dollars or more as of June 30, 2012. Sometimes tapping your savings account makes sense to help cover an unexpected financial impact, like the loss of redevelopment, and that is what is being done to cover the remaining shortfall. The adopted budget uses \$1.8 million of reserves to close the remaining gap with another \$3 million in reserves designated for future budget stabilization and to start to address some long term under-funded obligations like retiree medical.

The adopted General Fund budget also includes some funding to address some important initiatives. Additional

funding will be provided to the Sheriff's Department to undertake a targeted effort to address some increase in crime. The City Council also approved a reorganization of the City's operating structure as proposed by our new City Manager. A plan to better manage and more timely replace the City vehicle fleet will also be implemented in this new fiscal year. This illustrates that even in difficult times, progress can still be made and issues addressed.

Many California cities in financial distress have been in the news lately, including some which have filed for or on the verge of bankruptcy, like Stockton, San Bernardino, and even our northern neighbor Compton. Carson is not one of those cities and while we have to adjust to a new normal, decisions are being made and actions taken in a timely manner to ensure we live within our means. Carson is fortunate to have some maneuvering room as we grapple with the elimination of redevelopment and its impacts. The decisions made in crafting the Fiscal Year 2012/13 General Fund Budget by the City Council set the stage for success and a more financially sustainable future in Carson. ■

COMPTON CREEK AND DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL LEEVE ALTERNATIVES STUDY PROJECT UPDATE

In 2011, the County of Los Angeles of Public Works (Public Works) held community meetings to discuss flood risk management issues pertaining to communities near the Compton Creek and Dominguez Channel. The purpose of these meetings was to gather public input and to develop a number of possible solutions for inclusion in a Flood Risk Mitigation Alternatives Study (Alternatives Study).

The Alternatives Study is designed to identify projects that will lead to the recertification of the levees along Compton Creek and the Dominguez Channel, as required by the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA). Currently, certain segments of the levees along these two water bodies do not meet FEMA standards; therefore, property owners with federally backed mortgages in these areas will be required to purchase flood insurance in the near future.

The original timeline for purchasing mandatory flood insurance has been extended, as FEMA continues to revise its flood hazard maps and mapping procedures. FEMA's new mapping procedures are intended to provide a more accurate depiction of the flood protection provided by the levees, as well as the properties

that may be affected by flood hazard zone remapping. At this time, it is not known when the revised guidelines will take effect.

Public Works engineers have identified solutions and sites that can potentially be developed into projects to improve the protection provided by the levees. These potential solutions are now being analyzed in greater detail. The draft Alternatives Study report is scheduled for completion in late fall 2012. As development of Alternatives Study moves forward, Public Works will hold additional community meetings to

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Coming to Carson...



The City of Carson is working on a new, comprehensive Master Plan of Bikeways. This planning document is intended to improve bicycling conditions throughout the City to make it safer and easier for motorists and bicyclists to share our roads, and to encourage everyone to get out on two wheels.

Whether you ride bicycles for fun, fitness, or transportation - whether you ride every day or just on the occasional summer weekend - or maybe you would like to ride more but desire safer conditions close to where you

live or work - your voice matters and the City needs to hear from you. Be a part of the growing bicycling movement to give people more transportation and recreation choices in Carson.

Please come join the first Community "Ideas and Suggestions" Meeting about bicycling and help the City plan for a better bicycling community. Your opinions and experiences are an essential part of this process, and we can't wait to hear from you. Only with your participation will the Carson Master Plan of Bikeways be the best that it can be.



Bike lanes will help reduce bicycle traffic on City sidewalks.

If you are bicycling to the meeting, please walk your bike to the room for parking. Light refreshments will be provided:

Meeting Date:

Saturday, September 8, 2012

Time:

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location:

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center
Multi-Purpose Room #111
801 E. Carson St.
Carson CA 90745

If you're unable to attend the meeting, we encourage you to participate by completing a short online survey about bicycling in Carson at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/carsonbikes>.

To stay involved and informed of additional meeting dates, a bicycle education workshop, and a bike tour of the city, visit the city's website at <http://ci.carson.ca.us/bikeways>, or like us on Facebook – City of Carson Master Plan of Bikeways Project.

You may also contact Sharon Song, AICP, Associate Planner at ssong@carson.ca.us or at 310-952-1761 to be added to our email notification list or to volunteer for future bicycle events. ■

City Approves Changes to Yard and Garage Sales

In April 2012, the City adopted Ordinance 12-1482 revising the Municipal Code regarding yard and garage sales in Carson. The changes are as follows:

- Only three (3) permits per calendar year will be issued to any one (1) address. Previously, only two (2) permits per calendar year could be issued to any one (1) family.
- All displays and related activity shall be conducted within the physical boundaries of the parcel address (including front and side

yards, and driveways) and not intrude on public right of way. Previously, all displays and related activity were confined to an enclosed structure such as a garage and not permitted in front and side yards, and driveways.

- Signage shall be placed at least five (5) feet from the front property line:
 - The inside edge of the sidewalk or,
 - If no sidewalk, then inside edge of the curb.

- No flats, banners or similar items shall be displayed.

Prior to having a yard or garage sale, residents must apply for and obtain a permit. The Garage/Yard/Rummage Application can be obtained on the city's website at: <http://ci.carson.ca.us/content/files/pdfs/buslicense/YardSaleApp.pdf>

Permit fees for yard and garage sales are \$19.00 per day and may be adjusted annually. ■

Residents Cautioned About Coyote Presence



The City of Carson is taking proactive approach in taking action and providing its residents useful information on coyotes. Coyotes sightings have been reported in Carson and residents are encouraged to take precaution. Below are some preventive measures.

Coyotes are medium-sized animals that belong to the dog family and are found throughout most of California. Most adults weigh between 22 and 25 pounds on the average. With large erect ears, slender muzzle and bushy tail, they resemble a small collie dog. In the hotter regions of California, coyotes are tan-brown in color with streaks of gray. In the more mountainous or humid areas, the color is darker with less brown. The voice of the coyote is quite distinctive, consisting of various howls, high-pitched yaps and occasional dog-like barks.

Coyotes are proficient predators. Its diet consists mainly of mice, rats, ground squirrels, gophers, rabbits and carrion. They also eat insects, reptiles, amphibians, fruits, birds and their eggs, and deer fawns. In urban and suburban areas, coyotes commonly take domestic house cats, small dogs, poultry and other domestic animals. Coyotes have also been known to attack humans. During the time of year when adult coyotes are caring for their young (May-September), they can be very aggressive when their young are threatened. Domestic dogs are especially vulnerable to attack during this time. Extra precautions should be taken by residents to protect valued domestic cats or small dogs.

Coyotes are attracted to urban/suburban areas by the easy accessibility of food, water and shelter. Reducing or eliminating the availability of these elements will often encourage coyotes to leave. Garbage can lids should be secured at all times or garbage stored indoors. Pets should be fed during daylight hours and all pet food removed before dark. Water bowls should be emptied and not left out after dark.

Ripe fruits and vegetables should be covered at night or the garden/fruit trees

enclosed by a coyote-proof fence to prevent access by hungry coyotes. Fences should be constructed that are at least 5 ½ feet tall. All fences should have some sort of galvanized wire apron securely attached to the bottom of the fence. Coyotes are very adept diggers and prefer to dig under fences rather than jump them. Brush and vegetation should also be cleared from backyard and adjacent areas to eliminate habitat for prey, which could attract coyotes, and landscaping should be pruned on a regular basis.

California Fish and Game regulations prohibit the relocation of coyotes without written permission from the Department. More information on coyotes is available on the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care & Control at <http://animal-care.lacounty.gov/coyote.asp>.

United States Department of Agriculture http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/content/printable_version/coyote_Dec2011.pdf

State of California Department of Fish and Game <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/docs/coyoteposter.pdf> ■

Keep Carson Beautiful Offers FREE Rainbarrels to Carson Residents

Rainbarrels are a great way to reduce the amount of stormwater that can carry pollutants from streets and other impervious surfaces to our local lakes, estuaries and ocean. The water you harvest in a rainbarrel is good for your plants because it hasn't been treated with chemicals to make it drinkable.

Through a grant from Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the City of Carson's affiliate, Keep Carson Beautiful, was able to purchase a limited number of Fiskar 58 gallon RainBarrels. These rainbarrels will be given away to City of Carson residents only. If you are interested in installing and maintaining a



Fiskar RainBarrel on your private property in Carson, please contact the

City's Storm Water Quality Programs Manager, Patricia Elkins, via e-mail (pelkins@carson.ca.us) or at (310) 847-3529. Make sure to indicate your name, address and phone number.

The Keep Carson Beautiful Board of Directors will be selecting recipients through a random drawing. If you are not selected initially, please don't give up. Your name will stay on the list for future drawings when funds become available to purchase additional rainbarrels. For information about the Fiskar RainBarrels, go to <http://www2.fiskars.com/Products/Yard-and-Garden/Rain-Barrel-Systems>. ■

Dolphin Park Receives Grant Funding to Upgrade Amenities



The City of Carson is one of 33 cities that was awarded a grant from The California Department of Housing and Community Development for the creation and renovation of Dolphin Park. Carson was awarded \$278,350 to make improvements to its current park facility.

HCD made 33 awards, totaling over \$11 million with grants ranging from \$76,125 to more than \$1.8 million. To be eligible for the Housing Related Parks (HRP) funds, localities must have (1) a compliant Housing Element, (2) submitted an annual progress report on their Housing

Elements, and (3) issued housing start approvals for affordable housing units during the designated program year.

HRP is funded through Proposition 1C, the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006. Grant funds may be used for a wide range of park-related capital asset projects, including new park and recreation facilities, community centers, playgrounds, and improvements to existing parks.

For more information, please contact cparent@hcd.ca.gov. ■



Stroke Awareness Tips

Know Stroke Warning Signs



T Stroke strikes FAST and you should too! Many people don't know that being able to recognize and respond to stroke symptoms can possibly save lives. Stroke should be treated as an emergency because there is a treatment that can be given within the first three hours after symptoms start. Recognizing stroke symptoms can be easy if you remember to think FAST. Use FAST to remember warning signs:

F=Face

Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A=Arms

Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S=Speech

Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Does the speech sound slurred or strange?

T=Time

If you observe any of these signs, it's time to call 9-1-1.

Control Blood Pressure to Prevent Stroke

High blood pressure, also called hypertension, is a leading risk factor for stroke. Yet, nearly 60 million Americans have high blood pressure, and almost a third doesn't know they have it. The following guidelines will help you learn how you may be able to lower your risk:

- Have your blood pressure checked at least once a year – more often if you have a history of high blood pressure, had a heart attack, diabetic or overweight.
- Know your family medical history, if high blood pressure runs in your family it's important that you ask your doctor about how to control your blood pressure.
- If you have high blood pressure it's important to follow the recommendations of your doctor, which may include changes in diet, regular exercise and the use of medication.
- Read more about high blood pressure at www.stroke.org/risk.



Manage Cholesterol to Prevent Stroke

Next time you think about burgers and fries, think about this... There are many things — including foods high in saturated fat — that can cause arteries to become blocked through the gradual build-up of cholesterol, called plaque.

Cholesterol is a soft, waxy fat (lipid) that is made by the body. It is found in the bloodstream and in all of your body's cells. Your body needs cholesterol to form cell membranes, some hormones and vitamin D. Cholesterol is also found in some foods, such as eggs, meats and dairy products. Cholesterol or plaque build-up in the arteries can block normal blood flow to the brain and cause a stroke. Here are some facts you should remember to help prevent stroke:

- There are two types of cholesterol: low-density lipoproteins (LDL) and high-density lipoproteins (HDL).
- It's important to understand your numbers because they are key measurements of your stroke risk.
- For most people the combined HDL (good cholesterol) and LDL (bad cholesterol) should fall below 200.
- Maintain a healthy cholesterol level by eating a diet low in saturated fat and incorporating exercise into your routine.
- Ask your doctor how you can improve any numbers that are not in normal range.

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Stroke Awareness Tips

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Manage Diabetes to Prevent Stroke

Did you know that 6.2 million people in the U.S. are unaware that they have diabetes? People with diabetes are at increased risk of stroke because diabetes adversely affects the arteries. Stroke risk is two-and-a-half times higher in people with diabetes compared to those without diabetes. Here are some tips to help prevent stroke and learn if you have diabetes:

- Ask your doctor if you are at risk. If you have a family history of diabetes, it may be necessary for you to be tested regularly.
- If you have diabetes it is important for you to monitor your blood sugar and weight gain, including A1C levels.
- Take medicine as directed (including insulin). Follow the treatment guidelines of your doctor and if you have any questions, make sure to ask your doctor.
- Manage your diet and exercise to control blood sugar levels.

Make Lifestyle Changes to Prevent Stroke

Many people don't know that stroke is one of the most preventable of all life-threatening health problems. By making simple lifestyle changes you can reduce your risk of stroke. Here are some tips:

- Get moving, stay active and incorporate exercise into your daily regime.
- Don't smoke! If you are a regular smoker, make a resolution to quit. It may be one of the very best things you can do for your health.
- Eat a well-balanced diet that is low in fat and sodium, but rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
- Drink alcohol only in moderation.

To learn more on stroke prevention tips, visit the website at www.stroke.org/risk and stroke awareness at www.stroke.org/awareness.

Brought to you by the National Stroke Association. ■

FEMA

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share the proposed plan of action and to share their final recommendation.

Another issue relevant to the Alternatives Study and FEMA's Levee Certification Program, is Legislative Bill House Resolution No. 1309 (HR 1309), known as the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011. This Bill contains provisions that may delay the implementation of mandatory flood insurance requirements. To date, HR 1309 has been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives. The U.S. Senate has not

yet taken action on the Bill.

To view frequently asked questions on FEMA's Levee Certification Program, please visit the following website at www.lawatersheds.org and click the Quick Links for Levee Certification FAQs.

For more information on the Alternatives Study, please contact the following Public Works staff: Mr. Diego Rivera at (626) 458-3978 or dirivera@dpw.lacounty.gov or Mr. Bill Johnson at (626) 458-4319 or wjohnson@dpw.lacounty.gov. ■

CITY CLERK ANNOUNCEMENT



The City Clerk's Office will be offering notary service starting September 4, 2012 between 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday thru Thursday. For more information, please call 310-952-1720.

ATTENTION *Young Writers*



IS ON!!!

The contest is open to:

- All students grades 3-8 who attend Carson schools
- Students grades 3-8 who live in Carson, but attend schools outside the city, charter schools or home-schooled

For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at (310) 952-1740.