

Report to the People

Teen Perform
The Wizard of Oz
Page 7

Where Quality Service
Is Our Tradition

Volume 52 No.4 April 2012

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L. to r. are Miss Fourth of July Jannine Mancilla, Miss Dodgers Alyssa Rubio, Miss Commerce 2012 Unique Hernandez, Miss Galaxy Karely Ramirez, Miss Cinco de Mayo Amanda Alvarado and Miss Friendship Jennifer Mendoza.

A 'UNIQUE' MISS COMMERCE IS CROWNED

East Los Angeles College student and Commerce resident, Unique Starlene Hernandez, 19, was crowned Miss Commerce 2012 at the 52nd Annual Miss Commerce Pageant held on Feb. 25 at Stevens Steak and Seafood House in Commerce.

At the pageant Hernandez carried herself with confidence and expressed herself with sincerity. "Being Miss Commerce is more than just wearing a crown and sash. It is about commitment, dedication and being the best you can be for the City," said Hernandez.

Hernandez is the daughter of Brenda Wood Diaz, a former Miss Commerce, and Joe Hernandez. Hernandez has spent time as a volunteer in the City's

Day Camp Program and serves as a Sunday school teacher at the Door of Hope Community Center. Her career goal is to attend culinary school, become a certified baker and to one day open her own bakery.

Hernandez received numerous gifts including a \$2,500 scholarship from the Commerce Casino for earning the title. "I truly believe you're going to be a great ambassador for the City," said Commerce Casino's Director of Advertising and Marketing John Griffio before presenting her with the scholarship award.

Hernandez following in her mother Brenda's footsteps (Miss Commerce 1985) marks the second time in the City's

history that the daughter of a former Miss Commerce claims the title. The first mother-daughter duo was Miss Commerce 1970 Elizabeth Barbosa Reza and her daughter Miss Commerce 1999 Jennifer Reza.

Joining Hernandez as the 2012 Royal Court are Miss Dodgers Alyssa Briana Rubio, 17; Miss Galaxy Karely Ramirez, 21; Miss Fourth of July Jannine Mancilla, 20; and Miss Cinco de Mayo Marie Alvarado, 19 who were selected by the panel of celebrity judges. Miss Friendship Jennifer Guadalupe Mendoza, 20, was also named to the Court by the pageant participants for being

See **Miss Commerce** page 8



The City Council has proclaimed April as Autism Awareness Month in the City of Commerce. Below is information from the Autism Society, which is one of the Nation's leading grassroots autism organizations:

In 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued their autism prevalence report, which concluded that the prevalence of autism had risen to 1 in every 110 births in the United States and almost 1 in 70 boys. This is why more agencies and organizations are focusing on early identification and treatment options for autism.

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. There is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness and funding can help families today.

Knowing the signs is important because early identification of autism in children can change their lives.

Autism is treatable, and while children do not "outgrow" autism, studies show that early diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes.

Symptoms include a lack of or delay in spoken language; repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms (e.g., hand-flapping, twirling objects); little or no eye contact; lack of interest in peer relationships; lack of spontaneous or make-believe play; and persistent fixation on parts of objects.

For more information on autism, visit www.autism-society.org or www.autismspeaks.org.

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY CENTER PREPARES STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND THE WORKFORCE



ATC students Mauricio Yboa and Robert Fuentes.

To prepare Montebello Unified School District (MUSD) high school students for college and the workforce, MUSD's Applied Technology Center (ATC) opened its doors last fall.

The freshmen class of 230 began in September. Each student chose from two of the school's four educational pathways before deciding which pathway they'll continue on through graduation. The four pathways are Engineering and Construction Management;

Health Science; Hospitality (restaurant/culinary); and Public Services (law enforcement, fire service, legal professions).

Depending on the pathway they choose, students will work on projects like mock court trials, building and wiring a complete structure, culinary competitions, or planting and caring for an organic garden.

One student is freshman Mauricio Yboa, a Commerce resident who attended Bandini Elementary and then Rose-

wood School where teachers encouraged him to apply to the ATC.

Yboa chose the Engineering and Construction Management pathway. He described the program saying, "It's incredible. They've been teaching us about windmills, wind turbines, and how we extract power from the air... Basically, how to change this world and make it better."

See **Tech Center** page 3

FROM THE DESK OF JORGE RIFÁ

City Administrator

The City Council voted to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Council member Robert C. Fierro by appointment to save on the cost of a special election. The appointment is for one year-- the remainder of Mr. Fierro's term, which expires in 2013. In March, interested residents were asked to fill out applications and prepare statements expressing their interest in serving as a councilmember. The Council made every effort to make the process public and transparent.

In February, the City honored 71 city employees and 10 retirees for their service to Commerce. Among those honored was Teen Center supervisor Lucinda Blancarte, who has worked for the City for 40 years.

We congratulate and thank Lucinda for her many years of service. The community has benefitted from Lucinda's talents and versatility. All of our employees deserve to be recognized for the good work they do. I know I speak for the City Council when I say we value and appreciate each one of them. Thank you, Commerce employees.

The City hosted Student Government Day on March 15. Graduating high school seniors were assigned roles as City officials, department heads, public safety personnel and City staff. The seniors spent the day with their counterparts learning about the inner-workings of City government. We were very impressed with our students and commend them for their interest in local government. We hope that the experience will help prepare them for leadership roles in the community.

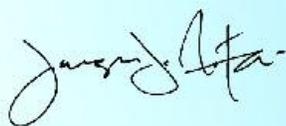
Congratulations to our new Miss Commerce Unique Starlene Hernandez and her Royal Court—Miss Dodgers Alyssa Brianna Rubio, Miss Galaxy Karely Ramirez, Miss 4th of July Jannine Mancilla, Miss Cinco de Mayo Amanda Marie Alvarado and Miss Friendship Jennifer Guadalupe Mendoza. We also congratulate our 2012 Young Man of the Year, Ernesto Covarrubias. We look forward to having them serve as ambassadors to the City.

The City of Commerce was named a finalist for the 2011 Eddy Awards in the Most Business Friendly City Competition. The competition is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation-- the region's premier economic development leadership organization. This is the third time that Commerce has participated in the competition and been recognized for its efforts in attracting, retaining and helping businesses grow. We are proud of this acknowledgement and will continue to promote a business friendly atmosphere.

The Parks and Recreation Department is seeking corporate and/or individual sponsors for the annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration, scheduled for May 5, at Rosewood Park. This is a great opportunity for local businesses to reach out to residents. Sponsorship levels include: Amigo Sponsor-\$250, Mariachi Sponsor-\$750, Corazon Sponsor-\$1,500, Fiesta Sponsor-\$5,000 and Presenting Sponsor-\$7,500. For more details, contact Interim Parks and Recreation Director Scott Wasserman at (323) 887-4434.

Just a reminder that the Baby Show and the Garden Show will now be part of the Cinco de Mayo Celebration. The merging of events saves the City money and generates greater participation for the Garden and Baby shows. The Easter Egg Hunt is set for 11 a.m., April 7, at all City parks. Have a Happy Easter!

Sincerely,
Jorge Rifá




MUNICIPAL NOTES

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION



Commerce is seeking corporate, civic/service or individual sponsors for the annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration scheduled for May 5 at Rosewood Park.

The celebration attracts more than 5,000 residents from the greater Los Angeles area and features a box-

ing show (sponsor secured), a tee ball exhibition, a live band, dancing, and booths offering food and games. This is a great opportunity for local businesses to reach out to residents.

Sponsorship levels include: Amigo Sponsor-\$250, Mariachi Sponsor-\$750, Corazon Sponsor-\$1,500, Fiesta Sponsor-\$5,000 and Presenting Sponsor-\$7,500.

For more details, contact Interim Parks and Recreation Director Scott Wasserman at (323) 887-4434.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

REGULAR MEETING REPORTS

Regular Meeting of February 21

- Received a scroll from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation honoring the City of Commerce as a finalist in the "EDDY Awards-Most Business Friendly City" competition.
- Approved Cash Contract No. 1111 – Energy Efficiency Upgrades at Various City Buildings to Hi-Tech Electric of Fullerton, CA in the amount of \$111,988.44 paid for with \$74,956 in grant funds and the reallocation of \$47,032.44 (\$37,032.44 + \$10,000 contingency) \$52,162 in projected savings from the ADA Council Chambers Improvement Project.
- Approved an abatement order directing the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to abate the seasonal and recurrent public nuisance to remove weeds, brush, rubbish and refuse from specified properties.
- Approved program changes incorporating the Annual Baby Show and Garden Show into the Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration.
- Adjourned in memory of Josephina Millan Gonzalez, Grandmother of Sonia Rodrigez, longtime Commerce resident and former Education Commissioner; and retired City employee Richard Talamantes.

Regular Meeting of March 6

- Proclaimed March 15, 2012 as Student Government Day in the City of Commerce and introduced the 2012 Student City Council Members. Approved the City of Commerce 2011 Annual Report.
- Approved a deferred compensation plan and a 457(b) specimen adoption agreement for deferred compensation plan for governmental employers between the City and ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company.
- Approved a purchase and sale agreement with Vons Companies, Inc. for the City's easement over a portion of Boxford Avenue in the amount of \$600,000 to be paid to the City.
- Adopted a resolution amending the Memorandum of Understanding with the mid-management and non-management full-time employees represented by the City of Commerce Employees Association AFSCME Local #773.
- Adopted a resolution amending Resolution 11-96 as it relates to medical plan benefits for the City's full-time, non-represented management employees, including the City Administrator and City Clerk. Adopted a resolution in support of Senate Bills 964 and 965 regarding storm water permitting procedures.
- Approved a professional services agreement with WLC Architects, Inc. for Architectural and Engineering Services in the amount of \$155,550 for the design and engineering of the new Emergency Operations Center including plans, specifications and estimates.

- Approved an agreement with the Franchise Tax Board for participation in a data exchange program.
- Approved the purchase of CDBG funded enforcement supplies, computer equipment and software for the Code Enforcement Division.
- Appointed the City Administrator and City Planner to the AB 1x26 Oversight Board to oversee the dismantling of the redevelopment agencies.
- Received and filed a report on the City's Mid Year Budget.
- Approved the reestablishment of the City's Blue Ribbon Committee tasked with developing and making recommendations for new funding strategies to the City Council.

Directed staff to draft a letter to be sent to Union Pa-



Alyssa Matas of the Youth Advisory Commission reads a plaque presented to the City Council for supporting the Community Day of Service. The plaque and a framed picture collage were presented on behalf of the Commerce Teen and Pre Teen Clubs.

- cific Railroad to address community concerns.
- Terminated the Senior Yard Maintenance Program.
- Approved a revised policy and procedure for the installation of on-street physically challenged accessible spaces.
- Appointed Art Gonzalez to the Traffic Commission.
- Adjourned in memory of Julieta Vela, former Commerce resident and mother of City employee Al Vela.

Report to the People

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents

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8 a.m. – 6 p.m. or visit us online at
www.ci.commerce.ca.us

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

OFFERS QUALITY PROGRAMS, SERVICE



Water polo players train at the Aquatorium.

The City of Commerce Department of Parks and Recreation has helped place Commerce on the map. Its sports programs were the training ground for Olympic champions Brenda Villa, Patty Cardenas and Javier Molina. It boasts state and national soccer championships, golden and silver gloves championships, an induction to the International Swimming Hall of Fame, a California Parks and Recreation Society Facility Design Award, Planning Award and Agency Brochure Showcase Award. These achievements can be attributed to a dedicated staff and quality programs and services.

The department is comprised of four neighborhood parks, seven community centers, and a camp in Lake Arrowhead.

Ninety-five percent of the Parks and Recreation Department's programs are free or very low cost, making it accessible to every member of the community.

Bandini, Bristow, Rosewood and Veterans parks offer residents a variety of services and amenities including: community centers with kitchens and meeting rooms, picnic shelters, and playgrounds with facilities and equipment for recreational baseball, basketball, football, and volleyball.

Each park offers youth sports including, baseball, basketball, boxing, flag football, handball, soccer, soft-

ball, swimming, volleyball and water polo. Adult sports teams include basketball, coed softball, coed volleyball, karate, men's baseball and men's softball. Park programs also include an After School Kids Club Program (see pg. 6), as well as pre-school and Tiny Tot programs, arts and crafts, dance, and monthly golf excursions.

Rosewood Park houses the Aquatorium, an indoor aquatic facility, that offers competitive swim and water polo programs, recreational swimming, swim lessons, first aid classes and training in life guarding and CPR.

The Teen Center, located in the Bandini neighborhood, and the Senior Citizens Center, located at the civic center, ensure all members of the community are served.

Camp Commerce is a youth, senior and family camp owned and operated by the City. Visitors are welcomed year-round. The camp is located a quarter mile from beautiful Lake Arrowhead and Lake Arrowhead Village. Campers have the option of staying at the camp site or enjoying free transportation to and from the village.

Park services also include low-cost excursions to festivals, amusement parks and historical landmarks and the rental of tables, chairs and community center meeting rooms.

Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department hosts many community events including, the Miss Commerce Pageant, Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Preschool Graduation, Independence Day Celebration and Veterans Day.

Outstanding programs, top-notch facilities, and a skilled staff make the Commerce Parks and Recreation Department one of the City's greatest assets.

For more information on Parks and Recreation programs and services, call (323) 887-4434.

TECH CENTER

CONT. FROM PG. 1



Students at the MUSD Applied Technology Center, pictured here with Algebra teacher Jose Ornelas will be ready for college, a career or both by graduation.

better."

The program for each pathway includes college preparatory courses that meet UC/CSU entrance requirements (also known as the A-G Requirements in MUSD). The program is also project based, which means success is based on learning outcomes.

"Once they're in the pathway they will have opportunities to do job shadowing, work based learning and internships. By graduation students will be ready to go directly into that business sector, a four year university or both," said Principal Patricia Lockhart.

Students work in groups of four and enter into contracts instead of receiving assignments from teachers. According to Lockhart, if students don't keep up they get warnings. In more serious cases students can call the parents of students in breach to ask them to talk to

their child about their participation. They can even get fired, in which case the punishment is to finish the project on their own.

Lockhart says overall the students' projects have been successful. In an early project students designed a mascot, colors, and physical education (PE) uniforms for the whole school. The students voted on the mascot; the ATC Iron Horse...a train engine denoting their technical bent and location next to a railroad line; and used their cell phones to get prices from vendors. The requirement was that the uniform be the same price or lower than Walmart or Target, which they successfully met.

The school's focus on technology goes beyond their pathways and includes laptops for all of their students. ATC teachers also average 60 hour work weeks and there are no bells or hall passes. While the course work sets the school apart, there's something more that makes the school special. "The technology is a part of it, but it's also about the culture the kids have built here. The work ethic that these students are showing is much more mature," said Algebra Teacher Jose Ornelas.

The ATC is open to students in grades 9-12 who can apply when they are in 8th grade. There is not a grade requirement or a waiting list, however the school accepts a limited number of students each year. For more information, call the MUSD Applied Technology Center at (323) 248-2500.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

FREE USED OIL RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Available at City Hall – Community Development Department counter
(one per household while supplies last, proof of residency required)

The Problem:

- One gallon of used motor oil can contaminate a million gallons of drinking water.
- Used motor oil accounts for more than 40% of the total pollution of our nation's harbors and waterways.
- Pouring motor oil down stormdrains leads it straight to the ocean and it's illegal.

The Solution:



Get paid .40 cents per gallon for recycling used motor oil!

Locations:

Commerce Lube Center
2432 S. Indiana St.
(323) 261-5100

Zippy Lube-A-Truck #1

4164 E. Washington Blvd.
(323) 265-2703
(call for hours of operation – limit 5 gallons per visit)

Collection centers will not accept used oil mixed with other fluids. Take contaminated oil to a FREE L.A. County Household Hazardous Waste Roundups on Saturdays. Call 1-888-CLEAN LA or visit www.CleanLA.com or the S.A.F.E. Center located at 2649 E. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Friday – Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Funded by a grant from the Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

Proudly Presents

CINCO DE MAYO Celebration 2012

A day of food, music, dancing
and local entertainment

Saturday May 5, 2012 Rosewood Park

The fun starts at 10 am with
the Annual Baby Pageant
Cinco de Mayo festivities kick
off at noon

Also featuring a **Boxing
Exhibition** from the
Commerce Boxing Club, the
**Hot Shot Tee
Ball** Season Kick off and
the **Annual
Garden Show**

from noon to 3 pm

LIBRARY NEWS

EVENTS, FILMS AND MORE AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Commemorate Earth Day at Two Libraries

Thursday, April 19 at 6 p.m. @ Atlantic Library

Atlantic Library, in conjunction with East Side Communities for Environmental Justice invites adults and children to participate in "All About Green Zones," a celebration filled with digital storytelling, mind/heart feed activity, book group reading, and an art project.

Thursday, April 26 at 6 p.m. @ Central Library

Meet filmmaker Anayansi Prado at the Central Library screening of his documentary "Paraiso for Sale." The film is about politics, indigenous rights, environmental issues, tourism and the future of Panama and other countries around the globe confronting the crises brought about by the increasing presence of wealthy foreigners.

Teen Book Club

The April Teen Book Club selection is "Uprising" by Margaret Peterson Haddix. The book club meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 25 at the Central Library.

Author Rene Colato-Lainez to Visit Central Library

Bilingual children's author Rene Colato-Lainez will be visiting the Central Library at 6 p.m., Monday, April 30, at the Central Library.

Colato-Lainez is the award-winning author of "I Am Rene, the Boy/Soy Rene, el nino," "From North to South/Del Norte al Sur," and "Playing Loteria."

BUSINESS PROFILE

KERRY INGREDIENTS AND FLAVOURS



The staff of Commerce business Kerry Ingredients and Flavours looks on during the ribbon cutting of their newly upgraded facility.

To assist Commerce residents in learning more about the City's vibrant business community, as well as the products, services, shopping or employment opportunities they offer, the RTTP will feature profiles of Commerce businesses throughout the year.

Kerry Ingredients and Flavours, which serves customers in more than 140 countries has a large food production facility in the City of Commerce that employs more than 100 people. Kerry's 65,000 square foot 'Regional Center of Excellence' produces approximately seven million pounds of goods that are inspected and shipped out of the facility annually.

While Kerry Ingredients isn't a household name, the liquid and dry flavors they produce can be found in cereals, yogurts, cakes and just about anything you can think of that has flavor. "You can go to a store and every aisle you go in, Kerry Ingredients has contributed to those products," said Plant Manager Erik Calderon.

Kerry Ingredients and Flavours celebrated the renovation and upgrade of their Commerce facility in March with a ribbon cutting ceremony that included representatives of the Commerce Industrial Council, the Commerce City Council, and Kerry representatives including Business President Jason Hawkins.

"Kerry Ingredients & Flavours is proud to call Commerce home to our West Coast flavors and beverage business," said Hawkins.

The Commerce plant, which is one of 40 Kerry operates in the United States, is considered a food production facility. Their staff includes a team of scientists that provide on-site research and development in their innovation labs. The facility also has a fully equipped application suite, which features fully functional kitchens where they can test out their fla-

vors and their customers can work with experts on the latest product concepts and improvements.

The application suite includes a tea, coffee and smoothie center; soft serve yogurt and dairy products; a culinary area for bakery and food products; and powder flavors for protein drinks and energy bars. In fact, City officials enjoyed a hot chocolate flavored by Kerry Ingredients on a tour of the facility following the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Kerry Group is a world leader in food ingredients and flavors serving the food and beverage industry, and a leading provider of added value brands and customer branded foods to the Irish and UK markets.

Kerry also has 'Centers of Excellence' in Wisconsin, Ireland, the Netherlands, Mexico, and China – supported by satellite research facilities in all major markets.



Kerry staff and scientists talk about the wide range of flavors they produce for thousands of products on grocery market shelves everywhere.

EMPLOYEES, RETIREES HONORED

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS AND RETIREMENT RECOGNITION DINNER



Parks and Recreation Department staff were among the employees honored at the Commerce Employee Service Awards and Retirement Recognition Dinner in February.

The City of Commerce honored retirees and long-time employees—including one with 40 years of service, at the Employee Service Awards and Retirement Recognition Dinner, held at Stevens Steak and Seafood House on Feb. 29.

Parks and Recreation Department center supervisor Lucinda Blancarte, who has worked for the City since 1971, was among the 81 City employees and retirees who were acknowledged for a job well done.

Born and raised in Commerce, Blancarte started as a part-time locker attendant and eventually worked her way up the ladder to Recreation Leader and Teen Center supervisor.

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Scott Wasserman described Blancarte as a compassionate, hard-working and giving employee who served as a role model to others. He said that she generously shared her many talents with Commerce, from designing and sewing dresses for Miss Commerce and her Royal Court to “scrubbing the toughest stains off of floors.”

“There is nothing Lucinda won’t do,” said Wasserman. “You can see her in the early mornings setting up for a special event and at the end of the night, making sure that things are properly stored. She is truly a team player.”

“Work really hasn’t been work. It’s always exciting, always changing,” said Blancarte, explaining her longevity at the City.

“Great mentors, great atmosphere, working with my co-workers, and the ability to give back to the community I grew up in are the reasons I love working at Commerce,” she said.

Other employees honored were: 30 years—Vincent Baltierra Jr.; 25 years--Maria Flores, MaryAnne Griego-Talley, Ramon Gutierrez, Loan Le, Desiree Munoz, Roberto Olmedo, Hector Orozco, Sonia Pimentel, Luis Quintero, Martha Ramos, Maria Solis, Robert Zarrilli; 20 years--Victoria Alexander, Veronica Hannah, Darryl Leyden, Domitila Melendrez, Maria C. Muniz, Marie Rodriguez, Robert Uribe, Willie Williams; 15 years--Mark Cutting, Anthony Delgado, Henry Garnica, Sonia Griego, Rebecca-Lee Longoria, Alicia Mendoza, Maria Mosqueda, Annabelle Palacios, Agustin Vargas Jr.; 10 years--Anthony Aguilar, Vincent Baltierra Sr., Ivonne Barajas, Jose Lozano, Josue Martinez, Brian Reta, Melissa Romero, Gary Singer, Eileen Zamorano; 5 years--Cesar Alonso, Lorraine Ayala, Alfredo Beltran, Fernando Castillo, Louie Espinoza, Ines Flores, Anthony Gutierrez, Evelyn Gutierrez, Jacqueline Hernandez, Jenny Ixco, Corrine Ledesma, Melinda Logan, Jorge Magana, Liliana Magana, Teresa McAllister, Annette Montalvo, Alan Nevarez, Sean Odou, Thomas O’Leary, Sandra Pena, Angela Picazzo, Humberto Reynaga, Jonathan Rico, Edgar Rivera, Lizbeth Salguero, Joe Sandoval, Alejandra Santoyo, Laura Tilley, Josiah Torres, Angel Valdez-Rodriguez, Raymond Zamora; and Retirees --Robert Chavez Jr., Mark Cutting, Sandra Enriquez, Carol Ann Eula, Evelyn Udenyi Fullmore, Jim Jimenez, Martha Philippoff, Martha Urrea, Brian Wolfson and Bobby Young.

The Employee Service Awards and Retirement Recognition Dinner was planned and coordinated by the Commerce Human Resources Department.

SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE SERVICES

APPLY ONLINE IN ENGLISH OR SPANISH



We have good news for tens of millions of Spanish-speaking Americans. For years, Social Security has been at the forefront of providing online services for Americans, and has provided a wealth of information in Spanish. Now, you can do even more with the expanded suite of services offered in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov.

The most exciting enhancement: you can now apply online for both Social Security retirement benefits and Medicare in Spanish! If you are ready to apply for Social Security retirement benefits now, you can do it quickly and easily on your home or office computer. The online application takes as little as 15 minutes.

Once you complete the online application and “sign” it with the click of a mouse, your application is complete. In most cases there are no documents to submit or additional paperwork to fill out. Online is the easiest way to apply, and now you can do it in Spanish.

In addition to applying for Social Security retirement benefits, you can also go to www.segurosocial.gov to

apply for Medicare. How’s this for convenient and easy? It can be done in as little as 10 minutes, from start to finish.

But you can do more than apply for benefits at www.segurosocial.gov. You can get a lot of information and publications written in Spanish. In addition, there are a number of online transactions that allow you to complete your Social Security business online, and in the language you’re most comfortable using. One of the most popular of all is our Retirement Estimator.

Get an instant, personalized estimate of your future Social Security benefits using the Retirement Estimator. Using the actual wages posted in your Social Security record, the Estimator will give you a good picture of what to expect in benefits. It protects your personal information by providing only retirement benefit estimates — it does not show the earnings information used to calculate the benefit estimate, nor does it reveal other identifying information. You can plug in different scenarios and future wage amounts to get estimates for different situations.

If you prefer to do business online in Spanish, then our website is the place for you. Visit www.segurosocial.gov today. It’s so easy!



Many residents may not know or understand what a “parkway” is and exactly who is responsible for maintaining it. This month we will show some examples, and list important maintenance facts.

The Commerce Municipal Code defines the “parkway” as the public area from the street or highway curb to the private property line. The main three variants of parkways in the City are illustrated in the following photos:

Landscape Parkway



These parkways have ground cover from the curb to the property line and are usually a continuation of the private property landscape.

Sidewalk Parkways



Sidewalk parkways can run from the curb to the private property line.



They can also have a strip of landscape area and sidewalk between the curb and the private property line

Now that you have a clearer understanding of parkways here are some facts summarized from the Commerce Municipal Code sections 19.23.050 and 19.23.060:

- The parkway is a public right-of-way that shall be kept free of obstacles or obstructions. Private trees on private property abutting the parkway shall be kept from overhanging onto the public right-of-way and kept trimmed to maintain clearance.
- Property owners shall maintain any parkway planting strip abutting their property. Such maintenance includes watering, mowing, edging, clearing of weeds, but excludes routine maintenance of City-owned trees.
- Property owners may have to bear the cost of replacement of any City-owned tree abutting their property which dies as the result of insufficient watering.
- No person shall plant, trim, or remove any tree or shrub on the parkway without approval or permit from the City.
- Any act of cutting, breaking, defacing or damaging City-owned trees is prohibited.

The City’s goal is to help make your home and your neighborhood more attractive so we encourage you to maintain the parkway in front of your residence in good condition.

If you have questions or concerns contact the Code Enforcement Division at (323) 722-4805, extension 2293.



Commerce Gallery

Read Across America



Volunteer readers from throughout the residential and business community read to students at Rosewood School in honor of Read Across America.

Employees Read



Commerce Preschool Instructor Denise Barajas was among the many employees, business people and City officials who read to students at Bandini Elementary School to celebrate Read Across America.

Citadel Hosts Networking Breakfast



The Citadel hosted the Industrial Council's March Business Networking Breakfast. Pictured at the breakfast is Citadel General Manager Susan Genrich with Miss Dodgers Alyssa Rubio and Miss Commerce Unique Hernandez.

2012 Community Academy Grads



The newest graduating class of the LA County Sheriff's Community Academy celebrated their achievement at Stevens Steak and Seafood House in March.

Hospital Round Table



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard hosted Mayra Alvarez of the Office of Health Reform at a roundtable with hospital CEOs and nursing directors of the 34th Congressional District. Shown are Congresswoman Roybal-Allard (left) and Alvarez.

Tiny Tots Excursions



Pictured here are participants in the Commerce Tiny Tots program. The Tiny Tots take trips like this one last fall to the Tanaka Farms Pumpkin Patch in Irvine.

Dedicated Public Servants



Forty-year City employee Lucinda Blancarte is pictured with retiree Jim Jimenez at the Commerce Employee Service Awards and Retirement Recognition Dinner in February.

Honoring Dr. Suess



The City's libraries also celebrated Read Across America, which honors the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Pictured here are Children's Librarian Cynthia Bautista and a pouting Cat in the Hat aka Library employee Josue Martinez.

Tasty Business



Scientists at Commerce business Kerry Ingredients and Flavours research new flavors for products found in every aisle at the grocery store.

Home Security



The California Crime Prevention Officers Association held their quarterly meeting at the Senior Center to talk about the latest innovations and technology in home security, including cutting edge door locks.

CITY OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

OPERATION KID ID

FREE
FINGERPRINTING

SATURDAY
April 14, 2012
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



The childrens fingerprinting service will be provided **FREE** by the City of Commerce ComCat Volunteers.

Parents will receive a **FREE** Child Safety Booklet and copy of their child's fingerprints. Operation Kid Identification will be at the Commerce DelTaco parking lot at 6126 E. Washington Boulevard.



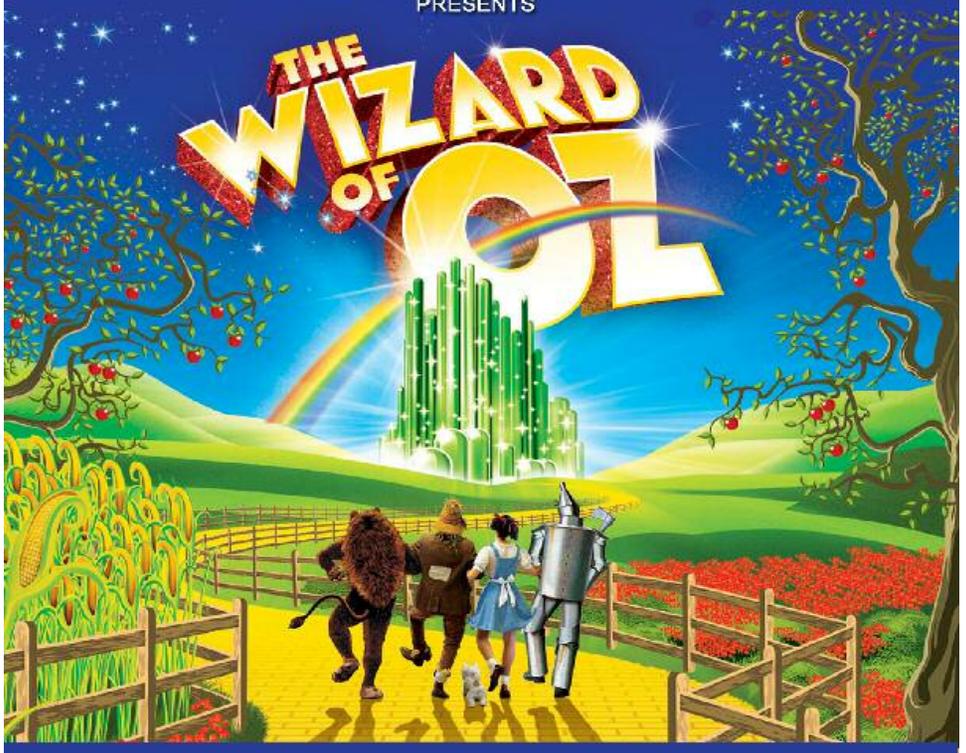
For more information call Community Services Department at (323) 887-4460.






CITY OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
ON CUE PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS

THE WIZARD OF OZ



APRIL 5-7 @ 7:00 P.M.
MONDAY, APRIL 9 SPECIAL PERFORMANCE @ 12:00 P.M.
& 5:00 P.M. TEEN AND PRE-TEEN CLUBS/DAY CAMP ONLY



TICKETS:
RESIDENTS \$6
(MUST PROVIDE CURRENT RESIDENT CARD)
NON-RESIDENT \$8
(TICKET REQUIRED FOR CHILDREN 4 YRS AND OLDER)

TEEN CENTER
5107 ASTOR AVE
COMMERCE, CA 90040
(323) 264-4665

EARTH DAY 2012

conserving • educating • recycling

Fun and Educational Activities for All Ages

SATURDAY
April 14, 2012
10a.m. - 2p.m.

FREE FAMILY FUN

- Train rides
- Over 50 green exhibitors
- Earth-friendly arts and crafts
- Water reclamation plant tours and landfill tours
- Eco-puppet show
- Gardening workshops and more
- Food available for purchase

SANITATION DISTRICTS PARKING LOT
1955 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, California, 90601

HOSTED BY:
SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

FOR MORE INFORMATION
please visit www.lacsd.org or contact
(562) 908-4288, Ext. 2303








The City of Commerce
Department of Parks and Recreation
Presents The Annual

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 7
11 a.m. sharp!
Egg hunts conducted at all four parks.

For more information, call your local park:
Bandini Park: (323) 887-4425
Bristow Park: (323) 887-4426
Rosewood Park: (323) 887-4427
Veterans Park: (323) 887-4428




COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL



Lilia R. Leon, Mayor
 Tina Baca Del Rio, Mayor Pro Tem
 Joe Aguilar, Councilmember
 Ivan Altamirano, 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

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MISS COMMERCE

CONT. FROM PG. 1

the friendliest and most helpful to everyone throughout the Pageant process. The Queen and Royal Court will serve as the City's ambassadors throughout the year at City programs and events.

Miss Galaxy Karely Ramirez received the \$500 Pageant Steering Committee Scholarship for her essay titled, "My Educational Journey to Success." Ramirez wrote about balancing work and college, her career goal of becoming a Kindergarten teacher, and why the support of her family has been her inspiration. The Pageant Steering Committee Scholarship was generously funded by the Commerce Casino.

Also honored that evening were four 2012 Young Man of the Year contestants who received scholarship awards for their winning essays. Ernesto Covar-

rubias was named the 2012 Young Man of the Year and received a \$950 scholarship. The runner ups were Carlos Medina, Alfonso Mendez and Francisco Salazar.

The City would like to thank the celebrity judges who were English actor Mark "Rhino" Smith; writer and community activist Gabriela Saenz Torres; actress and educator Phoebe Craddock; actor/vocalist Richard Fox; and actor/producer Max Carver.

The Pageant was coordinated by the Miss Commerce Pageant Steering Committee and Pageant Coordinator Adolfo Marquez under the direction of Interim Parks and Recreation Director Scott Wasserman.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

GOT CRIME? MAKE THE CALL! (323) 264-4151

Commerce is a small town where "eyes are everywhere." This is great when it comes to fighting crime but our biggest problem is that people see things but don't report crime when it occurs.

The best approach is to call the Sheriff's Department when you see suspicious activities or persons.

Our Neighborhood Watch Program is growing rapidly and has helped to improve communication and reduce crime. Even with this outreach, residents often call after crimes have occurred or call City Hall instead of the Sheriff's Department.

The first number to call when you see criminal or suspicious behavior is the Sheriff's Department. Deputy Sheriffs will respond but you must make the call.

Callers can even remain anonymous. Remember to be a good witness from a safe distance; never confront suspicious people or provoke them; and let the responding officers handle the problem.

All Commerce residents and businesses should have the telephone number to the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Station programmed into their landlines and cell phones.

If you dial 9-1-1 from a cell phone that call first goes to the California Highway Patrol so to speed response times **call the Sheriff's Department directly at (323) 264-4151.**

As always, we encourage you to join Neighborhood Watch. For more information, call Crime Prevention Coordinator Laura Tilley at (323) 887-4460 ext. 2870.



APRIL DATES TO NOTE

1 Palm Sunday

6 Good Friday

12 Community Services Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

23 Adult Computer Classes, 5:30 p.m. Central Library Library Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

2 English Book Club, 6 p.m.

7 Passover

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

24 I-710 Local Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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

8 Easter

19 Earth Day Program, 6p.m., Atlantic Branch Library

25 Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30

4 Senior Citizens Commission Meeting, 12:30 p.m. Housing Committee Meetings, 5 p.m. Traffic Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

9 Education Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.



28 Spring Clean Up 9 am to 2 pm

5 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

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

30 Spanish Book Club, 6 p.m.