

# Kids Say it Best!

## WHY I LIKE CARSON



*I like Carson because it is a fun, friendly, and beautiful city to live in. For a small city, it offers a lot to its residents.*

*The people of Carson have many activities they can enjoy at its fifteen parks and community center. Children and adults can participate in team sports, dancing, arts and craft, weight lifting, weight loss programs, theater, and many other things. I have*

*played T-ball, flag football, volleyball, and karate at the parks. One of the most memorable and proud moments was being recognized at the City Hall and meeting the Mayor when our karate team won trophies for a competition.*

*Every Thursday there is a Farmer's Market at the Carson Community Center where people can sell goods and produce. The Farmer's Market reminds me of a bazaar in the Aladdin story. It is a fun place to go and it is a great place to meet new people and try out new kinds of fruits and vegetables.*

*Carson is one of the best cities to live in. We have many beautiful homes through-out the city. In the neighborhood that I live in, the neighbors are friendly and they take care of their homes so they always look clean and beautiful. If I was looking for a house with great people, Carson would be the perfect place.*

*Carson is a superb city even though it's small. It, for me, is the best city I have seen yet. I hope Carson will exist for years to come.*

Isaak Manai  
5th Grade, 1st Place

## 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 gift certificates. Our roving observers are looking for you. One more reason to Celebrate Carson!

### "Show Your Pride" WINNERS for the month of March

**Jasnelli Valencia**, a student at Caroldale Elementary School has been seen sporting her Celebrate Carson back pack; **Adela Arechiga** is displaying the decal on the front window of her home; **Sandra Garcia** is showing her pride with the decal on her car window; **Michael Alkov**, a dentist in Carson for the past twenty years, (with new office located at 520 E. Carson Plaza Drive, (310) 538-3333) is displaying his decal on his new business window.

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.

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

## CELEBRATE CARSON BUSINESS AWARDS!

The City of Carson salutes local businesses. Now in its 18th year, the *City of Carson Business Awards* seeks to recognize corporate citizens that have made a significant investment in the community and by so doing have enhanced the City's economic vitality and quality of life. This year's honorees are: **Chili's General Mills, Yoplait, Huffy, M&M Soul Food and Magic Johnson's 24-hour Fitness.** The awards will be taking place at a breakfast event on June 27th. Congratulations to this year's winners!

## Homework help NOW ONLINE!

*Live Homework Help* connects students in the community to real, expert tutors online. Students get the one-to-one help they need. It allows all students and especially children from disadvantaged homes to get the academic assistance they need to achieve in school and in life. *Live Homework Help* is available online every day from 1p.m. to 10p.m. All you need is a library card. Go to [www.tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com), or visit your local library.

Contest Winners Announced!  
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# CELEBRATE Carson

Volume I, Issue 3

## A Call for Celebration

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



Dear Friends:

I am struck by how people-oriented and people-driven Carson is. People really want to get things done in our city. They feel a need to enhance and enrich the life of the community.

One of our best attributes as a city is a process of active, vocal civic participation where ideas are engaged and debated. It promotes a level of inclusion that has helped our city grow in surprising ways. We may differ in opinion, but we share common values and get past our differences to work for progress.

An impressive measure of Carson's commitment to its residents is the level of service so many devote to our city, to the amenities that bring joy and interest to community life, and to our concern for the needs and safety of others. In an era of municipal cutbacks, Carson is truly unique in its continued support for cultural, recreational and educational opportunities.

Another attribute of Carson is the generosity of spirit and effort put out on behalf of our community. We send young people out in the world and are gratified to see them return to give back to the city that encouraged them. Volunteers of all ages see a need and reach out to share and support others. My own volunteer work with the *Friendly Visitor* program, working with others to extend companionship and assistance to Carson seniors is a lesson in the true meaning and value of community. And our business and corporate sector actively support the community's priorities for youth and education.

We Celebrate Carson for the people that we are, and those that we care about.

## Carson Offers Unmatched Services to Residents: Find a Program that Suits You

Whatever your age or interest, it's very likely that the City of Carson offers a program that will grab your attention. From crafts and sports to childcare and life after retirement, there are activities and services that can enrich or enhance the life of every Carson resident.

With 15 public parks in the city, every neighborhood has access to the pleasures of outdoor recreation, picnicking and relaxation. Most of these parks, along with the city's active Community Center, are the site of numerous programs for family assistance, learning, recreation and personal growth.

For families with children, the Parks & Recreation Department operates pre-school programs at the Community Center and several local parks to give the young ones a head start in school-readiness. The Carson Kids Club is a safe and supervised option for before-and after-school care, including

guidance with homework, tutoring and enrichment activities. Other activities include *Kids in the Kitchen* for basic cooking skills, as well as instruction in archery, tennis, dance, chess and roller hockey.

Activities for teenagers include sports and recreation, as well as enrichment classes. In addition to basketball tournaments and baseball leagues, there is the Fabela Chavez Boxing/Fitness Center at Scott's Park. Citywide favorites for youth are the city-sponsored teen dances, music workshop, winter camping trip, and the annual teen conference. Through the Carson Youth Commission, teens are engaged in a *Give Back Program* – an opportunity for teens to serve others in need. The Public Safety Department sponsors *Positive Choices* and *Anger Management for Teens* to help teens cope in positive ways, and *Parent Project* classes to help parents cope with the challenges of raising teenagers.

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The Carson Community Center is the site of numerous programs for family assistance, learning, recreation and personal growth.

## Local University Has Broad Reach

California State University at Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) opened its doors in 1960 with 50 students and a vision that it would serve the expected growth in the South Bay Region.

Today CSUDH is a leading teaching, research and training center with nearly boundless reach. Its dynamic mix of on-campus, off-campus and top-rated online programs attracts students and business and industrial partners from around the world. With a student population representing 85 different countries, and a teaching staff of similar composition, the university has extended its influence around the globe.

"I was attracted by the diversity," says Nigeria-born student body President Ifeanyi Ebigo. "Coming from a different country, I felt CSUDH had an international outlook that would suit me." Ebigo also credits the University for providing entry and ongoing

services – counseling, tutoring, mentoring, internships – to help students gain a strong academic footing through graduation.

Building a connection between the university and the real world is a top priority for the university, says Jim Strong, Dean of the College of Business and Public Policy. "We're focused on building practitioner-oriented programs, to make that connection between what we're teaching and what the larger community needs."

Collaboration between the university, the business community, and other public institutions has helped shape programs and courses that are driven by 'real world' considerations. Recently, business student interns with the nearby Home Depot Center got hands-on experience working with executives and staff of the sports and entertainment facility. To learn more visit the campus website at [www.csudh.edu](http://www.csudh.edu).

## More Magic in Carson New 24-Hour Fitness Center is Official

It was prime time in Carson last month when former basketball great and current business success Earvin "Magic" Johnson was on hand for the official launch of the Carson Magic 24-Hour Fitness Club, located within the SouthBay Pavilion shopping center.

The new two-story, 35,000 square-foot facility is the latest in a long list of grand-openings and ribbon cuttings that have taken place in Carson over the past year as new restaurants and retailers have been drawn to the city.

"It's the best of the best," said Johnson of his newest center. "We want to make sure people can stay in their own neighborhood to work out – and to work."

The new sports club is packed with all of the latest equipment, and offers a variety of services and programs to appeal to both novices and veteran fitness buffs. Amenities include a basketball court, swimming pool, whirlpool, steam room and sauna, and a cycling room.

## Carson Offers Unmatched Services to Residents: Find a Program that Suits You [Continued from page 1]

Both the Veteran's Park Sports Complex and the Dominguez Park Aquatic Center are a big draw for residents. The 25,000 square foot Sports Complex features an NBA-regulation sized gym with capacity for two full-court basketball games, and bleacher seating for 900 spectators, as well as outdoor playing fields, playground and tennis courts. A low-cost fitness center offers classes in weight training and conditioning, cycling, karate and yoga. Two pools, waterslides and a variety of swimming classes for all ages are features of the beautiful new Aquatic facilities at

Dominguez Park. If you're looking for something indoors, and maybe a little less strenuous, check out the many classes and activities at the Carson Community Center. In addition to fun classes like woodworking, cake decorating, dance and second languages, business/career classes include computer skills, real estate, child care and notarizing. The Senior Technology Center offers computer and internet classes for seniors. Sports, dance, art, music, and exercise are among the many other classes for the active senior.



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## Academy Award Winner Forest Whitaker Earns Congratulations from Carson

From Carson schoolboy to the pinnacle of Hollywood success, Forest Whitaker has always made an impression.

Over the years, Carson residents have followed Whitaker's career with pride in his personal and professional accomplishments.

This year Carson shares the pride for Whitaker's triumphant Academy Award win for his leading role in the 2006 film *The Last King of Scotland*. For the same role, Whitaker also received the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor, the Screen Actors Guild Award, and a British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award.

Whitaker's depiction of the complexity, cruelty and corruption of the one-time Ugandan ruler Idi Amin won accolades from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, the New York Film Critics Circle, the Broadcast Film Critics Association and the National Board of Review.

"It is possible for a kid from east Texas, raised in South Central L.A. in Carson, who believes in his dreams, commits himself to them with his heart, to touch them, and to have them happen," said Whitaker during his oscar acceptance speech.

Born in Texas, Whitaker moved to Carson as

a young boy with his parents and siblings. When his early promise for a football career was cut short by a serious back injury, he began to focus more seriously on the arts. He gained acceptance into USC's Drama Conservatory. Graduating in 1982, Whitaker was awarded a Sir John Giulgud Scholarship for the Drama School London, Berkeley, California campus.

Whitaker's breakthrough into film came early – playing a teenage football player in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* (1982). Several notable films followed, including Martin Scorsese's *The Color of Money*, Oliver Stone's *Platoon*, and the comedy *Good Morning Vietnam*, in which Whitaker co-starred with Robin Williams.

In 1988, Whitaker won plaudits and a Best Actor Award at the Cannes Film Festival for his lead role in the film *Bird*, a portrayal of jazz musician Charlie Parker, directed by Clint Eastwood. Films that followed include *The Crying Game*, Robert Altman's *Prêt-à-Porter* and *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Warrior*, a film that has attained cult status among karate aficionados (Whitaker has a 1st Degree Black Belt in Kenpo Karate). He co-starred in the 2002 thriller *Phone Booth* and, the same year, the suspense-filled *Panic Room*.



Bess Cruz, Doubletree Hotel

## Carson Doubletree Hotel Mirrors the Life of the City

Bess Cruz believes her hotel – Doubletree Hotel Carson Civic Plaza – is a reliable barometer of what goes on in her city. The hotel is preparing for the arrival of celebrity coaches and participants who will attend the spring 2007 session of the David Beckham Academy. The Academy is Beckham's brain-child and an opportunity for thousands of youth to hone their soccer skills with some of the best teachers in the world. Beckham – in case you don't know – is the international soccer superstar who created waves of excitement late last year with the announcement of his signing with the L.A. Galaxy at the Home Depot Center in Carson.

The Doubletree is a symbol of the city's emerging status as a key destination in Southern California. "At any given time, if you sit in the lobby area you are going to see celebrities, business leaders, elected officials and other influential people from all over the world" declares Cruz.

Cruz is a longtime Carson resident and

began working for the hotel in 1999 before it took on the Doubletree identity. The hotel has always enjoyed a fair amount of local patronage, but as the City of Carson has increasingly attracted new industry and retail, recreation and entertainment, so has grown the demand for lodging and hospitality.

The 224-room Doubletree is the official hotel for the Home Depot Center. As such, it provides lodging and other amenities for the L.A. Galaxy professional soccer team, national teams for the U.S. Soccer Federation, USA Cycling and U.S. Track and Field, and many elite and professional athletes who favor the Athlete Performance training facility at the Home Depot Center. The Doubletree also hosts the ESPN X-games, UCI (United Cycling International) World Cycling, United Tennis Association and HBO/Showtime Boxing events.

"Here at the Doubletree, we are very proud to be at the center of growth and activity in Carson," says Cruz. "We truly do reflect the community."



"The programs that we offer for children, youth and seniors are essential to the overall health and well being of our community. The City of Carson is recognized throughout the state for the quality and variety of our programs. Last year Carson won an award for Best After-School Program in California from the California Park & Recreation Society. Through our programs and services we nurture talent, build character and skills, and instill confidence to enjoy life."

Nate Riddick, Chairman, Carson Parks & Recreation Commission; Past President, State Board of Park and Recreation Commissions.

### Helpful telephone numbers:

**Parks & Recreation:** (310) 847-3570  
**Sr. Recreation Services:** (310) 835-0212  
**Human Services:** (310) 952-1782