



# Report to the People

Where Quality Service Is Our Tradition

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## In This Issue

**Page 2**  
Redevelopment Update  
Council Reorganizes

**Page 3**  
Curfew Enforcement  
The Code Zone

**Page 4**  
Arbor Day  
Library Activities

**Page 5**  
Community Services  
Teen Center  
Adventure Club

**Page 6**  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Earth Day Highlights



**Page 7**  
Cinco de Mayo Celebration  
Community Dodger Night



More than 30 Commerce high school seniors participated in Student Government Day in March.

## COMMERCE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

High school seniors spent the day at Commerce City Hall on March 15 to participate in Student Government Day. The event pairs students with City officials, City staff and public safety personnel to gain an inside look at how local government operates.

More than 30 students from local schools including Bell Gardens, Montebello, Garfield, Schurr or private schools participated.

Students spent the first couple of hours assisting their counterparts with their day-to-day tasks.

Alyssa Rubio served as student director of the Transportation Department, where she participated in a variety of tasks, including trying out new com-

puter software.

"I got to see what it's like to be in the workforce. It was awesome," said Rubio.

"I enjoyed it," said Jacob Godoy, who served as student Assistant Teen Center Supervisor. He said the experience gave him a greater appreciation for the work that City employees do.

Godoy got to help the Student Government Day event coordinators with setting up parts of the program, which he said made him feel like he was contributing.

Late morning, the students met in the Council Chamber to conduct a Student Council meeting.

The meeting began with the

showing of a video produced by Teen Center Assistant Supervisor Tina Fierro with help from Miss Commerce Unique Hernandez and Young Man of the Year Ernesto Covarrubias. Lucinda Blancarte, Teen Center Supervisor who coordinated the event, said that the video helped explain job duties performed and services provided by each department.

"Miss Commerce Unique Hernandez and Young Man of the Year Ernesto Covarrubias did an outstanding job in narrating. The video was well received by the students and the staff."

Other items on the agenda included, the State of the City Ad-

**Student Government Day** page 8

## COMMERCE BUSINESS PROFILE: GIBSON OVERSEAS OUTLET STORE



Amongst Commerce's 1,824 businesses, there are many hidden gems that local consumers drive by every day unaware of some of the great deals and shopping opportunities offered right here in the City of Commerce.

One of those companies is Gibson Overseas, which has an outlet store in the City of Commerce. Gibson Overseas, Inc. continues to be one of Commerce's many successful businesses and is an industry leader in providing dinnerware, flatware, glassware and more to many of the largest retailers in the world.

The general public can purchase high quality products from the Gibson Overseas Outlet Store, which features top brands, like Gibson, as well as other household names like Oster, Sunbeam, Mr. Coffee and Cuisine Select.

In addition, the outlet store also features high-end products from brands that include Gibson Elite, Grande Maison, Nambé, and Isaac Mizrahi. Other items for sale include cutlery, bakeware, pressure cookers and coffee makers.

According to the sales staff at the Gibson Overseas Outlet Store, the mornings are very busy while afternoons offer an opportunity to take one's time strolling the aisles to check out the wide variety of merchandise.

Just a few of the many deals on display at the outlet center included Mr. Coffee travel

See **Retail Outlet** page 8

## CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO

**CINCO DE MAYO Celebration 2012**  
Saturday, May 5, 2012  
Rosewood Park  
5600 Harbor  
11:30-8:00 p.m.

**FOOD & GAME BOOTH:**  
- Baby's 8' x 4' x 4' one 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m.  
- O'Brien's 8' x 4' x 4' one 12 noon  
- Boxing Exhibition 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
- El Sincro 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
- A.C. Comercio de Mayo  
- T-shirt prizes

**ENTERTAINMENT:**  
- Joe Macchi 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Come Join Miss Comercio de Mayo Amanda Marie Alvarado

Miss Cinco de Mayo Amanda Alvarado invites the community to attend the Commerce Cinco de Mayo celebration scheduled for Saturday, May 5, at Rosewood Park.

"I hope everyone joins us at the Cinco de Mayo celebration," said Alvarado. "There is going to be great music, food and activities going on. It's a great time to see our community come together again for such an exciting celebration!"

Alvarado will be welcoming

festival goers with the help of 2012 Miss Commerce and the other members of the Royal Court.

"The Royal Court and I will be everywhere that day," said Alvarado, who will be making appearances at many of the activities that day.

"It's an honor to serve as an ambassador for the City of Commerce," she said.

The Celebration is from noon to 6 p.m. Opening ceremonies begin at 1 p.m.

This year the Commerce Garden Show and the annual Baby Pageant will be part of the celebration. The Baby Pageant is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Garden Show takes place from noon to 3 p.m. Preregistration is required for both events.

The Boxing Show is from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the Hot Shot Exhibition is from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Have a happy and safe Cinco de Mayo!

# MUNICIPAL NOTES

## COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZES

The Commerce City Council elected Lilia R. Leon as Mayor and Tina Baca Del Rio as Mayor Pro Tem at the annual reorganization during the Council's regular meeting on March 20. Newly appointed Council Member Ivan Altamirano also joined Leon and Del Rio with Council Members Joe Aguilar and Denise Robles on the Council.

Leon served as Mayor in 1999 and 2000 during a previous term and was most recently elected to the City Council in a special election in 2008 and re-elected in March 2009. Leon has maintained an active

role in the community, serving on the City Council from 1998 to 2001, the Education Commission from 2002-2008, as a member of the Commerce Casino Advisory Committee and as Recreational Facilities Corporation Board President.

During the reorganization, outgoing mayor Joe Aguilar was presented a plaque in recognition of his service as the City's mayor from March 2011 to March 2012.

Administration of the oath of office and the seating of newly appointed Council Member Altamirano was also conducted at the meeting.

## COUNCIL ACTIONS

### REGULAR MEETING REPORTS

#### Regular Meeting of March 20



Miss Commerce 2012 Unique Hernandez, the Royal Court, Young Man of the Year Ernesto Covarrubias and John Griffo of the Commerce Casino at the April 3 Council Meeting.

- Recognized employee Lucinda Blancarte for 40 years of service to the City and Vincent Baltierra Jr. for 30 years of service.
- Proclaimed the month of April as Autism Awareness Month.
- Approved a letter supporting Californians for a Cure and the California Cancer Research Act.
- Received and filed a report on the action taken by the State Joint Legislative Audit Committee to audit the Central Basin Municipal Water District.
- Approved an agreement with the LA Regional Food Bank to provide canned and frozen foods to low income residents.
- Approved the 457 Deferred Compensation Trust Agreement between the City and ING National Trust. Upheld the Traffic Commission's decision to deny a request for physically challenged curbside parking at 7524 Wellman St.
- Approved a working blueprint of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee.
- Adjourned in memory of Michael Haro, longtime resident, former commissioner and father of Vanessa Haro; Rodney Blonien, Commerce Casino lobbyist; and Gertrude Westmore, mother of City employee Terry Ann Westmore.

#### Regular Meeting of April 3

- Commended the Commerce Casino, Steven's Steak and Seafood House, Color Image Apparel, Citadel Dental Group, Brooks fabric and Rio Hondo/Vernon Rotary Club for contributing donations of \$300 or more for the 2012 Miss Commerce Pageant.
- Commended David R. Karraker of California Water Service Co. for 37 Years of dedicated service to the Commerce Community.
- Proclaimed April 18, 2012 as Arbor Day.
- Proclaimed April 2012 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and April 25 as Denim Day in the City of Commerce.
- Denied a claim filed by Mayans Development Inc./Los Jardine, LLC for remediation of environmental contamination at various properties.
- Approved a \$3000 donation to the 34th Congressional District Student Art Competition.
- Approved a change to the Library's lost DVD policy requiring patrons to pay the retail price of a DVD and a \$5 processing fee.
- Authorized staff to advertise for bids for inspection and

- material testing services for the Safe Route to School • Project and the Bus Shelter Installation Project.
- Approved a permit to allow Craig Realty to demolish a building located on 400 Citadel Drive and replace it with a parking lot.
- Approved a contract with Unique Performance Construction for the installation of a bus shelter.
- Approved an amendment to the service agreement between the City and Kimley-Horn and Associates to upgrade the City's Traffic Signal Control System.
- Approved the purchase of Trans Track Systems data management software.
- Approved the leasing of Commerce's unused balance of water pumping rights to the City of Whittier.
- Adopted a Standard State Conflict of Interest Code that requires designated employees to publicly disclose their private economic interests.
- Amended the General Plan and Municipal Code to change the zoning of several parcels of land on Telegraph Road to C-2 (unlimited commercial use).
- Conducted a public hearing to permit hotel and parking structures in C-2 Zones.
- Approved the layoff of the Community Development Director and authorized the City Administrator to prepare a list of proposed layoffs.
- Approved a letter requesting that the City's vendors requesting a 5 percent discount on all future invoices.
- Amended the YES Program to consist of a 10 week program for youth participants, who upon completion of the program receive a \$500 stipend and a certificate of achievement.
- Approved a strategic plan workshop.
- Approved a quote of the day book featuring quotes from City senior citizens.
- Approved a Citywide Employee Visionary Contest asking employees for ideas on generating revenue and creating positive change in the City.
- Appointed Nancy Barragan to the Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel, Evelyn Diaz to the Education Commission, Lety Jaramillo to the Library Commission, Sharon Rowe to the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, Annela Grageda to the Planning Commission and Monica Rodarte to the Youth Advisory Commission.
- Received and filed a report on the Handbook for Commission, Committees and Boards.
- Adjourned in memory of Bertha Patron Loya, longtime Commerce resident and former City Commissioner and Committee Member.

## Report to the People

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents

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

FROM THE DESK OF JORGE RIFÁ

# City Administrator

As the Report to the People went to press, the State Assembly had passed AB 1585 and the bill was set to be heard by the Senate after the legislature returned from its spring recess. The bill addresses some of the challenges and questions cities faced when redevelopment was eliminated.

AB1585 preserves affordable housing funding, ensures loan repayments to help provide local services and preserves the asset value of real property that needs to be sold or transferred. It provides direction to successor agencies and oversight boards that must administer the dissolution and wind down of redevelopment agencies.

The City Council voted to send a letter to California State Senator Ron Calderon in April declaring support for AB1585. We will keep you informed of the bill's progress. The City Council began working on the fiscal year 2012-2013 City budget last month. Several budget meetings were scheduled and the public was welcome to attend and provide input.

This year the City is faced with a projected \$3.5 million revenue shortfall. The City Council has dealt with three consecutive fiscal years of serious budget challenges. They have had to make difficult decisions to work through a severe economic recession and slow recovery.

Added to these challenges was the elimination of redevelopment agencies in February. The impact has been devastating to our City. Redevelopment had been the City's most important tool in revitalizing the community and contributing to its quality of life. There are no foreseeable economic tools to replace redevelopment. The City's ability to repair infrastructure, renovate and replenish the community's housing stock, address environmental contamination and invest in our own economic development has been severely impacted.

Because of this financial crisis brought on by Sacramento, it is necessary for the Council to consider the layoff of full-time and part-time employees. The Council has difficult decisions ahead. I am confident of their commitment to serving this community. They will do their best to preserve programs, services and jobs while maintaining the financial vitality of the City.

The newly formed Blue Ribbon Committee will assist the City Council with the budget process by examining and recommending new revenue sources. If you recall, the City Council had formed an ad hoc Blue Ribbon Committee in 2010, which reviewed and made recommendations on City fees and charges. The committee's input was invaluable. This year's committee members will include five residents, two Industrial Council representatives and two Commerce City Employees Association AFSCME Local #773 representatives. We are looking forward to hearing their ideas and recommendations.

Please join us on Saturday, May 5 for our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. The event takes place at Rosewood Park. There will be traditional Mexican food, mariachis, folklorico dancing, sports, and food and game booths. The whole family will enjoy this celebration that commemorates the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

Commerce students applying for a 2012 Commerce Scholarship are reminded that the deadline for applications and paperwork is 5 p.m. on Friday, May 4. Just a reminder that City Hall and Libraries will be closed on Monday, May 28 in recognition of Memorial Day.

Sincerely,  
Jorge Rifá

Senior Center  
Council  
Chambers  
Library



## BULKY ITEM PICK UP

The Code Enforcement Division would like to thank all those who participated in our April 28, Annual Spring Clean-up event. It's always a pleasure to see motivated residents take advantage of an opportunity to rid themselves and our City of unwanted, unsightly junk, trash, and debris.

If you missed it, don't worry. You don't have to hold on to your junk until next year. We want to remind you that CalMet Services, Inc. provides a "Bulky Item Pick Up Service Program" year round.

Currently there is no charge for this service, and it is available to all Commerce residents. All you need to do is contact CalMet Customer Service Department at (562) 259-1239 to schedule the service.

Here are the guidelines:

- Household Appliances – All doors must be removed or taped shut, and any salt or water must be emptied out.
- Items such as wood, branches, carpet, and mini blinds must be cut to lengths shorter than 4 feet and bundled with twine or string.
- Items not eligible – Construction materials such as

concrete, asphalt, bricks, and dirt, as well as auto motive, boat, or vehicle parts will not be picked up. Hazardous waste is also ineligible and will not be picked up.

- Each residence may request bulky item pick up service a maximum of 12 times per year.
- There is a limit of 4 items or 4 bundles per service request.
- Bulky items are picked up on regularly scheduled trash collection days.
- Request for service must be made via telephone no less than 24 hours prior to regularly scheduled trash collection, and all items must be placed curbside by 6:00 A.M. on collection day.

Keeping your property free of visible junk, trash, and debris helps to maintain a beautiful, attractive City of Commerce. Furthermore, maintaining visible junk, trash, and debris on your property is a public nuisance violation under Commerce Municipal Code section 9.32.040. We encourage residents to take advantage of the available services which help us Keep Commerce beautiful.

If you have questions or would like more information, please call the Code Enforcement Division at (323) 722-4805, extension 2293.

## FOR SAFETY'S SAKE: CURFEW ENFORCEMENT

### MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS ARE HOME BY 10 P.M.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department wants to remind parents to make sure children under 18 years of age are at home after 10 p.m. nightly.

City Curfew restrictions state that "minors cannot stroll aimlessly, drive, ride around in or upon public streets or grounds between 10 p.m. and sunrise." This law exists to protect children and keep neighborhoods safe.

If deputies see juveniles congregating in public

places without a parent or guardian present they may be arrested or subject to pay a fine. Curfew fines can be expensive for parents at up to \$650 for a violation. The court could also sentence youth convicted of a curfew infraction to perform between 75 and 250 community service hours.

If you see juveniles loitering in public places after 10 p.m., please contact the East L. A. Sheriff's Station at (323) 264-4151.

## GET RID OF RODENTS

### TIPS FROM THE LA COUNTY VECTOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control (CDC), reported that, worldwide, rats and mice can spread over 35 diseases. Diseases carried by rodents can also be spread to humans indirectly, through ticks, mites or fleas that have fed on an infected rodent.

That is why it's important to eliminate rodents in or around your home or property. Traps and poison can be used, however safety precautions should always be followed when cleaning rodent infested areas and discarding dead rodents and traps. Disinfect trapped rodents and contaminated surfaces by thoroughly wetting them down with any general household disinfectant. Wear rubber gloves and remove disinfected materials with dampened paper towels or cloth, place in a plastic bag, tightly seal it and dispose of it in the trash.

Here are ten additional tips to help you get rid of rodents:

- Store garbage in metal or heavy plastic containers with tight lids. Place trash outside shortly before pick up; don't leave plastic garbage bags outside overnight.
- Remove weeds, tree trimmings, vegetation and debris near buildings and in yards; don't give rats a place to hide.
- Don't leave pet food out; store it in a secure container.

- Remove dog droppings daily and feed pets away from vegetation and harborage areas.
- Sweep up food remains, litter, and trash - inside and outside of your home.
- Inspect your house for cracks and holes, seal them with mortar. Repair all plumbing leaks.
- Make sure you have screens on windows; inspect windows and screens for holes.
- Clean and organize garage and storage buildings. Make sure doors close properly. Store materials such as lumber and boxes on a rack with a clean, open area underneath. Get rid of unused materials.
- Remove old vehicles and non-salvageable items from property.
- Remove and/or properly discard ripe and fallen fruits and vegetables.

Residents can call the L.A. County Department of Public Health Services Vector Management Program at (626) 430-5450 for more information or to have an inspector look at their property and provide a list of recommendations on how to deal with rodents. You can also visit them on the World Wide Web at [www.lapublichealth.org/eh](http://www.lapublichealth.org/eh). For opossum problems, call the City's Animal Control Office at (323) 887-4460.



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



**Cash in while recycling beverage containers at the following locations:**

### Martinez Recycling Center

6300 Gage Ave.  
Bell Gardens  
(323) 722-5065

### Martinez Recycling Centers

5605 Gage Ave.  
Bell  
(323) 663-9115

### Camacho Recycle

5121 Gage Ave.  
Bell  
(310) 658-4974

### Rosa Recycling

4730 E. Olympic Blvd.  
Los Angeles

### General Metal Recycling Co.

1541 W. Washington Blvd.  
Montebello  
(323) 722-9995

### SA Recycling

1545 Gage Rd.  
Montebello  
(714) 688-4943

For a full list of recycling centers available online at [www.ci.commerce.ca.us](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us) in the Environmental Services section.



# SoCalGas

## WARNS CUSTOMERS ABOUT UTILITY IMPOSTERS

### SoCalGas Shares Tips on how to Properly Identify Utility Employees

Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) is alerting customers to be aware of persons who reportedly have recently posed as SoCalGas employees. According to a news account, the imposters distract an unsuspecting customer by performing "gas leak inspections" while an accomplice burglarizes the customer's home.

SoCalGas employees carry proper identification when called out to any job. Customers should verify the employee's proper uniform and identification before letting anyone in the home or on their property.

#### Here are some tips to help customers identify SoCalGas employees:

- Be vigilant and question anyone who presents themselves as a representative of the utility
- SoCalGas workers who perform in-home appliance services, work on gas meters or work on gas pipelines wear uniforms. However, some other employees do not. Always ask for identification before allowing anyone inside the home or on the property
- The majority of authorized SoCalGas employees will be in uniform with company logo and carry an official employee badge. Most field employees also drive a company vehicle
- Most of the time a SoCalGas employee visits a home or business in response to a service request. If no one scheduled an appointment, call SoCalGas before allowing anyone inside the home or property
- Never leave the house unlocked and unattended. SoCalGas does not ask customers to leave their homes unattended
- To verify the authenticity of anyone claiming to be a representative of SoCalGas, customers are encouraged to ask for proper identification or call the utility at 1-800-427-2200 (or 1-800-342-4545 in Spanish). SoCalGas customer service representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Visit [socalgas.com/safety](http://socalgas.com/safety) for more information on staying safe

# LIBRARY NEWS

## MAY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES @ COMMERCE LIBRARIES

### Commerce Scholarship Applications

#### Due May 4

Commerce Scholarship application forms and documents must be turned in to the Commerce Public Library by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 4. The Library encourages students to turn in applications early and not wait for the last day. Oral interviews will be held on Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23. Students must be available for an interview on both days. It's the applicant's responsibility to inform the library if one interview date is better than the other.

### English Book Club to Discuss

#### 'The Tortilla Curtain'

The Commerce Public Library's English Book Club will meet to discuss "The Tortilla Curtain" by T.C. Boyle at 6 p.m., on Monday, May 7, at the EOC Room at City Hall. When Delaney Mossbacher knocks down a Mexican pedestrian, he neither reports the accident nor takes his victim to the hospital. Instead the man accepts \$20 and limps back to poverty and his pregnant 17-year-old wife, leaving Delaney to return to his privileged life in California. But these two men are fated against each other, as Delaney attempts to clear the land of the illegal immigrants who he thinks are turning his state park into a ghetto, and a boiling pot of racism and prejudice threatens to spill over. Please call Cris Muniz at 323/780-1176 for more information.

### Stuffed Animal Sleepover for Children's Book Week

To celebrate Children's Book Week, the Commerce

Central Library will host a Stuffed Animal Sleepover for children. Children are invited to drop off a stuffed animal at the Central Library before 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11. The toys will stay overnight in the library for a "sleepover." Children return to the Central Library at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 12 to listen to story-time, watch a slideshow of what their stuffed animals "did" overnight in the library, and enjoy morning refreshments.

### Free Adult Computer Classes

The Central Library offers monthly computer classes for adults. This month's computer class is "Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2003." The class is scheduled for Monday, May 21, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please call (323) 722-6660 to sign up. All classes will meet in the Central Library, 5655 Jillson St. Sign up forms will be provided at the Central Library. Please sign up early. The Library can accommodate 10 students per session.

### Wireless Netbooks Available @ Commerce Library

There are 13 available netbooks that can be borrowed from the City of Commerce Public Library's Circulation desk at Central and its branches. These netbooks will be available for library patrons for "In-Building Use Only" while patrons visit the library and will provide additional access for library patrons to use the Internet. This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services

# ARBOR DAY

## CELEBRATES TREES



Smokey the Bear greets children at the Commerce Arbor Day celebration at Rosewood Park School.

Commerce commemorated Arbor Day, April 18, by hosting assemblies at local schools where students learned about trees and the history of Arbor Day. City staff, members of the 2012 Royal Court and representatives of the Los Angeles County Forestry Division and West Coast Arborists visited Laguna Nueva, Rosewood, and Bandini Schools to explain why trees are important to people and the environment.

Miss Commerce Royal Court members talked about the history of Arbor Day, acknowledging J. Sterling Morton who started Arbor Day in 1872 in Nebraska.

Commerce Tree and Street Maintenance Supervisor Hector Orozco explained photosynthesis and discussed how trees are used to grow food and make a variety of products from furniture to paper. He showed students fruit he had picked from trees planted in his

own yard and shared how trees could be enjoyed by several generations of families.

Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Technician Adam Carrillo instructed students on planting trees. To encourage the planting and maintenance of trees, the Forestry Division gave each student a seedling.

Part of the program included the presentation of awards to student who won a City sponsored Arbor Day Poster Contest.

West Coast Arborists also gave students gifts and presented a tree to each school.

The Arbor Day Program was planned and coordinated by the Community Development Department.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## MEETS CITY'S HEALTH, SAFETY NEEDS



The Commerce Community Services Department is responsible for managing public safety services provided by Los Angeles County including the Sheriff's and Fire Departments.

The Commerce Community Services Department works to meet the social, economic and public safety needs of the community. The department offers programs and services that enhance and nurture the health and well being of those who live and work in Commerce.

The Department is comprised of the Social Services Division, the Public Safety Division, the Emergency Preparedness Office and the Employment and Business Development Office. It also serves as the liaison to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, which both provide contractual services to the City.

The Social Services Division offers residents food assistance, transportation subsidies, educational development, and intervention services. The food distribution program helps qualified seniors and low income residents receive donated food from the Los Angeles Regional Foodbank. Youth, ages 13 to 18, can enroll in the Department's independent studies program to earn a high school diploma. Parenting classes, offered in English and Spanish, assist parents in dealing with everyday family problems. The division also provides free assistance with delinquency prevention, gang alternative prevention, and case management.

Special services include: discounted bus tokens for seniors 65 years and older and residents with disabilities, ambulance reimbursement, Christmas food distribution and monthly Community Task Force meetings to discuss pressing community issues. Public safety is a priority in Commerce and the Commerce Community Services Department oversees crime prevention, public safety, law enforcement and fire services. Residents, Commerce public safety staff, fire and sheriff's personnel partner to keep Commerce safe and protected.

The Public Safety Division personnel include Community Safety Specialists who respond to all non-emergent requests for service from the public, the animal control officer who handles all animal problems

within the City and crossing guards who assists school children safely across busy streets. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services and the Los Angeles County Fire Department provides fire and paramedic services.

The Neighborhood Watch Program enlists residents to serve as block captains and report crime and suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Department. ComCat volunteers are trained to assist the City with crime prevention efforts and disaster response. The Business Watch program offers free security evaluations, safety presentations, crime tips and extra patrol services for businesses. Residents can use the Vacation Watch program to request that Community Safety Specialists check on their property when they are out of town. Operation Kid Identification gets children finger printed to provide proper identification in the event of an emergency.

The Emergency Preparedness Office is responsible for the City's response to any type of emergency. The Department is also in charge of a fully operational mobile EOC outfitted with the necessary communications equipment to assist rescue workers in case of a disaster.

The Employment and Business Development Center matches employers with qualified personnel for permanent, temporary, full-time and part-time employment opportunities at no cost. Job seekers can also use the EBDC to find jobs and to sign up for job preparation classes on resume writing, the interview process, the job application process and to learn computer skills. The EBDC also co-sponsors an end of summer Citadel Job Fair with the Citadel Outlets.

The Commerce Community Services Department plays an integral role in keeping all who live and work in Commerce healthy, safe and protected.

## TEEN CENTER NEWS

### FUN FOR TEENS AND PRETEENS IN MAY



The Adventure Club took a trip to Lone Pine, CA where they visited San Andreas Fault and went hiking through an area that included dormant volcanoes. Here a group of Adventure Club members celebrate making it to the top of a butte.

The Teen Center has a wide variety of fun clubs and activities for Commerce Teens and Preteens Monday through Friday. With summer coming there's also going to be plenty of fun trips.

Sponsoring these trips will be clubs that include the Pre-Teen Club, the Teen Club, the Pre Teen GirlOlogy Club, the Teen GirlOlogy Club, the Chef Club and the Adventure Club.

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.

## CITY OF COMMERCE CHANNEL 3



### May 2012 Featured Highlights

#### AWARD WINNING CABLECASTS OF THE 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.

#### COMMERCCE 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.

#### CINCO DE MAYO COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

(Live Broadcast on May 5th, 2012 at 12 p.m.)

Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 4 p.m., Wednesdays at 8  
a.m., Thursdays at 1 p.m., Fridays at 8 a.m.,  
Saturdays at 12 p.m. & Sundays at 11 a.m.

#### COMMERCCE TEEN CENTER

##### THEATRE RENDITION OF "THE WIZARD OF OZ"

Mondays at 8 a.m., Tuesdays at 11 a.m., Wednesdays at  
7 p.m., Thursdays at 8 p.m., Fridays at 2 p.m., Saturdays  
at 7:30 p.m. & Sundays at 12 p.m.

#### COMMERCCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SHOW SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

Mondays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Wednesdays at  
12 p.m., Thursdays at 10 a.m., Fridays at 3:30 p.m.,  
Saturdays at 4 p.m. & Sundays at 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.

#### TWILIGHT DANCE MUSIC CONCERT FEATURING: "OSCAR HERNANDEZ"

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

#### CHEAP EATS "MONTE-ALBAN RESTRAUNT, INDIA'S OVEN, & SUNNIN LEBANESE CAFÉ"

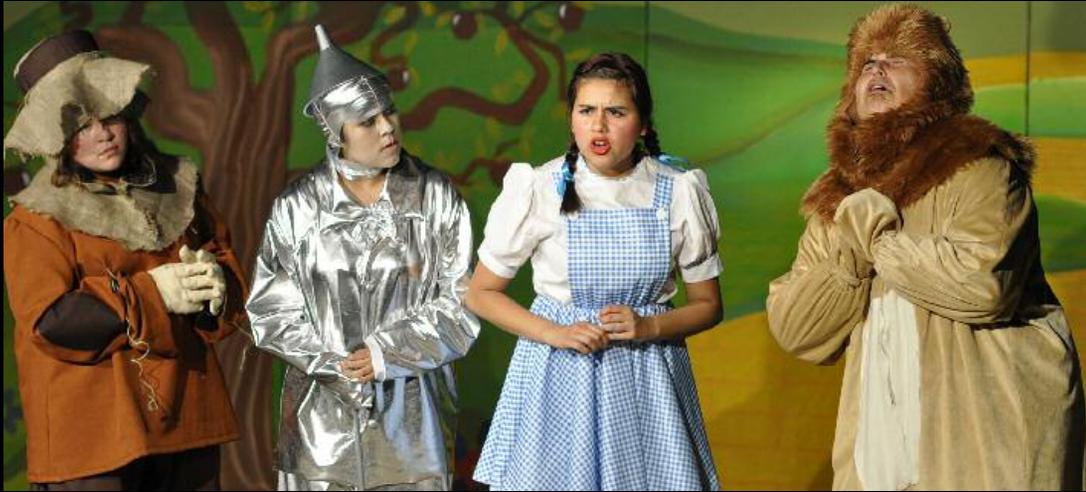
Mondays at 12 p.m., Tuesdays at 2 p.m.,  
Wednesdays at 4 p.m., Thursdays at 11 a.m.,  
Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 6 p.m. &  
Sundays at 2 p.m.

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](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us) for more information.



# Commerce Gallery

## Wizard of Oz @ the Teen Center



The On Cue Performing Arts group performed a play of the classic 'The Wizard of Oz' at the Teen Center in April. Watch for it this month on Cable Channel 3.

## Egg Hunters



Hundreds of kids participated in the Annual Easter Egg Hunt held at all four City parks on April 7.

## 2012 Woman of Distinction



Sandy Cornejo, a longtime Commerce resident and wife of late former Mayor and Councilmember Robert Cornejo Sr., was recently honored by the City Council for being named a 2012 Woman of Distinction by 50th District Assemblyman Ricardo Lara.

## Library Employee of the Year



Library Assistant Matthew Tabizon from the Bristow Branch Library, was selected as the 2012 Library Employee of the Year. Tabizon is pictured here with Bristow Branch staff from l. to r.: Luis Martinez, Yvonne Barajas, Tabizon and Albert Valdez. Staff not pictured are Marlem Madrigal, Nancy Perez, Amanda Lopez and Veronica Hurtado.

## Honoring Cesar Chavez



Commerce residents participated in the Cesar Chavez Celebration at the Atlantic Branch Library in March. Pictured at the celebration is a youth mariachi group from the Plaza de la Raza Cultural Arts Center 'Plaza Cultural Ambassadors' Program.

## Earth Day in Commerce



Commerce children participated in a weeklong Earth Day Celebration cosponsored by the City and East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice. The celebration included a fitness activity and group canvas mural painting at Bristow Park and the poster activity pictured here at Rosewood Park.

## Sanitation District Earth Day Event



The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County hosted an Earth Day Celebration for all of the cities it serves. Pictured here is Commerce resident Kristen Villegas with one of the free plants given away at the event.

## Committed ComCATs



The Commerce Community Assistance Team or ComCATs are pictured here during a break in training at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Academy. ComCATs undergo extensive training to augment public safety programs and services for the City.

## Future Leaders



The City hosted Student Government Day in March to teach Commerce high school seniors about careers in local government. Pictured here is Student Mayor Pro Tem Harrison Janer.

## Karate Tournament



The City and the Commerce Karate Club hosted a Karate Tournament on April 14, which included Commerce participants from all age groups.

# CINCO DE MAYO

*Celebration 2012*

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**

**Rosewood Park  
5600 Harbor  
11:30-6:00 p.m.**

## FOOD & GAME BOOTHS

- Baby Show "Kids are Cute"-11:30 a.m.
- Garden Show-12 noon
- Boxing Exhibition-1:00 p.m.
- "Hot Shot" T-Ball Exhibition-1:30 p.m.
- Commerce Folklorico Dancers & Commerce Talent
- Raffle prizes

## ENTERTAINMENT

- Live Mariachi  
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Come join  
Miss Cinco de Mayo  
**Amanda Marie Alvarado**



# ARMED FORCES DAY



**Tuesday, May 15**

**6:30 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers**

5655 Jillson St.

The public is invited to honor veterans, fallen heroes, and members of the military with an Armed Forces Day Ceremony at the City Council meeting on May 15 at 6:30 p.m.



## City of Commerce Commission, Committee and Council Meetings Information

### City Council

6:30 p.m.--first and third Tuesday of each month  
Council Chamber, 2535 Commerce Way

### Community Services Commission

6 p.m.--second Thursday of each month  
City Hall-North Conference Room,  
2535 Commerce Way

### Education Commission

6 p.m.--second Monday of each month  
Council Chamber, 2535 Commerce Way

### Library Commission

5:30 pm --fourth Tuesday of each month  
Council Chamber, 2535 Commerce Way

### Parks & Recreation Commission

6 p.m.--first Thursday of each month  
Council Chamber, 2535 Commerce Way

### Planning Commission

6:30 p.m. --fourth Wednesday of each month  
Emergency Operations Center (EOC),  
2535 commerce Way

### Senior Citizens Commission

12:30 p.m.--first Wednesday of each month  
Council Chambers

### Traffic Commission

6:30 p.m.--first Wednesday of each month  
Emergency Operations Center (EOC),  
2535 Commerce Way

### Youth Advisory Commission

7 p.m. --first Monday of each month  
Teen Center, 5107 Astor Ave.

### I-710 Local Advisory Committee (Ad Hoc)

6:30 p.m. -- second and fourth Tuesday of each month\*  
\*subject to change

### Housing Committee Meetings

5 p.m. --first Wednesday of every other month (beginning in February)  
City Hall Administration Conference Room,  
2535 Commerce Way

For more information on City Commission, Committee and Council Meetings or to apply to serve as a Committee Member or Commissioner, call the City Clerk's Office at (323) 722-4805.

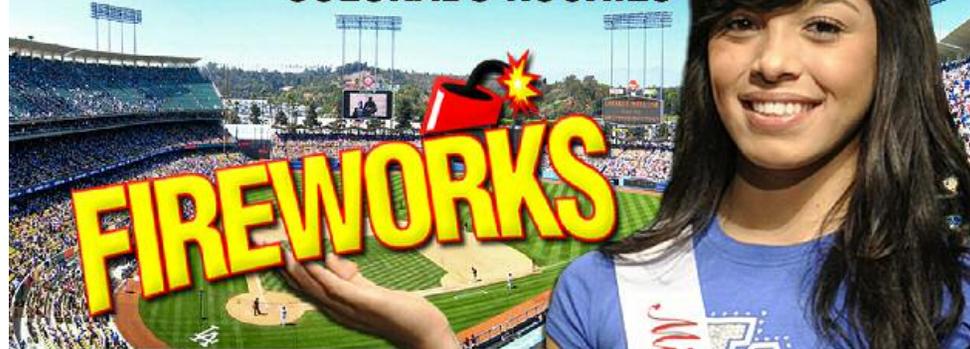


CITY OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

## DODGER COMMUNITY NIGHT

**LOS ANGELES DODGERS**

**VS COLORADO ROCKIES**



# FIREWORKS

**FRIDAY  
MAY 11, 2012**

**7:10 P.M.  
GAME**

**\$14.00  
PER PERSON  
(A \$20.00 VALUE)**

Join the community in recognizing Miss Dodgers Alyssa Brianna Rubio at an exciting Dodger Game. After the game watch a fabulous fireworks show! Purchase your tickets now at the Department of Parks and Recreation. For more information, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at (323) 722-4805 ext. 2806.



## 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

2535 Commerce Way · Commerce, CA 90040

## Residential Customer

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

CONT. FROM PG. 1



Pictured here in the City Council Foyer from l. to r. are Student City Clerk Dalia De La Cruz and Student Councilmember Monica Rodarte with Assistant Teen Center Supervisor Tina Fierro.

included, the State of the City Address by City Administrator Jorge Rifa, and updates on the Yes Program and Commerce Scholarship Program.

The Council meeting was followed by a luncheon at Steven's Steak House

featuring Parks and Recreation Interim Director Scott Wasserman as guest speaker. Wasserman talked about his two-year service in the Peace Corps, where he did volunteer work in the country of Belize.

"Scott's story of his adventures as a Peace Corps worker was fascinating and enlightening," said Blancarte. "Everyone was in awe of his adventures."

"It made me almost want to join the Peace Corps myself," said student Mayor Pro Tem Harrison Janer.

Janer said he really enjoyed Wasserman's presentation, as well as the entire Student Government Day event itself.

"It was really fun and an easy learning experience," Janer said. "I would totally recommend it."

## RETAIL OUTLET

CONT. FROM PG. 1



Oster and Sunbeam cookware and many other name brand items are discounted between 30-70% at the Gibson Overseas Outlet Store in Commerce.

center included Mr. Coffee travel mugs for \$5, a portable barbecue for \$22, a high-end 6 piece dishware set for \$50, and an Oster Branford 7 piece stainless steel cookware set for \$70, which retails for upwards of \$130 in stores and online.

The Gibson Overseas Outlet Store is at 2410 Yates Avenue, Commerce, CA 90040 and is open to the public Mon.-Fri. from 9 am to 4:30 p.m. You can also follow Gibson Overseas on their Facebook fan page at [www.facebook.com/GibsonOverseas](http://www.facebook.com/GibsonOverseas).



## MAY DATES TO NOTE

1

**Labor Day**  
**City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**

2

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

3

**Cinco de Mayo Program, Bristow Library, 6 p.m.**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.**

4

**Commerce Scholarship Applications Due**

5

**Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Rosewood Park, 11:30 a.m.**

7

**English Book Club, 6 p.m.**

8

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

9

**Community Task Force Meeting, 3 p.m.**

10

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

13

**Mother's Day**

14

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

15

**City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Library Embajadores Meeting, 6 p.m.**

19

**Armed Forces Day**

21

**Adult Computer Classes, Central Library, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Spanish Book Club, 6 p.m.**

22

**Library Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**  
**I-710 Local Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.**

23

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

28

**Memorial Day**