



Report to the People

Where Quality Service
Is Our Tradition

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Volume 53 No. 2 February 2013

www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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NEW *February Calendar of Events*



A group of Commerce's emergency first responders at the EOC groundbreaking ceremony from the Urban Search and Rescue Team with Community Services Officers from the Safety and Community Services Department's Public Safety Division.

COMMERCE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW EOC

To celebrate the start of construction on the City's new, dedicated Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the City of Commerce held a groundbreaking ceremony at Rosewood Park on December 20.

City officials, commissioners and staff attended the event along with representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, newly elected Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, newly elected State Senator Ricardo Lara and State Senator Ron Calderon.

Also in attendance were members of Commerce's business community, Sheriff's Captain James P. Wolak, and

Assistant Fire Chief Nick Duvally.

"This facility will give the City's first responders, including City staff and Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff's personnel with the needed space and communications equipment to provide an effective response in the event of an emergency or major disaster," said Director of Safety and Community Services Loretta Gutierrez, whose department oversees the City's Emergency Preparedness Program.

The cutting edge facility will be secure and resistant to fire, as well as structural damage. The new EOC will also feature

an audio visual system, an auxiliary power source and additional needed space that is lacking in the current EOC. All of these upgrades in the new facility will ensure Commerce's first responders will have a stable, fully functional facility from which to conduct emergency response operations.

Although the nature of disasters and emergency situations here in Southern California can differ from other parts of the country, the need for a dedicated facility has been highlighted by the impacts of recent disasters such as Hurricane

New EOC Page 8

COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE



Happy recipients of the 2012 Commerce Scholarship. Applications for 2013 are now available.

To provide financial assistance to Commerce residents who will be studying at colleges or universities this fall, the Commerce Public Library System is now accepting applications for the 2013 Commerce Scholarship Program.

The program, which is funded by contributions from individuals and local businesses, will be awarding scholarships in amounts ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 to help Commerce residents with the cost of their tuition, housing, books and other expenses.

Scholarships are awarded based on an application and interview process. The application process will have students providing information on their financial situation, a copy of their transcripts, an autobiographical essay, and two letters of recommendation.

Applicants must be available for interviews on both Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. on April 25 at any Commerce Public Library.

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

POWER OUTAGE TIPS FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON



Making a checklist can help in the event of a power outage.

Southern California Edison has provided the following checklist to help residents respond safely and effectively in the event of an electrical outage, whether it's planned or unplanned.

Planned outages are used to improve the stability of SCE's electrical system by replacing equipment or via network alterations and upgrades. For planned outages, SCE will notify you at least three days be-

fore maintenance begins, but unforeseen conditions may require service to be postponed.

Unplanned outages are typically caused by issues that include severe weather, such as heavy rain or extreme heat, natural disasters, or traffic accidents. Any of these types of incidents can overload lines and transformers.

In the event your power goes out here is a simple check list of what to do:

Step 1: Check for blown fuses or tripped circuits and see if your neighbors have power.

Step 2: If step 1 doesn't restore power, call SCE to report the outage at (800) 611-1911.

Step 3: Switch off all of your lights except one, which will let you know when the power is back on. Also, to prevent damage when electricity is re-

Edison Page 8

Commerce continues to move forward on a number of projects, renovations, and community improvements. These investments in our community help improve quality of life for Commerce residents and for the thousands of people who invest in or visit our City throughout the year.

Road improvements in the residential areas of Rosewood and Rosini are nearly complete and once finished will serve the community for years to come. As we've mentioned here in the Report to the People recently, we have a number of other projects in the pipeline. One of these is the \$4.84 million Central Library renovation project, which will be considered by the Council in the coming months.

A project already underway is the new Emergency Operations Center, which we celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony in December. This new \$1 million facility will provide Commerce's emergency first responders with the resources and tools to effectively mobilize if, and more likely when we face a large scale emergency.

Later on this year the City will commence the Washington Boulevard Reconstruction project, which will be the largest infrastructure project initiated since the Mixmaster at Atlantic and Eastern over a decade ago. This landmark \$32 million dollar project will provide for concrete reconstruction along the entire length of Washington Boulevard. What this means is a new, attractive street with a longer life span that will reduce traffic congestion and the City's long term repair and maintenance costs. With the passage of Measure AA, the half cent sales tax last November, the City will now be able to plan for and effectively fund other large scale infrastructure projects to improve Commerce for all stakeholders.

This month we have provided a great deal of information that we hope will be useful for residents starting with a checklist of what to do in a power outage, provided by Southern California Edison (SCE). We have also included a list of important phone numbers to utility providers and agencies responsible for addressing quality of life issues on page 3.

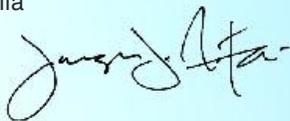
Speaking of quality of life issues, it is important to develop programs that help our young people build self-esteem, which is something the City invests in through our sports, education and arts programs. Last month we added to that with a new program that featured our very own Miss Commerce 2012 Unique Hernandez and her Royal Court, who hosted the first ever Royal Tea Party for Commerce girls ages 3-10. Read all about it on page 15.

Another investment the City, community residents and our local businesses makes in our youth is the Commerce Scholarship Program. If you are a Commerce resident and will be attending college this fall I encourage you to apply for the 2013 Commerce Scholarship Program. See page 1 for more details.

Next month, we will be hosting the 53rd annual Miss Commerce Pageant on March 23. During the pageant, the 2012 Young Man of the Year Award will also be presented. Make sure to watch all the excitement live on Channel 3 or streaming online at www.ci.commerce.ca.us. Good luck to all the participants.

Before I go, I'd like to remind everyone that City Hall and Commerce Libraries will be closed on February 12 in observance of President Lincoln's Birthday and on February 18 in observance of President Washington's Birthday.

Sincerely,
 Jorge Rifá




MUNICIPAL NOTES

SOCIAL SECURITY DIRECT DEPOSIT

Starting on March 1, 2013, the Social Security Administration will be phasing out paper Social Security checks and replacing them with electronic delivery.

Anyone who is currently receiving their Social Security, SSI, veterans, railroad or federal civil servant retirement benefits in the mail will need to switch to direct deposit either into a bank account or credit union of their choice, or a Direct Express debit card by March 1, 2013.

Direct deposit delivers your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit into your bank, savings and loan or credit union's account quickly and safely.

Seniors born before March 1, 1923; individuals with

mental impairments; and recipients residing in remote rural areas will still be provided the option of receiving their government benefits via paper check if so desired.

Switching to paperless payments is expected to save Social Security approximately \$600 million over the next 10 years in postage, paper and printing costs. The switch will also eliminate checks being lost in the mail or stolen.

For more information or to sign up for direct deposit, contact your bank or credit union, the Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213, or visit their website at <http://www.ssa.gov>.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

REGULAR MEETING REPORTS

Regular Meeting of December 4, 2012

- Gave authority to the City Administrator to retain a consultant to conduct an environmental assessment of property held by Pacific Commerce Bank.
- Appointed Robert Lipton as Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Commerce and the LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the transfer of two buses to the City.
- Approved an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement for Design and Engineering Services with RBF Consulting for the Washington Boulevard Widening and Reconstruction Project.
- Approved an amendment to the reimbursement agreement between the City of Commerce and Craig Realty Group Citadel, LLC for paving and restriping of Smithway Street.
- Approved the work performed by Unique Performance Construction Inc. with regards to the Bus Shelter Installation Project.
- Approved a resolution to receive payments for Commerce Redevelopment Project Area #3.
- Approved an amendment to an agreement between the City and Clean Energy, to provide fuel supply, operations and maintenance of the City's LNG and CNG fueling station
- Approved the hiring of a consultant to update the City's industrial standards.
- Approved the 2nd annual Community Day of Service Event.
- Authorized the filing of a petition to appeal with the California Water Resources Control Board for a two year abeyance to retain the City's right to challenge the LA MS4 Stormwater Permit.
- Approved an agreement for Construction Management Services with Swinerton Builders and Swinerton Management & Consulting.
- Received and filed an update on the Capital Improvement Program.

Regular Meeting of December 18, 2012

- Recognized Sheriff's Community Academy Sergeant Colin Matsumoto, Academy Instructors Deputy Alfredo Macias and Deputy Mark Macias, and Coroner Lieutenant Fred A. Corral.
- Recognized Commerce-Citadel Job Fair volunteers and the Regional Director from the County Department of Social Services.
- Restored one full-time custodian position in the Community Development and Public Services Department
- Approved the sale or transfer of points in the Commerce Casino from the Contrucci Family Revocable
- Living Trust to the Contrucci Irrevocable Trust.
- Renewed a subscription to Westlaw Select for three

- years for use by the City Attorney and City Clerk.
- Accepted the work performed by Southwest Lift and Equipment for a Heavy Bus Lift.
- Rescinded the fee increase for Resident Activity Cards.
- Authorized an agreement with Environmental Science Associates for the Housing Element Update Project.
- Approved the removal of red curb markings on Garfield Avenue near Canning Street.
- Approved Safe Route to School Program modifications. Declared the results of the November 6 Special Election.
- Approved a memorandum of agreement between the City and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments for administration and cost sharing of a plan for the LA River and Tributaries Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load.
- Approved Phase I and II of Clifton Anderson's organizational development proposal.
- Received and filed a strategic plan for the Information Technology Division.
- Implemented a 'secret shopper' tool to measure customer service quality of City departments and divisions.
- Appointed Jonathan Gonzalez to the Youth Advisory Commission.
- Moved the January 1 Council meeting to January 22. Supported the concept of a dedicated funding source to address water quality per the new MS4 Stormwater Permit.
- Requested that the Board of Supervisors postpone taking action on January 15, 2013, to authorize an election to approve a water quality fee.
- Requested that Board of Supervisors direct county staff to intensify its community outreach to affected parcel owners.
- Received and filed an update on the Capital Improvement Program.

Report to the People

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents

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

PREVENT WEST NILE VIRUS

REMAIN VIGILANT EVEN IN WINTER MONTHS



Even though cooler winter temperatures slow mosquito activity, residents should remain vigilant and take precautions to guard against West Nile Virus (WNV) bearing mosquitoes that are still active.

Because mosquitoes are cold-blooded, cooler winter temperatures slow down their metabolism causing the mosquitoes to remain inactive for long periods, essentially extending their lives. So although there will be fewer mosquitoes, make sure to take the following precautionary measures:

•Drain standing water that collects from rain and sprinklers around your home to eliminate mosquito breeding.

•Use insect repellent and wear protective clothing during evening and early morning hours.
•Install or repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of your home.

According to the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, 2012's WNV activity was relatively moderate until WNV activity spiked in August. In comparison to recent years, the level of activity is the worst California has experienced since 2008.

Nationally, there was a record number of West Nile virus (WNV) cases in 2012. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported more than 5,245 cases of WNV, which incurred 236 deaths nationwide. This is why it is important for the public to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions.

For more information on West Nile Virus and how to prevent it, visit the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District website at www.glacvcd.org/.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

UTILITIES, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES

To assist residents in finding important information from local service and utility providers, as well as what agency to call regarding quality of life issues in your neighborhood, City staff has compiled the following list of phone numbers that can be cut out and saved for future reference.

Local Utility and Service Providers

AT&T: (800) 310-2355
California Water Service Co.: (323) 722-8601
Charter Communications: (866) 499-8080
Southern California Edison: (800) 655-4555
Southern California Gas Co.: (800) 427-2200
Verizon: (800) 483-3000

Air Quality

South Coast Air Quality Management District: (909) 396-2000
California Air Resources Board (Idling locomotives, commercial vehicles, etc.): (800) END-SMOG or (800) 363-7664

Animal Control

Commerce Public Safety Division:
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (323) 887-4460
Los Angeles County Animal Control:
Weekends/Evenings (562) 940-6898

Code Enforcement

(323) 722-4805 ext. 2293

Graffiti

Commerce Graffiti Hotline: (323) 887-4444

Interstate Highways/Freeways

California Department of Transportation/Caltrans: (916) 654-5266

Parking Issues

Public Safety Division: (323) 887-4460

Public Safety

L.A. County Fire Department: (323) 881-2411
East Los Angeles Sheriff's Department: (323) 264-4151

Railroad Issues

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad: (800) 795-2673
Union Pacific Railroad: (800) 848-8715

Refuse Collection/Bulky Item Pickup

CalMet Services Inc.: (562) 259-1239

Tree and Street Maintenance

Public Services: (323) 887-4451
Street lights, potholes and traffic signals: (323) 887-4451

A TEA PARTY FIT FOR A QUEEN

MISS COMMERCE AND COURT HOST THE FIRST ANNUAL ROYAL TEA PARTY



Miss Commerce Unique Hernandez and her court brought a little bit of Disney magic to the Model City when

they hosted the first ever Royal Tea Party for Commerce girls ages 3-10 in January.

Miss Commerce and the Royal Court welcomed the little "princesses," all of whom were dressed as their favorite Disney characters, including Belle (Beauty and the Beast), Snow White, Cinderella, Princess Jasmine (Aladdin), Princess

Aurora (Sleeping Beauty) and others.

The Royal Tea Party started with Miss Commerce reading 'Fancy Nancy' by Jane O' Connor to the participants. Attendees also took photo keepsakes and of course enjoyed tea, cookies and conversation with the Queen and Court.

The idea for the Royal Tea Party originated with Miss Commerce. "I know that when I was little and I'd see Miss Commerce and her Court, I'd want to talk and spend time with them, so I'm really happy we got to do that today. It made my day to see them so excited and enjoying themselves so much," said Miss Commerce who also emphasized the importance of young girls developing confidence and self esteem. "I think self esteem is very important because every little girl should know that she's a princess!"

Report to the People

For Safety's Sake

Vehicle Burglary Prevention

Tips From the LA County Sheriff's Department

"Although crime rates in Commerce have decreased over the last year, we have seen a rise in some specific categories, primarily vehicle burglaries," said Commerce's Dedicated Sergeant Rich Haley of the LA County Sheriff's Department.

To prevent vehicle burglaries, Sergeant Haley has provided a few tips.

First, always park your vehicle in a well lit and well traveled area whenever possible to discourage would be thieves.

Also, keep all valuables, such as cell phones, computers, purses/wallets, or items you just purchased, out of view and ideally in the trunk if possible. Remember, even exposed spare change in an ash-tray can represent "big dollars" to a thief.

Finally and most importantly, always lock your vehicle, and when at home park your car in your garage whenever possible.

For more suggestions on how to keep yourself and your property safe, contact Interim Public Safety Supervisor Laura Tilley at (323) 887-4460.

To report crime call the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Station at (323) 264-4151. In an emergency always call 911.

CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

Young Commerce Residents who are interested in public service, government and politics are encouraged to apply to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's (CHCI) Congressional Internship Program. Deadline for Fall 2013 applications is April 26, 2013.

The purpose of the Congressional Internship Program (CIP) is to expose young Latinos to the legislative process and to strengthen their professional and leadership skills, ultimately promoting the presence of Latinos on Capitol Hill and in Federal Agencies. The Congressional Internship Program provides college students with a paid work placement in a Congressional Office or Federal Agency for a period of twelve weeks. This experience allows students to learn first hand about our nation's legislative process.

Students gain work experience, participate in a community service project, and receive educational and professional programming provided by CHCI. This program provides extraordinary learning and networking opportunities for students interested in public service. For more information or to apply for this once in a lifetime opportunity, visit <http://www.chci.org/internships>.



February 2013 Featured Highlights

Award winning cablecasts of the Community Development & 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 recap of the City Council Meeting in One Minute
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 11:05 a.m., Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

Commerce Public Affairs Show
Mondays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 9:01 a.m., Wednesdays
at 12 p.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 3:30 p.m.,
Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sundays at 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.

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

California’s Gold featuring: “Wave Power”
Mondays at 2 p.m., Tuesdays at 11 a.m., Wednesdays
at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 8 p.m., Fridays at 2 p.m.,
Saturdays at 7:34 p.m., Sundays at 7:31 p.m.,

K9 Corner
Mondays at 10 a.m., Tuesdays at 12 p.m., Wednesdays
at 8 a.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m., Fridays at 6 p.m.,
Saturdays at 11:30 a.m., Sundays at 5:31 p.m.

Vintage Vehicle Show
The Vintage Vehicle Show
“Fenders on the Street Car Show” Tuesdays at 3 p.m.,
The Vintage Vehicle Show
“Mel Martin Collection” Wednesdays at 6:33 p.m.,
The Vintage Vehicle Show
“Chevelle & El Camino Show” Thursdays at 8 a.m.,
The Vintage Vehicle Show
“Infestation Car Show” Saturdays at 8 a.m.

Port of Long Beach “Pulse of the Port”
Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Wednesdays
at 7:05 p.m., Thursdays at 1:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 a.m.,
Saturdays at 2 p.m., Sundays at 8 p.m.

Commerce City Channel 3 offers DVD copies of local programs broadcast on channel 3 and 32 for \$10. Original shows include City Council Meetings, Public Affairs, Commerce City News, Commerce Teen Plays and more. See the city channel replay schedule or go to www.ci.commerce.ca.us for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

Read Across America Celebrates the Birthday of Dr. Seuss

During the week of February 25, special story times for children will be held at each of the Commerce libraries to encourage children to read and celebrate the birthday of children’s book author Dr. Seuss. Each year, libraries and schools celebrate the enjoyment of reading by honoring beloved children’s author Theodore Geisel (commonly known as Dr. Seuss), who was born on March 2. Although Geisel/Seuss passed away in 1991, children everywhere continue to celebrate his remarkable contribution to children’s literature and reading.

This year’s programs will be held as follows:
February 25 6 p.m. @ Central Library
February 26 6 p.m. @ Atlantic Library
February 27 6 p.m. @ Greenwood Library
February 28 6 p.m. @ Bristow Park Library
Story times will feature stories for children, followed by a visit from the Cat in the Hat. Everyone will sing “Happy Birthday” to Dr. Seuss and enjoy refreshments after the programs.

Library Computer Classes

The Library will be offering monthly computer classes. All classes will meet in the Central Library. Sign up forms will be provided at the Central Library to accommodate 15-20 students per session. For more information or to sign up, visit the Central Library reference desk, call (323) 722-6660 x2275 or visit the Library website at www.cocpl.org. All sessions run from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Teen Programs

The Commerce Library will be hosting a Spanish language Financial Aid & FAFSA Workshop on February 6 at 6 p.m. in the Central Library.

Discussion topics will include the FAFSA, scholarships, and related library resources. All are welcome, but if you’ll be attending college next year, this workshop is especially for you.

Video Game Days

Wednesdays are video game days at the Commerce Library. Join us as we play Wii or X-box Kinect games.

February 6 6 p.m. @ Bristow Park Library
February 13 4 p.m. @ Greenwood Library
February 20 6 p.m. @ Atlantic Library
February 27 4 p.m. @ Central Library

Teen Book Club

February 27 5:30pm @ the Central Library
Meet with other teens and share your thoughts on our latest book. Plus, we’ll have free pizza and raffles! The Teen Book Club meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Central Library @ 5:30 p.m. To find out February’s selection or for more information about any of our programs, please call (323) 722-6660 or visit <http://teens.cocpl.org>.

COMMERCE’S GREAT DEBATER

Commerce Resident and Schurr High Senior Chloe Romero



Commerce resident Chloe Romero. I went to see the coach and asked to join the team. The next day, I attended practice and never left after that.”

“I knew being on the speech team was like acting, which I learned to enjoy when I was in the City’s Performing Arts Group during middle school.” Chloe said, “I’ve always been loud and outgoing so speech gave me the platform to develop that.”

When she first entered the team, she was the only freshman to qualify to the State Championship in Dramatic Interpretation. She qualified again as a sophomore

and went on to qualify for the National Championship in her junior year. “The most fulfilling thing I’ve done was going to Nationals last year in Indianapolis. It was great to meet people who were like me from all over the country,” said Chloe, who placed 20th in the nation with a humorous interpretation piece.

Chloe was first introduced to speech and debate after school by a friend. “She told me she was in Speech and showed me a little part of one she was working on.

Chloe has been in the varsity speech team since her first trip to the State tournament and with each tournament, her ranking in the National Forensic League keeps improving. “Speech is very subjective and every tournament is different. You can win one and not even go to the semi-finals in another. The biggest challenge is to adapt to each judge and their tastes,” she said.

Chloe also keeps busy as the Pep Commissioner on the United Student Body (USB) at Schurr High School, using her skills in speech to bring school spirit to the student body. She is currently in the admissions process for college, hoping to attend Columbia College Chicago, where she plans to major in Media Studies. “I want to do something with public relations and media where I can use my communications skills on camera.”

She is proud about the fact that she is from the Commerce. “Everything that I am is because of the City of Commerce. I had an amazing childhood here.”

RESIDENTIAL STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Project Nears Completion

The street reconstruction along Commerce Way, Harbor, Jillson, Wilma and adjacent residential streets is nearing completion. With the bulk of major construction complete, final touches including restriping of road surfaces is expected to be complete by mid-February.

While the construction created some traffic issues in and around Commerce City Hall, as well as the Rosewood and Rosini areas, the project was necessary to prevent pavement failure.

The road reconstruction consisted of the grinding and removal of four inches of asphalt; removal of five inches of soil, and mixing of the next 10 inches of soil with cement to add strength. Five inches of aggregate

base was then installed to create a membrane like structure to prevent water from penetrating in to the clay soil base; and the finishing step; the installation of four inches of asphalt for the new roadway.

The membrane like structure is critical part of the construction because when moisture is absorbed by clay soil, it expands creating a sponge like effect, which when heavy vehicles drive over it causes damage to the strength and stability of the pavement.

The City would like to thank residents and visitors for their patience as we continue working to complete this essential road reconstruction project.

Election Information

APPLICATIONS FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS AND RETURN OF VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS

City Clerk Linda Kay Olivieri has announced the following information relating to applications for vote by mail ballots and the return of vote by mail ballots for the March 5, 2013, General Municipal Election to be held in the City of Commerce:

Registered voters in the City may request in writing a vote by mail ballot from the City Clerk's Office between February 4 and February 26, 2013. You may also come by the City Clerk's Office between these dates, complete an application and vote in person. Applications submitted prior to this time will be held until February 4.

The City Clerk's Office cannot accept any applications received less than seven days prior to the election, unless you become ill or disabled or for some unforeseen reason will be away from your polling place on election day.

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office and are included with the Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet.

Applications may also be provided by individuals, candidates, committees, organizations or groups. These applications must be of a uniform format as provided by law and must include on it the name, address and telephone number of who provided it to the voter. These applications may not be forwarded to the voter.

Your application must include your printed name, residence address, the address you want the vote by mail ballot sent to (personally filled in by you) and the name and date of the election you are applying for. In addition, you must personally date and sign your application.

Even if requested by you, your vote by mail ballot will not be sent to a candidate's residence, campaign headquarters or political party, unless you are the candidate, candidate's spouse or immediate family member or share the same residence address as the candidate.

You have the right to return your application directly to the City Clerk by mail or in person. You do not need to return the application to any other individual, organization or group.

Your vote by mail ballot will be provided directly to you by the City Clerk's Office. Ballots will not be given to any individual, organization or group to deliver to you. If you become ill or disabled or for some unforeseen reason will be away from your polling place between February 27 and March 5, 2013, you may

authorize another person to bring you the ballot and return it for you after you have voted.

You must personally return your ballot to the City Clerk's Office by mail or delivery. If ill, or disabled, you may designate a specific relative or person residing in your household to return the ballot for you by completing the required information on the back of the return envelope. You may also return your ballot to any polling place on election day.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Except as noted above, no other individual, candidate, group or organization is allowed to pick up and mail or deliver your ballot for you. This may prevent your ballot from being counted.

If you are ill, or disabled, the City Clerk's Office will personally send a special Deputy City Clerk to pick up your vote by mail ballot and return it to the City Clerk's Office for you. If you are in need of this service, please call the number listed below.

If you have requested and received a vote by mail ballot and later decide you would like to vote in person at your polling place on election day, please surrender your vote by mail ballot to the election officers at your polling place and they will give you a new ballot to vote at that time.

Further, if you have requested, received and returned a vote by mail ballot and later decide you would like to vote in person at your polling place on election day, or would like to change your vote for any reason, you must personally come in to the City Clerk's Office to submit your request.

The counting of your vote by mail ballot will depend upon the successful processing of your application and your voter registration being verified by the Los Angeles County Registrar's Office. Your signature on the back of the return envelope must match your signature on your approved application.

Please note that vote by mail ballots received after the close of the polls at 8:00 p.m. on March 5, 2013, will not be opened or counted.

If you have any questions regarding these procedures or need an application for a vote by mail ballot, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 323-722-4805, Ext. 2252.

REMINDER – VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THE MARCH 5, 2013, ELECTION CLOSURES ON FEBRUARY 18, 2013.

SOLICITUDES PARA PAPELETA DE VOTO POR CORREO Y EL RETORNO DE PAPELETAS DE VOTO POR CORREO

La Secretaria Municipal, Linda Kay Olivieri ha anunciado la siguiente información relacionada con las solicitudes para papeletas de voto por correo y el retorno de las papeletas de voto por correo para la Elección Municipal General de la Ciudad de Commerce el 5 de marzo del 2013.

Votantes registrados en la Ciudad pueden solicitar por escrito una papeleta de voto por correo de la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal del 4 de febrero al 26 de febrero del 2013. También pueden recoger y completar la solicitud en persona en la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal. Solicitudes entregadas antes de este periodo de tiempo se guardarán hasta el 4 de febrero.

La oficina de la Secretaria Municipal no puede aceptar solicitudes recibidas menos de siete días antes de la elección, a menos que se enferman o son incapacitados o por una razón imprevista que lo obliga estar lejos de su centro electoral el día de votar.

Solicitudes con el Folleto de Información y Muestra de la Papeleta están disponibles en la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal.

Solicitudes también pueden ser recibidas de individuos, candidatos, comités, organizaciones, o grupos. Por ley, estas solicitudes están en una forma uniforme y deben de incluir el nombre, dirección y número de teléfono de quien les dio la solicitud. Estas solicitudes no pueden ser remitidas al votante.

Su solicitud debe de incluir su nombre escrita en letra de bloque, domicilio residencial, domicilio donde quiere que se mande la papeleta (completada personalmente por usted) y el nombre y fecha de la elección. Además, debe de personalmente firmar y fechar su solicitud.

Aunque usted lo solicite, la papeleta no será mandada al domicilio de un candidato, oficina de campaña o partido político, a menos que usted es un candidato, esposo del un candidato o su familia directa, o reside usted en el mismo domicilio del candidato.

Es su derecho devolver su solicitud directamente a la Secretaria Municipal por correo o en persona. No tiene que devolver su solicitud a cualquier otro individuo, organización o grupo.

Su papeleta de voto por correo será proveída directamente a usted por parte de la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal. Papeletas de voto no serán entregadas a ningún individuo, organización o grupo para que se le entreguen a usted. Si usted se enferma o esta incapacitado o por alguna razón imprevista no puede ir a su centro electoral entre el 27 de febrero y el 5

de marzo del 2013, puede usted autorizar a otra persona para que le entregue su papeleta y devuelva la misma después que ha votado.

Debe usted personalmente devolver su papeleta a la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal por correo o presentada en persona. Si se encuentra enfermo o incapacitado, puede designar a un miembro de su familia o persona que reside en su hogar para que entregue su papeleta por usted si usted incluye la información requerida en la parte trasera del sobre de retorno. También puede usted devolver su papeleta a cualquier centro electoral en el día de la elección.

NOTA IMPORTANTE: Con la excepción de lo indicado anteriormente, ningún individuo, candidato, grupo o organización es permitida recoger, mandar por correo, o entregar su papeleta por usted. Esto puede prevenir que se cuente su voto.

Si esta usted enfermo o incapacitado, la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal mandará a un Delegado particular de la Secretaria Municipal para recoger su papeleta de voto por correo y entregarlo a la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal. Si requiere este servicio, favor de llamar al número indicado al calce.

Además, si ha solicitado, recibió y devolvió una papeleta de voto por correo y después decide que quiere votar en persona en su centro electoral en el día de la elección, o quiere cambiar su voto por cualquier razón, debe de personalmente presentarse en la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal para presentar su solicitud.

Para que se cuente su papeleta de voto por correo depende de que se procese su solicitud y de que su registro de votante sea verificado por la Oficina del Registro Civil del Condado de Los Angeles. Su firma en la parte trasera del sobre debe de ser igual que su firma en su solicitud de registro.

Favor de notar que las papeletas de voto por correo recibidas después que se cierran las cabinas electorales a las 8:00 p.m. el 5 de marzo del 2013, no serán abiertas o contadas.

Si tiene usted alguna pregunta sobre este proceso o si requiere una solicitud para papeleta de voto por correo, favor de comunicarse con la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al 323-722-4805, extensión 2252.

RECUERDO – REGISTRACION PARA VOTAR EN LA ELECCION DEL 5 DE MARZO DEL 2013 CIERRA EL 18 DE FEBRERO DEL 2013.

Report to the People

Lia Gallegos: 30 Years of Service



Dedicated longtime resident Lia Gallegos and husband Rod at the Commerce Senior Center.

Longtime Commerce resident Lia Gallegos was recognized in November on her retirement as Secretary of the Senior Center's Auld Lang Syne Club, a Commerce civic organization that she has been a part of for 30 years.

Gallegos' fellow club members presented her with a plaque and an honorary name badge for her dedicated service.

Although she had served as the Club's secretary for many years, she had her reasons for stepping aside. "I can't hear very well anymore, so I decided that it was time to retire and give a young person a chance," she said.

Gallegos first joined the Auld Lang Syne club when she became eligible at the spry age of 50. "I had a lot of friends and I see them more than I see my family. We were young together and we got old together. We enjoyed spending time with each other and in the end, that's who you end up being with," said Gallegos.

She has also lived in Commerce for more than 60 years and has witnessed many local historic events, including the City's incorporation in 1960.

Another historic event took place for her and husband Rod in January when they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. The two lovebirds met at a dance in East LA at the Paramount Boardroom when Rod, then 24, asked Lia, who was 21 at the time, for a dance.

"I married a very patient man. I first got interested in him when he was walking down the stairs and a girl confused him for someone else and just slapped him across the face. And he didn't do anything about it, even when his friends were nagging him. I thought to myself, that is a good man, a very patient man."

Her husband, Rod Gallegos, has volunteered for the city for a number of years and has received awards of recognition for his service.

He is proud of his wife's accomplishments. "I'm proud of her. I know how much Commerce has given to us and we are proud to give back to this City that we love."

Report to the People **COMMERCE GALLERY**

Queen's Tea Party



Miss Commerce and the Royal Court pose for a photo with Commerce princesses at the Royal Tea Party.

A Cup of Tea with Miss Commerce



Miss Commerce Unique Hernandez talks with these adorable participants over tea.

New Community Services Officers



Community Services Officers Matt Petropulos and Jorge Magana are ready to patrol.

Queen and Court Thank the Commerce Casino



Miss Commerce Unique Hernandez and the Royal Court thanked the Commerce Casino for sponsoring a float in the 2012 Huntington Park Christmas Lane Parade. From l. to r. are Debby Payne and John Griffo of the Commerce Casino with Miss Commerce, Miss Galaxy Karelly Ramirez, Miss Fourth of July Jannine Mancilla and Miss Friendship Jennifer Mendoza.

Community Academy Staff Honored



Community Academy instructors from the LA County Coroner and Sheriff's Departments were honored by the City Council. From l. to r. are Lieutenant Coroner Fred Corral, Deputy Alfredo Macias, Sergeant Colin Matsumoto, Captain James Wolak, and Deputy Mark Macias.

Job Fair Volunteers Recognized



The City Council recognized Commerce-Citadel Job Fair volunteers Conrado Hernandez, James Gamber, Michael Banh, Freddie Zuniga, and Daniel Omolafe for their service.

Teens Volunteer for a Good Cause



Teens from the Teen Center dropped off three five-gallon jugs full of tabs, a cake and cupcakes to benefit the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House of Pasadena.

Fixing Our Streets



Reconstruction and fresh repaving of residential streets in the Rosewood and Rosini areas is near completion.



FEBRUARY 2013

COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Blackboard connect

Register for Important City Emergency and Notification Information

This service gives the City the ability to reach residents with emergency and other important information in minutes via voice, text, email or social networks. Registration is easy and takes less than a minute. To register, call Assistant Emergency Preparedness Officer Miguel Romero at (323) 887-4460 ext. 2809.

March 2013
S M T W T F S
1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

April 2013
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30

1

2

Champions at the Retreat Golf Tourney, 9:30 a.m.

Valentines Day Craft Bandini Park, 10 a.m.

3

Youth Advisory Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

4



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

5

Senior Citizens Commission Meeting, 12:30 p.m.

Traffic Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

6

7

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

8

9

10

Pala Mesa Resort Golf Tourney Sign ups
Cost \$69

11



Lincoln's Birthday
City Hall and Libraries Closed

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

12

13



Valentine's Day

Senior Valentine's Dance Senior Center, 1p.m.

Community Services Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

15

16

17



Washington's Birthday
City Hall and Libraries Closed

18

Library Embajadores Meeting, 6 p.m.



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

19

20

21

22

23

24

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

Read Across America, Central Library, 6 p.m.

Education Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.

Spanish Book Club, 6 p.m.

25

Library Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Read Across America, Atlantic Library, 6 p.m.

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

26

Read Across America, Greenwood Library, 6 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

27

28

Read Across America, Bristow Library, 6 p.m.

Vote on Tuesday
March 5th



For polling place or other election information, call the City Clerk's office at (323) 722-4805 ext. 2253

Report to the **People**

RTTP Artículos en Español Si le interesa recibir la versión en Español de algun artículo, por favor llame a la Oficina de Información Pública al (323) 887-4447. Cuando llame, indique el título del artículo, la fecha y la dirección de su domicilio o correo electrónico. La versión traducida se le mandará.

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

City of Commerce Public Information Office

Video Production Course

Join the award winning Commerce Cable Channel 3 and 32 Production Team! Volunteers in this program will learn to film, edit and produce programs and work on live television broadcasts for Commerce Cable Channels 3 and 32.

For more information, call the Commerce Cable TV Division at (323) 887-4478

53RD ANNUAL MISS COMMERCE Pageant

LIVE TELECAST

Commerce Municipal Cable Channel

Live on Commerce Municipal Cable Channel 3, 32 and on www.ci.commerce.ca.us Saturday, March 23, 2013 5:00 p.m.

NEW CITADEL OUTLETS EXPRESS Bus Line

Free 7 days a week

CITADEL OUTLETS LA'S CHOICE FOR OUTLET SHOPPING

Express Service from Downtown LA to Commerce

City of Commerce Bus Schedule info: (323) 887-4419 or www.ci.commerce.ca.us

NEW EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

CONT. FROM PG. 1



Once complete the new Emergency Operations Center will provide first responders with adequate space and resources for emergency response.

ters such as Hurricane Sandy. The new project is fully funded thanks to existing City owned property and a

one million dollar grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security, which was coordinated through the California Emergency Management

Agency with assistance from Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard.

POWER OUTAGES

CONT. FROM PG. 1

age when electricity is restored, unplug all electrical equipment, including computers, stereos, televisions and air conditioners.

Step 4: If needed, listen to a battery-powered radio for storm or emergency-related updates. Find a nearby Cool Center for relief on hot days.

Step 5: Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Check food for spoilage before eating.

Finally, remember to be safe during a power outage. If you are cold, wear multiple layers of warm clothing and do not light fires or charcoal indoors.

If you see a downed power line, DO NOT TOUCH IT! Call SCE immediately at (800) 611-1911 day or night.

For questions on planned outages, call SCE at (888) 759-6056 or go online to www.sce.com/outages. Residents can report unplanned outages via Facebook, Twitter, SCE's website, or by calling (800) 655-4555.