



# Report to the People

Where Quality Service  
Is Our Tradition

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INDEPENDENCE DAY  
CELEBRATION!

Volume 51 No. 6 June 2011

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The Veterans Park Orioles Hot Shots team is ready to play ball during the Commerce Hot Shots Tee Ball Season Opener held at the Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration at James W. Bristow Park.

## COMMERCE CELEBRATES CINCO DE MAYO



The Commerce Folklorico Program performed at Cinco de Mayo.

More than 4,000 people gathered to pay tribute to Mexican culture and commemorate the Battle of Puebla at the City of Commerce Annual Cinco de Mayo celebration held on May 1 at Bristow Park.

Under beautiful sunny skies, official hostess Miss Cinco de Mayo 2011 Janet Garcia kicked off the event with the help of City officials

and Master of Ceremonies Oralia Rebollo.

Residents enjoyed the live performances from various city dance and youth programs in addition to other activities that included karaoke, ping pong ball tosses, face painting provided by the Commerce Girl Scouts, balloon art, raffles, piñata breaks, pony rides and giant bouncers.

For sports enthusiasts, there was a handball tournament early in the day. Later on the Hot Shots Tee Ball season opener kicked off with exciting games featuring the teams from all four of the City's parks.

This year's boxing exhibition was also a crowd pleaser. One lively bout featured 12 year old Brandon Alejandro Huesias of the Commerce Boxing Program. The large crowd gathered and

was riveted by what some attendees felt was the best fight of the day's exhibition that ended in victory for Huesias.

Food booths served homemade, authentic Mexican food, beverages and snacks. There were tacos, pozole, churros, horchata, fruit bowls, pizza, hot dogs and other tempting treats, making it difficult to choose just one dish.

The Show Mobile featured non-stop entertainment including Commerce Folklorico Dancers, Commerce Tap and Ballet, Recreation Jazz, Recreational Dance Class and many other performances.

The Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration is coordinated by the Department of Parks and Recreation under the supervision of Parks and Recreation Director Jim Jimenez.

## RESIDENT FYI: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STREET SWEEPING



The City of Commerce provides street sweeping services to keep residential neighborhoods looking clean and attractive but there are a couple of things for residents to be aware of regarding street sweeping to ensure clean streets and quality service.

During certain seasons, particularly when Commerce experiences heavy winds and rains, a greater amount of debris ends up on the streets, which may require more than one pass by the street sweeper.

If you notice that there is a significant amount of debris left on the street after the street sweeper has passed, residents are encouraged to call the Community Development Department so the City can notify the contractor.

In addition, there are certain holidays on which contract service will not be performed. On these non-service holidays special scheduling adjustments will be implemented usually on the Saturday of that week so the contractor can return to regularly scheduled street sweeping the following Monday.

The holidays that there is no street sweeping service are New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day/4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after, and Christmas Day. For more information on street sweeping services or to report a significant amount of debris left after the street sweeper passes, call the Community Development Department at (323) 722-4805.

## CITY COUNCIL WORKS TO CLOSE BUDGET GAP

The Commerce City Council is actively seeking ways to close a 2011/2012 budget deficit projected at \$1.5 million. While the deficit is significantly less than the \$2.1 million shortfall the City faced last year, bridging the gap still poses a major challenge. The 2011/2012 general fund projected revenue is \$47,062,418 while the total projected ex-

penses are \$48,574,393, creating a deficit of \$1,511,975, said Finance Department Director Vilko Domic at the April 10 Council meeting.

In adopting the budget, the Council's primary goals are to maintain services, protect the workforce, and keep the City financially sound. The Council has the difficult task of deciding

how to distribute limited revenue among these three goals.

To help close the gap, the Council is expected to study the cost of employee benefits and civic improvements like road and facility maintenance. The cost of employee pensions has risen while revenue has declined.

The budget proposal uses

\$500,000 from the budget stabilization fund and calls for a \$280,000 set aside for the City Water System.

Residents are invited to attend public budget hearings scheduled for June 8, 14, 15, 22 and 29 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

The State's Legislative Counsel is calling the Governor's proposal to eliminate redevelopment illegal. While this is good news for cities there are still other legal challenges to be considered. A package of bills designed to reform redevelopment has also been introduced which will maintain redevelopment as a tool for cities, increase accountability and restrict its use.

The 2011/2012 budget process is nearing completion. During the three years of the Great Recession, the City Council sought to keep Commerce as resilient and viable as possible. While our country is on the road to recovery, it is proving to be slow and uncertain. Until the economy improves significantly, Council members will continue to be fiscally prudent to ensure the sustainability of the City now and in the future.

This year our projected budget deficit is approximately \$1.5 million. Although, the projected shortfall isn't as large as last fiscal year, bridging the gap will be just as challenging. In establishing a budget, the Council's primary goals are to protect City services for residents, protect the City's workforce, and protect the City's financial position. All three goals have unique and competing interests and achieving these three goals with limited funds is complex and difficult.

All that said, if the Governor's proposed elimination of redevelopment comes to pass, the Commerce deficit will be much more severe and the budget solution much more complex.

Overall, the costs of providing the same level of service to the community and employee benefits have risen in recent years, while City revenues have declined. Although this trend is not limited to City of Commerce it is a cause of concern for the City Council.

The increase in expenditures is the result of increased costs in health benefits for active employees and retirees, pensions, fire and sheriff's contracts and maintaining city owned facilities and roadways. The City's revenues have decreased by more than three million over three years due to the economy. That said, Commerce remains in a significantly stronger position than many other cities.

Residents are invited to attend public budget hearings scheduled for June 8, 14, 15, 22 and 29 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Your input is always welcomed.

Summer begins this month and the City has many activities planned for you and your family.

The Summer Safety Fair, which promotes children's health, safety and wellness, kicks off at 10 a.m., June 4, at Veterans Memorial Park. Preschool Graduation begins at 5 p.m., June 11 also at Veterans Park.

If you are looking for fun and low-cost activities to enjoy with your family this season, look no further than your local parks and libraries. The Department of Parks and Recreation will be offering swim lessons, soccer lessons, movie nights and trips to Camp Commerce. Younger children can enjoy the spray pools which will open on June 27 at all City parks. Call the Department of Parks and Recreation at (323) 887-4434 for more information.

The Library's Summer Reading Program kicks off at 10 a.m., on June 25, in the Council Chambers. The program is a great way to strengthen your youngsters' literacy skills and keep them reading this summer. The library offers many other activities and services as well, including homework help, literacy tutoring and story times. Check out the libraries website at [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org) for more information.

Father's Day is June 19. Don't forget to take the time to acknowledge dear old dad.

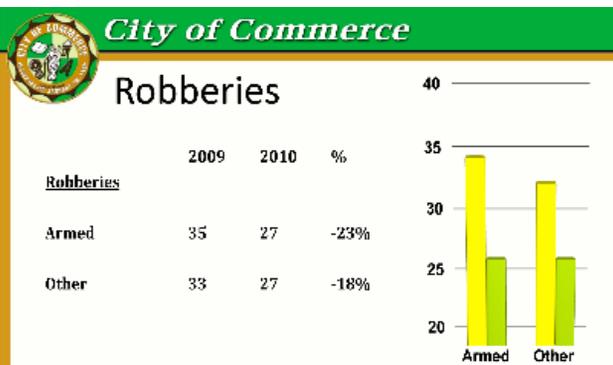
Schools, colleges and universities will be hosting commencement activities this month to honor 2011 graduates. On behalf of the City Council we congratulate the Class of 2011 on their achievements.

Sincerely,  
 Jorge Rifa



# MUNICIPAL NOTES

## PART ONE CRIMES DOWN IN COMMERCE



The LA County Sheriff's Department reports that robberies in Commerce fell more than 20% in just twelve months.

Part one crimes were down 6.1 percent in Commerce last year when compared to 2009, reported Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Captain Henry Romero at the City Council meeting April 19.

Part one crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, grand theft auto and arson. Robbery was down 20.6 percent, assault down 30.5 percent, larceny down 14.4 percent and arson down by 58.3 per-

cent.

The number of homicides totaled two, the same as in 2009. Four rapes were reported in 2010, compared to two the year before. All rapes reported for both years were related to domestic violence.

Burglary was up by 13.8 percent and grand theft auto by 16.5 percent, but Romero said that the Commerce Sheriff's Special Problems Team and East Los Angeles Station detectives made significant arrests that should result in a decline of both crimes by the end of 2011. The Special Problems Team, made up of four deputies dedicated to the City of Commerce, focus specifically on crime trends and quality of life issues in the city. Romero also reported on traffic enforcement.

Traffic citations were down 40 percent, Romero said. Citations numbered 4990 in 2010 and 8272 in 2009. Romero said this was partly because one of the three traffic enforcement officers was out for four and a half months last year. Collisions were down 5 percent, from 533 in 2009 to 509 in 2010. Of the total collisions for both years, 424 were non injury in 2009, while 456 were non injury in 2010.

## COUNCIL ACTIONS

### Regular Meeting of April 5

- Welcomed and congratulated 2011 Miss Commerce and her Royal Court.
- Acknowledged the Commerce Public Services Tree Maintenance Division for earning Tree City USA 2010 Award and the winners of the Arbor Day 2011 Poster Contest. Recognized City employees and recent retirees with 30 or more years of service credit.
- Presented the Employee Customer Service Award to Sergio Castro.
- Approved authorization to close the Teen Center on Saturday and increase week day hours of operation.
- Ratified the appointment of City Administrator Jorge Rifa as representative to the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Water Management Authority and Environmental Services Manager Gina Nila as an alternate.
- Approved a resolution accepting the work performed by Rodriguez Construction for refurbishment of the Rosewood Park picnic shelters.
- Approved a resolution accepting the work performed by SpectraTurf for the Playground Rubberized Resurfacing Project.
- Approved a resolution accepting the work performed by USA Shade and Fabric Structures, Inc. for the Park Playground Shade Structure Project.
- Approved a supplement agreement required to receive a Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant to improve Washington Boulevard /I-5 Interchange Ramps to Fidelia Avenue.
- Approved a resolution renewing the Community Development Block Grant Funded Professional Service Agreement with Adrian-Gaus Inc. and the Capital Improvement Project Funded Professional Services Agreements with Willdan Engineering, Inc., and Onward Engineering, Inc. through fiscal year 2011/2012.
- Approved a resolution approving the Community Development Block Grant Professional Services Agreement with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department through fiscal year 2011/2012.
- Approved the 2011 Youth Education and Service Program. Revised the I-710 Local Advisory Committee Membership structure by creating alternate member positions for the planning and traffic commissioner appointments and two "member at large" positions.
- Authorized staff to issue Requests for Proposals to provide street sweeping services.
- Authorized staff to issue Requests for Proposals to provide tree maintenance services.
- Selected delegates and alternates among its members to serve on various boards.
- Approved a recommendation to amend the Commerce Municipal Code on skateboarding violations to include fees, additional riding devices and violation penalties.
- Approved a resolution declaring mold, water damage and structural damage on Camp Commerce cabins an emergency situation and approving agreements with Allied Environmental Services and Custom Finish Construction for

repair work.

- Appointed committee and commission members.

### Regular Meeting of April 19

- Commended Mary Gibson for receiving the 50th Assembly District Women of Distinction Award. The award acknowledges women who have improved the quality of life for residents in the community.
- Renewed the Volunteers of America Los Angeles Commerce Head Start status as a 2011 Civic Organization.
- Approved the Request for Proposals to replace the heavy duty vehicle lift at the Transportation Service Center.
- Approved a resolution adopting the sewer system management plan in compliance with the state water resources control board's statewide general waste discharge requirements and monitoring and reporting program.
- Approved a resolution for the Casino to purchase the Community Development Commission property at 2301 Tube-way Ave. for \$2,013,897 and the Commission to purchase the Casino Spur Property for \$1,219,095. The purchase of the Spur property will complete the land acquisition needed for creating the Telegraph Commercial/Entertainment Corridor.
- Received and filed the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department January 2010 through December 2010 Crime Statistics Report.
- Received and filed a report on the pavement failures of Rosini and Rosewood Street Improvement Project.
- Received and filed a financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010.
- Received and filed a report from Bartel Associates, LLC on actuarial studies—on a detailed governmental accounting standards board statement and the other the City's current retirement plan with CalPERS.
- Received and filed a report on the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2011/2012.
- Approved a first reading of a proposed ordinance to amend the Commerce Municipal Code to prohibit skate-boarding and similar activities in areas of the City.

## Report to the People

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# MUNICIPAL NOTES

## COUNCIL VOTES TO CONTINUE SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT SENIOR CENTER

The Commerce Senior Center will remain open Sundays from 10 am to 2 pm at least until the end of June.

At that time the City Council is expected to decide if there are enough people using the center to justify keeping it open six days a week. It is closed Saturday.

Parks staff reported to the City Council on May 5 that following a six month marketing plan to increase attendance and promote its Sunday hours Sunday patronage was improving.

The City Council is expected to discuss maintaining the Sunday schedule as a budget matter for the 2011/2012

fiscal year that starts July 2011.

The center sponsors a variety of events and activities for Commerce residents 50 years of age and older. Patrons can take part in dances, exercise classes, yoga, pool and various outings.

The air conditioned center is located next to city hall at the corner of Commerce Way and Jillson. For more information on the Senior Center's services and hours of operation residents are encouraged to call the Center at (323) 887-4430.

## ROSINI/ROSEWOOD PAVEMENT FAILURE UPDATE

To bring the City Council and the community up to date on the pavement failure issues in the Rosewood and Rosini areas of Commerce, a report was provided by City staff and contracted Soil Engineer Steve Marvin of Labelle Marvin Engineering.

According to the report, the problems stem from two issues; the integrity in the road base and the traffic pattern (or traffic index) where the pavement has failed. Los Angeles County Public Works performed the initial

Material Analysis Report on which the pavement repairs are based on. These design issues are the focus of ongoing discussions with Los Angeles County, regarding responsibility for the pavement failures.

Staff concluded the report stating that they would return to Council with options and costs to repair the affected streets and roads as well as an update on the continuing discussions with the County. Staff projected that the work will be completed this summer.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On a continuing basis the City Council has City staff tracking bills at the State and Federal levels of government that can have an impact on the City of Commerce.

The City Council unanimously voted to oppose Senate Bill 701 sponsored by Senator Ron Calderon. According to Water Replenishment District Government Affairs Manager Adeline Yoong, the bill would add two additional elected directors to the Central Basin Municipal Water District, which currently has five directors. In addition to increasing the number of representatives of the district, the bill would task Central Basin with preparing an annual ground water engineering and monitoring report, which has been conducted and produced by the Water Replen-

ishment District since 1960.

The Council also voted to oppose House of Representatives Bill 1002 which would impose a moratorium on taxing of mobile phone companies by state and local governments. The Council's opposition stems from the fact that profits for mobile phone companies have continued to increase and such a moratorium would limit the ability of government agencies, including Commerce to tax such economic activity.

The City is also continuing to monitor a number of other legislative bills focused on issues such Internet gambling, high speed rail and redevelopment agency funds.

## CIVIC ORGANIZATION STATUS FOR VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

The Commerce City Council approved the civic organization status for the Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA) at their April 19 Meeting.

Civic and service organizations like VOALA are granted this status by the City because of the benefit they provide through the community via charitable or volunteer activi-

ties tied to the organization's goals.

Becoming an approved civic organization also provides civic organizations with support from the City that includes use of bus transportation and city facilities, as well as fund raising opportunities at various City events.

## BUDGET SESSION CDs AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Copies of the 2011/2012 City Council Budget Sessions are available upon request from the City Clerk's office. For additional information call the Commerce City Clerk's Office at 323. 722.4805.

Copies of all regular meetings of the City Council are streamed live on the City website and are available on DVD at the Commerce Library.

# YES PROGRAM OFFERS YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT

## APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE



**City of Commerce**  
**YES PROGRAM**  
Where Commerce Youth Find Work

**YES Program Requirements**

- Applications Available Now
- Must Be A Commerce Resident
- Application Deadline May 20, 2011
- Graduation/residency cards are not eligible for the program
- Minimum age for participation in the program is 14-19 years of age. (May Not Exceed 19 years of age while participating in the program)
- \$8.00 Hourly Wage
- Pre-qualified applicants will be selected based upon a random lottery process

For more information call Human Resources  
323-722-4805 ext. 2266

The City Council voted to offer the Youth Education and Service Program or YES Program year-round-on a trial basis-to provide Commerce youth the opportunity to work in seasons besides the summer and allow City departments to employ youth when they are most needed. While the number of job positions will remain at 85, youth will work their allotted

need of the City department for which they are assigned.

The pilot year-round program begins June 1 and ends June 30, 2012.

The YES Program, now approaching its 15th year, offers Commerce youth meaningful employment and the opportunity to learn about and serve their City.

The program employs Commerce residents from ages 14 to 19. Youth receive minimum wage and work in entry-level services in various city departments. The job program teaches youth work-related skills and keeps them busy and learning during the summer months. It provides opportunities for youth to identify and cultivate their career interests. Pre-qualified applicants are selected for employment through a lottery.

For more information, please call the Human Resource Department at (323) 722-4805, ext. 2266.

hours in fall, winter, spring or summer, depending on the



# BUS OPERATOR GOES EXTRA MILE



Sergio Castro

During his 17 years of employment with the City, bus operator Sergio Castro has built a reputation for providing excellent customer service to patrons and co-workers alike.

"Good customer service means going the extra mile to help someone--treating any customer with respect and helping to find a solution for a problem," said Castro, explaining his philosophy. "If you are unable to fix the

problem, refer or direct the customer to the person who has the solution to the problem. A good customer service person shows respect to anyone seeking help."

This approach, coupled with a strong work ethic and leadership ability, earned Castro the Citywide Employee Customer Service Recognition award, which was presented to him at the April 5 City Council meeting.

Appreciative of the pat on the back, Castro's quick to share it with his colleagues. "This award is for all of my coworkers in the Transportation Department because all of us give out good customer service," he said.

Included in Castro's nomination packet were letters of praise submitted by employees David Alaniz, Ann Cruz, Robert Chavez and retirees Louie Bajarano and Danny Gomez.

All agreed that Castro was a top notch employee who went the extra mile. "My parents always showed me to complete my work and not to leave anything halfway done. So when I start a task, I do not leave until the task has been completed," said Castro.

The most recent letter, submitted by Chavez, also commended Castro for his assistance during a gas leak at the Rosewood Senior Apartments in November. The Director of Safety and Community Services noted Castro's patience and concern for seniors that were being transported to the Senior Center.

"I didn't do anything special. I just provided a bus to evacuate, which is a resource the city has in place in case of an emergency," said Castro, modestly.

Not wanting to claim all the credit, he adds that shop supervisor Greg Guzman, mechanic Arthur Rodriguez, and bus operator Jose Castillo also played a vital role. While his title is bus operator III, Castro has served in other capacities, including as a supervisor and trainer, giving him the opportunity to provide good customer service to his fellow employees.

"I contribute to the department in any way I can--if they need me to train someone, drive a route, excursion, Medi-Van, and when they need me as a supervisor. I am what you may call a jack of all trades," he said.

He is currently pursuing an AA degree and eventually hopes to earn a bachelor's degree so he can become a supervisor.

"I enjoy every aspect of my job," Castro said. "I love what I am doing and I love the challenge that comes with the job. If I didn't like it, I would not be doing this for all these years."

# I-710 Local

## Advisory Committee Update

The Commerce I-710 Local Advisory Committee is conducting numerous public meetings to keep the community well informed says Assistant Director of Community Development Alex Hamilton who is also the committee liaison.

Reporting to the City Council on April 19, Hamilton said the committee conducted a Business Outreach Meeting in the Council Chambers on April 7 that was attended by approximately 50 members of the business community to discuss the project and get public input.

On that same day the I-710 LAC met with City Administrator Jorge Rifá and representatives from Metro to discuss air quality concerns, property acquisition and health and environmental impacts.

The I-710 LAC is also planning to participate in a Commerce Industrial Council/Chamber of Commerce sponsored focus meeting for the businesses who have been closely following the project, which include the Commerce Casino, Unified Grocers and numerous others. Hamilton said that given the size of the I-710 Expansion project it is important to share as much information as possible to ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate in the process.

"We want to make sure businesses are our partners in this effort so when the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is out everyone is already aware of and familiar with the project," said Hamilton.

According to Hamilton, the I-710 LAC is currently evaluating and discussing four different roadway alignment options for the project that will directly impact Commerce. Their goal is to narrow that number down for study in the EIR.

The purpose of the project is to study adding more general purpose lanes and a dedicated freight corridor from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to relieve congestion and reduce air pollution.

The City of Commerce I-710 Local Advisory Committee (LAC) has been meeting regularly since 2008 to advise on the community's desired outcomes for the project and to provide feedback from the perspective of residents and businesspeople in the City of Commerce.

Residents can learn about the I-710 Freeway Expansion Project by attending the I-710 Local Advisory Committee meetings in the City Hall Emergency Operations Center on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.



The I-710 Committee meets at in the City Hall Emergency Operations Center on the fourth Tuesday of every month to discuss the I-710 Freeway Expansion Project.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### 2011 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Commerce Library encourages students to sign up for the Summer Reading Program to help maintain and improve their reading skills over the summer vacation. The program is free for children of all ages and is designed to encourage the reading of books centered around the theme, "One World, Many Stories."

The children who complete the most books have a chance to win prizes while all readers can participate in a variety of entertaining events and activities.

The department reported that last year 1,288 children registered for the program, 625 children completed the program and 329 earned trophies. The library received prize donations from McDonald's, Golf 'N Stuff, Legoland, Universal Studios, Shakey's Pizza, and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Children can sign up for the Commerce Summer Reading Program at any Commerce library beginning Monday, June 20. The last day to register for the program is Monday, August 1. The reporting period starts June 27.

The Kick-Off event will feature "Dream Carver," a puppet show about Oaxacan woodcarvings presented by the Swazzle puppeteers at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 25 in the City Council Chambers. Tickets for the event are free and will be available at 1:00 p.m. Monday, June 20 at all Commerce libraries (5 ticket limit per family).

The Summer Reading Program Ending Party features John Abrams' Animal Magic Show on Thursday, August 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Veterans Park Gym.

The Commerce Library system is comprised of the Central Library and three branch libraries. All provide free Internet access and have a good collection of books for children and teens.

The "Tiny Tots" Reading Program is for children from birth to three years old. Parents, babies and toddlers in the Tiny Tots program share books, rhymes, songs, and other early learning activities to earn prizes. Children in the Children's Summer Reading Program (ages 4 to completed fifth grade) track the time they spend reading to earn prizes.

For more information call the Commerce Central Library at (323) 722-6660.

### Special Storytimes

All children are invited to the Commerce Public Library System's special summer Storytimes during. These special summer Storytimes are free and open to the public and feature special guests and activities.

For the week of June 27th Storytime at all four libraries will feature a visit from musician Brother Yusef who will help everyone "Celebrate the Blues."

The week of July 11th will feature Wild Wonders, which will bring animals from around the world for "Walk on the Wild Side."

The week of July 25th will feature Flights of Fantasy Story Theater storytellers who will share stories from around the world in their "One World, Many Stories" shows.

Storytimes are at 6 pm and take place on Mondays at the Central Library, Tuesdays at the Atlantic branch, Wednesdays at the Greenwood Branch, Thursdays at the Bristow Park branch.

Preschool Storytime will be held at 11 am on Fridays in the summer at the Greenwood branch for young children.

### 'You Are Here' Program for Teen Readers

Teens can explore the wonderful world of reading at their public libraries this summer when the Commerce Public Library presents "You Are Here," a free reading incentive program for youth in grades six through twelve.

Teens can travel the world and across time through books and weekly activities. Reading books and attending weekly activities is the ticket to winning an awesome prize at the end of summer party.

Teens can sign up at any Commerce library beginning June 20 and can start reporting their progress starting June 27th. Please check the library's website for all the summer weekly teen programs.

For information on any of these programs library patrons can call the Commerce Central Library at (323) 722-6660 or local branch library at the appropriate number below:

Atlantic Branch Library (323) 780-1176

Bristow Branch Library (323) 265-1787

Greenwood Branch Library (562) 927-1516

## COMMERCE HONORS VOLUNTEERS

### VOLUNTEERS EFFORTS BOLSTER LIBRARY PROGRAMS



A group of volunteers pose for a photo at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Breakfast.

More than 40 volunteers were honored by the City of Commerce at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on April 16.

At the breakfast 33 volunteers were presented with certificates of appreciation while 8 volunteers were given Literacy Awards for contributing a large number hours to the Library's Literacy Program throughout the year.

These 8 honorees are Beatriz Sarmiento (484.5 hours), Cynthia A. Kang (406 hours), Alice Moeller (253.5 hours), Armando Martinez (159.5 hours), Tarry Sampson (73 hours), Samantha Rocha (61 hours), Isabel Perez (60 hours) and Elizabeth Flores (60 hours).

All 41 volunteers served in various Library programs

throughout the year, including Adult Literacy that provides reading and writing tutoring for adults, the 'Commerce Kids Read' and 'One-on-One' tutoring programs that provide reading and writing help to children, the Library's Embajadoras or Ambassadors who share information about library programs and services with their friends and neighbors; the Homebound Service Volunteers who deliver books and other library materials to Commerce residents that are unable to leave their homes; and new volunteer Evelyn Diaz who provides college and financial aid advisement to college bound residents and their families.

In addition to the volunteers the Library Employee of the Year Library Assistant Delmy Guillen was recognized for her outstanding customer service.

"What you do is help people get moving down the road to self fulfillment and achieving their dreams. You are able to do that because you instinctively understand that simple acts of kindness go a long way. A touch, a smile, or words of encouragement have the potential to change a life for the better and because of your efforts we see it happen time and time again," said a City Official in attendance.

To get involved as a volunteer call the Commerce Adult Literacy Division at (323) 722-6660.

# 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.

**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](mailto:commercecrimetips@lasd.org)

**Graffiti Hotline:** (323) 887-4444

**In an emergency always call 911**

# DONATE A CAR TO A GOOD CAUSE

## DONATE A CAR TO A GOOD CAUSE

Keep Commerce Beautiful and help a good cause by recycling operating and non-operating vehicles. There are many charities dedicated to helping children, cancer research, and animals in need. To donate a vehicle to the charity closest to your heart, visit the following websites:

[www.DonateAcar.com](http://www.DonateAcar.com) (serves many causes)

[www.CalCruising.com](http://www.CalCruising.com) (children)

[www.CarsForBreastCancer.org](http://www.CarsForBreastCancer.org) (cancer - women)

[www.PurpleHeartCarDonation.org](http://www.PurpleHeartCarDonation.org) (cancer - general)

[www.CarDonations.com](http://www.CarDonations.com) (diabetes)

[www.MaddAboutCars.org](http://www.MaddAboutCars.org) (d.u.i)

[www.Kidney.org](http://www.Kidney.org) (kidney disease)

[www.Autos4animals.com](http://www.Autos4animals.com) (animals)

# ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS!

## THE CITY OF COMMERCE IS SPONSORING THE 2011 HOME OF THE YEAR CONTEST!

The contest is open to all Commerce residents who have consistently maintained their properties or have recently renovated or landscaped

Registration forms are available now at City Hall

Return your completed registration form to the Code Enforcement Division by July 25, 2011.

The winning homeowner will receive a \$100 gift certificate, a plaque, and will be recognized by the City Council at an upcoming meeting in September.

For more information, call the Code Enforcement Division at (323) 722-4805, ext. 2329

# LACVCD URGES PUBLIC TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

## THREAT OF WEST NILE VIRUS AND OTHER VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES RETURNS



"Wintertime rainfall followed by unusually warm weather has created an ideal breeding environment for mosquitoes," said Robert Gay, president of the Mosquito and Vector Control

Association of California.

"That is why we are asking residents to take extra personal precautions to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases."

West Nile Virus is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis, and lead to death in humans, horses, some bird species and other wildlife.

The following safety precautions are recommended by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH):

- Eliminate or manage all sources of standing water to discourage mosquito breeding.
- spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and the first two hours after sunset.
- If you are outdoors when mosquitoes are biting, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- insect repellent containing EPA-registered active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, and Oil of lemon eucalyptus (PMD). Always apply according to label instructions.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem or potential mosquito breeding source where you live or work.

According to the CDPH, 111 human cases of West Nile virus were reported in 2010. Of the reported cases, there were six fatalities. CDPH and the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict West Nile virus will again pose a public health threat in California in 2011.

# CITY OF COMMERCE CHANNEL 3



## June 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 PRESCHOOL GRADUATION live Broadcast from Veterans Park on Saturday 6/11/11

Mondays 10:00 a.m., Tuesdays 3:00 p.m.,  
Wednesdays 5:30 p.m., Thursdays 9:00 a.m.,  
Fridays 4:30 p.m., Saturdays 6:00 p.m.  
& Sundays 5:30 p.m.

### COMMERCE TEEN CENTER PERFORMING ARTS GROUP, "THE OUTSIDERS PERFORMANCE"

Mondays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 12 p.m.,  
Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Thursdays at 8 p.m.,  
Fridays at 1 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m.  
& Sundays at 10 a.m.

### COMMERCE CITY NEWS

Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Comcat Graduation,  
Easter Egg Hunt, Garden Show, & highlight  
overview of the City Operating Budget.  
Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 1:43 p.m.,  
Wednesday at 1 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m.,  
Friday at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 5:43 p.m.  
& Sundays at 9 a.m. & 5 p.m.

### COMMERCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS "CITY TRANSPORTATION"

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 "SOUL LIVE" SANTA MONICA PIER CONCERT

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 June 2011. Please see the ongoing Channel 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](http://ci.commerce.ca.us). Thank you for your viewing support.

# Report to the People **COMMERCE GALLERY**

## WOMAN OF DISTINCTION



The City Council presented Mary Gibson a commendation on April 19 for earning the 50th Assembly District's "Women of Distinction Award." Gibson received the "Women of Distinction" award, in part, for her work as a Commerce COMCAT volunteer. She is pictured here with fellow COMCATs.

## CLASS OF 2011



COMCAT graduates are sworn in as disaster workers in April.

## CITY FOUNDER



City founder Valentina Bassett poses with members of the COMCATs at the Commerce Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 1.

## COMMERCE BOXING



The Commerce Boxing Exhibiton at the Cinco de Mayo Celebration was a hit.

## THE EMCEES



Master of Ceremonies Oralia Rebollo is pictured here with Miss Commerce and the Royal Court. Also assistig as an emcee was Miss Cinco de Mayo Janet Garcia (far left).

## TAKE US OUT TO THE BALL GAME



A group of Commerce Hotshots smile in anticipation of their first game of the season.

## BASE HIT



A Hotshot teeball player races up the first base line.

## COMMERCE GARDEN SHOW WINNER



Lupe Barragan was the 2011 Commerce Garden Show overall winner.

## HUNTING FOR EGGS



Local children take off to hunt for eggs during the City's Easter Egg Hunt held at Rosewood Park on April 23.

## KEEP COMMERCE BEAUTIFUL



Residents like William Sanger pictured here with volunteer Raul Elenes (r.) dropped off bulky items, green waste and other items during the Commerce Spring Clean-Up on April 30.

## WOMAN'S CLUB DONATES TO SCHOLARSHIP



Woman's Club of Rosewood Park President Sandy Cornejo and members of the Woman's Club present a check to Commerce Scholarship Coordinator Beatriz Sarmiento.

Woman's Club of Rosewood Park Annual

# FLORA MARKET

**SAT JUN 4th** 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.  
 Rosewood Park  
 5600 Harbor St  
 Commerce

**General space - \$10.00 Pagodas - \$20.00**

To purchase a space or for more information call one of the following:



Margaret Moran - (323) 722-2622  
 Alicia Trujillo - (323) 804-2112  
 Sandy Carnejo - (323) 726-8170  
 Idovina Mendoza - (323) 888-2026

City of Commerce  
 Department of Parks and Recreation

Presents

The 51st Annual  
**Independence Day Celebration**

**Monday, July 4, 2011**  
 Rosewood Park  
 5600 Harbor Street, Commerce

**Full Entertainment Program**  
 2 - 9 p.m.  
**Fireworks Display**  
 9 p.m.

Enjoy American and ethnic foods, live music, raffles, and fun!  
 Meet Miss Fourth of July/Miss Friendship Rocio Ulloa  
 Featuring Live Music and Local Entertainment from City Programs

**Morning 5K Run**  
 (entry forms available at your local park)

**Independence Day Carnival**  
**Friday, July 1 through Monday, July 4**  
 For more information, call Parks and Recreation at (323) 887-4434

City of Commerce Community Services Department  
 Summer Safety Fair 2011

## CALLING ALL SUPER HEROES!

**Saturday, June 4**  
**Veterans Park 6364 Zindell Avenue**  
**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Commerce Kids Must Bring their I.D. Card to receive a **FREE GIFT**

Child Health & Wellness Booths  
 Best-Dressed Super Hero Contest (Prizes awarded to kids & parents)  
 Live Demonstrations by L.A. County Fire & Sheriff's Departments  
 LIVE DJ  
 RAFFLE PRIZES

For more information call the  
 Community Services Department at (323) 887-4460

# PARENT EDUCATION

Presented by the  
 Montebello Unified School District Adult Education Program  
 and the Commerce Department of Community Services

June/July Schedule\*

THURSDAYS 5:00 - 7:00 pm	CLASS TOPICS
June 9, 2011	POSITIVE APPROACHES TO DISCIPLINE
June 16, 2011	ANGER MANAGEMENT
<b>SUMMER VACATION - NO CLASS ON JUNE 23RD OR JUNE 30TH</b>	
July 7, 2011	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION
July 14, 2011	CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
July 21, 2011	ALCOHOLISM - The Effect on the Family
July 28, 2011	CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT - FAMILY VALUES Ages/Stages of Children's Growth

\* Schedule is for English classes only. For Spanish classes at Bristow Park call Community Services.

English Classes:  
 Thursdays at 5 p.m.  
 City Hall Emergency Operations Center  
 2535 Commerce Way

Spanish Classes:  
 Tuesdays at 6 p.m.  
 Bristow Park Community Center  
 1466 South McDonnell Avenue

- No registration fee
- Open to the public (residents and non-residents)

For more information on Parent Education Classes, call the Community Services Department (323) 887-7900

## 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](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us)

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### RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

### WHAT TO DO WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

Following recent power outages in two Commerce neighborhoods Southern California Edison is educating the public about power outages and what to do when one occurs.

According to representatives at Southern California Edison (SCE), if your power is out and a neighbor's is not, your home could be on a different line, or it may be related to an electrical issue in your home. In either instance here's what to do if the power goes out:

There are two types of power outages: planned and unplanned. During a planned outage, power must be shut off so that crews can safely perform work. A planned outage helps improve the overall strength of SCE's electrical system, including equipment replacement and network alterations and upgrades. SCE notifies customers at least three days before maintenance begins, but unforeseen conditions may require serv-

ice to be postponed till a later date. It's important to remember that your power may not be off during an entire scheduled planned outage. SCE may need to turn it on and off more than once to make sure the system modifications are working correctly. If you have any questions about planned outages, call SCE 24 hours a day at 1-888-759-6056 or go online to [www.sce.com/outages](http://www.sce.com/outages).

**An unplanned outage can be caused by many factors, including:**

- Severe weather: Heavy rain and high winds can break power lines, causing wires to snap or equipment to fail.
- Natural disasters: Earthquakes and fires can damage power equipment and net works.
- Hot temperatures: High power demand for air conditioning can overload lines and transformers.
- Traffic accidents: Live power lines can be

exposed and severed when cars crash into utility poles.

During an unplanned outage, SCE's goal is to quickly and safely identify the problem. Crews then prioritize and work quickly to repair the outage. SCE staff then makes every effort to communicate with utility customers, emergency personnel and the media through their call center and website. If your power is out and a neighbor's is not, your home is likely on a different circuit or line, or it may be related to an electrical issue in your home. If it is an issue with SCE equipment, they will work as fast as possible to turn your lights back on.

**If your power goes out**

- Check for blown fuses or tripped circuits and see if your neighbor has power.
- Call SCE to report the outage at 1-800-611-1911.
- Switch off your lights (except one). Also, to prevent damage when the electricity is

restored, unplug allelectrical equipment—including computers, stereos, televisions and air conditioners.

• Listen to a battery-powered radio for storm emergency-related updates, and find a nearby CoolCenter for relief on hot days. (In advance or on a mobile device you can find a list at [www.sce.com/coolcenters](http://www.sce.com/coolcenters)).

• Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Check food for spoilage.  
 • Don't use equipment designed for outdoor cooking or heating, such as a camp stove, indoors. There could be toxic fumes released.

Remember if you see a downed power line, do not touch it. Call 911 immediately. You can find more information and check the status of an outage at [www.sce.com/outages](http://www.sce.com/outages), or by calling (800) 611-1911.



## JUNE DATES TO NOTE

**1**  
 Senior Citizens Commission,  
 12:30 p.m.

Teen Book Club, Greenwood Library,  
 4:30 p.m.  
 Housing Committee, 5 p.m.  
 Traffic Commission, 6:30 p.m.  
 Rabies Clinic, 6:30 p.m.

**2**  
 Parks and Recreation Commission, 6 p.m.

**4**  
 Camp Commerce Registration,  
 Council Chambers, 8 a.m.  
 Summer Safety Fair, Veterans Park, 10 a.m.

**6**  
 English Book Club, 6 p.m.  
 Youth Advisory Commission, 7 p.m.

**7**  
 City Council/CDC, Council Chamber,  
 6:30 p.m.

**8**  
 Community Task Force, 3 p.m.  
 Teen Book Club, Bristow Library, 4:30 p.m.

**9**  
 Community Services Commission,  
 6 p.m.

**11**  
 Swim Lesson Registration, Aquatorium,  
 8 a.m.  
 Preschool Graduation, Veterans Park,  
 5 p.m.

**13**  
 Education Commission, 6 p.m.

**14**  
 Flag Day  
 Beautification Committee, 3:30 p.m.  
 I-710 Local Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m.

**15**  
 Employment Task Force, 1 p.m.  
 Teen Book Club, Atlantic Library, 4:30 p.m.

**18**  
 Soccer Registration, all parks, 10 a.m.

**19**  
 Father's Day

**20**  
 Summer Reading Program  
 Registration Begins

**21**  
 Teen Book Club, Central Library, 5:30 p.m.  
 Library Embajadores, 6 p.m.  
 City Council/CDC, Council Chamber,  
 6:30 p.m.

**22**  
 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

**24**  
 Movie Night at the Park, Bandini Park

**25**  
 Summer Reading Program Kick-Off,  
 Council Chamber, 10 a.m.

**27**  
 Spray Pools Open, All Parks  
 Summer Day Camp Begins  
 Summer Reading Program Begins  
 Spanish Book Club, 6 p.m.

**28**  
 Library Commission, 5:30 p.m.  
 Reading Program Performer, Atlantic Li-  
 brary, 6 p.m.  
 I-710 Local Advisory Committee,  
 6:30 p.m.

**29**  
 Reading Program Performer,  
 Greenwood Library, 6 p.m.

**30**  
 Reading Program Performer,  
 Bristow Park Library, 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.