



Report to the People

Rebates and Savings at Home Page 5

Where Quality Service Is Our Tradition

Volume 52 No.3 March 2012

www.ci.commerce.ca.us

In This Issue

Page 2

From the Desk of the City Administrator

Council Actions

Page 3

Department Profile: Community Development

Home Preservation Grants

Page 4

Girl Scout Makes a Difference

Business

Cooperation Program

Page 5

Queen's Breakfast

Teen Center News

Page 6

Commerce Gallery



Commerce teens hard at work laying sod to beautify the Teen Center at the Community Day of Service held on January 14.

Day of Service Volunteers Give Teen Center a Makeover

To beautify the Commerce Teen Center, 72 teen volunteers spent a Saturday morning in January giving the Teen Center a makeover and beautifying Bandini Park at the Community Day of Service event held in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and as part of the City's Keep Commerce Beautiful Initiative.

At the Teen Center there was plenty of work going on in the recreation area and storage rooms where teen volunteers were cleaning up and painting walls throughout the building's interior. "We're really working hard to make it a better place to be at," said Monica Rodarte who frequents the Teen Center and participates in club activities

there. "I'm volunteering because we really needed a change at the Teen Center and so far it seems like it's going to look great."

Another volunteer was 12-year-old Jason Mercado who had yellow paint in his hair from painting the Teen Center's Meeting Room. "I really want to give back to the community and this is a fun way to do it while accomplishing something positive," said Mercado who is a member of the Adventure Club at the Teen Center.

Teen volunteers were also hard at work on the outside of the Teen Center painting, planting more than 80 flowers and plants, and laying more than 1,000 square feet of sod.

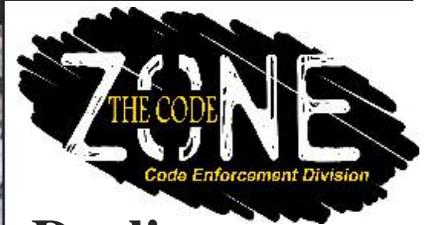
Joining the teens in the effort

were staff from various City departments, including Administration, Community Development, Community Services, the Library and Parks and Recreation.

Armando Zuniga, a City employee in the Parks and Recreation Department was impressed with the effort of the teen volunteers. "These kids are pretty good workers. They did a great job. This brings up morale and beautifies the community," said Zuniga.

According to Community Services Commissioner Joanna Flores the Community Day of Service had three objectives. "Today we're focused on uniting the community, empowering youth and beautifying the City,"

See **Day of Service** page 8



Dealing with Violation Notices

The Commerce Code Enforcement Division's role is to assist citizens with violations and work with them to achieve code compliance.

Code Enforcement Officers are required to issue "Notice of Violation" letters to residents when violations of the Commerce Municipal Code are identified. In many cases people are unaware that particular Codes and Ordinances exist or they are experiencing a hardship that has hindered their ability keep their property in order.

Letters issued by the Code Enforcement Division include the code section(s) violated, actions necessary to achieve compliance, and contact information for questions and to arrange inspection appointments.

Ignoring or disregarding a Notice of Violation could result in legal action by the City Prosecuting Attorney. If you receive a Code Enforcement Violation letter we recommend the following actions:

- Call the phone number provided to ask for clarification of anything you do not understand. Speaking directly with the Officer who issued the letter can clarify misunderstandings.
- Schedule inspections that allow you to meet with the Officer on site in a timely manner. The sooner you meet with the Officer the sooner you can discuss a plan of action to reach compliance. Complex situations may require a meeting with City Planning, and Building and Safety staff at City Hall.
- Immediately inform the Offi-

See **The Code Zone** page 5



Job Preparation Workshops for Teens and Adults



The EBDC holds workshops, as well as job fairs like the one pictured here to help job seekers find employment.

To help teens develop skills that can land them a job, the Commerce Employment

and Business Development Center (EBDC) is hosting the Teen Job Preparation Workshop on Wednesday, March 14 from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Teen Job Preparation Workshop coincides with the upcoming Youth Education and Service (YES) Program, which provides job opportunities with the City for Commerce youth ages 14-19.

The workshop will cover resume writing, the application process, as well as interviewing

and grooming skills. "The skills we help job seekers develop can make the difference in helping them get a job," said EBDC Senior Employment Service Representative Liz Chavez.

Job preparation classes are also offered to adults and the general public from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., every Tuesday and Thursday at the EBDC.

"These workshops increase job seekers' chances of getting a job by providing them with

tools to help them gain confidence when looking for employment," said Chavez who teaches the classes along with Senior Employment Services Representative Juan Muniz, Sr.

One-one-one classes are available for job seekers who are unable to attend Tuesdays or Thursdays. The EBDC is located in Commerce City Hall, 2535 Commerce Way. For more information, call the EBDC at (323) 887-4461.

I want to congratulate Miss Commerce 2012 and the new Royal Court, as well as the 2012 Young Man of the Year. While we did not have the names of the winners as the RTTP went to press, next month we will have the full story to share with residents who were unable to attend the Pageant on February 25. Replays of the Pageant can be viewed on Commerce Cable Channel 3 or via the City's website at www.ci.commerce.ca.us/. Check the Cable TV listings in this issue of RTTP for dates and times.

Also available on the City's website is the electronic version of the City of Commerce 2011 Annual Report. The Annual Report provides extensive information about the City's budget, major projects and accomplishments in 2011. The Annual Report also provides an overview of each Department and the services they provide. Hard copies of the 2011 Annual Report are available at each of Commerce's four public libraries.

As reported last month, proposals were made to extend the February 1 deadline in the law to eliminate redevelopment agencies. This was needed to clear up certain problems associated with the end of redevelopment. Unfortunately, a deadline extension did not materialize and this has created an environment with serious and uncertain financial implications for the City. This legislation enacted by the Governor and the State Legislature is already having a devastating impact on government agencies throughout the State, including the City of Commerce. Redevelopment agencies were a crucial element in establishing affordable housing developments like the Vista Del Rio homes, as well as economic development projects like the Citadel, which are critical in creating jobs and local revenue to pay for City services and infrastructure.

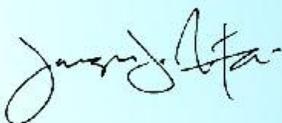
All of this comes after the last three years marked by the Great Recession. This was a challenging time for the City of Commerce, necessitating spending reductions to maintain a balanced budget. Although the City has emerged from three straight years of reductions to our operating budget...over \$5 million in reductions in fairly good shape, we now face a fourth consecutive year of an even greater challenge; the elimination of Redevelopment.

The end of Redevelopment has left the City of Commerce facing a projected deficit of \$1.25 to \$1.5 million in the remainder of the current 2011/2012 Fiscal Year (ending June 30, 2012) and a projected deficit of over \$3.9 million in the 2012/2013 Fiscal Year.

As the community faces this challenge together, I am confident that we will move forward in partnership to emerge from this crisis in a resilient manner. As always, our goal is to provide the best possible City services within available resources.

In closing, I'd like to congratulate three City employees Robert Real, Raul Anthony Diaz and Jose Guillen for their heroic act in aiding an individual during an epileptic seizure. Had they not intervened the unthinkable could have happened. I'd also like to congratulate 13-year-old Julia Colin (story on page 4) who is a Commerce resident and Girl Scout in St. Benedict's Troop #8361 for thinking about people in need and taking action to make a difference in their lives. Thank you Julia, Jose, Raul and Robert!

Sincerely,
Jorge Rifá




Council Actions

Regular Meeting Reports

Regular Meeting of January 17

- Recognized King Taco #12 for its donation to the Commerce 14 and Under "B" Crush Volleyball Team.
- Presented a certificate of achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Finance Department staff for the City's 2009-10 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).
- Authorized appropriation of funds to purchase a heater for the Aquatorium competition pool.
- Approved the 2012 Commerce Civic and Service Organizations.
- Approved contracts for the Home Preservation Grant and the Community Development Block Grant Programs.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing implementation of a Health Reimbursement Arrangement which sets aside funds to reimburse medical expenses paid by retirees through a service agreement with Optum Health.
- Adopted a resolution approving a policy for the investment of City funds.
- Approved the purchase of two new buses from New Flyer of America, Inc.
- Approved the purchase of a bus washer from NS Corporation.
- Approved a resolution to purchase a bus lift from Southwest Lift and Equipment, Inc.
- Approved a draft comment letter on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Southern California International Gateway Project.
- Approved a resolution declaring Commerce's intent to become the successor agency of the Commerce Community Development Commission.
- Adjourned in memory of Jose Calzadiaz, longtime Commerce resident and Sandy Wright, sister-in-law of City employee Linda Wright.

Special Meeting of January 31

- Adopted a resolution approving a revised City comment letter on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Southern California International Gateway Project.
- Adopted a resolution, determining that the City retain responsibility of performing the housing functions previously performed by the Commerce Community Development Commission (CDC).
- Adopted a resolution recognizing the authority of the City of Commerce, as the successor agency to the CDC.
- Adopted a resolution amending the enforceable obligation payment schedule required by Health and Safety Code §34167.
- Adopted a resolution demanding repayment of loans made by the Commerce CDC; demanding the CDC transfer funds and assets to the City in the amount of the outstanding loan and interest payment balances; and declaring the City's intent to hold such funds and assets in trust until the validity of the provisions of AB1X26, that purport to invalidate such city loan obligations, is fully and finally adjudicated by the courts.
- Approved a resolution of the CDC acknowledging the City's demand for the return/transfer of real property known as the Stahl Trust Property which the City loaned the CDC \$5.7 million to purchase; and authorizing the transfer of said property with the understanding that the City will hold in trust until the validity of the provisions of AB1X26 that purport to invalidate City loan obligations is fully and finally adjudicated by the courts.

Regular Meeting of February 7

- Honored City employees Robert Real, Raul Anthony Diaz and Jose Guillen for their act of heroism responding to the aid of an individual with a medical emergency (see photo above).
- Adopted a revised substance abuse policy for Com-

merce Personnel Policies and Procedures for commercial drivers relative to Federal Transportation Administration Guidelines.

- Approved a resolution declaring the City's intention to provide abatement of weeds, brush, rubbish and refuse in approved a contract with E.C. Construction for infrastructure improvements around local elementary schools as part of the Safe Route to School Program



Heroic Commerce employees Robert Real and Raul Anthony Diaz. Not pictured is employee Jose Guillen.

- Authorized the allocation of funds for the Community Development Block Grant program.
- Received and filed a status report on the elimination of Redevelopment, the financial status of the City for Fiscal Year 2011/2012, the impact of the end of redevelopment and projected deficit for FY 2012/2013.
- Received and filed a report on the status of the City's green policy/green zones and gave staff direction to work with East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice to move forward on developing a stakeholders group.
- Received and filed a report on creating digital billboard standards for the City of Commerce. Denied renewal of official Commerce Service Organization status to the Door of Hope Community Center. Directed staff to advertise and seek sponsorships to offset costs for Dodger Night and Galaxy Night as cost saving measures.
- Adopted a resolution rejecting all bids for Cash Contract No. 1109 - The Central Library, City Hall and Senior Plaza Improvements Project.
- Adjourned in memory of Frances Gleason Hughes, former member of the Miss Commerce Royal Court and daughter of Commerce resident Wilma Hurtig; Commerce resident Ricky Casares; Robert Conover former Commerce Library Director; and in memory of the Commerce Community Development Commission and the elimination of redevelopment activities in Commerce and the State of California.

Report to the People

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents

Writers/ Photographers:
Jason Stinnett
Sylvia Rico-Sanchez

Graphics Design/ Layout & Printing:
Anthony Aguilar



PIO Staff:
Darryl Leyden
Marie Hovik
Edward Torres
Joe Sandoval

Please call (323) 887-4453 or (323) 887-4447
Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. or visit us online at
www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

Community Development Department

■ Improving Quality of Life

The Commerce Community Development Department promotes economic prosperity in the City and improves the quality of life for Commerce individuals, families and neighborhoods.

The Community Development Department oversees building and safety, business support services, economic development, code enforcement services, environmental services, housing resources and assistance, planning and public services.

Economic development has been a significant function of the department since 1974, but on Feb. 1, all California Redevelopment agencies were abolished, including the Commerce Redevelopment Agency. While the loss of redevelopment was a blow to the City, the City Council is seeking to further strengthen economic development.

Despite the severe impacts on the Community Development Department caused by the loss of redevelopment many vital services and divisions remain intact.

The Building and Safety Division is responsible for reviewing construction plans, issuing building permits and overseeing building inspections. The division regulates and controls the design, construction, materials, maintenance, use, occupancy and location of all buildings and structures within the City.

The Planning Division assists the general public by providing information regarding zoning and development. The Planning Division reviews all residential, commercial, and industrial development proposals to ensure compliance with the Commerce Municipal Code. The division is responsible for regulating the type, scale and land use that may be established at a given location. The division also advises the Planning Commission and City Council on land use and development projects and policy.

Planning Division staff coordinates public hearings for projects requesting allowances governed by conditional use permits and variances. Additionally, the Planning Division is also responsible for assisting the public with the City's permit process.

The Environmental Services Division is responsible for implementing community recycling, solid waste reduction, waste toxicity reduction and the safe handling and proper disposal of hazardous waste. The division also institutes programs that protect water and air quality and that conserve energy and water. The City's Residential Curbside Recycling Program, which started

in 1993, provides the most effective method to recover recyclables such as, aluminum, plastic, glass, paper and green waste.

In 2009 the City expanded its recycling program to the commercial sector with the adoption of the Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance. This ordinance requires that at least 50 percent of the total construction and demolition debris generated by construction, demolition and renovation projects be recycled or reused.

The City's Housing Division offers various programs for home improvement, first-time homebuyers and other housing needs in the community. The Home Preservation Grant Program can provide income eligible residents with up to \$15,000 for home improvements and \$10,000 for emergency repairs and modifications. The First-Time Homebuyer Program assists low-to-moderate-income families with the purchase of their first home by providing second mortgage assistance. It is important to note that with the dissolution of redevelopment many of these programs may be put on hold so residents are encouraged to call to find out the status of housing programs.

While businesses generally turn to the Community Development Department to apply for a business license or obtain a permit, other services are available as well. The Department's webpage provides businesses with information on job recruitment help, the City's budget and City Council meetings. It also links to the Industrial Council website.

The Code Enforcement Division ensures that all neighborhoods adhere to Commerce Municipal Code Ordinances, focusing primarily on conditions that are detrimental to property values and community appearance, interfere with the enjoyment of adjacent property or premises (both public and private), or are hazardous or injurious to the health, safety, or welfare of the general public. The Code Enforcement Division also promotes beautification through the Christmas and Halloween Decorations Contests, the Home/Industry of the Year Contest, the annual Spring Clean-up and the Keep Commerce Beautiful campaign.

For more information, call the Community Development Department at (323) 722-4805, ext. 2230.



The Commerce Community Development Department successfully utilized redevelopment funding to redevelop a former tire manufacturing plant built in the 1920's into the Citadel Outlets, a successful retail center.



Today the Citadel Outlets employs more than 1,000 people and generates more than \$2 million in annual sales tax revenue that pays for vital resident programs and services.

Where Quality Service Is Our Tradition

Home Preservation Grants Available

Income eligible residents can receive grants of up to \$15,000 for home improvements such as, painting, plumbing, roofing and window repairs, and up to \$10,000 to address emergency repairs and modifications, through the Home Preservation Grant Program.

The City Council approved the allocation of funds for the 38th annual Federal Community Development Block Grant on Feb. 7, which included \$100,000 for the Home Preservation Grant Program for the upcoming 2012/2013 Fiscal Year.

"We are currently taking interest forms," said Christina Perez, Commerce Housing and Redevelopment Manager, during the Feb. 7 Council Meeting. "Whatever we can do to counsel the homeowners and help them with the contractor's list, that's what we do and it's our main job to listen."

Eligible improvement repairs include, but are not limited to, lead-paint based hazards; exterior accessibility modifications for elderly and disabled persons; minor repairs and replacement of windows, doors, roofs, interior and exterior paint; site improvements; utility connections and plumbing. Emergency repairs are those related to health and safety and code violations.

The Program was established to eliminate substandard housing conditions and to promote property maintenance by providing residential rehabilitation grants to qualified low- and moderate-income residents living in single-family, owner-occupied dwellings within the City of Commerce.

For more information, call the Community Development Department at (323) 722-4805, ext. 2230.



The Commerce home pictured here was upgraded through the Home Preservation Grant Program.

A Girl Scout Warms Up Hearts In Commerce

Commerce resident Julia Colin, 13, who is also a Girl Scout in St. Benedict's Girl Scout Troop #8361 collected approximately 200 pairs of gloves, 100 beanies, 100 scarves, and nearly 600 pairs of socks that were given to needy Commerce residents who participated in the City's 2011 Holiday Cheer Program, which is coordinated by the Department of Community Services.

It all began when Julia was searching for a project to earn her Girl Scout Silver Award, which is the second highest honor a Girl Scout can earn and requires a commitment of 50 volunteer hours. She knew she wanted to do something to help her fellow residents so she called the Community Services Department and talked to Social Services Coordinator Moyra Garcia to come up with ideas.

Julia, in collaboration with Garcia came up with the idea of collecting warm winter clothes for the needy and the name, which is "Warming Up Hearts in Our Community."

Once Julia received approval from the City she quickly got to work distributing flyers, setting up donation boxes at the City's four parks, and reaching out to various organizations for donations.

The donated clothing flooded in from teachers at Rosewood School, her troop's Girl Scout Service Unit, employees in the medical offices at the building where her mom Myrna works, St. Benedict's Girl Scout Troop 8361, and family members. Julia kept her mom busy driving from Glendale to Whittier and points in between to pick up donations.

In addition to all this, one of Julia's teachers, Ms. Roberta Melendez, taught her to make scarves just for the project. Julia ended up making more than 30 scarves with fabric donated by Melendez and her Aunt Lily Gallo. All together Julia spent close to 70 hours on her project.

On the day of Holiday Cheer in December, Julia was there to distribute donated items to people in the program. "Julia took pride in her community and helped the Holiday Cheer program, which a lot of people benefitted from. I think she has set a great example for other youth in the community," said Garcia.

Once her project was complete, Julia contacted and thanked everyone who helped and gave patches to her fellow Girl Scouts that assisted her. She is scheduled to receive her Silver Award in May at a Girl Scout Council ceremony. Her future goals are to earn her Gold Award and to continue to make a difference in her community.

Business Cooperation Program

Free Program Helps Businesses Keep Tax Dollars in Commerce

Qualified local businesses can help Commerce keep tax dollars in the community by participating in the Commerce Business Cooperation Program.

When Commerce businesses make large purchases from out-of-state or out-of-country vendors, they pay a one percent "Use Tax" which is put into a tax pool and shared with other cities in Los Angeles County. Commerce's share of the tax pool is one percent of one percent or less.

The Commerce Business Cooperation Program assists eligible local businesses with applying for a California State Board of Equalization Use Tax Direct Payment Permit that changes the way the State distributes local "Use Tax" and results in the City receiving 100 percent of its one percent share.

Participation is voluntary, free of cost, and does not result in new or increased taxes. By participating in the program, eligible businesses keep "Use Tax" revenue

in the community, generating much-needed funding for infrastructure and services like public safety and fire protection. Businesses may also be able to extend the use of their money due to a delayed tax remittance versus an immediate tax remittance. The Business Cooperation Program has also been vetted by the Commerce Industrial Council.

City staff will be contacting eligible Commerce businesses for voluntary participation. Businesses and non-profit corporations with equipment expenditures of \$500,000 or more from out-of-state vendors will be encouraged to take part in the program. Consultants from Municipal Revenue Advisors will work with City staff and local businesses to facilitate implementation of the program.

For more information, call Business License Officer Maria Villaseñor at (323) 722-4805, ext. 2327.

Library News

FUN ACTIVITIES AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Geek Out @ Your City of Commerce Public Libraries:

March 5 – 10

Teen Tech Week is a celebration of technology and its importance in our lives. Teens are encouraged to be both competent and ethical users of technologies. So, the library will be sponsoring both fun and educational activities for teens.

Computer Workshop Introduction to Library Databases

Central Library

Monday, March 5

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

When searching for information, it's common to turn to search engines and sources like Wikipedia. But such sources can sometimes yield questionable results. Learn about the difference between automatically compiled search results and search results based on subject databases. You'll also have the opportunity to find out about some of the special electronic resources we offer, including Homework Help, World Book Web, and the Gale Virtual Reference Library.

Track Mania

All Commerce Libraries

Monday-Thursday, March 5, 6, 7, 8

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Track Mania is an on-line racing game which allows teens to compete with one another on various race tracks. To make things even more interesting, teens will be able to compete with their friends playing from other Commerce libraries. A prize will be given to the top winner.

Hackasaurus

Central Library

Friday, March 9

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Hackasaurus allows users to "see" the code behind websites. More than that, it allows teens to experiment by remixing a website and sharing their creations with friends. It's a fun way to learn about the web.

Techie Movie

Central Library Saturday, March 10

11 a.m.

Commerce Photo Contest

All Commerce Libraries

Monday – Saturday, March 5-10

For those teens unable to join us at the library, there's still another opportunity to participate in Teen Tech Week. Explore the City of Commerce and take a picture of a cool or beautiful place. Then e-mail the photo to us at ReferenceL@ci.commerce.ca.us. We'll also have cameras available for a two-day check-out at all Commerce libraries. Photos should be submitted by 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 10. A prize will be awarded to the first place winner.

For more information please visit www.cocpl.org or any Commerce Library.

Teen Book Club Returns

Teen Book Club returns to the Central Library on Wednesday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. All teens in grades 8th-12th can participate. The March book selection is *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Join us and you will be entered into a drawing to go see the movie on Friday, March 30. For more information, please call 323-722-6660 or visit www.cocpl.org. All future book club meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

2012 Drawing & Essay Contest:

"How Can I Keep My Community Beautiful?"

Children and teens are invited to draw a picture or write an essay about how they can keep their community beautiful for the 2012 Drawing and Essay Contest, sponsored by the Commerce Public Library and the City of Commerce Education Commission. The theme for both contests is "How Can I Keep My Community Beautiful?"

Children in kindergarten to second grade may enter the Drawing Contest. First, second and third place winners will be selected. Prizes include a \$50 Target gift card for first place, and backpacks with art supplies for second and third places.

Students in third to twelfth grades may enter the Essay Contest. First, second and third place winners will be selected in age groups for third to fifth grades, sixth to eighth grades, and ninth to twelfth grades. Essay contest prizes for each level include: A \$50 Target gift card for the first place winners, and backpacks with school supplies for second and third place winners.



 Girl Scouts

Queen's Breakfast

A COMMERCE TRADITION



Pictured are ABC7 Public Affairs Director Teresa Samaniego and Miss Commerce Pageant Director Adolfo Marquez at the Queen's Breakfast

2012 Miss Commerce Pageant participants and their mothers were invited to share breakfast with the Commerce Queen and Court at the Queen's Breakfast held Feb. 4 at Steven's Steak House.

The breakfast has been a tradition since the 70s and is an opportunity for the participants to meet community leaders and bond as a group.

This year, for the first time ever, the Young Man of the Year was invited to participate. Besides reading the invocation, Julian Casillas took a brief strut across the catwalk during the fashion show segment of the program, which met with applause from the audience.

Teresa Samaniego, director of public affairs for ABC7, was the featured speaker. She shared some of her personal obstacles, followed with advice on how to achieve goals and live a successful life.

A domestic abuse survivor, Samaniego is a real life example of how it is possible to leave an abusive relationship after 18 years and live a fulfilling, joyful life. "Life has been very, very good to me," said

Samaniego. "...there isn't a day that I don't get up in the morning and say thank you before I get out of bed...we all have so much to be grateful for."

As Director of Public Affairs, Teresa Samaniego represents ABC7 in the community and helps to promote important issues through campaigns such as the Spark of Love holiday toy drive; KID HEALTHY: Steps to Healthy Living; and Ready SoCal: Disaster Preparedness. She currently serves as the President Emeritus of the Board of Directors for Padres Contra El Cancer and as a board member for the Community Coalition, the Puente Learning Center and the Glendale Chamber of Commerce.

Samaniego is also the recipient of many awards including the Glendale Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award, the Life Saving Award from the American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles, the Public Service Spirit Award from the Southern California Broadcasters Association and the Ruben Salazar Award from the Community Coalition.

She concluded her speech by advising participants to have a good attitude, be appreciative, show gratitude and serve others.

The Queen's breakfast also featured the presentation of the pageant participants, the Pageant Steering Committee and the 2011 Queen and Court. Past queens were asked to come on stage and offer the participants advice for pageant night. Advice ranged from encouraging participants to be themselves to suggesting they put petroleum jelly on their teeth to make it easier to smile.

The breakfast ended with a fashion show provided by L & M Fashions & Accessories, which featured the 2011 Queen and Court and their mothers as models.

The Queen's Breakfast was sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department under the direction of Pageant Director Adolfo Marquez.



Money Saving Rebates

SAVE ELECTRICITY, WATER AND MONEY

Visit the new and improved Environmental Services section of the City's website

at www.ci.commerce.ca.us/ under Community Development for information on purchasing high efficiency

water saving clothes washers, toilets, irrigation nozzles and weather-based irrigation controllers.

Income qualified renters and homeowners can also look under 'Energy' on the Environmental Services web page for information on discounts from the Gas Company and Edison.

Teen Center News

FUN FOR TEENS AND PRETEENS IN MARCH

The Teen Center has a wide variety of fun clubs and activities for Commerce Teens and Preteens Monday through Friday. Clubs include the Pre-Teen Club, the Teen Club, the Pre Teen GirlOlogy Club, the Teen GirlOlogy Club, the Chef Club and the Adventure Club.

Activities include classes in baking, screen printing, weight training, art and guitar. Also, for the aspiring

journalist is the Teen Times Newsletter. For the theatrically inclined, the Teen Center's On Cue Performing Arts Group is currently working on a production of The Wizard of Oz slated for April.

There's something for everybody at the Teen Center. For more information on these clubs and activities, as well as upcoming trips, call the Teen Center at (323) 264-4665.

The Code Zone

Cont. from Pg. 1

The Commerce Code Enforcement Division's role is to assist citizens with violations and work with them to achieve code compliance.

Code Enforcement Officers are required to issue "Notice of Violation" letters to residents when violations of the Commerce Municipal Code are identified. In many cases people are unaware that particular

CITY OF COMMERCE CHANNEL 3



March 2012 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.

"IN A COUNCIL MINUTE" A ONE MINUTE RECAP OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mondays at 4 p.m., Tuesdays at 9 a.m., Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m., Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m. & Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

COMMERCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SHOW EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN COMMERCE

Mondays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 9 a.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 3:30 p.m., Saturdays at 7 p.m. & Sundays at 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.

COMMERCE CITY NEWS

Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday at 3 p.m., Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Friday at 5:30 p.m., Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. & Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

CALIFORNIA'S WATER (HUELL HOWSER)

Mondays at 2 p.m., Tuesdays at 11 a.m., Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 8 p.m., Fridays at 2 p.m., Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. & Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Twilight Dance Music Concert featuring: "Jon Cleary"

Mondays at 10 a.m., Tuesdays at 12 p.m., Wednesdays at 8 a.m., Thursdays at 3 p.m., Fridays at 6 p.m., Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. & Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

K 9 CORNER

Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Thursdays at 2 p.m., Fridays at 8 a.m., Saturdays at 12 p.m. & Sundays at 8 p.m.

VINTAGE VEHICLE SHOW SHOWS INCLUDE:

"Aquafest Car Show" Tuesdays at 3 p.m.
"Artistic Creations Car Show" Wednesdays at 6:33 p.m.
"Mike Terry Collection" Thursdays at 8 a.m.
"Club Auto Colorado" Saturdays at 8 a.m.

Commerce City Channel 3 offers DVD copies of local programs broadcast on channel 3 & 32 for \$10. 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 for more information.



Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future

Queen's Breakfast



The 2011 Queen and Court strike a pretty pose at the Queen's Breakfast on Feb. 4. Left to right are Miss Cinco de Mayo Janet García, Miss 4th of July/Miss Friendship Rocio Espinoza Ulloa, Miss Galaxy Natalie Contreras, Miss Dodgers Shanese Shawntae Perea and Miss Commerce Lesly Mendez.

Former Queens



Former Queens take the center stage at the Queen's Breakfast on Feb. 4 at Steven's Steak House.

Community Day of Service



A teen volunteer is focused on giving the fence at the Teen Center a fresh coat of paint as part of the Community Day of Service.

Work Assignments



Assistant Teen Center Supervisor Tina Fierro announces work assignments for teen volunteers at the Community Day of Service.

Family Working Together



Youth Advisory Commissioner Marilyn Arroyo and her brother Mark diligently apply a coat of paint to the Teen Center's interior.

Youth Empowerment



Teen and pre-teen volunteers took action to improve their environment by planting flowers and laying sod at the Teen Center and Bandini Park during the Community Day of Service.

Community Partnership



City employees like Marcos Ortega pictured here, worked hand in hand with teen and pre-teen volunteers at the Community Day of Service to beautify City facilities.

Beverly Hospital Donation



The City donated a vehicle formerly used for the Commerce Medi-Ride Program to Beverly Hospital. The 10-passenger van now transports people from 10 cities to and from Beverly Hospital for inpatient and outpatient medical procedures.

Library Class Visits



The Commerce Public Library System hosts class visits like the one pictured here at the Central Library where Senior Library Assistant Josue Martinez reads "Circus" by Lois Ehlert to a class from Rosewood School.

Operation Kid Print at McDonald's



In late January the Commerce McDonald's Restaurant hosted the Department of Community Services Operation Kid Print, the City's free child fingerprinting program.

LEARN GROW THRIVE

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



PRESCHOOL MONTEBELLO – COMMERCE YMCA

You will have peace of mind knowing your children are in a safe and nurturing environment where we focus on the developmental stages of growth. Through a curriculum that is aligned with State of California standards, we plan activities which will enhance your child's ability to problem solve, create and interact in different social situations. We encourage children to be children.

LOCATION
Montebello-Commerce YMCA Preschool and Early Education Center
2353 Commerce Way, Commerce
License #198007557

Conveniently located just minutes
off the 5 freeway!

Financial assistance available
Contact Laura Figueroa
laurafigueroa@ymcala.org
or call 323-728-7380

MONTEBELLO – COMMERCE YMCA
2000 W. Beverly Blvd. Montebello
www.ymcala.org/mc

Our nurturing staff
encourages children to
help plan the day and
focus on their need to
explore.



The City of Commerce Department of Community Services Employment Business and Development Center

presents



Wednesday, March 14, 2012

from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Employment Business and Development Center
2535 Commerce Way

Teen Job Seekers can work on skills that include:

•Resume Writing •The Application Process •Interview Tips

To sign up or for more information, call (323) 887-4461.

The Department of Parks and Recreation
Presents

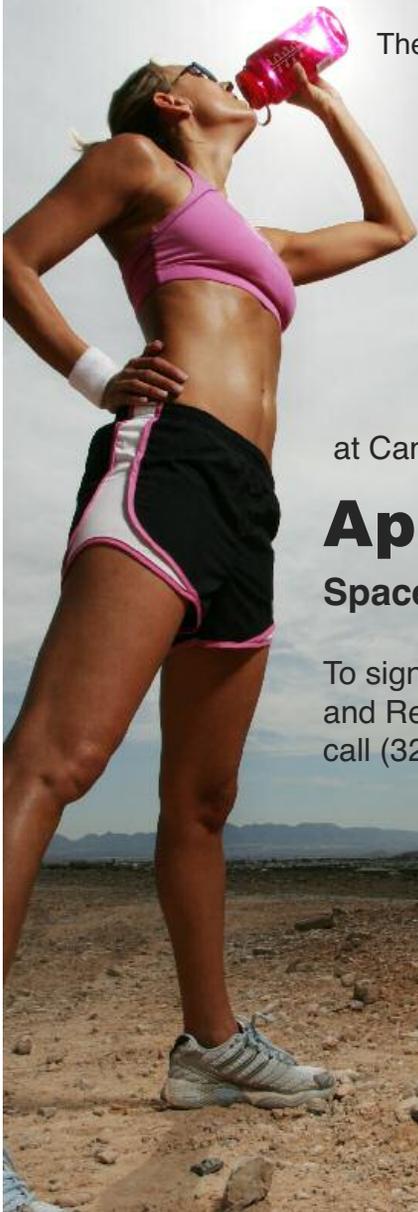
Women's Fitness Weekend

at Camp Commerce in Lake Arrowhead

April 27-29

Space is limited so call today!

To sign up visit the Department of Parks
and Recreation. For more information,
call (323) 887-4434.



Apply for the Commerce Scholarship

Commerce residents enrolled in college or who will be attending college in fall 2012 are invited to apply for a 2012 City of Commerce Scholarship.

Applications are available online only via the Commerce Library's website at www.cocpl.org or the Library section of the City's website www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Current resident of the City of Commerce for at least one year
- Carry 12 or more units (full-time status)
- Provide proof of college or university acceptance and establish financial need
- Overall grade point average of 2.0 if attending a junior college, or 2.5 if attending a university or four-year college
- Be available for an oral interview
- Submit the application packet by 5 p.m. on May 4th



Early submissions are encouraged. For more information, visit the Commerce Public Library System website at www.cocpl.org

COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL



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

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Day of Service

Cont. from Pg. 1



An army of teen and pre teen volunteers partnered with City staff to beautify the Teen Center and Bandini Park at the Community Day of Service.

cer of any hardships, financial or otherwise which may pose a challenge for compliance. The Officer may inform you of available resources or give you more time to comply.

Code Enforcement will assist you in a cooperative effort to reach compliance, protect the public welfare, and maintain the beauty of the community.

If you receive a Notice of Violation from the City of Commerce Code Enforcement Division, please call (323) 722-4805, extension 2293.

Councilmember Resigns

Resignation Creates a Vacancy on the City Council

Councilmember Robert Fierro announced his resignation from the Commerce City Council on February 14, citing his desire to spare the City unwarranted distractions related to his February 6 guilty plea to a Federal conspiracy charge.

“On February 7, 2012, I announced that I intended to submit my resignation after the completion of my court proceedings. I have since given the matter much more thought and consideration and have concluded that any further delay would not be prudent,” said Mr. Fierro in a prepared statement, which is available in its entirety on the City of Commerce website at www.ci.commerce.ca.us/.

Mr. Fierro was first elected to the Commerce City Council in March 2005 and was re-elected in March 2009. He served as Mayor from March 2007 to March 2008 during which time he es-

tablished the Commerce Mayor’s Business Relations Subcommittee, which continues today. Mr. Fierro also served as Mayor Pro Tempore from March 2006 to March 2007, and again from March 2010 to March 2011.

As the RTTP went to press, the Council was expected to discuss the vacant position at the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on February 21st. The Council must decide within 60 days to either fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term by appointment or leave the seat vacant until filled at a Special Municipal Election, which would coincide with the November 6 General Election.

March Dates to Note

1
 Parks and Recreation Commission, 6 p.m.
 Read Across America at Bristow Library

5
 English Book Club, 6 p.m.
 Youth Advisory Commission, 7 p.m.

6
City Council/CDC Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

7
 Senior Citizens Commission, 12:30 p.m.
 Traffic Commission, 6:30 p.m.

8
 Community Services Commission, 6 p.m.

11
Daylight Savings

12
 Education Commission, 6 p.m.

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

17
 St. Patrick’s Day

20
 Spring begins
 Library Embajadores, 6 p.m.
City Council/CDC Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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

27
 Library Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 I-710 Local Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m.

28
 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

31
Cesar Chavez Day