



Report to the People



Where Quality Service Is Our Tradition

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

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www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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Approximately 8,500 people celebrated Independence Day on July 4th at Rosewood Park.

COMMERCE CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

Approximately 8,500 people from Commerce and surrounding communities showed up to celebrate the 4th of July and enjoy an evening of fireworks at the City's Annual Independence Day Celebration on Monday, July 4 at Rosewood Park.

The Fireworks Show started at 9 p.m. and ran for nearly 30 minutes with colorful explosions of red, white, blue and other colors that lit up the Commerce skyline for nearly a half hour. The show was provided by Pyro Spectaculars and featured a variety of rockets and displays.

The day began at 8 a.m. with the 5K Freedom Run in the Rosewood Park area that drew 347 resident and non-resident runners. Juan Carlos Mena finished first in the under 8 division, while Mauro Rodriguez

was first in the 66 years and over division. The oldest male and female runners were 80-year-old Juan Cisneros and 72 year old Martha Torres.

The women's overall winner was Rosa Del Toro with a time of 18:19 and the men's overall winner was Rico Gutierrez with a time of 16:12.

Karen Rosas was second in the women's division with a time of 18:46. The Men's Division runner up was Jesus Gutierrez with a time of 16:14.

The official program was kicked off by Emcee Steve Campos of Parks and Recreation. Joining him on stage were Miss Fourth of July Rocio Ulloa, members of the Royal Court, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council.

New this year was the "Commerce's Got Talent" contest, which featured participants from the community and local celebrity guest judges Uncle Sam, Betsy Ross and the Statue of Liberty, who were actually City dance instructors in costume.

The display of local talent included singers, dancers, musicians, as well as other talented performers.

Everyone who participated in the contest was declared a winner by the panel of judges and host Oralía Rebollo, who announced to the crowd over the PA system that, "You've got talent!"

Those getting special recognition were young musician

See **ART CONTEST** page 3

CITY WEBSITE GETS A NEW LOOK AND FEATURES



The City of Commerce is proud to announce the launch of its newly redesigned government website, www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

Designed by the government website experts at CivicPlus, the new site was specifically developed to provide citizens and visitors with 24/7 access to City information and services.

"Our goal was to create a website that was easy to access and navigate for City residents, industry and the general public," said Public Information Officer Brian Wolfson. "It was also important that it be easy to work on so our City staff could make changes quickly to keep everyone up on what's going on in the community."

Manhattan, KS-based CivicPlus has developed more than 876 municipal websites across the country, and its content management system allows staff to quickly and easily update website content while maintaining the site's integrity and design.

Designed to be user-friendly, the new site features top and left-hand menu items that provide intuitive navigation, quickly directing users to the information they need the most.

"The best sites use graphic design to communicate the site's purpose," said IT Manager Al Vela, who supervised the project for the City. "We wanted to have a balance of a great looking site that is easy to navigate and works well in any browser. The graphics and drop down menus were designed to help users find

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SET FOR AUGUST 2



City staff at last year's National Night Out.

Commerce will be one of thousands of communities across the nation participating in National Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, August 2. "Commerce takes crime prevention to the streets literally," said Crime Prevention Program Coordinator Laura Tilley.

"Our Neighborhood Watch Program and National Night

Out are completely unique as we travel block by block to work with residents in fighting crime."

Last year's National Night Out involved 37 million people in 15,110 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. In Commerce, more than 1600 people participated.

Residents are invited to join in the City's crime fighting efforts, enjoy barbecue and meet the crime prevention team at one of the 17 Neighborhood Watch Block Parties taking place throughout the City.

The Commerce Senior Center will kick off its party at 4 p.m.

See **NNO** page 8

See **CITY WEBSITE** page 8

City Administrator

The City Council invites the entire Community to participate in this year's National Night Out Against Crime scheduled for Tuesday, August 2. Most block parties start at 6:30 p.m., while the Senior Center's party begins at 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn about the City's crime prevention efforts.

I am happy to report that phase three of The Citadel was completed ahead of schedule and all spaces have been leased. The construction expanded the mall by 157,000 square feet and added 36 new stores to the lineup. The Citadel has been a tremendous business success. Overall, sales at the Center have increased with each improvement. The Citadel Outlets is vital to the long term economic well being of Commerce and it could not have happened without redevelopment.

Regrettably not everyone sees it that way. Last month, Gov. Brown signed the California budget and signed into law the elimination of redevelopment agencies. Local cities are joining with the California Redevelopment Association and the League of California Cities to challenge the constitutionality of this action. Last year, voters passed Proposition 22 which prohibits the State from taking funds used for transportation or local government projects or services. Eliminating redevelopment agencies violates the State Constitution.

Redevelopment agencies have been important to our City's success. Redevelopment has made it possible for Commerce to create jobs, offer affordable housing, clean-up toxic properties and improve our streets and public facilities. Through redevelopment, we have revitalized our City and enhanced the quality of life for residents and businesses. While some criticism of redevelopment agencies may be justified, the solution is reform, not elimination. We will keep you posted on our efforts to save redevelopment and prevent our legislators from using the funds to balance the state budget.

The City budget process is nearly complete and the Council has worked hard to close a \$1.5 million dollar budget gap while protecting the workforce, services and the financial viability of the City. We are currently undergoing collective bargaining and are optimistic that we will come up with satisfactory agreements with Commerce employees.

Our City's website recently underwent a renovation. Our goal was to make the website interactive with an improved search engine, easier navigation and greater accessibility. Check it out at www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

Our YES program is in full swing. Eighty-five Commerce youth ages 14 to 19 were hired to work for the City during the summer, fall, winter and spring seasons. They are a welcomed addition to our workforce.

On behalf of the City Council, I'd like to congratulate the 48 recipients of the Commerce Scholarships. These students are the future leaders of our community and we are proud that they have chosen to continue their education. This year Commerce scholarship donations totaled \$86,000. We want to thank the scholarship donors for their generous financial contributions and the Commerce Library's Literacy Services staff for coordinating this program. This is another example of how the City Council, local businesses, our own employees and other caring individuals work for the good of our community.

And for future college students, the Commerce Public Library will be hosting its sixth annual College Fair, "Take Action--Go to College," starting at 10 a.m., on Sept. 17, at Veterans Park. The event is open to middle school, high school and adult students and their families. Don't miss this opportunity to meet with college and university representatives and get your questions about college answered.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and keep our US Armed Forces in your thoughts.

Sincerely,
Jorge Rifá



MUNICIPAL NOTES

COUNCIL CALLS FOR STATE AUDIT OF CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

The City Council is recommending that Assembly Member Ricardo Lara initiate a state audit of the Central Basin Municipal Water District. At its meeting June 21, the Council voted to send a letter to Lara urging him to audit the agency in light of excessive increases in water rates and recent articles published in the Los Angeles Times detailing Central Basin's political relationships, lobbying and ballooning consultant expenditures.

Signed by the mayor on behalf of the City Council, the

letter raises concerns about burdening low-income families with excessive water rates and warns against allowing the agency to continue to operate with little public scrutiny or legislative oversight.

The City has been questioning Central Basin's water rates for several years, seeking justification for increases and project funding which is passed onto taxpayers. The audit would serve the public interest by making the agency more transparent and accountable.

COUNCIL CONTINUES TO WORK ON BUDGET

As Report to People went to press the City Council was still working to close the budget gap. Council members had approved \$508,704 of proposed cuts in May, to reduce the projected shortfall of \$1,511,975 to \$895,218.

The Community Development Commission's budget was up for approval on July 5 and collective bargaining

negotiations were set to continue on July 14.

Fire and Sheriff's department contracts were approved on June 23.

The Council's primary goals in adopting the budget are to maintain services, protect the workforce and keep Commerce financially sound.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Regular Meeting of June 7

- Approved amendments to the ground lease agreement between the City and the Commerce Refuse to Energy Authority for the construction of the LCNG Fuel Station.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the City Clerk to set the time, date and place for a public hearing for the vacation of Boxford Avenue north of Slauson Avenue.
- Approved a sixth amendment to the City's lease with Hyundai that would allow for the installation of an on-site LED Reader board at the dealership by the end of 2011, at the sole expense of Hyundai.
- Approved providing lodging for the Mexican National Women's Water Polo Team at city-owned property located at 4906 Jardine St.
- Received and filed a report on the proposed I-170 long life pavement project, including a bridge widening adjacent to Bandini Park.
- Received and filed a report on the Central Library, City Hall and Senior Plaza Improvements Project. Heard input from residents on the redistricting of congressional, State Senate and Assembly districts.
- Approved a recommendation to implement a business cooperation program and business license amnesty program.
- Received and filed a report on an interim urgency ordinance enacting a moratorium on oil and gas drilling and production.
- Approved a letter opposing Assembly Bill 1087. The bill would require cities that seek to terminate public safety contracts to notify the contracting agency at least six months prior to termination and to provide a full fiscal analysis, showing that they are able to establish their own public safety departments.
- Received and filed a report on proposed State legislation that may impact the City.
- Received and filed a report from the I-710 Local Advisory Committee.

Regular Meeting of June 21

- Amended the aquatics supervisor classification by title to aquatic program manager and designated the position as exempt under the fair labor standards act.
- Approved a resolution authorizing city staff to apply for grant funding for capital and operating assistance from Metro.
- Appointed the Director of Safety and Community Services to serve as Chief Animal Control Officer.
- Received and filed a report on the Urban Entertainment Center Site Project Concept from Steve Craig from Craig Realty Group.
- Received and filed a report on an interim urgency ordinance enacting a moratorium on oil and gas drilling and production.

- Approved a recommendation to convene a workshop between the City Council, Planning Commission, Environmental Justice Advisory Task Force and Commerce Industrial Council on environmentally friendly land use strategies and the establishment of a green economy in Commerce.
- Approved a letter from the City recommending and urging assembly member Ricardo Lara to initiate a State audit of Central Basin Municipal Water District.
- Approved the drafting of a letter requesting that the California Citizens Redistricting Commission continue to be represented within the existing state and federal boundaries.
- Approved retaining Mayer Hoffman Mccann as the City's auditors.
- Approved a supplemental retirement plan that will act as an incentive to encourage qualified employees to voluntarily retire from the City.
- Approved proposed redevelopment legislative language that would seek to amend SB 286 (Wright) or AB 1250 (Alejo) two redevelopment reform bills.
- Adopted a resolution in support of AB 12, the Abolition of Child Commerce, Exploitation and Sexual Slavery Act 2011. AB 12 would require that a person who is convicted of a crime involving substantial sexual conduct, as defined, with a victim who is under 16 years of age or who seeks to procure or procures the sexual service of a prostitute, if the prostitute is a minor who is under 16 years of age, be ordered to pay an additional fine of \$25,000 to be deposited in the Victim-Witness Assistance Fund.
- Received and filed a report from the I-710 local advisory committee on the I-710 freeway expansion project.
- Adjourned in memory of Gilberto Perez, father of City employee Maggie Aguilar, Salvadore Magdalena, grandfather of City employees Jorge and Lily Magana.

Report to the People

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Please call (323) 887-4453 or (323) 887-4447 or visit us online at
www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

CITY OFFERS JOB PREPARATION WORKSHOPS

The Commerce Employment and Business Development Center provides on-going classes on job preparation, every Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. by appointment only. The classes are held at the Commerce EOC located in City Hall.

The workshops provide job seekers with the necessary tools to gain confidence when looking for employment. Workshop topics are: How to fill out an Application; Resume Writing; Interviewing Skills; Dress and Grooming Techniques; and Cover and Thank you Letters.

Those who have been laid off, are unemployed or looking for a career change can attend these classes to have their skills, strengths, weaknesses, interests and work values reassessed in preparation for a new job. Being prepared can make the difference between getting a job or getting rejected. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 323-887-4461.

The EBDC will host a free job fair in late September. Look for additional information on the City website, Commerce Cable Channel 3 and the Sept. Report to the People or call (323) 722-4805 to speak with city staff.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

IMPROVE YOUR HOME SECURITY: DON'T BECOME A VICTIM

In addition to remaining vigilant and joining Neighborhood Watch, one of the best ways to keep your home, family and neighborhood safe is by improving your home security.

Burglars often gain access to homes via unlocked doors or windows, which is why it's important to fully secure all doors and windows when no one is home. In fact, most residential burglaries occur during the day time, when residents are not home.

"Establish good relationships with your neighbors so you can look out for each other. Ask them to keep an eye out for suspicious activity and to report suspicious individuals to the Sheriff's Department," said Crime Prevention Coordinator Laura Tilley.

The nonprofit national Burglary Prevention Council recommends that the public make home security a part of their daily routine and has provided this list of the ten most important ways to secure a home:

- Keep all doors, windows, pet entrances and garage doors closed and securely fastened. Doors should have deadbolt locks with at least a 1" throw and reinforced strike plate with 3" screws. All windows should have window locks. Secure sliding glass doors. Place a metal rod or piece of plywood in the track and install vertical bolts.
- When service or delivery people come to the door, ask for identification. Call the company to confirm the identity of the technician.

- Cut up cartons for TVs, computers, stereos, etc. then tie the pieces together so a burglar going through the garbage does not know what was purchased.
- Do not leave ladders or tools lying around outside because they can assist a possible intruder.
- Install a wide-angle door viewer (peephole) in the front door to identify a caller before opening the door.
- Make a home inventory list, complete with photos or video. Store this list in a safety deposit box.
- Develop a home security plan and share it with family and neighbors.
- Write down local emergency telephone numbers, as well as the numbers of several nearby neighbors. Keep the numbers by the telephone(s).
- Don't put your name and residential address on your key ring. If you happen to lose it, it could be used to get into your home.
- Install and test a burglar alarm system. Post signs in conspicuous locations that indicate the premises are protected by a burglar alarm.

For more information about Neighborhood Watch or securing your home, call the City of Commerce Public Safety Division at (323) 722-4805. To report suspicious activity call the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Department at (323) 264-4151. To report any emergencies, call 911.

Keep in mind, neighbors working together make one of the best crime-fighting teams around.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

CONT. FROM PAGE 1



80-year-old Juan Cisneros who was the oldest runner in this year's 5K Freedom Run races past the finish line with a time of 32:33.

Vincent Rodriguez on drums, singer Angel-Baby Gonzalez, actress Danica Barajas, singer Jonathan Lopez, flute player Manuel Herrera, soccer player Nico Sanchez, dancer and former Miss Commerce 2010 Anrdea Ordaz and male dance troop 'Hello Kutie.'

The main attraction was the old fashioned carnival operated by Candyland Amusements.

Rides included the Zipper, a ferris wheel and a Moon Buggy. There were also classic carnival games including a ping-pong ball toss and a funhouse.

Park staff organized a Patriotic March, featuring Girl

Scout Troop #336, the Royal Court and program participants, and a wagon decorating contest, won by the Villalobos Family and Jason and Dina Mercado. The Firecracker 500, an interactive entertainment performance was a hit with both the contestants and the crowd.

The food and refreshments featured a wide selection of delicious American and ethnic foods. Some of the dishes being served by the City's civic and service organizations included fish tacos, kettle corn and bacon wrapped hot dogs.

Attendees also enjoyed a variety of local entertainment from the City's dance classes and a performance by Latin rock and dance band Soto, which recently returned from Iraq where they performed for the troops in the US Military.

To help make this year's celebration possible Commerce received generous donations for the event from two Commerce businesses. The Commerce Casino donated \$15,000 and the .99 Cents Only Stores donated \$4,999.99.

The Annual Independence Day Celebration was televised on Channel 3 by the City's Cable TV staff and volunteers and will be replayed throughout the month. The Annual Independence Day Celebration was coordinated by the Department of Parks and Recreation.



WIPE OUT CRIME

and Graffiti in Commerce!

Keep Our Streets Safe and Clean

Don't tolerate crime and graffiti in your neighborhood! Defacing public and private property affects everyone in the community by reducing property values and contributing to crime throughout the City.

To combat graffiti the City of Commerce will reward individuals \$500 for information that leads to the identification and conviction of a person arrested for tagging. If you do witness such an act do not approach the individual as it could be dangerous.

To aid in the prosecution of a suspected tagger contact the East LA Sheriff's Station at (323) 264-4151 and report the incident along with a description of the person and the details of the graffiti (color, paint or markers, surface being vandalized, etc.).

After making the report, get the report number so that you can track the claim in the event your information leads to a conviction. To follow up on your report call the Community Services Department at (323) 722-4805 extension 4460.

To have graffiti removed, call the City of Commerce Graffiti Hotline. Make a note of the date, time, and location of the incident and details of the graffiti. Removing graffiti within 48 hours is one of the most effective ways to discourage repeated tagging.

Reasons to call the Sheriff's Department:

- Someone screaming or shouting for help, or being forced into a vehicle
- Children or young adults loitering or walking around during school hours
- Someone looking into windows or parked cars
- Property being taken out of closed businesses or houses where no one is at home
- Vehicles cruising aimlessly
- Someone spraying graffiti on buildings
- Strangers sitting in a car, stopping to talk to kids
- Abandoned vehicles, suspicious people, unusual noises
- A sudden change in a neighbor's routine: newspapers piling up; drapes drawn; mailbox overflowing with mail, etc.

Do I have to give my name when reporting a crime?

No, the Sheriff's Department will attempt to investigate an anonymous crime tip; however, court decisions impose limitations on investigations based solely on anonymous tips. The Sheriff's Department recognizes that you may not want to be identified by the people you are reporting. If you have concerns, request that your information be kept confidential and that deputies do not contact you directly when they respond.

Who to Call:

East L.A. Sheriff's Station: (323) 264-4151
Sheriff's Anonymous Crime Tip Line
(Completely Confidential): (323) 838-4258
or email to commercecrimetips@lasd.org
Graffiti Hotline: (323) 887-4444
In an emergency always call 911

KEEP COMMERCE PARKS AND FACILITIES SAFE

Skateboarding, Bicycling, Similar Activities Prohibited at City Facilities

As bike riding, skateboarding and similar activities have increased at City parks and facilities, City residents have raised concern that the conditions have created a hazard for park patrons young and old.

In response, the City Council voted to amend the existing ordinance (Commerce Municipal Code Chapter 9.50 section 9.50.020) to give public safety personnel greater authority. The changes not only prohibit the use of bicycles, skateboards and other non-pedestrian equipment at City parks and facilities but include fines for failing to follow the law.

The fines for violating the ordinance, which include substantial court mandated fees, were approved by the City Council on May 3 and will be strictly enforced.

Individuals issued a citation will have the option of paying a non-refundable administrative fee of \$25 (1st offense) or a fee of \$50 (2nd offense) and attending a Diversion Program to void the violation and avoid court fees.

To register for the Diversion Program please read and follow these instructions:

1. Within 7 working days of the date of your citation, those in violation (and a parent) must appear in person at the Community Services Department (323) 887-4460 from Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. We are located in City Hall at 2535 Commerce Way, Commerce CA, 90040.
2. The non-refundable administrative fee is due at the time of registration and must be paid in order to proceed with an appointment for the Diversion program.
3. Failure to appear and complete the course within 30 days will result in the citation being sent to Traffic court for processing.

Residents are asked to refrain from these activities and to discourage their children from riding in City parks and facilities. Residents can call the Department of Parks and Recreation at (323) 887-4434 or the Department of Community Services at (323) 887-4460 for more information.



LIBRARY NEWS

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

4th Annual Back-to-School Family Night set for August 24

The Commerce Public Library is hosting the 4th Annual Back-to-School Family Night on Wednesday, August 24 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for students and their families, at the Greenwood Branch of the Commerce Public Library System. The library is located at the intersection of Gage and Greenwood Avenues and the program is free to the public.

Activities include live entertainment, teen crafts, Wii games, and raffles. The Comcats and Teen Center will have booths to let residents know more about their programs.

Children's Summer Reading Program Ending Celebration

The Children's Summer Reading Program ends on Saturday, August 6, which is the last day children and teens can report to earn prizes for summer reading.

The children's Summer Reading Program Ending Celebration will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 11 in the Veterans Park Gym and will feature the "John Abrams Animal Magic Show." Mr. Abrams is a popular Southern California magician who includes several animals and amazing magic tricks in his shows at schools and libraries. All children and families are welcome to attend the program.

The children's and tiny tot Summer Reading Program grand prize raffles will be held at the Ending Celebration. All children and tiny tots who completed the Summer Reading Program are entered in the grand prize raffles. The grand prizes, all of which were donated,

include Los Angeles Dodgers tickets, Universal Studios tickets, and tickets to the Kidspace Museum in Pasadena.

The top reader from each library branch will be honored at the celebration and receive a prize. City buses will be available to the program, leaving from the Bristow, Atlantic and Central libraries and returning after the program. Bus registration is limited so call starting August 1 to reserve seats.

Teen Summer Reading Program Ending Celebration

The Teen Summer Reading Program Ending Celebration Party will be at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at Central Library. All teens who registered are invited to the celebration. The grand prizes are a PSP, Ipod Nano, Dodger Tickets and many other prizes that will be given away to those teens that completed the program. Many other raffle prizes will also be awarded so come join the celebration with Wii games, board games, music and pizza.

Commerce Scholarship Program

This year 54 Commerce residents will be receiving a scholarship from the 2011 City of Commerce Scholarship Program. A total of \$80,000 will be awarded to the fifty-four recipients that range from \$250 - \$5,000. The annual awards dinner will be July 28th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Commerce Casino.

SALES AT CITADEL INCREASE

DEVELOPER ENVISIONS A FOURTH PHASE

Steve Craig, CEO of Craig Realty, provided the Commerce City Council with a report on the sales numbers and expansion of The Citadel that may include a 4th Phase in the not too distant future, as well as a brief update on the proposed Urban Entertainment Center at the June 21 Commerce City Council Meeting.

"I'm pleased to tell you that 100% of the third phase space is now in executed lease form," said Craig of the build out, which added 36 new stores, including a Nike outlet, as well as a large new Coach store set to open in the near future.

He also reported on the Citadel's sales numbers for 2010 and the projected numbers for 2011. According to Craig, the Citadel had \$124,000,000 in sales in 2009, which increased to \$153,411,000 in 2010. This represented a 23% increase or \$29,000,000 more in sales that Craig attributed to the addition of more square footage and a 10% increase in sales at already existing stores.

Craig's projections for this year are even better. "We're adding \$5.5 million in new sales each month. I expect we'll break the \$215 million dollar barrier this year."

Craig also reported that The Citadel's revenues in

December of last year totaled \$27 million, an amount which is nearing the retail center's annual revenues of approximately \$35 million prior to Craig Realty taking over the property. Craig stated he expects sales for the holiday shopping season to break the \$30 million mark this December.

To help The Citadel reach that mark, stores are open until 9 pm, an operational change which occurred as a result of requests from retailers. According to Craig, retailers were already staying open later to accommodate shoppers still wanting to make purchases after the previous 8 pm closing time. Craig added that Citadel management is also working closely with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on security.

The Citadel has also started a bus service to and from the Disneyland Hotel, which Craig said had increased revenue by \$20,000 a day.

Craig said that he envisions a fourth phase that would add another 40,000 square feet of space for additional parking and 12 to 13 new retail stores.

"We have some really large aspirations for where this thing can go. While we have traveled a great distance and made a lot of progress, we don't think that this is the end. We don't even think we're close to the end."

NO DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF UNUSED MEDICATION

Unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications that are put in drains or flushed down the toilet pollute the environment, so please take as prescribed and dispose of unused portions properly. Unused Medications should be:

1. Taken to a FREE household hazardous waste (HHW) collection center or event:

S.A.F.E. Center

2649 E. Washington Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90021
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

L.A. County Roundup

Held at various locations. For more info call 888-CleanLA or go to www.CleanLA.com. Saturdays only 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

2. Put in a sturdy, securely sealed container, then in a trash container where children and animals cannot reach them.

For more information, visit www.nodrugdownthedrain.org

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

■ READY FOR KINDERGARTEN



A view from the stands of the Commerce Preschool Graduating Class of 2011.

The City held the Annual Preschool Graduation Ceremony on the Veterans Park Baseball Field in June where students from Bandini, Bristow, Rosewood and Veterans Park celebrated achieving the first milestone in their academic career.

The preschool graduates dressed in caps and gowns of green, purple, red and blue marched onto the baseball field, which was decorated with balloons and school themed backdrops. Hundreds of cheering parents and family members filled the stands with cameras, camcorders and colorful graduation balloons.

Following introductions, the Flag Salute and National Anthem and a few words of encouragement from City Officials, the Preschoolers sang songs that included 'Off to Kindergarten,' 'Three Little Monkeys,' 'If You're Happy and You Know It,' and 'The Wheels on the Bus.'

For the grand finale each child strode to the podium, some of the boys in sunglasses, many of the girls with their hair curled, to receive their diplomas from City

Officials to wild applause from the crowd.

The Commerce Preschool Program focuses on early learning and preparation for Kindergarten. The program and the graduation ceremony are coordinated by the Department of Parks and Recreation under the supervision of Director Jim Jimenez.

The City would like to thank the children's families for their support at home throughout the school year and commends preschool instructors Gina Fierro, Veronica Jimenez, Melissa Romero, Desiree Munoz, Jessica Hannah, Oralia Rebollo and Denise Barajas for a job well done.

Parents and family members who would like to see the filmed event can contact the City's Public Information Office to purchase a copy for \$10 or they can visit their local Commerce library, where City Council Meeting and City event DVDs are available for check out. For more information, call the Public Information Office at (323) 887-4453 or the Commerce Library at (323) 722-6660.

GROWING A GREEN ECONOMY IN COMMERCE

■ COUNCIL APPROVES INFORMAL WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS 'GREEN ZONES'

At the urging of Commerce based environmental group East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ), the City Council voted to establish an informal working group to discuss establishing 'green zones' in the City of Commerce.

The proposed green zones would establish buffer areas between businesses and people residing in the area, and hope to attract job creating, revenue generating green businesses to Commerce.

"This issue comes down to two things; creating a healthy community and creating job opportunities," said Angelo Logan, founder of EYCEJ and Chair of the Commerce Environmental Justice Task Force.

The Council approved the creation of a working group to include the City Council, the Planning Commission, the Environmental Justice Advisory Task Force, the Commerce Industrial Council, members of the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, a professional consultant from the United State Environmental Protection Agency and economists.

City officials did state the concept warrants careful

analysis by staff to ensure land use strategies strike the right balance between protecting health and environment and the need to bring businesses and jobs to Commerce.

Logan stated that the concept has the support of 50th District Assemblymember and Chair for the Assembly Joint Legislative Audit Committee Ricardo Lara, the Commerce Industrial Council, local unions, and the City of Commerce Employees Association.

Mirabai Auer, Data Analyst for the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, who is currently working with the Southern California Environmental Justice Collaborative on their green zone policy, will be one of the participating members of the Commerce group.

"We believe this is an innovative way to reduce cumulative impacts and grow green jobs," she said.

The City Council directed staff to report back on the working group in 4 weeks. For additional information on the composition of the group, please contact the Commerce City Clerk.

CITY RETAINS AUDITOR

■ MHM TO CONTINUE PROVIDING AUDITING SERVICES

The Commerce City Council voted to retain auditor Mayer Hoffman McCann (MHM) to perform auditing services for the City of Commerce following the end of a 5-year agreement that coincided with public and media scrutiny of MHM related to the City of Bell scandal where they performed audit work.

The Council elected to go out to bid and the bidders,

which included MHM and six others, were evaluated by a committee comprised of the Director of Finance, Assistant Director of Finance and the City's two accountants.

The Council voted to retain Mayer Hoffmann McCann, P.C. (MHM) due to their professional and diligent conduct in providing auditing services to the City.

CITY OF COMMERCE CHANNEL 3



August 2011 Featured Highlights

AWARD WINNING CABLECASTS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. (Live every 1st and 3rd Tues.)
Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Thursdays at 5 p.m.
& Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Commerce Concert in the Park: "Trio Ellas"

Monday 10 a.m., Tuesday 3 p.m., Wednesday 5:30 p.m.,
Thursday 9 a.m., Friday 4:30 p.m., Saturday 6 p.m.
and Sunday 5:30 p.m.

COMMERCE CITY NEWS

Featuring: Library News, National Night Out, Summer Reading Program, Summer Movie Nights, Home of the Year, & an update on the City Operating Budget.

Monday 9 a.m. & 7 p.m., Tuesday 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.,
Wednesday 1 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. & 4 p.m.,
Friday 9 a.m. & 1 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
& Sunday 9 a.m. & 5 p.m.

COMMERCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"Teen Center"
Mondays at 2 p.m., Tuesdays at 4 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 4 p.m., Thursdays at 6 p.m.,
Fridays at 4 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m.
& Sundays at 1 p.m.

STEP AEROBICS CLASS

Mondays at 8 a.m., Tuesdays at 2 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 2 p.m., Thursdays at 10 a.m.,
Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 12 p.m.
& Sundays at 8 a.m.

"IN A COUNCIL MINUTE"

Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m.,
Wednesdays at 9 a.m., Thursdays at 2 p.m.,
Fridays at 2:43 p.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m.
& Sundays at 8 p.m.

TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES "RY CUMING"

Mondays at 12:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 11 a.m.,
Wednesdays at 9:43 p.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m.,
Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 1 p.m.
& Sundays at 11:43 a.m.

Channel 3 will play many different shows throughout the month of August 2011. Please see the ongoing Channel 3 TV Guide for more info on show titles and show broadcast times. Remember to check this channel for major emergency info and basic info on what's happening in the City. Channel 3 can be viewed anywhere in the world from our city web site at ci.commerce.ca.us. Thank you for your viewing support.

Report to the People **COMMERCE GALLERY**

VISITING VIP



50th District Assemblymember Ricardo Lara, shown here with the members of the Royal Court, celebrated July 4th in Commerce. From l. to r. are Miss Cinco De Mayo Janet Garcia, Miss Galaxy Natalie Contreras, Miss 4th of July Rocio Ulloa, Lara, Miss Commerce Lesly Mendez and Miss Dodgers Shanese Perea.

A JULY 4TH TRADITION



The Commerce 5K Freedom Run held on the morning of Independence Day drew nearly 350 runners.

4TH OF JULY CARNIVAL



Kids enjoyed old fashioned carnival games at the 4th of July carnival.

FIRECRACKER 500



The Firecracker 500 event was a hit at the Independence Day Celebration. Here a young man tries to balance 5 dice on a popsicle stick.

PUBLIC SAFETY



The Independence Day Celebration was a safe one thanks to the presence of dedicated Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies.

RUNNERS OF ALL AGES



Runners from the 8 & under division participated in the 5K Freedom Run as did runners up to 80 years of age.

PARAGON AWARD TO COMMERCE WATER POLO



The Parks and Recreation Department received the 2011 Paragon Award for outstanding contributions to the sport of Water Polo. From l. to r. are Director Jim Jimenez, Boy's Water Polo Coach Bobby Contreras, Aquatics Supervisor Rachel Baltierra and Women's Water Polo Coach Gabriel Martinez.

DEDICATED SENIOR



Nelle Zepeda, pictured here with daughter Lucinda Blancarte, was honored by the Council for her volunteer efforts at the Senior Center and for receiving the Older American Recognition Award from the LA County Commission for Older Adults.

HIP, HIP, HOORAY!



Preschool graduates cheer at their graduation ceremony.

HAPPY GRADUATE



Miranda Martinez is happy as can be after the Preschool Graduation.

PRESCHOOL DIPLOMA



Jesus Ruiz receives his preschool diploma from Parks and Recreation Commissioner Rudy Torres.

Montebello Commerce YMCA Preschool



FREE WEEK!

For Children ages 2-5 years

7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday

Half-day enrollment available

Financial Assistance available based on need from MAOF, GAIN, DCFS, Crystal Stairs, Regional Center and Cal Works
Non-potty trained Children welcome

For more information, call the Montebello Commerce YMCA Preschool Staff at
(323) 728-7380

The Commerce Department of Parks & Recreation

Youth Summer Sports Registration

Youth Flag Football and Volleyball

First Day of Registration: Saturday, August 27

League begins Monday, Sept. 28

Ages: 8-17 years, boys and girls

Hot Shot Soccer

First Day of Registration: Saturday, August 27

League begins week of Sept. 26

Hot Shot Younger: Born April 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006

Hot Shot Older: Born January 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005

Registration and Procedures

Parents can register their children at their local park, during each sport's sign-up period. Please have your child's current resident activity card when registering.

A current California Drivers License or California I.D. number and a deposit are required for a team uniform. The deposit will be refunded when the uniform is returned.

For more information, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at 323/887-4434 or the Sports Office at 887-4432.

The Commerce Community Services Department
Public Safety Division

Presents



TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

More than 1,600 people participated in last year's Nation Night Out Against Crime. This year you can join thousands of cities throughout the country to give crime a going away party! This year NNO will have 17 Neighborhood Watch Block Parties happening throughout the City

- First party kicks off at 4 pm at the Commerce Senior Center
- The other 16 parties will be held from 6:30 to 9 pm
- Free raffles at each party thanks to Target who has partnered with the City to sponsor this year's event
- A Block Captain Prep Meeting will be held on Wed. July 20

Parties will feature visits from The Sheriff's & Fire Departments, Community Safety Specialists, ComCat Volunteers, City Staff and the City Council

For more information, call the Public Safety Division at (323) 722-4805

Where Quality Service Is Our Tradition

www.cocpl.org



COMMERCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

"Where Quality Service Is Our Tradition"

City of Commerce Public Library and the Education Commission
invite you to the Sixth Annual

COLLEGE FAIR

"Take Action, Go to College!"

Inviting Middle School, High School and adult students.

Saturday, September 17, 2011

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Door prizes to first 100 families!

Veterans Park
6364 Zindell Ave.
Commerce, CA 90040

Special Guest Speaker:

Verónica Garcia

Senior Engineer at Pratt & Whitney
Rocketdyne

- College representatives
- Various Workshops
- Free Lunch
- Free Shuttle from Parks to Event

Raffles Include:

3 ACER Netbooks • Samsung Galaxy Tab • iPod Nano • Graphic Calculators • plus much

For more information please call (323) 722-6660 or visit www.cocpl.org

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COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL



Joe Aguilar, Mayor
 Tina Baca Del Rio, Mayor Pro Tem
 Robert C. Fierro, Councilmember
 Lilia R. Leon, Councilmember
 Denise M. Robles, Councilmember

The Public Information Office welcomes your story ideas, suggestions, and opinions. Deadline for submission is the first of each month for publication the following month.

For more information, call 323-887-4447 - www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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CITY WEBSITE

■ CONT. FROM PAGE 1

the information they need without making it difficult.”

The new website includes improved functionality that boosts site visitors’ ability to interact with City departments. The enhanced functionality includes: an archive featuring council and commission agendas, an event calendar with up-to-date community events and city meetings, a Citizen Request Tracker that can be used to report concerns to the City and an email sign-up that lets visitors subscribe to e-mail updates about City events and announcements.

“CivicPlus goes beyond typical government websites to create powerful, easy-to-use community engagement systems that connect people with government in new, more efficient ways,” said Ward Morgan, CEO of CivicPlus. “The City of Commerce officials have a lot of incredi-

ble information to share and technology keeps expanding the ways people can receive that information; that’s why CivicPlus service includes free software upgrades to make sure your community remains in the forefront of website functionality.”

Website users now have the capability to complete and submit forms, applications and surveys online, subscribe to City alerts and notifications, connect to the website with mobile devices and link to social networks.

The website colors have changed as well—expanding on the green/gold color palette used in the City Seal. In addition, non-text elements like photographs each include a text equivalent label to make the information accessible to people with disabilities.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

■ CONT. FROM PAGE 1



Crime Prevention Coordinator Laura Tilley at a neighborhood block party held during last year’s event.

while the other 16 parties are scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sheriff’s deputies, firefighters, community safety specialists, ComCat volunteers, the City’s Urban Search and

Rescue Team, and City officials and staff will visit each party to provide safety information and talk to residents about crime prevention.

Target has partnered with the City’s Community Services Department Public Safety Division to sponsor the event and will be providing raffle prizes and safety items. Target representatives will also be attending many of the block parties.

Hot dogs will be provided by the City and hot dog buns will be provided by Costco Business Center.

Help promote crime prevention and public safety. Participate in National Night Out.

For more information, including block party locations, call the Public Safety Division at (323) 887-4460.



AUGUST DATES TO NOTE

1
 Last day to register for the Summer Reading Program
 English Book Club, 6 p.m.
 City Council/CDC, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
 Youth Advisory Commission, 7 p.m.

2
 National Night Out Against Crime

3
 Senior Citizens Commission, 12:30
 Teen Book Club, Greenwood Library, 4:30 p.m.
 Housing Committee, 5 p.m.

Traffic Commission, 6:30 p.m.

4
 Parks and Recreation Commission, 6 p.m.

5
 Movie Night at the Park, Bristow Park

6
 Reporting ends for Summer Reading Programs

8
 Education Commission, 6 p.m.

9
 Beautification Committee, 3:30 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Bristow Park Library, 4:30 p.m.
 I-710 Local Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.

10
 Teen Summer Reading Program Ending Party, 5 p.m.

11
 Community Services Commission, 6 p.m.
 Summer Reading Program Ending Party, Veterans Park, 6 p.m.

12
 Movie Night at the Park, Bristow Park

16
 Library Embajadores, 6 p.m.
 City Council/CDC, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.

17
 Employment Task Force, 1 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Atlantic Library, 4:30 p.m.

19
 Movie Night at the Park, Rosewood Park

22
 Adult Computer Class, 5:30 p.m.

23
 Library Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Central Library, 5:30 p.m.
 I-710 Local Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.

24
 Back to School Family Night, Greenwood Library, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

26
 Movie Night at the Park, Rosewood Park

27
 Football/Volleyball/Hot Shot/Soccer Registration, 10 a.m., All Parks

29
 Spanish Book Club, 6 p.m.

RTTP Artículos en Español

Si le interesa recibir la versión en Español de algún artículo, por favor llame a la Oficina de Información Pública al (800) 887-4442.

Cuando llame, indique el título del artículo, la fecha y la dirección de su domicilio o correo electrónico. La versión traducida se le mandará.