

# CARSON

report

FUTURE UNLIMITED

SUMMER  
2016

5K CITY OF CARSON  
RUN/WALK AUTISM AWARENESS





Police & Fire Emergencies 911	Jobs Career Center (310) 952-1762
Animal Control Carson Animal Shelter (310) 523-9566	Libraries Carson Regional (310) 830-0901
Birth, Death, Marriage Records County Registrar-Recorder (562) 462-2137	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (310) 327-4830
Building Permits Building & Safety (310) 952-1766	Parking Enforcement (800) 654-7275
Public Transit and Dial-A-Ride (310) 952-1779	Parks & Recreation (310) 847-3570
Hearing Impaired (800) 252-9040	Post Office Main No. (800) 275-8777
Cable Television Time Warner Cable (888) 892-2253	Sandbags Street Maintenance (310) 847-3520
Chamber of Commerce (310) 217-4590	Sewer Clean-up (626) 458-4357
City Hall (310) 830-7600	Senior Services (310) 952-1775
Code Enforcement (310) 952-1786	Senior Recreation (310) 835-0212
Community Center (310) 835-0212	Sidewalk Repair Street Maintenance (310) 847-3520
Crime Prevention Neighborhood Watch (310) 847-7481	Sheriff's Station (310) 830-1123
Disaster Preparedness (310) 952-1700, ext.1603	Street Sweeping Street Maintenance (310) 847-3520
Dump Waste Management (310) 328-0900	Telephone AT&T (310) 225-3028
Electricity Southern California Edison Co. (800) 950-2356	Trash Collection Waste Management (310) 830-7100
Gas Southern California Gas Co. (800) 427-2200	Tree Trimming/ Street Maintenance (310) 847-3520
Graffiti Removal Landscape & Buildings (310) 847-3500	Water California Water Service Company (310) 257-1400
Hospital Harbor General UCLA Medical Center (310) 222-2345	Golden State Water Company (800) 999-4033

## 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)
Beautification Commission 6:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday
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
Technology Advancement and Innovation Commission 6:30 p.m., 4th 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
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  
Albert Robles

Mayor Pro Tem  
Lula Davis-Holmes

Councilmember  
Elito M. Santarina

Councilmember  
Jawane Hilton

Councilmember  
Cedric L. Hicks, Sr.

City Clerk  
Donesia L. Gause

City Treasurer  
Monica Cooper

City Manager  
Ken Farfising

Assistant City Manager  
Cecil Rhambo

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.

Address: 701 E. Carson St.  
Carson, CA 90745

Tel: (310) 952-1740  
Fax: (310) 549-1466

E-mail: [mrevilla@carson.ca.us](mailto:mrevilla@carson.ca.us)  
Website:  
<http://ci.carson.ca.us>

## FRAUD HOTLINE

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.

# Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center

## Receives public service award



The City of Carson is proud to announce that the Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center has been awarded a top honor from the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA).

The Public Service Award is one of the highest honors the Association can bestow. The Public Service award is intended to honor and recognize the outstanding contributions of individuals or organizations outside of the association who have made a significant contribution to the field of communicative disorders.

The award ceremony took place during CSHA's annual state convention at the Hilton Anaheim on April 29th. City representatives and Stroke Center volunteers accepted the award. A video about the Stroke Center was also unveiled at the award ceremony. Once that video becomes publicly accessible, a link will be posted to the City's website.

Dr. Jennifer Ostergren, a Speech Pathologist who offers speech therapy classes in the Stroke Center was responsible for the nomination. Dr. Ostergren believed the Stroke Center was worth of such recognition from the start.

"The Stroke Center is making a difference in the lives of people with communication disorders, which of course so many people after a stroke may experience. I would just like to see all the hard work of the center recognized," said Ostergren.



Caregiver Shirley Luu submitted a letter of support to the CSHA nominating committee. In it she writes, "The Stroke Center and its staff provide a home for stroke survivors and their families where we can come to learn and share our life experiences to help each other recover both physically and mentally.

My husband has become more and more outgoing, more confident, and proactive in his therapy sessions. His speech has improved tremendously and he is physically stronger."

Pilar Hoyos of Watson Land Company also submitted a letter of support. In it she states, "Watson Land Company values the opportunity to partner with the City and with non-profit organizations such as the Stroke Center which provide important services that improve and enrich the quality of life for the citizens of Carson. I am always impressed with the number of individuals partaking in the programs and their expression of gratitude to Watson Land Company for our support. The Stroke Center does not charge for its services as most, if not all, of its participants would not be able to afford the associated fees. Area hospitals and therapists have become aware of the quality services and are increasingly referring stroke survivors to the Stroke Center."

The Stroke Center is grateful for the recognition, and its staff members are dedicated to providing a supportive environment for survivors, caregivers, and family members alike.

Staff member Justin Navarro states, "It's so rewarding to see these survivors with their heads

held high and a smile on after all they have been through. Their lives changed in an instant, and fortunately, a place like the Stroke Center exists where they have an opportunity to get their health back. It's so rewarding to see them improve, but the most rewarding part is being a part of that improvement." ■

# Measure C Funds After School Programs for Carson's Youth, Seniors and Disabled



**C**arson parks and related youth, senior and disabled programs are regarded among the best in Los Angeles County if not Southern California. Carson's elected leadership has voted over and over again to invest in Carson youth by providing the kind of programs that enrich young lives and provide an alternative to gangs and the street life that corrupts children and triggers neighborhood crime and gang violence.

An important component of this investment are the funds generated by the city's 2% Utility Users' Tax (UUT), up for a renewal on the June 7th ballot as Measure C. A "Yes" vote renews this tax on gas and electric utilities only for seven more years. A "No" vote means you oppose extending this source of funding to Carson's city budget.

The existing UUT raises about \$8 million per year which comprise 12% of Carson's total annual city budget, which was hit hard by the Great Recession

and ensuing state budget grab. But Carson's budget has remained stable and without major cuts to service programs for parks, youth, seniors and the disabled because of the UUT. Again, if approved, Measure C will renew the UUT which is used to maintain these programs throughout the city.



Carson is home to 12 full-service parks, four mini parks, 2 public swimming pools, 2 public aquatic centers and 4 gymnasiums. Also, a Boxing Center and a skate park and technology center for seniors round out the recreation options that Measure C funds help maintain. In addition, Carson's renowned Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center – currently serving about 200 Carson stroke survivors free-of-charge – is a significant beneficiary of Measure C (UUT) funding.



"Carson's park programs span every age and interest of our diverse community," said Interim Community Services Director Ralph Aranda. "Early childhood programs are dedicated to our youngest residents and there are programs for teens, seniors, our disabled citizens, after school programs as well as popular youth sports and adult sports programs, which enrich the lives of every Carson resident."

Measure C's (UUT) 2% rate is among the lowest in Los Angeles County. By comparison surrounding cities pay a higher rate that runs anywhere from 3-11%. Lakewood and Rancho Palos

# Measure C

THE CITY OF CARSON'S  
Utility Users' Tax Renewal Measure

## Renewal of Measure C to Appear on June 7th Ballot

Verdes pay 3% while Los Angeles city residents pay 10%, Long Beach 5%, Torrance 6.5%, Lynwood 9%. Nearby Seal Beach in Orange County pays 11%.



Also, Measure C funds raised are carefully monitored by a Citizen's Oversight Committee who are required to ensure that all UUT funds are spent as the measure directs. The Citizen's Oversight Committee are city residents appointed by the Mayor and City Council to serve on this important panel.

The Mayor and City Council voted unanimously to place Measure C on the June ballot and all have endorsed it. To date, no groups or individuals in the city have stepped forward to voice their opposition and no Argument



Against Measure C has been filed with the Carson City Clerk for inclusion in the Sample Ballot booklet which will be mailed to all registered voters in the month of May.



### You may be exempt from paying the UUT:

- 1) \*If you are a resident 62 or older
- 2) \*\*If you make less than \$29,050 for a family of one to \$41,500 for a family of four.

\*Must apply to the City to receive exemption

\*\*Must provide salary verification annually to qualify

# VOTE!

### HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

Carson residents over the age of 18 must be registered to vote by May 23, 2016 in order to vote in the Statewide Primary Election on June 7, 2016.

Registration information and location of polling places are available online at [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) under the Voting & Elections button. The Los Angeles County Voting Information Tool allows voters to check registration status, register to vote online, register to vote by mail, find your polling place and Sample Ballot or sign up for E-Sample Ballot.



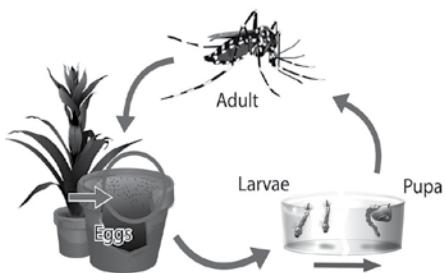
Forms are also available at most public buildings including Carson City Hall, Dept. of Motor Vehicles and libraries. For more information, you may contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 952-1720. ■

# Top Five Things You Need to Know About Zika



**C**arson may seem far from the Zika troubles, but the mosquito threat may be closer than you think. Here are five things you need to know about this disease as a resident of Carson.

**#5** The mosquitoes that can transmit Zika are in Los Angeles County. They're called Aedes mosquitoes. These mosquitoes have not been confirmed in Carson, yet.



**#4** You can identify these mosquitoes easily. Look for small, black mosquitoes with white stripes. Also, the mosquitoes bite aggressively during the daytime.

**#3** As of early spring, there have been no outbreaks of Zika, dengue, chikungunya or yellow fever in L.A. County. The only cases so far have been residents infected while traveling abroad and coming back home sick.

**#2** You're not alone in this fight. Vector Control is monitoring and controlling populations of mosquitoes in public areas such as parks, street gutters and rivers. Vector Control ecologists collect mosquitoes from traps and send the mosquitoes to test for diseases.

**#1** Take control of your home, now! Get rid of the very thing they need to lay their eggs: Standing water. You can find standing water in things like buckets, plant saucers, broken fountains and old tires. Mosquito control is a shared responsibility. Vector Control cannot do this alone. Join your neighbors and fight back.



If you are still experiencing mosquito issues, you can contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at 562-944-9656 or [www.ReportMosquitoes.org](http://www.ReportMosquitoes.org). Let's work together to stop this Aedes infestation from spreading. ■

# City of Carson and Braille Institute Partner to Bring Free Services to the Visually Impaired



**O**n April 12, 2016, the City of Carson, in collaboration with the Braille Institute, kicked off an event to bring services and classes to the visually impaired.



Starting in May, every 2nd Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., the Braille Institute will be offering a free community seminar to individuals that are living with vision loss, suffer from Diabetes, and those who just wish to come and learn more about eye diseases and preventive care.

The monthly seminar will be held at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center.

Glaucoma, macular degeneration, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy and other eye conditions affect millions of people every year. The free low vision consultations can help you maximize your remaining vision and show you how to use high-powered magnification and other devices.



## What is a Low Vision Appointment?

- A free one-hour service conducted by a Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist
- A chance to try out items like talking watches, magnifiers, lighting, sun filters, etc. when eyeglasses no longer can correct your vision
- A chance to see demonstrations of the latest options in mainstream and access technology
- An opportunity to see select magnifiers, lighting and non-optical items for purchase



## What to Bring to Your Appointment:

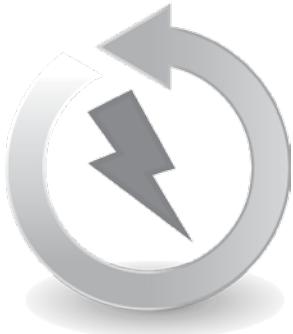
- Current eyeglasses and magnifiers that you use
- Any hearing aid(s) with fresh batteries, if you use them
- Samples of hobbies or reading material that help you try out the devices
- A person to translate, if needed
- Your eye doctor's referral, if available



Braille Institute's mobile unit will be at the Community Center monthly providing FREE low vision consultations. For more information, please call Human Services at (310) 835-0212 ext. 1471 or the Braille Institute at (323) 906-3170. ■

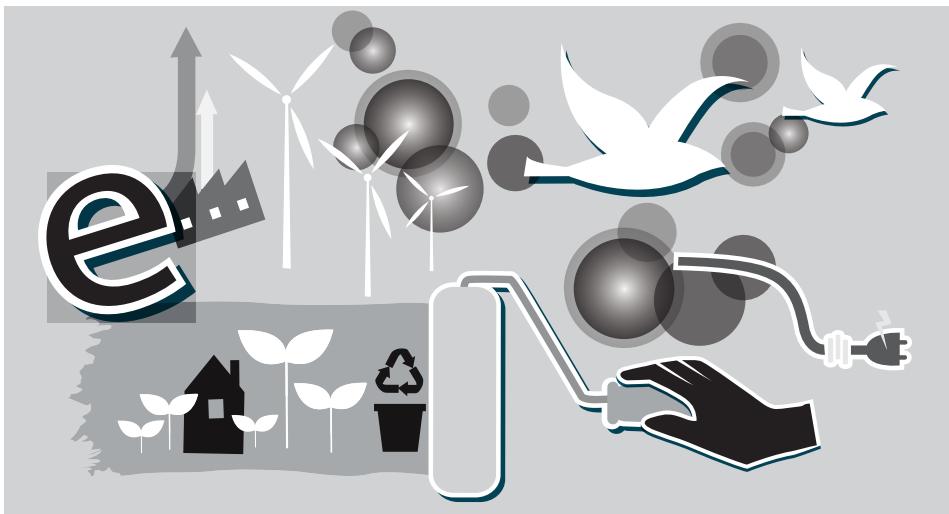
# NO COST Energy Efficiency Home Improvements Offered to Income-Eligible Renters and Homeowners

The City of Carson and the Maravilla Foundation are working with Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) to offer a no-cost energy saving home improvements and furnace repair or replacement services for qualified income-eligible renters and homeowners in Carson.



## Available energy-saving services may include:

- Attic insulation
- Door Weather-Stripping
- Caulking
- Low flow shower heads
- Water heater blankets
- Duct testing and sealing
- Minor home repairs
- Limited appliance repair or replacement (owner-occupied only)



## There are two ways you may qualify:

### 1. If you or another person in your household receives benefits from any of the following:

- Medi-Cal/Medicaid
- Medi-Cal for Families A & B
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
- CalWorks (TANF)\* or Tribal TANF
- Head Start Income Eligible – Tribal Only
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- CalFresh (Food Stamps)
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

\*Includes Welfare-to-Work

### 2. Total income for all persons in your household meet income guidelines.

Number of Persons in Household:	Total Annual Income **before taxes and all deductions cannot exceed:
1-2	\$31,860
3	\$40,180
4	\$48,500
5	\$56,820
6	\$65,140
7	\$73,460
8	\$81,780
For each additional household member, add	\$8,320

\*\*Includes current household income from all sources before deductions

For more information, please call the Maravilla Foundation at **(855) 461-4045** or SoCalGas at **(800) 331-7593** or log on to <https://www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy/assistance-programs>. ■

# Captain's Corner

by Captain Chris Marks



In this article, I want to share with you the services the Sheriff's Department provides

you through its contract with the city of Carson. Through contractual agreements, the Sheriff's Department provides policing services to 42 cities in Los Angeles County. Of those 42 contract cities, the City of Carson is the 5th largest contract for the LASD.

## What does the City of Carson contract with the LASD include?

LASD provides general law enforcement services. This means 24/7 response to calls for service, reports of crimes, patrols, traffic enforcement, to name just a few. This also includes the support of our Sheriff Station. The functions of the Sheriff Station includes the captain and administrative staff, our station dispatchers and 911 operators, the station jail, detectives, and traffic investigators.

One of the biggest advantages for contracting with the Sheriff's Department is its vast amount of resources and specialized units. Some of these specialized units include Narcotics, Gang Investigators, Emergency Operations, Special Weapons Teams, Air Support, Major Crimes, Human Trafficking, Fraud and Child Abuse. In addition to these resources, the City of Carson further enhances its general law enforcement services by contracting for additional law enforcement programs. These additional programs are:

### Community Policing Teams:

We have the benefit of two community policing teams who focus on quality of life complaints and directed patrol operations for any crime spike in a neighborhood. Some of these quality of life issues range from graffiti abatement to illegal vending.



### Park Enforcement Team:

Our city parks are important to us and need to remain a safe place for all to enjoy. The City of Carson was the first in the LASD to create a Park Enforcement Team. This team of deputies are assigned to work solely in our city parks. They meet weekly with park directors to learn of concerns or planned events in a park. They then focus their efforts on any complaints of illegal activity in a particular park and provide additional patrols for park events.

### Traffic Enforcement:

General law enforcement services provides for traffic enforcement such as speeding, failing to stop, etc. However, there are areas of traffic enforcement that require expertise and additional training. Enforcement of laws that pertain to commercial vehicles and large trucks is one. Recognizing this need,

the City provides for a commercial enforcement traffic deputy. This deputy is highly trained to enforce specific traffic laws related to trucks and their loads.

Enforcing traffic can also be challenging to perform in a regular patrol car. This creates a need for enforcement to be performed by deputies on motorcycles. This enforcement is vital, particularly near school zones or areas prone to accidents.

### Community Relations:

To enhance our communications with the community, a community relations team is also provided by the city of Carson. Our services provide the highly recognized and awarded Gang Diversion Team, explorer program, block watch program, volunteer programs, and many other services related to crime prevention.

I want to conclude by reminding you that nobody knows your neighborhood better than you. If you see something suspicious, CALL US; even if you wish to remain anonymous. Don't believe you have to wait for a crime to occur. We will dispatch a patrol car to you if you feel something is suspicious or in need of law enforcement attention. Let the responding deputy determine if a crime is occurring. You are our eyes and ears. Our partnership with you, the community, is what makes our crime reduction efforts a success. Thank you for the unprecedented support you provide to the Carson Station! ■

**Emergencies 9-1-1**

**Calls for Service (310) 830-1123**

**Watch Commander (310) 830-1123**

**Community Relations (310) 847-8386**

**Visit our website at [www.carson.lasd.org](http://www.carson.lasd.org)**

# City of Carson Hosts First 5K Walk/Run Event to Fundraise for Autism Research

The City of Carson hosted an annual awareness-raising event in the month of April at Veterans Park in honor of autism awareness. But this year, on April 9, the event kicked off with a 5K walk/run to raise money in support of autism research.

For partnering agency, Autism Advocates in Action (AAIA), Autism Awareness Day in Carson is an important day to help educate, advocate and bring awareness to the community.

"This event was such a success and dear to my heart as I am not only representing my son who was diagnosed at age 3, I am representing and giving back to a community that needs and deserves support," said Renita Verner, Founder of AAIA.



"Currently 1 in 45 is diagnosed with Autism and it is imperative that we continue to bring awareness to this neurodevelopmental disorder. This kind of support means so much to the community as it lets families know community leaders care and what resources and activities are available," added Verner.



Attendee and volunteer Charlene Rhodes said she is proud at the City of Carson for caring enough to organize such an event.

"It was wonderful to see everyone giving their time, energy, compassion, knowledge and finances to make it happen. The vendors were informative and friendly," said Rhodes. "Autism awareness means getting the word out to everyone and helping those who are affected to reach their fullest potential," added Rhodes.

Autism Advocates in Action is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to provide community support in the areas of advocacy, resources, and activities for children, teens and adults while promoting awareness and inclusion. The organization provides

monthly meetings to help educate parents on current law and collaborate with the community engagement resource to help parents navigate the system.





The City of Carson Special Needs Program addresses the social, physical and recreational needs of Carson's mentally and physically disabled adult population. The program emphasizes socialization, creative activities, special recreation, and physical and educational development of the mentally and physically challenged. These services help to reduce the loneliness and isolation of individuals with disabilities by providing a variety of recreational and social activities.



On the same day, Carson also hosted the Special Olympics Area Games in the sports of bocce and basketball. Over 300 athletes participated in the games.

According to Acting Special Needs Program Coordinator, Eileen Malumaleumu, she was extremely pleased with the success of both events [Special Olympics Area Games and Autism Awareness 5K Walk/Run].



"Since this was the first time we were doing a 5K Run/Walk, the committee knew that this would be a

huge undertaking, but accepted the challenge nonetheless. We exceeded our initial goal when over 300 individuals registered and participated in the Autism 5k Run/Walk despite the gloomy, rainy weather. It was

truly humbling to witness the tremendous love and support of all the families and friends who walked or ran in honor of a child/family member/friend. I am thankful that the City of Carson continues to support, promote and raise awareness for Autism."

On June 11-12, 2016, the Special Olympics Summer Games will be held at CalState Long Beach.

For more information about the Special Needs Program or the Special Olympic games, please log on to the City of Carson website at [http://ci.carson.ca.us/department/communityservices/special\\_needs.asp](http://ci.carson.ca.us/department/communityservices/special_needs.asp) or call the Human Services Special Needs Program at (310) 835-0212, ext. 1470. For more information about Autism Advocates in Action, log on to <http://www.autismadvocatesinactions.com/> or call (562) 857-4300. ■



# New Development: The Avalon Project



Architects' rendering of finished development



The proposed Avalon Project is divided into two structures, separated by a 17,000 square-foot courtyard for residents and guests.

The eastern building at the corner of Avalon Boulevard and Carson Street is podium type construction of five stories that includes three stories of residential units above 32,000 square feet of ground floor retail and restaurant uses, with two levels of garage and one level of subterranean parking garage.

The westerly building in front of Carson Street includes four stories of residential units wrapped around a residential parking garage.

An approximately 10,000 square foot landscaped public plaza will be provided at the corner of Avalon Boulevard and Carson Street at street level. The ground floor commercial activity will invite a pedestrian shopping experience.

The eastern building will provide 221 residential units and the western building will provide 136 residential units. The project's average residential unit size will be +/- 758 square feet.

The proposed open space will include 2.43 acres of amenities including 44,500 square feet of courtyards, a 26,400 square foot exercise path and gated dog park, the 10,000 square foot public plaza, and approximately 10,000 square feet of common recreational amenities including a fitness center, swimming pools, outdoor barbecue areas, community garden, and outdoor fireplace. ■

