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CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, SUMMER 2011



**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

Fine Arts and Cultural
Commission
7 p.m., 1st Monday

Historical Committee
6 p.m., 2nd Tuesday &
4th Wednesday

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

Mobilehome Park Rental
Review Board
6:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th
Wednesdays

Youth Commission
7 p.m., 2nd Wednesday

Relocation Appeals Board
(Meetings are held when required)

Sister Cities Association
7 p.m., 4th Wednesday

Beautification Committee
6:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday

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
Helen S. Kawagoe

City Treasurer
Karen Avilla

Interim City Manager
Clifford W. Graves

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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.



**Parks, Recreation &
Human Services Guide**

Address: 701 E. Carson St.,

Carson, CA 90745

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

**NOW IN A
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ISSUE**

IHOP Reopens as First Phase of Carson City Center is Completed

The first phase of the Carson City Center development, located on the northeast corner of Avalon Boulevard and Carson Street was completed last May, allowing IHOP (International House of Pancakes) to reopen its doors to its loyal customers and for tenants to move into the senior housing apartments above it.

The two-phase project is a part of a series of developments on Carson Street designed to transform that section of the city into a downtown district, characterized by vibrant, yet livable, pedestrian-friendly area with a "main street" feel. The project was designed in accordance with the Carson Street Master Plan guidelines.

The \$70-million, 4.5 acre mixed-use development was a partnership between the Carson Redevelopment Agency and the developer, Thomas Safran & Associates, in which the agency contributed approximately \$21.4 million in redevelopment funds. Carson City Center includes the IHOP, 84 affordable senior housing units, and approximately 5,000 square feet of

locally-serving retail space.

Phase II, currently under construction, will be known as The Renaissance at City Center. It is located to the south of the senior housing development and began construction in Fall 2010.

Phase II is comprised of 150 market-rate rental housing units (1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units),

25,000 square feet of lifestyle-oriented shops, surface and subterranean parking. The Redevelopment Agency provided \$7.5 in financial assistance for Phase II, with construction expected to be completed in Spring 2012.

The entire development will provide quality housing for seniors and working families located within walking



IHOP on Carson and Avalon has reopened for business as construction for Phase I is completed.

distance of community-serving facilities such as City Hall, the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center, elementary schools, grocery stores, and public transportation. Together, Carson City Center and The Renaissance at City Center is expected to generate over \$300,000 in annual revenues and will create hundreds of jobs.

City Council to Expand No Smoking Areas in Carson

The City of Carson will be drafting an ordinance that will expand the scope of the City's smoking restrictions.

After surveying other cities, the City Council authorized its Policy subcommittee to draft a stricter policy on smoking in the city. Currently, smoking is only banned in polling places during an election and in any facility owned by the City or the Carson Redevelopment Agency, and in parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers.

The cities of Baldwin Park, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Pasadena and Santa Monica currently have stronger smoke free policies than Carson. The City Council has expressed its intention to pattern its new policy after these cities, and expand the locations where smoking is not permitted.

The recommendations of the subcommittee, which will include areas where smoking will not be permitted, will be presented before the City Council at a future meeting.



City Receives Grant to Pilot Youth Golf Program

The City of Carson Parks and Recreation Department has received a \$12,000 grant by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to pilot a new "Starting a New Golf" (SNAG) G-Ball program. The City was one of 15 agencies in the U.S. chosen to pilot the program in 2011.

G-Ball can be best described as golf's version of T-Ball, targeted towards children 5-6 years old, and conducted by parent-coaches in recreation centers, on sports fields, and in other public open spaces. G-Ball is an activity-based program that focuses on progressive and developmental play in a non-competitive format.

The SNAG G-Ball grant program was made possible by Player Development Products, LLC. and will help defray the cost for youth who are interested in



learning golf. The grant will afford the youth of Carson a valuable opportunity to learn an activity above the typical sports, and provide balance in leisure activity, which is the mission of the City's Recreation Services.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

For more information on the City's SNAG G-Ball Program, please contact the Parks and Recreation Division at (310) 847-3570.

How to Protect Yourself from West Nile Virus as Summer Temperatures Heat Up

As temperatures heat up, so does mosquito breeding. You can protect yourself from West Nile Virus (WNV) caused by a bite from an infected mosquito at those fun outdoor barbecues by remembering that mosquitoes can breed in addition to large sources like pools and ponds.

The West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that has been found in parts of Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. People infected with WNV will generally have a mild illness or no symptoms at all. In rare cases, the virus can cause a more serious condition called encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain.

The WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Only certain species of mosquitoes carry the virus and very few mosquitoes are actually infected.

Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on birds or other infected animals with the virus in their blood. The WNV is not transmitted from person to person.

Most people who are bitten by a mosquito infected with WNV will have no symptoms. However, some people who do become ill will feel symptoms which include high fever, headache, nausea, body aches, mild skin rashes or swollen lymph nodes.

Most people know that mosquitoes breed in standing water around the home and that neglected pools and ponds can produce millions of mosquitoes. Many people, however, forget about the multitude of other places where mosquitoes can breed. An overlooked birdbath, for instance, has the potential to generate thousands of mosquitoes, especially during the warm summer months.

This summer, the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) encourages people to take a look around their homes, and eliminate those small sources that can cause big breeding problems.

Here is a checklist of places to look for standing water around homes that may not otherwise have been considered:

- Birdbath
- Flower pots
- Ornamental fountains
- Hot tubs
- Rain barrels
- Storm drains
- Tires
- Toys
- Tree holes
- Rain gutters
- Water troughs



So what should you do if you encounter water in any of these

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Joseph O'Neal Stroke Center: Helping Stroke Survivors Return to Normal Life through Exercise, Activities and Fellowship

Water exercise, arts and crafts, and recreation therapy are a few of the services that Carson residents living with the effects of stroke are supported by the City of Carson's Joseph B. O'Neal Stroke Center. The state of the art facility offers a variety of equipment and activities to support stroke survivors and their caregivers free of charge.

Named after the late husband of former Councilmember Mary Anne O'Neal who advocated for the creation of a stroke program, the facility also offers a variety of group and individual activities tailored towards assisting stroke survivors in returning to a normal life.

The City's stroke rehabilitation program started as early as March 1998, but the facility was not built and officially named until March 2004. The facility is operated through the City's Human Services Division located at the Seniors Center wing of the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center.

There are currently over a hundred stroke survivors participating in the various activities available through the program compared to six people when the program started in 1998. The Stroke Center accepts participants who have passed the initial six months post-stroke period with a doctor's authorization.

Sixty-one year old Reynaldo Escobal has been coming to the O'Neal Stroke Center as a program participant for over a year and he is thankful that the therapy he has received has made a big difference in his life. Escobal has worked as a Nurse Assistant for 28 years and his stroke limited his ability to get around.

"After my stroke, I was in acute rehabilitation for only three weeks and they said I was on my own to continue to exercise.



Chair volleyball is one of the activities which stroke victims participate in to regain their strength and coordination.

I didn't know where to go until I heard from a friend about the stroke center and I have been coming here ever since. I can now drive myself and my legs and arms have been getting better and better", said Escobal.

Escobal's wife, Estella is grateful to have a facility like the Stroke Center so close to home and have an activity that her husband Reynaldo can participate in. Estella says that after her husband's stroke, he was so devastated, depressed, and ashamed of his inability to move around.

"He was depressed and didn't want to talk to anybody. He would isolate himself and don't want to do anything. Here, he has made friends, gained his confidence back with the use of exercise machines. He has gotten stronger and he looks forward to activities especially the chair volleyball," said Estella Escobal.

Fifty-seven year old, Larry Bryant, has been a program participant of the Stroke Center for two years now and looks forward to coming to the facility everyday they are open. He wakes up at 5 a.m.

and meets his friends for coffee at the center and then participates in activities and exercise.

"The Stroke Center motivates me to get going and do exercise. I love it. It's part of my routine. I have to keep moving, pushing myself because it can get depressing at times," said Bryant. Bryant worked for Los Angeles Unified School District for 30 years before his stroke. He knew about stroke but had no idea how difficult it would be to continue to live independently with stroke. To Bryant's dismay, he expected that having worked for a school district for 30 years would allow him to receive better therapy coverage.

"This place saved my life. After my stroke, my insurance only covered physical therapy for a year and then after that I was on my own to exercise. I didn't know what to do. I was ashamed and people wanted to take advantage of me and tried to ask me for money to take me to places and clean my house. Here, just being around positive people that understand and care made me feel better about myself," said Bryant.

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Gang Reduction in Carson is Result of Success of “Street Smart” Program

The success of the City of Carson’s gang prevention, intervention and suppression program took center stage as deputies of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Carson Station addressed the community in its annual Crime Prevention Fair at Mills Park last June.

Launched 10-years ago, the “Street Smart” program is responsible for the successful reduction of active gangs and gang memberships among Carson’s youth. The program is a 9-week curriculum consisting of intensive training and aggressive prevention techniques. Used nationwide, the program has a 90% success rate in keeping youths away from gangs.

“Since ‘Street Smart’ began in 2001, 4,600 middle school students in Carson have successfully graduated



Community members listen to a presentation by a Sheriff's deputy during the Crime Prevention Fair.

out of the program. Of these 4,600 students that we surveyed at the beginning of the program, 90% of them personally knew a gang member, 80% of them have a family member who is gang affiliated and 30% of the students already attended a gang-related homicide funeral,” said City of Carson Public Safety Specialist Gay Kennedy-Horton, who coordinates the program hand-in-hand with the Carson Station, and through partnership

efforts with schools, courts, community organizations and volunteers, “The ‘Street Smart’ program has been so successful in Carson that there is currently a waiting list of middle school teachers requesting the program in their classrooms,” she added.

The Crime Prevention Fair is hosted annually by the Carson Station as one of its numerous efforts to educate the community and foster a team effort with the community in the prevention of crime.

“It is great to be able to build a relationship with them and it is beneficial to the community when residents invest the time to learn and get involved in the services that the Sheriff’s Station have to offer,” said Sgt. Faye Adragna, Carson Station’s Community Relations representative.

Joseph O’Neal Stroke Center *continued from page five*



Water exercises are effective in helping stroke patients regain their range of motion.

O’Neal is proud of the achievements of the Stroke Center. “When you are a public servant, you would like to think that you did something to improve the quality of life of the people in the community. I am so happy that the City Council then and now have continued to support the Center and businesses like Watson Land

annually give a donation to the Center because it makes such a difference,” she said.

According to Senior Services Coordinator Blanca Barba, the O’Neal Stroke Center is a unique facility in the South Bay. The closest rehabilitation

center that offer similar programs is in Palm Springs. About 85% of the program participants are seniors, but in the past year, they have been getting participants in their mid 30’s to early 40’s.

According to U.S. Statistics, stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United

States and over 143,000 people die each year from stroke. Nearly three-quarters of all strokes occur in people over the age of 65 and nearly a quarter under 65. Other services available through the stroke program include support group sessions, speakers bureau, nutrition program and transportation service. The O’Neal Center also takes participants on a monthly trip to the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation for free stroke awareness community education seminars.

For more information on the services provided by the Joseph O’Neal Stroke Center, please contact the Human Services Division at (310) 952-1763.

The Boulevards at South Bay Reaches Major Milestones



The Boulevards at South Bay hits major milestone as initial phase of liner cap is placed on the site.

The Boulevards at South Bay project has reached exciting milestones as Tetra Tech, Inc., the environmental contractor, recently completed installation of the landfill gas extraction system in the area of the future Tetra Tech Operations Center. The installation of the gas extraction system on the remainder of the site is on-going.

The Operations Center will house the backbone system from which the latest technologies will monitor gas collection and water treatment throughout the site. This two-acre area on the southern side of the site was then covered with the LLDPE liner which will assist in controlling any gas emissions and water infiltration. Installation of the liner continues on other areas of the site as well. Landfill liner material such as that being used at The Boulevards has become the industry standard for landfill material containment. Construction on the Operations Center building itself is expected to begin in the fall with completion next year.

Along with the progress on the liner and gas collection systems, primary utility lines are being installed throughout the site. New storm drain and sewer lines are nearing completion later this summer, with water, electric and gas systems to be completed in the fall.

The Boulevards at South Bay is the City of Carson's 168-acre, mixed use, retail and residential project now under development on the south side of the 405 freeway between Del Amo and Avalon Boulevards on the site of the formerly-operating Cal Compact landfill.

The project is a development of LNR Property LLC and Hopkins Real Estate Group.

Residents with questions about construction activity are encouraged to call the project information line at (310) 956-5942 or toll-free at (866) 928-4566 and relate concerns or ask questions. For more information about The Boulevards at South Bay, visit <http://ci.carson.ca.us>.

Summer Swimming Safety Tips



Drrowning is the second leading cause of death from unintentional injuries for aged 5 to 24 and the fourth leading cause of death from unintentional injuries for all ages according to the National Safety Council. Here are some tips to avoid drowning and enjoy swimming this summer:

- Never swim alone. Always swim with a buddy.
- Know your swimming limits and stay within them. Don't try to keep with a stronger swimmer and keep an eye on weaker swimmers.
- Alcohol and swimming don't mix. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance and coordination. It affects your swimming and diving skills and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.
- Swim in supervised areas only.
- Watch out for the dangerous toos – too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun.
- Do not chew gum or eat while swimming. You could easily choke.
- Obey "No Diving" signs which indicate that the area is unsafe for headfirst entries. Always enter the water feet first if you don't know the depth. In addition, learn the correct way to dive from a qualified instructor.

(Source: American Red Cross)

Pet Owners Cautioned Against Coyotes



Coyote sightings have recently been reported in Carson, according to the City's Public Safety Department. While no damage or attack has been reported, the City is taking a pro-active approach by providing its residents with useful information on these animals, which are found throughout most of California.

Coyotes are medium-sized animals that belong to the dog family. 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 of 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 which 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 backyards 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://animalcare.lacounty.gov/coyote.asp>

West Nile Virus *continued from page four*

places? For small containers, simply turn them over and dump out any water inside. Try to keep these containers turned upside-down when not in use to prevent them from accumulating rain water in the fall and winter and sprinkler water in the spring

and summer. Watch for objects such as empty cups left outside after a party.

For more information on the West Nile Virus, please contact the GLACVCD at (562) 944-9656 or visit their website at info@glacvcd.org or www.glacvcd.org

DID YOU KNOW THESE ORDINANCES EXIST?

ORDINANCE 95-1055:

NEW PARK CLOSURE HOURS

Old Closure Hours: Midnight-5 a.m. - **New Closure Hours:** 10 p.m.-5 a.m. No person shall enter or remain in park while closed unless under an approved permit for usage. Parking in lot is prohibited while park is closed. Vehicles shall be towed and stored at owners expense.

ORDINANCE 95-1056:

MANDATORY PICNIC SHELTER PERMIT

Permit for use of picnic shelters now necessary in order to facilitate maximum enjoyment and ensure public's health, safety, and welfare. *Anyone occupying a shelter without a permit will vacate when requested to do so by City staff. There is a \$35 fee for a full day use. Permits are available through the Parks & Recreation Department.

ORDINANCE 95-1057:

USE OF CITY PARKS BY LARGE GROUPS

Groups of 25 or more now need to obtain a permit to utilize any portion of a park in order as to not deprive others of the free and unimpeded use of park space. There may be a cost for such a permit depending on area used. Permits are available through the Parks & Recreation Department.

ORDINANCE 95-1058:

USE OF AMPLIFIED MUSIC IN PARKS

A permit is now necessary for any individual or group wishing to broadcast amplified music in parks as it was found that broadcasting amplified music frequently interferes with the ability of others to enjoy park facilities. Therefore, the City is desirous of minimizing and controlling this interference. Broadcasting standards limit volume of sound to not be audible for a distance in excess of 50 feet. The area where music can be played and direction of speakers shall be agreed upon by permittee and City staff. Amplified music shall only be broadcast between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. during daylight savings time and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. during standard time. There is no fee for this permit.

ORDINANCE 41107:

SMOKING PROHIBITED IN PARKS

Smoking prohibited in Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Centers, and prohibiting disposal of tobacco related products in Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Centers.

**FOR COPIES OF ORDINANCES
OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT THE
PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT AT (310) 847-3570**