

# Kids Say it Best!

## WHY I LIKE CARSON



Hi,

I live in the City of Carson. My parents work very hard to provide a loving home for my family. I attend a school where I can learn at my own pace.

I love Carson because it's nice and clean. Carson has lots of fun places to go. I love to go to ChuckE Cheese, Go Kart World, and the parks. These are my favorite places to go.

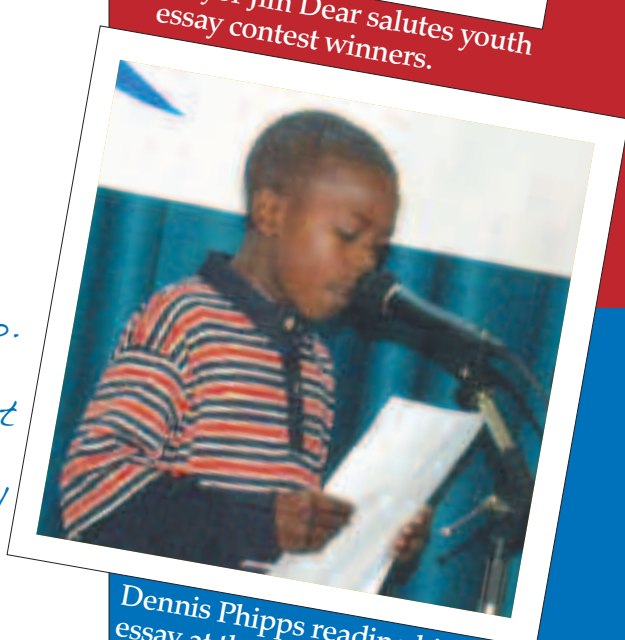
The city of Carson is growing large. Carson has a new Home Depot Center. The Home Depot Center has soccer games, tennis games, and lots of other games. I heard that the Home Depot Center will have the 2010 Olympic Soccer Games there.

Carson is building a lot of new restaurants. Carson has a new Chile's, Jamba Juice, and M & M's. My favorite eating place is McDonald's and I love to eat their Happy Meals.

Dennis Phipps  
3rd Grade, 1st Place



Mayor Jim Dear salutes youth essay contest winners.



Dennis Phipps reading his winning essay at the Celebrate Carson event

**DON'T MISS  
CELEBRATE  
Carson  
ON CABLE**

Have a look and join us in Celebrating Carson on your home computer or cable television at the following times:

### **CHANNEL 35**

**March 1, 15, 22, 29**  
4:00-5:45 p.m. and 6:00-6:30 p.m.

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
1:00-5:00 p.m. Saturdays

Provisional schedule (may change without notice)

## WIN PRIZES!



### Show your civic pride!

Display your static-cling window decal on your car, home or business window and be eligible to win valuable gifts certificates. Our roving observers are looking for you. One more reason to Celebrate Carson!

Visit our website for more information  
[www.CelebrateCarson.com](http://www.CelebrateCarson.com)

# CELEBRATE Carson

Volume #1, Issue 2

Contest Winners Announced!  
(See page 3)

## A Call for Celebration

A word from Celebrate Carson  
Honorary Chair Mary Anne O'Neal



Dear Friends:

In so many ways, the City of Carson is just the kind of community most people want. We enjoy a warm, friendly, small-town environment, but have access to the jobs, services and amenities of an urban center. We can retreat to the peace and quiet of one of our many secluded

neighborhoods, or seek out the excitement of local sports, culture or recreational events.

While many of our neighboring cities have been tripped up by a faltering economy and loss of jobs, we have been favored with stability and slow-but-steady growth. And, with a strong revenue base from business, we are able to support a tradition of helping and nurturing our residents, young and old, with a wide variety of services and programs.

We are still a young city, but in the last few years we have truly demonstrated that we are all grown up. The many new developments in recent years have shown that we have the direction and discipline to make the "Carson formula" of diversity and balanced growth a model for creating an outstanding quality of life.

Through Celebrate Carson, we will continue to highlight all that is good about our city. You can be part of it by displaying a Celebrate Carson decal in your home or car window. If you did not receive one in the mail, go online to [www.celebratecarson.com](http://www.celebratecarson.com) to print out a copy. Each month, four lucky winners who are spotted displaying the logo are chosen for prizes and gift certificates.

Please join us as we  
**Celebrate Carson.**

## Carson Much Safer in Recent Years, Local Leadership Commended

For the last three years, the City of Carson has enjoyed its lowest crime rate in the past 20 years, according to Captain Todd Rogers, commanding officer of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Station in Carson. And the trend in decreasing crime appears to be holding: so far this year, crime is significantly lower than the same period in 2006, said Rogers. In his early February report on public safety in Carson, the captain commended local city leadership for their role in supporting pro-active and effective policing in the city. The City has been working

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### Public Safety Highlights

- The last three years have seen the lowest crime rates in the past 20 years
- Crime in 2007 is significantly lower than the same period in 2006
- Carson Station made 4,199 arrests in 2006
- Carson Station's average response times are 4.5 minutes for emergency calls, 7.5 minutes for urgent calls, and 29.7 minutes for routine calls for service
- Carson Station detectives solved several noteworthy cases in 2006 and arrested suspects responsible for several crime sprees
- Our gang diversion team has successfully removed 80 gang members from active gang involvement
- Playing it Straight - our youth intervention program in partnership with the Home Depot Center and City of Carson graduated its 7th class
- In 2007, we plan to enhance our Latent Fingerprint Program and promote our Crime Tip Hotline (310-847-8300) that residents can use to anonymously report crime and nuisance activity
- We are also looking to add specialized equipment such as entry vests and surveillance equipment to enhance our enforcement efforts
- In 2006, Carson Station continued its intervention / prevention programs
- The state of public safety in Carson is good and we will continue to do everything possible to make it better


## Playing on a nearby screen right now: Don't Miss the Good News About Carson

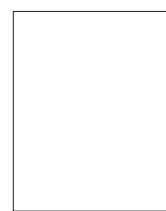
A premiere of sorts took place a few weeks ago: Celebrate Carson began airing its prime-time look at Carson and its residents on cable television, Channel 35 and the Celebrate Carson website, [www.CelebrateCarson.com](http://www.CelebrateCarson.com).

Don't miss Celebrate Carson: The Television Show, a lively, fast-paced, 15-minute look at all the positive things going on in our city.

Take a few minutes to watch and we're sure you'll come away singing our tune - that Carson indeed is a city on the right track.

From great dining and increasing entertainment options, to youth and professional sports, reduced crime and gang activity and a great quality of life. It's clear our city's leadership is setting a brisk pace that's not to be missed.

 Celebrate Carson • P.O. Box 11228 • Carson, CA 90749



Carson native Captain Todd Rogers, has led a significant effort to reduce crime in Carson and keep our streets safe.





## A Taste of Carson: Restaurant Choices Abound

Living in one of the most culturally diverse cities in the nation has a distinct advantage when it comes to the popular pastime of dining out -- Carson eateries represent the flavors and regional styles of cuisines from all over the world. Typical of the hundreds of choices for the appetite driven:

*M&M's Restaurant* features southern American cooking -- the original "comfort food" -- in a sleek and sophisticated atmosphere. Busy everyday from breakfast through dinner, this is a favorite spot for weekend brunch.

*Back Home in Lahaina* serves up the look, feel and taste of Hawaii with traditional dishes, an attractive and lively island

décor, and regular live entertainment by Hawaiian performers.

*Flora's Café* is a cozy and comfortable family-owned Mexican restaurant with a full menu of authentic traditional dishes.

*Mami King*, *Manila Sunrise* and *Tita Celia's* are among the many take-out and dine-in Filipino restaurants in Carson, offering all of the favorites from tender Adobo chicken to golden banana rolls.

On the sweeter side, *Ken's Ice Cream* is legendary for its generous servings of home-style ice cream, and *Tapioca Express* is a favorite for the sweet milk tea called boba, as well as puddings and other snacks in the Filipino tradition.



## Major Revival of Carson Street

A plan that has been underway for several years to revitalize an aging stretch of Carson Street will soon take shape as a mixed-use project that will breathe new life into one of the older commercial strips in the city.

A master plan for the "Carson Corridor" won unanimous approval from the City Council last December, one of several recent initiatives to improve the appearance of the city and provide more options for Carson residents. The plan focuses on revitalization of Carson Street from the 110 Freeway to 405 Freeway to stimulate more economic opportunity for businesses in the area, and offer many of the shopping and service amenities desirable to local residents.

The basic concept of the Carson Corridor project is to create a cohesive and visually attractive "Main Street" environment that will build on the existing character of the area with a distinctive pedestrian-friendly design. Widening the sidewalks, improving parking and traffic circulation, and installing new landscaping, lighting and signage are among the improvements outlined in the master plan to transform the area into a much more livable and vibrant center of activity.

Historically, this strip of Carson Street has been largely designated for commercial uses, and little has been done over the last 25 years to respond to changing needs and interests. Most of the buildings are old and outdated, and the area is dotted with vacant properties. The City plans to stimulate more activity and private investment in the area by adding some residential development -- condominiums -- that will attract more people to the area to support local shopping, recreation and entertainment.

Using a combination of local redevelopment funds, state and federal funds and private investment, the plan for revitalization of the Carson Corridor is projected to proceed in phases over the next ten years.

## Top Athletes Proud to Call Carson Home

Their talent and ability put them in the national spotlight, but the pull of home brought them back to Carson. Over the years, Carson has nurtured the talent of many outstanding athletes who gained national prominence and then returned home for work and family. Two of the most recent of our "Hometown Heroes" are Josh Canales and Maria Garcia.

As a student at Carson High School, Josh Canales was a baseball hero -- in addition to the three letters he earned at school, he was named



Josh Canales

MVP of the Southern Pacific Conference and selected to the South Bay Classic All-Star squad. Drafted out of high school by the Oakland Athletics, Canales opted instead for college. He attended the University of Florida and UCLA, where he was an All-Pac-10 player. In 2001, Josh was signed by the Los Angeles Dodgers organization; two years later, he signed with the Houston Astros.

But, having attained his dream of professional baseball, a visit home in 2004 changed his course. Josh was the son and grandson of ministers and had been brought up in the church. His father, Ruben Canales, pastors Mission Eben-Ezer, a large multi-cultural Christian church in Carson founded by Josh's grandfather. Despite the glamour and promise of an athletic career, Josh felt a spiritual pull; three years into professional baseball he retired, moved back to Carson, and began preparing himself for the ministry. In addition

to serving as Youth Minister in his father's church, Josh is Director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for the South Bay region, and is pursuing his Master of Divinity degree at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Growing up in Carson, Maria Garcia always identified with a sense of community in which family and friends were close and supportive. In school, she enjoyed competitive sports, first attracted to track and field, and then to figure skating. In 1997, Maria discovered speedskating, and began to rapidly make a name for herself in the Southland, then the nation. She won 1st place awards in the 2001, 2002 and 2003 U.S. Junior Championships; and, in 2003, she represented the U.S. at the World Junior Short-Track Championships in Budapest, Hungary, and was the youngest member of the team representing the U.S.A. at the World Cup in Calgary, Canada.

Last year, Maria skated onto the international stage as a member of the U.S. speedskating team at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, where 80 nations were represented in a competition of skill and endurance that was broadcast around the

world. With the goal of bringing home a medal for the U.S. and Carson in the 2007 Winter Olympics, Maria returned to Carson for the rigors of training, and to share her inspiring story with local youngsters.



Maria Garcia

## Carson Sheriff's Station Support Foundation

Carson residents and businesses have formed a new non-profit foundation to support Carson sheriff's deputies.

The Carson Sheriff's Station Support Foundation is raising funds to help purchase equipment and fund anti-crime programs, like the community Crime Tip Hotline.

The CCSSF also is sponsoring a Public Safety Recognition Luncheon on April 18 to honor sheriff's deputies, professional staff and community volunteers who do so much to keep Carson residents safe. Be sure to save the date.

Tax-deductible donations may be made to CCSSF at Carson Sheriff's Station Support Foundation, 21356 S. Avalon Boulevard, Carson, CA 90745.

## Carson Much Safer in Recent Years, Local Leadership Commended

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closely with the Sheriff's Department to promote a coordinated approach to addressing local crime through prevention and intervention measures. Such measures range from increased street lighting and prompt graffiti removal services to devoting more resources to youth recreation, after-school care and park staffing. Aggressive enforcement of city ordinances on code violations such as unsafe or abandoned buildings and illegal dumping also help prevent or eliminate targets for vandalism or other illegal activity.

The City of Carson and the Carson Sheriff's Station are co-sponsors, along with

the Home Depot Center, in "Playing It Straight," a program that combines sports activities and counseling to help Carson youth develop practical life skills and resist negative influences that may lead to involvement in illegal activity. Working with the City and local organizations, Captain Rogers also formed a gang diversion program, which works to bring resources together to help gang members break their negative ties. So far, reported Rogers, 80 gang members have successfully completed the program and distanced themselves from active gang involvement.



## FEBRUARY WINNERS

**John Rieder** is proudly displaying his decal on his car window. John, a resident of Carson for more than 30 years said it has meant a lot to him, watching the city grow. John is active "senior" in the exercise program at the City's Joseph O'Neal Stroke Center; **Kyle Washington**, a 9-year-old who attends Ambler Elementary School and an active member of the Carson Boys and Girls Club, has been spotted sporting his Celebrate Carson Sports Bag; **Letty Perez**, owner of "Way A Head Hair Design" on Carson Street, is displaying her decal on the front door of her small business;

Proudly displaying their Celebrate Carson sticker in the window of their home, are **Ralph and Shar Wright**, who have lived in the Lincoln Village area of Carson for more than 20 years.

Each will receive **\$100 value** in gift cards and/or sporting event tickets at the Home Depot Center. Each winner can select their personalized gift from among local restaurants, retail shops, or products such as Target, Chili's, South Bay Pavilion, ConocoPhillips and BP gas cards, or Galaxy, Kings, Lakers or Clipper tickets.