



KEEP  
COMMERCE  
*Beautiful*

# Report to the People



*Where Quality Service  
Is Our Tradition*

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6TH ANNUAL  
COLLEGE FAIR

Volume 51 No. 9 September 2011

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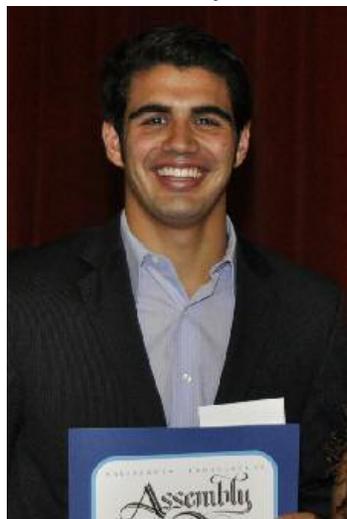
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*A team of volunteers works to clean up property along the Telegraph Road Corridor as part of a public-private partnership clean-up effort led by Steve Craig of Craig Realty in conjunction with the City. Full Story on page 5.*



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## CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS 2011/2012 BUDGET

The City Council adopted a \$48.5 million budget July 19 managing to close a budget deficit of approximately \$1.5 million with minimal impact to the community and City work force.

The City Council approved a number of items to close the budget gap including department cuts, freezing unfilled positions, capping the City's contribution for employee health benefits and increasing the amount of money the City uses from card club revenue.

One time actions included \$40,000 cut from the elections budget and the use of half a million dollars from the reserve fund council established two years ago.

The cost-saving measure visitors to City Hall are most likely to notice is the change to the reception area. The new area will be self service. If a guest needs assistance, they can use two

self serve computers to get directions or pick up the courtesy phone to speak with the operator. The operator would then address the question or contact the appropriate department. Using new technology allows staff to work on additional projects and make a greater contribution to the city.

Additionally, Commerce and other California cities are awaiting the outcome of a lawsuit filed by the League of California Cities and the California Redevelopment Association on July 18 questioning the constitutionality of redevelopment bills adopted as part of the State budget.

AB1X26 eliminates redevelopment agencies. AB1X27 allows agencies to continue to exist if they participate in the State's Alternative Voluntary Redevelopment Program and agree to pay the State \$1.7 billion this

year and \$400 million annually. For the Commerce Redevelopment Agency, that means a \$4.6 million payment to the State this year and approximately \$1.15 million every year thereafter in order to continue to exist.

While the lawsuit is being considered by the State Supreme Court, the City cannot incur new debt, purchase property, or enter into new contracts.

To cover all the City's bases, the Council approved an ordinance on Aug. 1 to participate in the State's Voluntary Redevelopment Program to allow the City's redevelopment agency to continue to operate.

If the League and CRA lawsuit is successful, the ordinance will no longer be in effect.

For more on the lawsuit see the article below.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: A CRIME FIGHTING SUCCESS

Commerce officials estimated that 1,500 people celebrated the Annual National Night Out Against Crime on August. 4.

The first of the 16 local barbecues was held at the Commerce Senior Center where Crime Prevention Coordinator Laura Tilley talked about the importance of National Night Out and Neighborhood Watch.

"To maintain a high quality of life for your family, the best thing you can do is work with your friends and neighbors to keep your community safe. The best way to do that is by joining Neighborhood Watch and participating in events like National Night Out," said Tilley.

With 3,200 hot dogs grilling on neighborhood barbecues and food and drinks being shared, residents talked with City staff, the City Council, the Urban Search and Rescue Team, and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies about their concerns in their neighborhood and in the community.

At a block party in the Veterans Park area Emergency Preparedness Officer Miguel Romero talked to residents about emergency preparedness. "The key to handling a disaster in your home is being prepared. Always make sure you have food, water and important medications but the first thing you should do is establish an evacuation plan for your family," said Romero.

In the Bristow Park area Special Problems Team Sheriff's Deputy Danny Cabrera talked to residents about the importance of reporting crime and graffiti. "If there's a problem in your neighborhood we want to help you solve it, which is why we encourage you to call us. We patrol to prevent crime but with your help we can stop problems before they start," said Cabrera who explained to residents how to report crime and graffiti.

This year's National Night Out was a success thanks to the participation of City staff, the LA County Sheriff's and Fire Departments, the

## COMMERCE SUPPORTS REDEVELOPMENT LAWSUIT



*League of CA Cities Executive Director  
Chris McKenzie.*

Commerce City Council members joined local elected officials, business members, and labor leaders who gathered in Long Beach on July 21 to support a lawsuit seeking to overturn AB1X26 and AB1X27—California legislation that would eliminate or severely impact redevelopment agencies. The press conference was one of several held in July by local

elected officials throughout the State fighting to protect redevelopment funds.

The League of California Cities, the California Redevelopment Association and the cities of San Jose and Union City filed a petition with the California Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the two bills passed as part of the State budget in June.

AB1X26 eliminates redevelopment agencies. AB1X27 allows agencies to continue to exist if they agree to make \$1.7 billion in payments to the State this year and \$400 million annually. For Commerce's Redevelopment Agency, that means a \$4.6 million payment to the State this year and approximately \$1.15 million every year thereafter in

See **RDA Lawsuit** page 8

See **NNO** page 8

On behalf of the City Council, I want to thank all the residents who participated in National Night Out. As in years past the turnout was tremendous, demonstrating our commitment to fighting crime. Thanks also to the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains, COMCATS, Sherriff's and Fire personnel, Target, Del Taco, Costco, Commerce Casino, City staff and Crime Prevention Coordinator Laura Tilley for their contributions to this event. We are proud that residents, public safety agencies and local businesses all partner to keep our City safe.

I am happy to report that the 2011/2012 budget was adopted on July 19. The City Council managed to close a \$1.5 million budget deficit with minimal impact to city services. Many positive steps were taken to secure the financial viability of our City, now and as we head into the future. Full-time employees enrolled in PPOs will fund a portion of their health care costs beginning January 2012 and full-time employees hired after July 1, 2011 must work 15 years with the City to become 100 percent vested in retiree medical benefits. These steps will help the City as it grapples with the rising costs of health care and pensions.

If you have been following the news on California redevelopment agencies, you know that the League of California Cities and the California Redevelopment Association recently challenged the constitutionality of two redevelopment bills passed as part of the State budget in June. AB 1X26 eliminates redevelopment. AB 1X27 allows agencies to continue if they participate in a voluntary State Redevelopment Program and agree to \$1.7 billion in payments to the State this year and \$400 million each year thereafter. The Commerce Redevelopment Agency's share to the State is \$4.6 million this year and \$1.15 million annually. In spite of the financial burdens imposed by AB1X27, the impact of AB1X26 would be far worse. Because so much is at stake, the City Council approved an ordinance on Aug. 1 to participate in the State's Voluntary Redevelopment Program. Under the circumstances, it was necessary for our redevelopment agency to continue to exist. However, if the lawsuits are successful, the ordinance will no longer be in effect.

Commerce residents interested in pursuing a college education are invited to attend the sixth annual Commerce College Fair from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, Sept. 17, at Veterans Park. Middle school, high school and adult students and their families can learn what it takes to go to college—from the application process, to financial assistance and choosing a major. Attendees will get the opportunity to meet with college representatives and attend informational workshops. For more information, call (323) 722-6660 or visit [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org).

Preschool and Tiny Tot registration is set for Saturday, Sept. 24. Registration begins at 10 a.m. at all City parks. Call the Department of Parks and Recreation at (323) 722-4805, ext. 2806 for more information.

The Citadel Outlets in partnership with the Commerce Employment and Business Development Center will be hosting a Community Job Fair at the Citadel on Sept. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Job seekers are invited to attend and meet face-to-face with employers who are hiring. For more information, call the Commerce EBDC at (323) 887-4461.

September 11 marks the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. Let us take time that day to join Americans across the nation in remembering the heroes and victims of this tragedy.

Also, just a reminder that City Hall and Commerce libraries will be closed on September 5 in observance of Labor Day.

Sincerely,  
Jorge Rifa



## MUNICIPAL NOTES

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET APPROVED

The City Council approved a 2011-2012 Capital Improvement Program budget in July which totaled just over \$5 million. The approved projects include the purchase of two CNG transit buses totaling \$1,108,000 and street reconstruction at Bristow and Rosini neighborhoods at a cost of \$1.76 million and \$1 million respectively.

Other projects approved were the filtration and re-plastering of the small Aquatorium pool, replacement of a bus washer, a geotechnical analysis of Camp Commerce, im-

provements to railroad crossings, improvements to the Greenwood Library and the purchase of a patio cover for the Teen Center, a security camera for Bristow Park, a pump for the large Aquatorium pool and an emergency dispenser/fuel line for the Transportation Department.

Twenty-seven department requests for capital improvement projects were considered and 11 were approved. Projects will be funded through general funds, grants, land sales and card club revenues.

### CITY, CALTRANS WORK TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS OF I-710 BRIDGE WIDENING PROJECT

Commerce officials met with Caltrans to discuss how to minimize the impact of the I-710 Long Life Pavement and Bridge Widening Project on nearby Bandini area residents.

The meeting provided Caltrans with an opportunity to get feedback on the environmental impacts from construction, which resulted in a number of agreements with the City.

The agreements include construction protocols that establish communication between the City and a Caltrans representative with oversight of the project.

They also include commitments from Caltrans to use construction protocols from the Air Quality Management District like wetting of soils, use of dust covers and other measures to control the spread of dust.

The agreements also call for Caltrans to consider options for the design of the sound wall facing Bandini Park to include use of a decorative feature(s).

Caltrans will also be responsible for maintaining and operating construction equipment to minimize idling and emissions. To minimize night work impacts, Caltrans will utilize sound and light shielding blankets to address noise and glare concerns from people residing in the area.

Caltrans also has responsibility for maintaining the site, as well as debris and soil runoff to prevent it from spilling on to neighboring residential properties.

The project's goal is to improve the road surface, safety and widen shoulders and bridges to standard design parameters.

### COUNCIL ACTIONS

#### Regular Meeting of July 5

- Commended Nellie Zepeda for receiving the 2011 Older American Recognition Award Recipient.
- Received and filed a report on the Paragon Award presented to City of Commerce Parks and Recreation Department for its outstanding contribution to water polo.
- Proclaimed August 2, 2011 as "National Night Out 2011" in the City of Commerce.
- Adopted a revised Equal Opportunity Employer Policy to develop clear written policies and procedures for consistent application and interpretation.
- Received and filed the annual financial report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2010.
- Approved providing lodging for the Mexican National Women's Water Polo Team on City owned property located at 4906 Jardine St.
- Approved a resolution adopting the annual Community Development Commission operating budget for fiscal year 2011-2012.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the purchase and sales agreement for the portion of Boxford Avenue north of Slauson Ave. and joint escrow instructions with the Vons companies, Inc.
- Conducted a public hearing on a resolution ordering the vacation of Boxford Avenue North of Slauson Avenue.
- Received and filed a report on legislation considered by the State Legislature that affects government and redevelopment agencies.
- Adjourned in memory of Baltazar Vega, grandfather of City employee Heriberto Valdes.

#### Regular Meeting of July 19

- Authorized City staff to seek \$14,579 in funding from the Department of Justice 2011 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant. If Commerce is awarded the grant funds, the funds will be utilized to purchase GPS devices for CSS and Animal Control Vehicles and a video camera for promoting Crime Prevention Programs.
- Adopted a resolution approving the 2010 engineering and traffic survey speed zone study for Vail Avenue, Harbor Street and Flotilla Street.
- Approved a recommendation to conduct a speed zone study for Union Pacific Avenue between Goodrich Boulevard and Gerhart Avenue. The study is one of the criteria used by the State to justify the use of radar equipment for speed enforcement.
- Approved an agreement with the County of Los Angeles Probation Department for gang deterrent services known as the Prevention and Intervention Program.

- Adopted a resolution approving annual appropriations limit for fiscal year 2011-2012.
- Approved an agreement with the International Institute of Los Angeles to participate in the Immediate Needs Transportation Program by providing transportation tokens for qualified residents with limited resources.
- Approved a letter concurring with Caltrans that the I-710 Long Life Pavement Project, including the bridge widening adjacent to Bandini Park, will not have a significant environmental impact.
- Approved the 2011/12 Capital Improvement Project budget.
- Approved the annual operating budget.
- Appointed committee and commission members.
- Approved the City's quitclaim to an easement on Cougar Street once used by Cal Water. The quitclaim will facilitate the completion of the Alta Med headquarters which is being constructed by Camfield Partners, LLC at the location.
- Conducted a public hearing confirming 2010-2011 weed abatement charges.
- Approved a moratorium on revising City code to address installation, removal and abandonment of pipelines related to oil production.
- Adjourned in memory of Guadalupe Raigosa, grandmother of City employee Kiersten Raigosa and mother-in-law of City employee Denise Raigosa.

## Report to the People

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# WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE

## PROTECT YOUR HEALTH WITH THE 3 D'S

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District reports that Los Angeles County has seen a dramatic increase in West Nile Virus activity this summer. In July, GLACVD confirmed five West Nile Virus positive birds and 15 positive mosquito samples, bringing the total number of positive dead birds so far this year to 13 and positive mosquito samples to 24.

All five of the dead birds were crows. Two were collected in Cerritos, two in Long Beach and one in Reseda.

Of the 15 West Nile Virus positive mosquito pools identified during a week in July, five were collected in Sherman Oaks, three in Cerritos, two in Diamond Bar, two in South Whittier, one in Lakewood, one in Reseda, and one in Rowland Heights.

GLACVD encourages residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites by practicing the 3 D's of West Nile Virus prevention as a general precaution:

### 1. Dump/Drain

Eliminate standing water on property where mosquitoes breed.

### 2. Dusk/Dawn

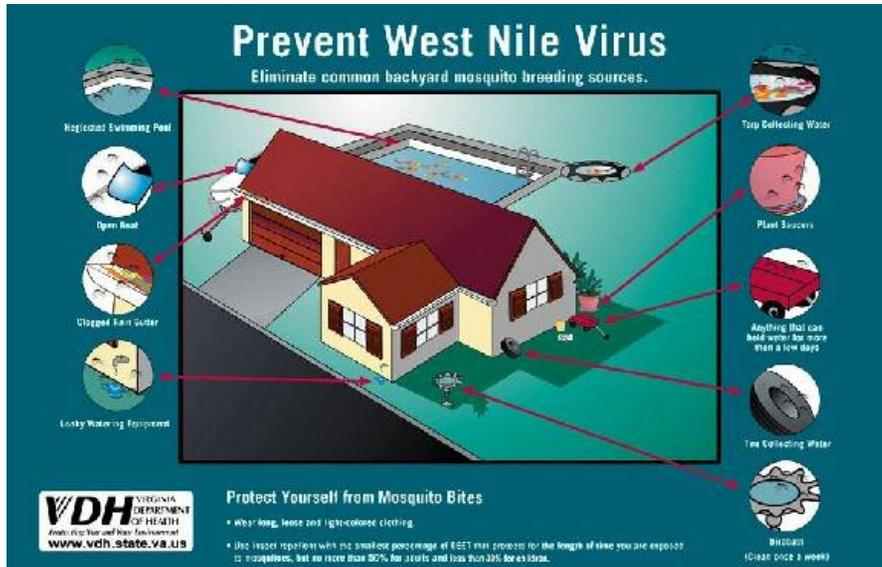
Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active.

### 3. Defend

Wear EPA-registered insect repellent and long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Use properly-fitted screens, free from tears on home windows and doors.

For more information about West Nile Virus and vector control services, please contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 x511 or visit [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org).

For statewide information and statistics about West Nile Virus, or to report a dead bird or squirrel, visit [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) or call 1-877-WNV BIRD.



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



# Green Car Washing

Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that harm fish and water quality. The soap, together with dirt, metal, and oil washed from your car flows into nearby storm drains which run directly into the Los Angeles River and out to the ocean untreated.

Phosphates from soap can cause excess algae to grow, which looks and smells bad and harms water quality. As algae decay, the process uses up oxygen in the water that fish need to survive.

You can help keep our waterways and groundwater sources clean by:

1. Using soap sparingly
2. Using a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water
3. Pouring your soapy water down the sink when you are done, not in the street
4. Avoiding the use of engine and wheel cleaners or degreasers
5. Taking your car to a commercial car wash since most filter and reuse wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.



## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

### HELP YOUR CHILDREN STAY SAFE THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

Back to school time can be a busy time for students and parents alike, so RTTP is providing some simple back to school safety tips. Look over these tips and discuss them with your child:

#### General Safety Tips

- Discuss a well-traveled, safe route for children to get to and from school.
- Insist that children cross the street only at cross walks and where crossing guards are present.
- Discourage name calling and teasing. These behaviors lead to fights and bullying.
- Keep open lines of communication with your kids. Talk to them about any problems or changes in behavior they may have.
- Encourage your children to report any suspicious persons or activities to school officials or police.
- Know your child's friends and their parents. Never let them go to someone's house that you don't know well.
- Educate yourself and children about Internet safety. Kids on computers are vulnerable to predators so be aware of what websites your children visit and monitor their activity via the Internet.

#### Traffic Safety

- Walk or drive children to school. Motorists and bicyclists don't mix.
  - Leave your home 15 minutes earlier to avoid traffic congestion near schools; plus not rushing decreases your chance of being involved in a traffic collision.
  - Yield when children are crossing the street.
  - Always make sure you and your children wear your seatbelts.
  - Don't stop in the middle of the street to pick up or drop off children. Pull over to the curb to prevent traffic citations and to ensure your child's safety.
  - Do not allow children to cross the street mid-block. Insist they use the crosswalk.
  - Do not pass school buses that have the stop sign and flashing lights on. This traffic offense comes with a hefty fine and is designed to ensure the safety of children riding the bus.
  - Do not double park or impede traffic.
  - Observe the posted speed limit in school zones.
- For more information on back to school safety, Neighborhood Watch or other public safety issues, call Crime Prevention Coordinator Laura Tilley at (323) 722-4805.

## EBDC, CITADEL HOST 3RD ANNUAL JOB FAIR

### FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME JOBS AVAILABLE

The City of Commerce Employment and Business Development Center (EBDC) and Citadel Outlets will host their third Annual Community Job Fair on Wednesday, September 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The organizers have invited retail and non-retail businesses that are looking to fill full-time and part-time positions to participate.

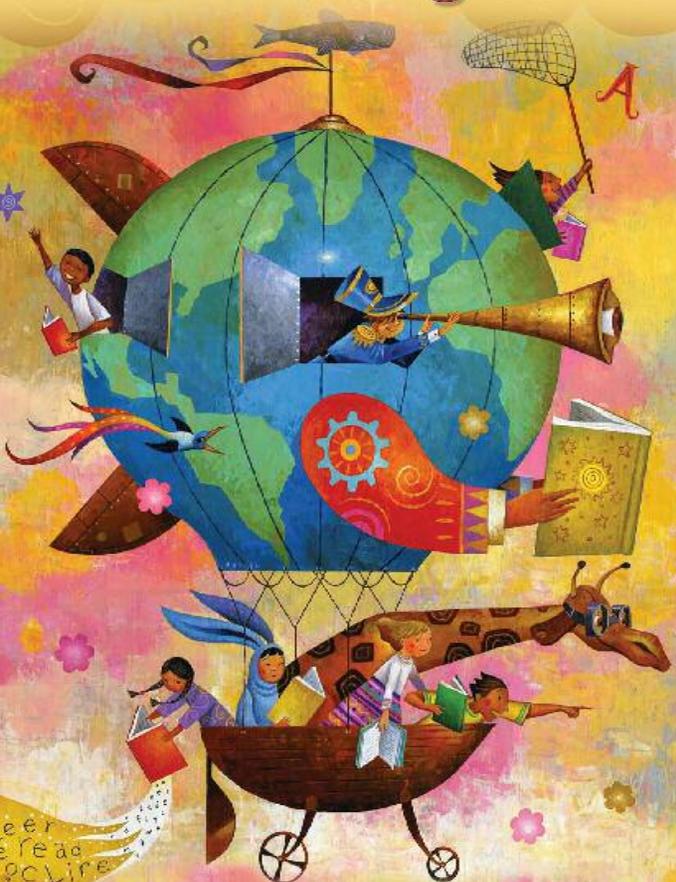
The event is open to the public and all applicants are encouraged to bring copies of their resume.

During the day, the Commerce Employment and Business Development Center will be holding free, ongoing Job Prep Workshops on personal grooming, interviewing

tips, and other topics for those needing to brush up on their skills.

According to the organizers, interviews may be scheduled on the spot so all applicants should "dress for success."

Last year's job fair had more than 5000 participants and over 80 employers hired people that same day. For additional information contact the Commerce EBDC at (323) 887-4461, Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.



## Summer Reading Program 'End of Summer' Celebration

To celebrate another successful Summer Reading Program (SRP) the Department of Library Services hosted the SRP End of Summer Celebration for 345 children and their parents on August 11 at Veterans Park.

"The City takes great pride in this event because reading is an important skill and it also teaches children that reading can be a whole lot of fun," said Children's Librarian Sigrud Hudson.

The celebration for this year's 2011 "One World, Many Stories" Children's Summer Reading Program featured the John Abrams' Animal Magic Show, presentations by City officials and a number of grand prize raffles.

The prizes included two pairs of tickets to the Kid-space Museum, a pair of tickets to the Aquarium of the Pacific, and 12 sets of Dodger tickets. There were also entertaining antics from the SRP's "Witch Doctor" aka Library staff member Josue Martinez who has promoted the Program throughout the summer.

Presentations were made to honor the SRP's Top Readers who were Stephanie Hernandez from the Atlantic Branch Library, Filbert Olivares from the Central Library, Ricardo Gomez from the Greenwood Branch Library and a three-way tie of siblings Cristofer, Danny and Michelle Tzoc from the Bristow Branch Library. Each Top Reader was presented with a backpack full of school supplies.

At the end of the program Library staff gave out cookies, juice and free hot wings coupons from Wing Stop.

This year 1,063 children registered for the Summer Reading Program, including 260 babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Completing the program this year were 549 children, which included 271 children that continued reading after completion to earn trophies.

The Summer Reading Program is hosted annually by the Department of Library Services to encourage youth to improve their reading skills, as well as to provide educational programs throughout the summer.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### NEW BOOKFLIX PROGRAM IMPROVES CHILDREN'S READING SKILLS

Children who are beginning to read can now practice online with BookFlix, a new program available through the Commerce library website at [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org).

The program features hundreds of "paired texts" that include a popular children's picture book and a corresponding non-fiction book about a similar topic. Using the program, children can hear a story and read along, and then read or listen to an e-book to learn about a topic in the story.

To strengthen their reading skills, children can choose to read along with a narrator or turn the sound off and read the books themselves. Many of the stories and titles are also available in Spanish. Teacher's guides, lesson plans, and ideas for parents to help their children learn and read are also available on BookFlix.

BookFlix may be used from library computers or from any computer, anywhere that has Internet access. Pa-

trons will need a Commerce library card and a computer with Internet access that plays sound through speakers or headphones when using the program.

To begin reading online go to the library's website at [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org), click on "KIDS," then click on BookFlix and enter a Commerce library card number. The program works on Android mobile phones and tablets, but is not currently supported on iPhones or iPads.

BookFlix was created by children's book publishing company Scholastic, Inc. and is being provided free for public libraries in California by the State Library of California.

To try BookFlix, go to [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org). For more information about the program, call the Commerce library at (323) 722-6660.

### COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS 53 STUDENTS



Commerce Casino Scholars with Casino Operations Manager John Griffo. From l. to r. are Brian Ramirez, Kristen Herrera and Andrea Ordaz.

Fifty-three Commerce residents, accompanied by members of their families attended the Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Commerce on July 28. The scholarship recipients received college scholarships in amounts ranging from \$250 to \$5,000.

Speakers at the awards dinner encouraged the students to work hard in school and once they've succeeded, to help future scholarship recipients. "When you do succeed, I want you to come back and contribute in some way, whether as a member of the interview panel, a keynote speaker or a contributor. It is this common bond and generosity that will keep this program and our community strong, now and in the future," said a City Official.

The majority of this year's award recipients will be attending California State schools from the Cal State and UC system such as Cal State Northridge and UC Berkeley, while three will be attending schools outside of the state, which are the University of Oregon, Wayne State University in Nebraska and New York University.

The actual breakdown showed 24 students attending private universities, 18 attending public universities and 11 attending community college. The majority of the students, which included 35 females and 18 males, are alumni of Montebello Unified School District Schools:

Bell Gardens High School (14), Montebello (8) and Schurr High School (13). A total of five students came from Garfield High School, three from Whittier High School, two each from the LA County High School of the Arts and Cantwell Sacred Heart High Schools and one each from Ramona Convent Secondary School, Nogales High School, Loyola High School, Harvard West Lake, Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet and Albert Einstein High School.

The top awards went to Commerce Casino Scholars Kristen Herrera, Andrea Ordaz and Brian Ramirez. Herrera who will be a freshman at UC Santa Barbara received a \$5,000 scholarship. Ordaz who some residents may remember as Miss Commerce 2010, also received \$5,000 that will provide her with financial assistance at UC Irvine. Ramirez who will be a senior at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona received a \$4,000 scholarship.

Other top scholarship recipients included the \$3,000 Harvey Capital Scholarship that went to Bianca Lizarraga who will be a junior at UCLA, the 99 Cents Only Stores Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 that went to Maria Medina who is pursuing post graduate studies at the NYU Stern School of Business and the Lawrence P. Frank Scholarship of \$1,500 that went to Roxana Preciado who will be a sophomore at Rio Hondo College.

City officials thanked the Crowne Plaza for hosting the event and gave special thanks to the scholarship contributors. The largest contributions came from the Commerce Casino (\$50,000), Harvey Capital (\$10,000) and the 99 Cents Only Store (\$9,999).

The annual City of Commerce Scholarship Program was established to assist students with their financial needs as they work toward their college education. The program is coordinated by the Library Department and is fully funded by generous donations from individuals, civic and service organizations and Commerce businesses.

## TAKE ACTION-GO TO COLLEGE!

### COMMERCE COLLEGE FAIR SET FOR SEPT. 17

Veronica Garcia, the daughter of a migrant worker who went on to attend MIT and become a senior engineer at Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, will speak at the sixth annual Commerce to College Fair on Saturday, Sept. 17th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans Park.

Commerce middle school, high school and adult students interested in pursuing a college education are invited to attend with their parents to better understand the college application process. College-bound students can learn all about college--from the application process, to financial assistance and choosing a major.

This year's theme is "Take Action, Go to College." Attendees and their families will have the opportunity to meet with college representatives and attend informational

workshops on a variety of topics including, 'How to Pay for College,' 'The CSU Admission Process,' and 'Technical Careers for Adults.'

The Commerce to College fair is sponsored by the Commerce Public Library and the Education Commission.

Door prizes will be given to the first 100 families to attend. Free lunch will be served. ACER Netbooks, a Samsung Galaxy Tab, an Ipod Nano, graphic calculators and other prizes will be raffled.

A shuttle bus will be available to provide transportation from City parks to the event.

For more information, call (323) 722-6660 or visit [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org).

# CLEAN UP PROVIDES LESSON IN COMMUNITY

## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP HELPS BEAUTIFY COMMERCE



Volunteers help clean up property along Telegraph Road.

A small group of volunteers, city officials and business leaders gathered near a vacant office building on Telegraph Road between the Citadel Outlets and the Commerce Casino/Crowne Plaza at dawn on Aug. 6 to sweep the streets and pick up trash.

The clean up was organized by Citadel Outlets and co-sponsored by the City of Commerce.

The event was an opportunity to educate teens about the effects of littering and graffiti.

Volunteers from the Commerce Boys Water Polo Team, the Commerce Teen Center, St Marcellinus

Church, the Commerce Aquatic Boosters Club along with Commerce officials worked from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. picking up trash, aluminum cans, weeds and debris in the area bordered by Camfield, Flotilla, Smithway, Tubeway and Telegraph Road.

The event participants included the Commerce graffiti crew and Bruin Painting who were charged with removing graffiti from the warehouses behind Flotilla Street, Ben's Asphalt who filled potholes between Tubeway Ave. on the east side of the project area to Smithway Street to the north, and CalMet Services who donated 13 dumpsters to use for the event.

Among the companies donating time and services were J. A. Stowell Construction, Apple Inc Landscapers and the Craig Realty Group. The participants enjoyed a breakfast and lunch prepared by Ruby's Diner.

Citadel Outlets General Manager, Susan Jennrich praised the volunteers for their generosity and enthusiasm. "Everyone worked together. It was a great partnership, said Jennrich. "The volunteers cared enough to donate their time to make a difference in the neighborhood."

# COMMERCE ATHLETES, COACH JOIN MEXICAN NATIONAL TEAM

## 7 COMMERCE ATHLETES HOPE TO QUALIFY FOR THE OLYMPICS



The Mexican National Women's Water Polo Team features seven Commerce residents and longtime Commerce Women's Head Coach Gabriel Martinez.

"Come on! Let's get moving," yells Commerce Women's Water Polo Head Coach Gabriel Martinez in the Commerce Aquatorium with a voice hoarse from coaching the 13 member Mexican National Women's Water Polo Team he was recently named head coach of. The team features seven players from the City of Commerce who under Martinez's guidance, hope to qualify for the 2012 Olympics.

"I consider it an honor, and I look forward to the challenges ahead," said Martinez who has had the team on the go constantly since their arrival in July. "We've got a busy schedule. If we're not practicing we're competing in local tournaments."

With a grueling conditioning and practice schedule, at first the girls from Mexico found Martinez's workouts to be tougher than what they're used to but they've responded in kind by competing and often times beating college teams in regional tournaments. "As the weeks have gone by they've gotten better and better while going against some of the top talent in Southern California," he said.

So far they've played at the Junior Olympics tournament held in Orange County in August and are preparing for the Speedo Cup competition in November with a number of other competitions scheduled in the coming

months to prepare for upcoming Olympic qualifying tournaments, including the Pan American Games.

Martinez's success in Commerce was major factor in his selection as Mexico's coach. As Commerce's Women's Water Polo coach he has helped build the Commerce Women's Team into one of the top programs in the Nation, which has produced two Olympians: Silver Medalist Patty Cardenas (2008) and Brenda Villa who has a bronze medal and two silver medals from the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Olympics respectively.

In addition, players coming out of the Commerce program have went on to play for some of the top college teams in the State, which include UCLA, La Verne and USC. For some of the young women from the Commerce program who didn't make the US National Team this gives them a second chance opportunity at the Olympics via the Mexican national team.

As for how the athletes from Commerce and Mexico are acclimating to playing together, Martinez said he's pleased with their progress. "The girls on this team are hard working, very sociable and they have a common goal; getting to the Olympics."

The RTTP will continue to cover the progress of the team in upcoming issues.

# ADULT CRAFT FAIRE

## A DAY OF CRAFTING ON OCT. 15

Residents can enjoy a day of fun at the Adult Craft Fair at the Batres Community Center in Bandini Park on Saturday, October 15 from noon to 4 pm.

This activity is only \$6 per person. Participants must

have a current resident card and be 16 years or older. Registration starts Sept. 19th at Parks & Recreation.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at (323) 887-4434.

# CITY OF COMMERCE CHANNEL 3



## September 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: "CHEVERE"

Monday 10 a.m., Tuesday 3 p.m., Wednesday 5:30 p.m.,  
Thursday 9:15 a.m., Friday 4:30 p.m., Saturday 6:15 p.m.  
& Sunday 5:30 p.m.

### COMMERCE CITY NEWS

Featuring Highlights from National Night Out and the Commerce Scholarship Awards, and info on the Commerce to College Fair & 2011/2012 City 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

#### "IDENTITY THEFT"

Monday 2 p.m., Tuesday 4 p.m., Wednesday 4 p.m.,  
Thursday 6 p.m., Friday 4 p.m., Saturday 3 p.m.  
& Sunday 1 p.m.

### STEP AEROBICS ADVANCED CLASS

with Instructor Lorena Herrera

Monday 8 a.m., Tuesday 8 a.m., Wednesday 8 a.m.,  
Thursday 10 a.m., Friday 8 a.m., Saturday 12 p.m.  
& Sunday 8 a.m.

### "IN A COUNCIL MINUTE"

Featuring the Latest City Council Meeting Actions Monday 5 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.,  
Thursday 2 p.m., Friday 2:43 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.  
& Sunday 8 p.m.

### TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES

#### "THOMAS MAPFURRO & THE BLACKS UNLIMITED" PERFORM

Monday 12:30 p.m., Tuesday 11 a.m.,  
Wednesday 12 p.m., Thursday 7 p.m., Friday 3 p.m.,  
Saturday 1 p.m. & Sunday 11:43 a.m.

Commerce City Channel 3 offers copies of local programs broadcast on the channel 3 & 32 for \$10.00. Original shows include City Council Meetings, Public Affairs, Commerce City News, Commerce Park Concerts, Commerce Teen Plays and more. See the city channel replay schedule or go to [www.ci.commerce.ca.us](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us) for more information.

# Report to the People **COMMERCE GALLERY**

## AQUATORIUM LOCKER ROOM RENOVATION



The Aquatorium locker room and shower renovation was completed in July and features improved drainage and a user friendly design.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



The City of Commerce celebrated National Night Out with block party barbecues like this one in the Veterans Park area.

## BUS OPERATOR TRAINEE GRADUATES



Bus Operator Trainee program grads Erik Castellanos and Andres Manquero are pictured here with Acting Director of Transportation Claude McFerguson. They were the first employees to complete the new program.

## LA GALAXY YOUTH OUTREACH



Adam Cristman, a forward with pro soccer team the LA Galaxy talked to Commerce youth about the importance of working hard and staying drug free.

## COMMUNITY DODGER NIGHT



Miss Dodgers poses for a photo with members of the US Armed Forces on the Dodger Stadium field during Commerce Community Dodger Night.

## NNO IN BRISTOW



Special Problems Team Deputy Danny Cabrera talks to National Night Out participants at the Iglesia Bautista NNO Party in the Bristow Park neighborhood.

## NNO AT THE SENIOR CENTER



The National Night Out party at the Senior Center drew more than 100 people.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SPONSORS



Target sponsored National Night Out this year and representatives visited Commerce residents at NNO block parties throughout the City.

## RECREATIONAL SOCCER PROGRAM



The City's fall soccer program kicked off with practices like this one in August.

## COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Recipients of the 2011 Commerce Scholarship Program were honored at the Scholarship Awards Dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in August.

City of Commerce Department of Parks & Recreation

# SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

## Kids Club

After school program for students, K through 8th grades enrolled at Rosewood or Bandini Elementary Schools, grades 1st through 5th. Students from other schools are welcomed. Cost: Residents \$30.00/week, Kinder Residents \$35.00/week, **Non-Residents** \$50.00/week, Kinder non-residents \$55.00/week.

## Camp Commerce Registration

September 10, 2011  
8:00 a.m. Council Chambers

## Community Galaxy Night

September 17, 2011  
LA Galaxy vs Vancouver Whitecaps  
Cost: \$22.00 per person

## Preschool & Tiny Tot Registration

Saturday, September 24, 2011  
Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. all parks  
Cost: \$20.00 per child Starts October, date tba  
Tiny Tot - 3 years (must be 3 yrs. by Dec. 2)  
Preschool - 4 years (must be 4 yrs. by Dec. 2)  
Current resident activity card required.  
Child must be potty trained, no pull ups allowed.

## Exercise Class Registration

Fall Registration Rosewood Park  
Saturday, September 17, 2011  
8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Wristband distribution  
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Registration begins  
Price: TBA



### SEPTEMBER 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

For more information call the Department of Parks & Recreation (323) 722-4805 ext. 2806.

**6th ANNUAL**  
**2011**  
**COMMERCIAL COLLEGE FAIR**  
CITY OF COMMERCE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2011  
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
FREE ADMISSION  
TRANSPORTATION & LUNCH  
VETERANS/PARK  
6364 ZINDELL AVE  
COMMERCE 90040  
www.ci.commerce.ca.us  
"TAKE ACTION, GO TO COLLEGE"

CITY OF COMMERCE  
**ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHEER PROGRAM**

Residents of the City of Commerce in need of assistance for the upcoming holiday season may register for the Annual Holiday Cheer Program beginning Thursday, October 6. Registration is every Tuesday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. or Thursday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Community Services Department at Commerce City Hall, 2535 Commerce Way. For more information, please contact the Community Services Department at (323) 887-4460.

**HOLIDAY CHEER DONATIONS**

Acceptable donations include funds, food, clothing, toys, gift certificates and pledges to sponsor families. Donations should be received by November 15 for Thanksgiving and December 9 for Christmas.

CITADEL OUTLETS/CITY OF COMMERCE  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Invites you to attend the  
**COMMUNITY JOB FAIR**

Meet face to face with employers who are hiring!

Hosted by:  
**CITADEL OUTLETS**  
100 CITADEL DR.  
COMMERCE, CA 90040

In partnership with the  
Employment and Business  
Development Center

**Wednesday, September 21, 2011**  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Dress for success
- Bring plenty of copies of your resumes
- Prepare to interview on the spot
- Mini Job Prep Workshops

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
CITY OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
(323) 887-4461

# 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

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT COMMERCE SUPPORTS REDEVELOPMENT LAWSUIT

## CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Sheriff's and Fire Departments, the Com-cats, the Search and Rescue Team, the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and City residents.

Target, Costco and Del Taco co sponsored the event along with the City.

Commerce celebrates National Night Out to highlight the importance of community participation and Neighborhood Watch in keeping communities safe. To join Neighborhood Watch, call Crime Prevention Coordinator Laura Tilley at (323) 722-4805.

To report crime anonymously call the Sheriff's Anonymous Crime Tip Line at (323) 838-4258. To report graffiti call the Graffiti Hotline at (323) 887-4444.

For questions about suspicious activity in the community, call the East L.A. Sheriff's Station at (323) 264-4151. To report a crime in progress or report an emergency always call 911.

## CONT. FROM PAGE 1

order to continue to exist.

The lawsuit also requested that the California Supreme Court issue a stay to prevent the legislation from going into effect until the Court can rule on the merits of these claims.

The central claim in the lawsuit is that AB1X26 and AB1X27 violate Proposition 22, the constitutional amendment passed by 61 percent of California voters in November 2010 which prevents the State from seizing funds used for transportation, redevelopment or local government projects.

While AB1X26 would eliminate redevelopment agencies, AB1X27 would allow redevelopment agencies to exist by what the speakers referred to as a "forced ransom." The Signal Hill mayor Larry Forester even held up a fake ransom note during the

press conference to illustrate the point.

Unless nullified, these bills would significantly derail the City's efforts to revitalize and provide jobs or housing for low and moderate income families.

The Commerce Redevelopment Agency has accomplished much since its activation in 1974. Since 1980, \$145 million of redevelopment funds have been invested in affordable housing in Commerce. More than 600 units—both new and reconstructed—have been created. Since 1994, the City has invested \$18 million in economic development—creating more than 10,000 jobs by attracting businesses like the Citadel Retail Outlets, Costco, Home Depot, Smart and Final, the Crowne Plaza Hotel and the Trammell Crow Office Park.

It has also helped fund improvements to

City infrastructure and facilities.

The Vista del Rio neighborhood is an example of how redevelopment can be used to transform a blighted site into a thriving residential community. A total of 102 single-family detached units were built providing much needed affordable housing and making the American dream of owning a home possible.

The Citadel Outlets is considered the centerpiece of Commerce redevelopment and shows how an abandoned manufacturing plant could be turned into a major regional shopping destination and popular tourist attraction. The Citadel is a tremendous business success generating thousands of jobs and millions in revenue.



## SEPTEMBER DATES TO NOTE

**1**  
Library Card Signup Month

Parks and Recreation Commission, 6 p.m.

**5**  
**Labor Day,**  
**City Hall and Libraries Closed**

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

**7**  
Senior Citizens Commission, 12:30 p.m.  
Teen Book Club, Greenwood Library, 4:30 p.m.  
Traffic Commission, 6:30 p.m.

**8**  
Community Services Commission, 6 p.m.  
International Literacy Day

**10**  
Camp Commerce Registration, Council Chambers, 8 a.m.

**12**  
Education Commission, 6 p.m.  
English Book Club, 6 p.m.

**13**  
Beautification Committee, 3:30 p.m.  
I-710 Local Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.

**14**  
Community Task Force, 3 p.m.  
Teen Book Club, Bristow Park Library, 4:30 p.m.

**17**  
College Fair, Veterans Park, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**20**  
Library Embajadores, 6 p.m.  
City Council/CDC, 6:30 p.m.

**21**  
Employment Task Force, 1 p.m.  
Teen Book Club, Atlantic Library, 4:30 p.m.

**24**  
Preschool Registration, All Parks, 10 a.m.

**26**  
Adult Computer Class, 5:30 p.m.  
Spanish Book Club, 6 p.m.

**27**  
Library Commission, 5:30 p.m.  
Teen Book Club, Central Library, 5:30 p.m.  
I-710 Local Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.

**28**  
Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

**29**  
Hispanic Heritage Month,  
Greenwood Library, 5 p.m.

**30**  
**Rosh Hashanah**

## 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.