



Report to the People

Where Quality Service
Is Our Tradition

Volume 52 No.9 September 2012

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The USA Women's Water Polo Team displays their Olympic gold medals after beating Spain 8-5. Commerce's Brenda Villa (front row, second from right) scored one goal and made several defensive plays to help lead her team to victory.

BRENDA VILLA LEADS TEAM USA TO THE GOLD

Commerce icon Brenda Villa, cemented her place in Olympic history when she captured an Olympic gold medal as the US Olympic Women's Water Polo Team beat Spain 8-5 in the Gold Medal game at the 2012 Summer Olympics on Aug. 9 in London, England.

Brenda, who served as captain for Team USA, scored one of the eight goals that led her team to victory.

"I am speechless. It still hasn't sunk in," she said. "It's the end of a journey, and I got my fairytale ending," said Brenda to the Orange County Register.

The gold medal completes Brenda's Olympic medal collection, which includes one bronze and two silver medals earned in the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Olympics.

The win was enthusiastically shared by her fans in Commerce as more than 300 residents gathered to watch their hometown hero in the gold medal match via a live Internet stream in the City Council Chamber.

The crowd cheered, waved tiny American flags and shouted "Villa" or "Team USA" throughout the entire game. As

the clock ticked away at the end of the competition, fans could barely contain their excitement. When the game ended and Team USA won, the crowd applauded, hugged each other and cheered.

Aquatic Program Manager Rachel Baltierra, who emceed the viewing of the water polo match, was thrilled at the result. "I'm excited for her," said Baltierra. "It's the icing on the cake."

Bobby Contreras, Commerce Men's Water Polo Head Coach

Villa Brings Home Gold Page 8

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



One of 13 block parties held throughout Commerce to celebrate National Night Out.

Commerce residents participated in 13 Neighborhood Watch block parties throughout the City to celebrate the National Night Out Against Crime on August 7.

Community members enjoyed hot dogs and refreshments while talking to members of the City Council, City staff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies and Firefighters, and the Urban Search and Rescue Team about public safety issues.

Longtime Ferguson Drive resident and City Traffic Commissioner Javier Vasquez talked about why National Night Out is important. "It's a nice way to bring the community together and for residents to share their concerns."

Residents at Block Captain Eva Calderon's party in Rosewood gathered around barbecues to chat with family and friends while eating hot dogs in hamburger buns, which they've dubbed "Turtle Dogs." Los Angeles County fire fighters like Librabo Zurita joined the party and took children out for a ride around the block in the Fire Engine from Station #27. "National Night Out is important because it gives us the opportunity to let Commerce residents know we're here for them 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," said Zurita.

At the party hosted by Block Captain Gloria Ruiz in the Rosini area, residents enjoyed hot dogs with Commerce's 'Top Cop,' East Los Angeles Sheriff's Station Captain

National Night Out Page 4

COMMUNITY CLEANS UP COMMERCE



Crush Volleyball volunteers at the Commerce Clean Up.

To clean and beautify the City, 100 area youth volunteers were joined by City staff and local businesses for the Commerce Clean Up, bright and early at 6 am on August 11 to clean, weed, rake, sweep, paint, and pick up trash and debris along the Telegraph Road Corridor.

The event was coordinated for the second consecutive year by the Craig Realty Company in partnership with the

City of Commerce.

President and CEO of Craig Realty, Steve Craig donated \$100 to each participating youth volunteer for their organization. Participants included the City's traveling baseball, soccer, volleyball and water polo teams, as well as the Bristow Park Teen Club, the Teen Center Adventure Club and many others.

In addition, to the cleaning and gardening, the Citadel, the

City and local contractor Ben's Asphalt repaved Smithway Street giving the stretch of road adjacent to the Citadel a clean, smooth finish.

Craig talked about what motivated the effort. "It's to improve the appearance so that when visitors come to town and people who live here drive through, they recognize there's an important change in the City of Commerce," said Craig.

MUNICIPAL NOTES

I-710 EXPANSION PUBLIC HEARING AT ROSEWOOD PARK

On behalf of the City Council, I want to congratulate the Captain of the first ever Olympic Gold USA Women's Water Polo Team, our own Ms. Brenda Villa, for this historic American Olympic triumph. Brenda is a community hero not only for her athletic endeavors, but also for her educational achievements, and her genuine affection for the people of this city. She has made Commerce proud. Great job and welcome home Brenda!

Last month, the City Council voted unanimously to place a general tax measure before the voters of Commerce in the upcoming Nov. 6 ballot. This became necessary when the Governor and the Legislature ended the City's redevelopment program. If passed by Commerce voters, the local sales tax would increase by ½ cent for every retail dollar spent. The measure is expected to generate \$4.5 to \$5 million over 12 months, which would be used to fund projects and services through our business and residential communities. The revenues gained from this tax measure will be used to repair local facilities, fix streets, restore public safety, and provide important City services all through local control and accountability.

The sales tax revenue measure was recommended by the Blue Ribbon Committee, an advisory committee given the task of examining and recommending new revenue sources to the City Council. The Blue Ribbon Committee based its recommendation on a public poll conducted in Commerce that showed widespread support among voters for a ½ cent sales tax revenue measure.

The City budget has been reduced by \$6 million over the last four budget cycles, which included \$800,000 in reductions to L.A. County Sheriff's services. A severe economic recession, a lackluster economic recovery and the elimination of redevelopment by the Governor and Legislature make it necessary for the City Council to seek alternative sources of revenue. Redevelopment was the City's most important economic tool for controlling our own economic development and for funding public safety, infrastructure repairs and improvements, repair of facilities and other vital services. In particular, our streets are in dire need of maintenance and repair, due to the impact of trucks driving through our industrial City. Short term unfunded infrastructure repairs will cost the City an estimated \$30,000,000. If the tax measure passes, it will help the City to provide vital City services.

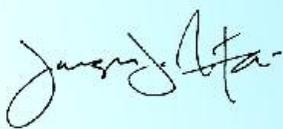
The Commerce to College Fair is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at Veterans Park. Middle School, high school and adult students and their families can learn what it takes to go to college—from application process, to financial assistance and choosing a major. Attendees will get the opportunity to meet with college representatives and attend informational workshops. For more information, call (323) 722-6660 or visit the library's website at www.cocpl.org.

Preschool and Tiny Tots registration is set for 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 29, at all Commerce parks. For more information, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at 323/887-4434.

September 11 marks the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Let us take time that day to join Americans across the nation in remembering the heroes and victims of this tragedy and their families.

Remember that City Hall and Commerce libraries will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3, in observance of Labor Day.

Sincerely,
 Jorge Rifá




Concerned residents from Commerce and neighboring cities attended the I-710 Public Hearing.

Caltrans and Metro held a public hearing on the expansion of the I-710 Freeway at the Rosewood Park Community Center on Aug. 9.

Area residents and government officials attended to learn details of the I-710 Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Study (EIR/EIS) and share their concerns.

"This is a one time opportunity to get it right for the environment and the health of many of the residents that live around the freeway," said Susan Nakamura,

a Planning Manager from the South Coast Air Quality Management District who added that the agency supports a zero emissions corridor to lessen environmental and health impacts.

Jessie Cooper, a 25-year Commerce resident talked about existing impacts and her concerns regarding potential additional impacts of expanding the I-710.

"Three of my grandchildren have asthma; five of my neighbors have died from cancer," said Cooper.

Caltrans representatives stated that the project goal is to improve air quality and public health. To do this they have proposed five alternative plans that also call for improving traffic safety and addressing traffic increases and population growth.

These range from a "no build" option to adding five lanes in each direction. Other alternatives call for four additional lanes for truck traffic, a zero emission truck lane that would use an electrical system based on existing light rail projects and an alternative that would impose a toll for trucks to offset construction costs.

The City will be submitting comments on the 10,000 page Environmental Impact Report to Caltrans before the deadline at the end of this month. The meeting is available on DVD at all four Commerce libraries and is airing this month on Cable Channel 3. Check the Cable guide on page 5 for dates and times.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

REGULAR MEETING REPORTS

Regular meeting of August 6

- Commended Willie Williams on his retirement and for 21 years of service as a City employee.
- Approved a Request for Proposals to provide inspection services for the new EOC and Central Library Renovation.
- Approved a Request for Proposals to provide Traffic Signal Maintenance Services.
- Received and filed an update on the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Capital Improvement Program.
- Received and filed a progress report from the I-710 Local Advisory Committee.
- Approved a resolution accepting the work performed by C.T. Georgiou Painting Co.
- Approved an agreement with Rio Hondo Community College to provide Commerce Emergency Response Training to the City's Search and Rescue Team.
- Approved an agreement with the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority for the rehabilitation of Telegraph Road.
- Approved a resolution with Johnson Control Inc. for the purchase of an upgraded Access Control System for the Transportation Center.
- Approved a temporary and limited senior rent subsidy program.
- Amended an agreement with SA Associates for the Camp Commerce Waterline Improvement Project.
- Approved an agreement with North American Bus Industries Inc. to repair a damaged City bus.
- Amended an agreement with Gateway Cities Council of Governments for administration and cost sharing for the LA River and Tributaries Metals Total Maximum Daily Load.
- Declared a state of fiscal emergency in the City of Commerce for placement of a general tax measure before the voters of Commerce.
- Approved an ordinance placing a ½ percent sales tax increase on the ballot for the residents of Commerce.
- Adjourned in memory of Margaret Saenz, former Parks and Recreation Commissioner and longtime resident; Sally Raya, aunt of City employees Tina and Gina Fierro; and in memory of Nick Chico Sr., former longtime Commerce resident.

Regular Meeting of July 17

- Proclaimed August 7 as National Night Out in the City of Commerce.
- Approved plans for the Rosini/Rosewood Neighborhood Street Rehabilitation Project.
- Approved a Measure R funding agreement with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.
- Approved energy efficient upgrades made at City facilities by Hi-Tech Electric of Fullerton.
- Approved an amendment regarding Wireless Telecommunications Policy clarifying reimbursement options for cellular phones.
- Approved an agreement with Block Environmental consulting firm for a risk assessment of the former Railroad Spur property.
- Confirmed the 2011-2012 Weed Abatement Charges.
- Received and filed the 2012 Strategic Goals report.
- Received and filed a staff report on public safety issues.
- Received and filed a report from the Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel.
- Approved an agreement with Craig Realty Group Citadel LLC for the paving and restriping of Smithway Street.
- Received and filed a Capital Improvement Program update report from staff.

Report to the People

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents

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 or visit us online at www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE

Below are some tips to get your children off to a safe start this school year.

General Safety Tips

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

- Walk or drive children to school. Motorists and bicyclists don't mix.

Traffic Safety

- Leave your home 15 minutes earlier to avoid traffic congestion near schools.
 - Yield when children are crossing the street.
 - Always make sure you and your children wear seatbelts.
 - Don't stop in the middle of the street to pick up or drop off children. Pull over to the curb to prevent traffic citations and to ensure your child's safety.
 - Do not pass school buses that have the stop sign and flashing lights on. This traffic offense comes with a hefty fine and is designed to ensure the safety of children riding the bus.
 - Observe the posted speed limit in school zones.
- For more information on back-to-school safety, Neighborhood Watch or other public safety issues, call Interim Public Safety Supervisor Laura Tilley at (323) 887-4460.

EBDC UPDATE

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND FREE JOB PREP WORKSHOPS

The Commerce Employment and Business Development Center (EBDC) offers free job referral services, as well as workshops for job seekers of all ages who want to brush up on interviewing skills, grooming tips, filling out applications or resume writing.

This summer the EBDC held job prep workshops for the Youth Education and Service (YES) Program volunteers to give them an edge in today's competitive job market.

"The class helped me learn the importance of filling out an application and how to present myself for an interview," said Yes Worker Alexia Mercado, 17.

The EBDC offers Job Prep Workshop Classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The EBDC also provides free resume help.

For more information or to schedule appointments, contact the EBDC at (323) 887-4461.

JOB FAIR ATTRACTS MORE 850 JOB SEEKERS

EBDC PARTNERS WITH CONGRESSWOMAN ROYBAL-ALLARD



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard and Secretary of the California American GI Forum Howard Hernandez at the fair.

More than 850 job seekers attended the Southeast Los Angeles Job Fair held at Salt Lake Park, in Huntington Park on July 14. The fair was hosted by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard in collaboration with

the Commerce Employment and Business Development Center, Huntington Park, the California Employment Development Department, Hub Cities Consortium and the Southeast Community Development Corporation.

The fair featured 37 employers and three apprenticeship programs. The Southeast Community Development Corporation mobile unit helped job seekers with resumes, online job searches and printing resumes.

Fourteen veteran services organizations, including Veterans Affairs, offered special resources for job seeking veterans. The Mobile Vet Unit was also on site to review pending VA claims.

"As our economy continues to recover, it is important that we keep the focus on jobs," said Congresswoman Roybal-Allard. "People are still struggling to find employment, and I'm glad we were able to connect so many local job seekers with employers today," the Congresswoman added.

For those who were unable to attend, the City will be partnering with the Citadel Retail Outlets to host the Citadel-Commerce Job Fair on September 26 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Citadel. For more information, see the ad on page 7 of this issue of RTTP.

SIGN UP FOR COASTAL CLEANUP DAY ON SEPT. 15

SPONSORED BY HEAL THE BAY

Here's your opportunity to help improve the environment by volunteering for Heal the Bay's Annual Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 15. The cleanup event will be taking place at more than 60

beaches, inland, diving, and kayaking sites throughout Los Angeles County.

To sign up or learn more, visit www.healthebay.org.

Q&A: Commerce's 100th Neighborhood Watch Block Captain

Carmen Marquez Cooper



Carmen Marquez Cooper is a retired teacher from Montebello Unified School District who taught at Rosewood School and is a 25-year resident who has lived in both the Veterans Park and Rosewood areas of Commerce. She currently resides in Rosewood and recently became the City's 100th block captain, a milestone for the City and the Neighborhood Watch Program.

How do you feel about becoming the City's 100th Block Captain?

Well, I think I was in shock when Laura Tilley (Commerce Interim Public Safety Supervisor) told me, "You're our hundredth block captain!" I thought "Oh wow, that's pretty cool!" So I was very excited. My goal is to give back to community. It feels very comfortable and encouraging to know that you're making a difference.

How did you become a Block Captain?

When Laura asked who would like to be a block captain, I was like, "Yeah I want to be a block captain!" I'd been to a couple of the Neighborhood Watch meetings and I think it's nice to know that people are watching over you. When we moved in, I was a little girl and all the neighbors really did know and watch out for each other. It was nice. In fact my mom use to tell us, "You better be careful because there are neighbors watching. By the time I get home, I'll know what you guys did."

What responsibilities do you have as a block captain?

Well since I'm a new block captain I'll be passing out flyers, talking to people and updating neighbors on what's going on. Also, if something's going on, like people tagging up the street or lighting firecrackers when they're not supposed to, I can report that. I'm not a busy body caller, but if there is something going on that's not supposed to or I have a question about it, I'm going to call.

How is your experience as a block captain so far?

Really good! I'm learning about what's going on in the City, services the city offers, and meeting new people. It's empowering. It's more motivation for me to go up to a neighbor that I don't know and knock on their door and talk to them.

What goals do you have as a block captain?

I'd like to get to know more neighbors; not just the ones I already know on my street. I'd also like to get out more and help spread the word and help Laura and the Community Services Department because they work so hard to keep our community safe.

For more information on the Neighborhood Watch Program call Interim Public Safety Supervisor



September 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.

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.

"LITTLE BROADCASTERS"

Monday 11:00 a.m., Tuesday 5:00 p.m., Wednesday 3:00 p.m., Thursday 8:00 a.m., Friday 2:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. & Sunday 4:00 p.m.

"I-710 EXPANSION OUTREACH COMMUNITY MEETING"

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

TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES "CARACOL" SANTA MONICA PIER CONCERT

Monday 1 p.m., Tuesday 12 p.m., Wednesday 8 a.m., Thursday 7 p.m., Friday 6 p.m., Saturday 4 p.m. & Sunday 8 a.m.

CHEAP EATS FEATURING: LAROCCO'S PIZZERIA, PITFIRE ARTISIAN PIZZA, PIZZA ANTICA

Monday 8 a.m., Tuesday 8 a.m., Wednesday 9 a.m., Thursday 10 a.m., Friday 8 a.m., Saturday 12 p.m. & Sunday 9 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.

LIBRARY NEWS

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME

It's back to school time and the Commerce Public Library invites students of all ages to take advantage of library programs and services that can help them succeed in school. Homework Centers are available at all four libraries and provide homework help for students from kindergarten through college. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at all branches; Central Library: Fridays 3-6 p.m.; Atlantic Branch: Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Bristow Branch: Friday 3-5 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Greenwood Branch: Friday 3-5 p.m.

There is also Live Homework Help, which features free online homework tutors on all subjects for elementary to college students. Live Homework Help is available from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily

World Book Online Encyclopedia allows students to print articles from any Internet capable computer.

The Popular Magazine Database is a great research tool for students that is helpful for writing reports and research papers.

For young children, ages 3 to 8 years old, the library offers "BookFlix," an online e-reading program from Scholastic that lets children read along with their favorite picture books.

Library to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Enjoy movies in Spanish from Latin America! The City of Commerce Library Hispanic Heritage Month Film Festival runs from Wednesday, Sept. 19 to Wednesday, Oct. 17.

Some movies may contain English subtitles. All movie showings are free and open to all.

For more information on these and other Library programs, visit www.cocpl.org or call (323) 722-6660.

COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS



Sixty-five Commerce residents were presented scholarships totaling \$86,000 during an awards breakfast held July 21 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Commerce. Scholarships, ranging from \$400 to \$5,000, were awarded to help Commerce students with their college expenses.

The top awards went to Commerce Casino Scholars Yessenia Pitones and Andrew Torres who each received \$5000 and Brian Ramirez, who received \$4000. Pitones attends Vassar College, Torres attends California State University, Long Beach and Ramirez attends California State Polytechnic University Pomona. Wendy Castiilo, a University of Miami post graduate student, received the 99 Cents Only Stores scholarship totaling \$2,500. The \$1,750 Harvey Capital Scholarship went to New York University Stern School of Business post graduate student Maria Medina.

The \$1000 Robert C. Cornejo Memorial Scholarship was presented to California State University LA student Benito Ramirez, who also received a \$500 Commerce Scholarship.

The scholarships will provide students with much needed assistance. "I'm just grateful," said scholarship recipient Franklin Arroyo. "During these hard times, any help will do." Arroyo will be transferring to the University of Hawaii this fall where he will major in travel industry management.

His sister, Tiffany, who also received a scholarship, said that she would use the money to purchase textbooks at UC Santa Barbara where she is majoring in global and international studies.

City officials congratulated the recipients and acknowledged their families' support and encouragement. They also thanked the individuals, businesses and organizations whose donations made the scholarships possible.

California State Assemblyman Ricardo Lara helped City officials welcome the recipients. "We expect great things from you," said Lara who asked recipients to take responsibility for making sure others succeed as well.

Featured speaker, Commerce Industrial Council Executive Director Eddie Tafoya urged students to "Always strive for success." He encouraged students to work hard, have a purpose and make a difference in the lives of others.

The Commerce Scholarship Program is made possible through donations from individuals, businesses and organizations. This year's top contributors were the Commerce Casino, which gave \$50,000, 99 Cents Only Stores which gave \$9999.99, Harvey Capital Corporation which donated \$10,000 and the Lawrence P. Frank Foundation which donated \$4,000. The program is coordinated by the Commerce Library Department.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

CONT. FROM PG. 1

Sheriff's Station Captain Henry Romero. "We enjoy partnering with the community to tell the criminals in the area that residents are taking their community back!"

Interim Public Safety Supervisor Laura Tilley said that these gatherings are important because it creates a dialogue between the community and public safety officials. "It's a night for us to problem solve. We try to identify problems so we can work on solutions together to prevent crime throughout the City."

This year's National Night Out was sponsored by Target and the Costco Business Center. National Night Out participants included City staff, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's and Fire Departments,

the Commerce Community Assistance Team (ComCATs), the Search and Rescue Team, the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and of course Commerce residents.

To join Neighborhood Watch, call Interim Public Safety Supervisor Laura Tilley at (323) 887-4460 ext. 2870. To report crime anonymously, call the Sheriff's Anonymous Crime Tip Line at (323) 838-4258. To report graffiti, call the Graffiti Hotline at (323) 887-4444.

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

RELAY FOR LIFE

COMMERCE JOINS THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER



Cancer survivors in purple 'Relay for Life' shirts with volunteers and participants ready to start the Survivor's Lap. Second from left is Miss Commerce Unique Hernandez and center in the purple shirt is cancer survivor Jessica Lopez who spoke at the event.

To raise money for the fight against cancer and to honor survivors, as well as those who have been lost to the terrible disease, community and business residents, survivors, their friends, and families joined the American Cancer Society at Veterans Memorial Park for the two day inaugural 'Commerce Relay For Life' event on Aug. 3 and 4.

"It was amazing to see and feel the energy that came from all the participants," said Event Chairperson Francine Ayala of Popular Community Bank here in the City of Commerce. The people and effort involved succeeded in raising more than \$10,000 for the fight against cancer.

The event featured fundraising teams, many of whom camped out on the Veterans Park baseball field overnight, running or walking around the field in shifts for 24 hours. The event kicked off with official opening ceremonies and the 'Survivors Lap' led by cancer survivors clad in purple 'Relay for Life' tee shirts.

In the evening there was a Luminaria Ceremony, during which volunteers lit candles and placed them inside of bags filled with sand, each bearing the name of a person touched by cancer. Once the luminarias were lit and placed along the edge of the field, the relay teams walked a lap of silence in their memory.

The event also featured live music, a 'fight back ceremony,' and food trucks that came in the evening to keep everyone fed and energetic.

One of the participating survivors was Jessica Lopez, who was diagnosed with Stage 3 Breast Can-

cer at the age of 30. At the opening ceremonies with her young daughter standing in front of her, Lopez talked about her battle against cancer. "I am here because I am a cancer survivor. I never thought I would be able to say those words, but it feels good," she said.

At one point during treatment, Lopez said all of her hair fell out. "My doctor said it was okay because even though I'd lost my hair I never lost my smile and I never did because of my friends and family. They fought it with me," said Lopez. "Cancer took a lot from me but it gave me so much more...it taught me that I'm a fighter," said Lopez who just a week before, celebrated her first cancer free birthday with a full, beautiful head of hair.

The Commerce Relay for Life was cosponsored by the Commerce Industrial Council and the City of Commerce. The City would like to thank all of the volunteers, contributors and sponsors, including Citadel Outlets, the Commerce Casino, the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Steven's Steak and Seafood House Restaurant, and American International Industries for their support and participation.

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is a volunteer-driven community event that gives everyone an opportunity to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org.

SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

EXERCISE CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS FOR SENIORS

Are you retired? Need to stay active? Want to make new friends with interesting and exciting people? Well look no further than the Commerce Senior Center, where there are a variety of fun clubs, activities, and trips throughout the year.

The Senior Center offers free and low cost exercise classes every Monday, Tuesday, And Thursday. On Mondays, prepare for a fun workout with the new Zumba Gold class at 9 am. To help improve balance, strength, and flexibility Chi-Gong starts at 10 am.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, arthritis exercise classes are at 9 am. Senior Citizens Commissioner Flora Ochoa describes the benefits: "It's a lot of fun and it really has helped me a lot. I was losing my balance from not walking as much or being as active, but I've gotten my balance back and I feel so much better. I even lost weight!"

Beginning yoga classes are offered at 10 am to help with breathing and flexibility. Thursday classes have

also been added by popular demand. On Tuesday evenings Salsa Classes start at 5pm.

The Camp Commerce Senior Weekend is September 14-16. Register now with Parks and Recreation or at the Senior Center. Space is limited.

In addition to these exciting activities, cooking classes starting on Oct. 3. Register now at the Senior Center. Space is limited and costs will vary depending on the menu.

Upcoming Senior Center excursions include the Del Mar Race track on Sept. 5; the LA County Fair on Sept. 26; and a relaxing trip to the Glen Ivy Hot Springs on Oct. 4. All trips require a \$5 refundable deposit.

For more information on these and other activities at the Senior Center, call (323) 887-4430 or feel free to visit the Center at 2555 Commerce Way. You are always welcome!



Commerce Water Polo Update Women's Water Polo 14 and under wins Gold at Junior Olympics



The Women's Water Polo 14 and Under Team took first place winning the gold at the Junior Olympics in Palo Alto, CA on August 2-5.

The City's 16 and under team also made Commerce proud by finishing 2nd in the nation for the silver. The 12 and under team took 7th in the nation, while the 18 and under took 11th in the country.

Commerce is proud of the Water Polo program, which is one of the top programs in the country.

For more information about the Commerce Water Polo Team, go to www.CommerceAquatics.org or contact Head Women's Water Polo Coach Gabriel Martinez or Head Men's Water Polo Coach Bobby Contreras at (323) 887-4404.

Report to the People **COMMERCE GALLERY**

Team Brenda



Brenda Villa fans cheer for the USA women's water polo team during the gold medal match Aug. 9. The game was shown in the City Council Chamber via a live Internet stream from the web.

'Commerce Clean Up' Crew



Youth volunteers from the Adventure Club, Swim Team and Bristow Teen Club take a break from working at the Commerce Cleanup. For each youth participant, Craig Realty pledged to donate \$100 to a program of the youth's choice.

Longtime Resident Honored



Longtime resident Rod Gallegos, pictured here with wife Lia, recently received the Older American Recognition Award from the Los Angeles Commission for Older Adults and the LA County Board of Supervisors for his years of volunteer service.

Beautifying Commerce



Youth volunteers collect trash at the Commerce Clean Up on Aug. 11.

Senior Luau



Commerce senior Raul Elenes is pictured here with Hawaiian dancers that performed a variety of Hula and Tahitian dances at the Senior Center Luau in July.

Residents Join Fight Against Cancer



Commerce resident Vilma Moran registers her team at the Relay for Life event held at Veterans Park in August, which raised more than \$10,000 for the fight against cancer.

National Night Out at the Senior Center



Commerce seniors enjoyed a huge National Night Out barbecue and potluck with deserts generously provided by the Commerce Industrial Council/Chamber of Commerce.

New Transit Buses



In August the City put two brand new, ADA compliant 32 passenger transit buses into service. Pictured from l. to r. are Transportation Director Claude McFerguson, Transportation staff Jaime Sandoval, Greg Guzman, Art Rodriguez and Sergio Castro along with City Administrator Jorge Rifa.

I-710 Public Hearing



A Caltrans representative talks to a Commerce resident about the I-710 Expansion Project. Full story on page 2.

City of Commerce
Department of Parks and Recreation
presents

GALAXY COMMUNITY NIGHT

Saturday, September 22nd, 2012

Los Angeles Galaxy vs. Toronto FC

The Home Depot Center
Incredible price of \$20.00 per person
(A \$38.00 value)
Game Time: 7:30 p.m.

Come watch Galaxy stars Landon Donovan
& David Beckham lead the Galaxy team in an
exciting game against Toronto FC
at the Home Depot Center.
Join the community in recognizing
Miss Galaxy Karely Ramirez on her special day!

Department of Parks and Recreation.

Bus reservations required (space is limited).
For more information, call the
Department of Parks and Recreation
(323) 887-4434.



THE CITY OF COMMERCE CONGRATULATES OUR VERY OWN



BRENDA VILLA

AND THE USA WOMEN'S
WATER POLO TEAM

GOLD MEDALISTS

LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS

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COMMERCE TO COLLEGE FAIR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Veterans Park 6364 Zindell Ave. Commerce, CA

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"I'M GOING TO COLLEGE!"

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

4th Annual COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

Wednesday
September 26, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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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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VILLA BRINGS HOME GOLD

CONT. FROM PG. 1



Brenda's family welcomed her home with balloons and this colorful sign at the family's residence.

and Brenda's former coach, said he was proud of her and the recognition she has brought to the sport of women's water polo. "From Commerce women's water polo past, present and future, we are thankful for what she's done," he said.

Brenda is a four-time Olympian whose

athletic ability, drive and ambition have established her reputation as a world-class, professional water polo player and made her one of the top women athletes of all time. She got her start in Commerce Aquatics at age 6 and developed athletic skills by competing in City

water polo and swim teams. The most decorated women's water polo player in the world, Brenda was named FINA Aquatics World Magazine Female Water Polo Player of the Decade in 2010.

"Besides my parents and their support I think the support of the City has been invaluable. I don't think I would have been able to play a sport like water polo without the support of the City of Commerce," said Brenda.

Brenda has announced her retirement and plans to move to Northern California where she will be working with a non-profit group to introduce disadvantaged youth to water safety, swimming and water polo. "The sport has given me so much and I think there are a lot of kids out there that can benefit from just playing the sport. They may not be Olympians but I think the team dynamics, the work ethic that you're taught and the discipline can just help in your life in general," said Villa.

As the RTTP went to press, a welcome

home celebration and ceremony was being planned to honor Brenda for her achievements.



Brenda's official photo provided courtesy of USA Water Polo.



SEPTEMBER DATES TO NOTE



3
 Labor Day- City Hall and Libraries Closed

Spray Pools-Closing Day

4
 City Council/Successor Agency Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Advisory Commission, 7 p.m.

5
 Senior Citizen's Commission Meeting, 12:30 p.m.

Traffic Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

6
 Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting, 6 p.m.
10
 Education Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

English Book Club, EOC room, 6 p.m.

11
 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, 9 a.m.
 Veterans Park

I-710 Local Advisory Committee (Ad Hoc) Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

12
 Community Task Force Meeting, 3 p.m.

13
 Community Services Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

15
 Library College Fair, 10 a.m.
 Veterans Park

18
 City Council/Successor Agency Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Library Embajadores Meeting, EOC room 6 p.m.

19
 Employment Task Force Meeting, 1 p.m.

22
 Community Galaxy Night, 7:30 p.m.

24
 Spanish Book Club, EOC room, 6 p.m.

Adult Computer Classes, 5:30 p.m., at Central Library

25
 Library Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

I-710 Local Advisory Committee (Ad Hoc) Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

26
 Citadel Job Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Citadel Outlets

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Teen Book Club, Central Library, 5:30 p.m.

29
 Pre-School Registration, All parks, 9:30 a.m.