



Report to the People

Where Quality Service
Is Our Tradition

Page 8
Cinco de Mayo
Celebration

Volume 53 No. 5 May 2013

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In This Issue

Page 2

From the Desk of the
City Administrator

Municipal Notes

Page 3

Earthquake
Preparedness

Bulky Item Pickup

Page 4

Senior Center Update

Library News

Page 5

United Family of Bristow

Resident honored as
'Woman of Distinction'

Page 6

Commerce Gallery



Page 7

Calendar of Events



Miss Commerce 2013 Shawnese Shantae Perea and her Royal Court were crowned at the 53rd Annual Miss Commerce Pageant at the Commerce Hotel and Casino. From l. to r. are Miss Cinco de Mayo Kimberly Jimenez, Miss Dodgers Brigit Escobar, Miss Commerce, Miss Clippers Alyssa Jade Rubio and Miss Fourth of July/Miss Friendship Daniela Gomez.

Miss Commerce 2013 and Court Crowned

Commerce Resident Shanese Shawntae Perea, 19, was crowned Miss Commerce 2013 at the 53rd Annual Miss Commerce Pageant held on March 23 at the Commerce Hotel and Casino.

"Aside from being an ambassador for the city, this opportunity will shape me into a better person and broaden my life skills. As Miss Commerce, I want to be the kind of person that others look up to and admire," said Perea, who previously served on the Royal Court as Miss Dodgers in 2011. Perea, who is the daughter of Martin and Doreen Perea, said she is looking forward to the year ahead.

Perea is a recent graduate of the Napoleon Perdis Makeup Academy, where she now works

as a makeup artist. Her work has been included in various fashion shows, expos and photo shoots, including being featured in L.A. Fashion Magazine this past October. She was also featured on local television show "Good Day LA" and participated in the "People en Espanol" festival in San Antonio, Texas. She hopes to one day own her own business and have her own makeup line.

Perea received numerous gifts, including a \$2,500 scholarship from the Commerce Casino as well as free outfits, gift cards to the Citadel, a photo album, and more. The Casino's Community Relations Liaison Debbie Payne and the Casino's Marketing Executive Kathy Corona presented

Perea with the scholarship award.

Joining Perea on the 2013 Royal Court are Miss Dodgers Brigit K. Escobar, 19; Miss Clippers Alyssa Jade Rubio, 16, (whose title replaces the Miss Galaxy title); Miss Fourth of July Daniela Gomez, 21; and Miss Cinco de Mayo, Kimberly Jimenez, 18. All were selected by a panel of judges. In addition to being crowned Miss Fourth of July, Gomez was also named Miss Friendship by the pageant participants for being the most friendly and helpful to everyone throughout the Pageant process. The Queen and Royal Court will serve as the City's ambassadors throughout the year at various

Miss Commerce Page 8

Commerce Relay for Life



Commerce resident and cancer survivor Ashley Navarez.

Relay for Life Raises Funds and Cancer Awareness

To raise money and awareness to aid in the fight against cancer, current and former Commerce residents, the City of Commerce, the Commerce Industrial Council, local businesses and the American Cancer Society teamed up for the Commerce Relay for Life to increase awareness and raise over \$29,000 to aid in the fight against cancer.

The 18 teams that participated camped out on the Veterans Park baseball field overnight so they could run or walk the field in shifts throughout the 24 hour event to honor cancer victims and survivors.

The celebration kicked off with opening ceremonies and the 'Survivors Lap.' This lap is led by cancer survivors clad in purple 'Relay for Life' tee shirts and is symbolic of their victory in the fight against cancer.

Approximately 700 people participated or volunteered this year. Among them was 23-year-old Commerce resident Ashley Navarez, a cancer survivor who shared her story.

"This is the exact spot where I discovered that I had cancer," said Ashley who learned she had cancer after she was hit in the leg during a Commerce youth basket-

Relay for Life Page 4

Commerce Students Participate in Student Government Day



High school seniors spent the day at Commerce City Hall on April 4 to participate in Student Government Day.

The event pairs students with City officials, staff and public safety personnel to provide an inside look at local government.

A total of 41 students from local schools including Bell Gardens, Montebello, Garfield, Schurr and private schools participated.

Students spent the first part of the day assisting their counterparts with department functions

and touring City Hall and other City facilities.

The Student City Council met with the Commerce City Council and discussed issues that included teen outreach, at-risk youth, City services and internship opportunities.

The students also held a Student Council meeting to discuss agenda items including the State of the City address, the YES Program and the Commerce Scholarship Program.

"Today I learned a great deal

about how a City works and what different departments do," said student Mayor Pro Tem Justin Carmona.

The Council meeting was followed by a luncheon at Stevens Steak and Seafood House, featuring accomplished filmmaker Graham Streeter as the keynote speaker. Streeter recently filmed a documentary entitled "Boys in Peril" about three college-bound young men attending Bell Gar-

Students Page 8

FROM THE DESK OF JORGE RIFÁ

City Administrator

I want to start by congratulating Miss Commerce 2013 Shanese Perea, the Royal Court and the rest of the young ladies who participated in the annual Miss Commerce Pageant. The community always looks forward to the Queen and Court's presence at City events and functions throughout the year. I also want to congratulate our 2013 Young Man of the Year Armando Valencia who I am confident will be a great addition to our events as well.

Last month Commerce hosted Student Government Day, which brought yet another impressive group of young people to take over City Hall for a day. These high school seniors shared a wealth of ideas on how to improve the City. It is my hope that these future leaders enjoyed their day at City Hall as much as we did. I am sure that they are all destined for great things in their chosen career paths.

On behalf of the City Council I want to thank the Commerce Industrial Council and the American Cancer Society, as well as the volunteers and participants for making the second annual Commerce Relay for Life event a great success. This event made history by almost tripling the amount of funds raised at last year's event with nearly \$30,000 that will go toward the fight against cancer.

This month was also a historic one for City of Commerce civic organization, the United Family of Bristow, which celebrated 30 years of service to the community. The UFB was founded in 1983 by Bristow Park residents who wanted to improve their neighborhood. Over the course of the last three decades they have proven themselves an invaluable partner of the City of Commerce. We hope to continue this relationship for decades to come.

Congratulations and thank you to the men and women of the UFB.

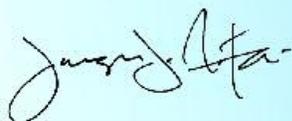
The UFB has proven that civic engagement is one way to improve quality of life for Commerce residents. Another is connecting our local businesses to resources that help them to improve profitability and become better neighbors to others who work or live in Commerce. To further this goal the City Council has partnered with East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice to develop the 'Guide to Green,' a publication that provides businesses with information about resources to develop sustainable business practices. This new guide will be launched in conjunction with a workshop for businesses located in Commerce.

Don't forget to join us on Saturday, May 4 at Rosewood Park for the City's annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Once again, this year's celebration will include the "Kids are Cute Baby Pageant" and the Commerce Boxing Club Exhibition, as well as traditional Mexican food, mariachis, dancing, sports and game booths. Make sure to bring the whole family to this celebration that commemorates the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

Finally, I would like to invite Commerce residents and veterans to the Armed Forces/Memorial Day Ceremony being held at the May 21 City Council meeting. While we are honoring members of the US Armed Forces, don't forget that City Hall and the Libraries will be closed on May 27 in remembrance of Memorial Day.

Please take time to remember the men and women who gave their lives for our country so that we may all enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Sincerely
Jorge Rifá



MUNICIPAL NOTES

CITY TO CO-SPONSOR 'GUIDE-TO-GREEN' BUSINESS WORKSHOP

On the March 26 city council meeting, the City Council approved a request by East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ) to partner with the City to establish a City of Commerce 'Guide to Green,' similar to one recently established in the City of Los Angeles, and to co-sponsor a corresponding 'Guide to Green' workshop in May.

The Guide to Green and the Guide to Green Workshop will provide businesses with information on different practices and strategies, as well as private and govern-

ment based funding sources and programs. East Yard and the City are encouraging businesses to use these resources. The goal is to help businesses improve their profitability while reducing their negative environmental impacts so they can be better neighbors to others who live or work in Commerce.

Businesses in or around Commerce interested in the Guide to Green and the Guide to Green Workshop can contact East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice for more information at (323) 263-2113.

WASHINGTON BOULEVARD PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

The City Council received a presentation on the final designs for the Washington Boulevard Widening and Reconstruction Project at the March 26 City Council meeting.

The project will be the largest infrastructure project undertaken by the City in more than a decade. Set to begin in the coming months, the project calls for widening Washington Boulevard from the I-5 Freeway to the City boundary at Indiana Street and reconstruct the road with concrete. The concrete reconstruction will reduce long term repair and maintenance costs due to concrete being more durable than the current asphalt-concrete pavement.

The project will add an additional lane in each direction, improve safety, provide an increased turning radius, install landscaped medians, improve the railroad cross-

ing, upgrade traffic signals, improve storm drain systems, install new curbs and gutters, repair damaged sidewalks, install ramps at intersections, plant new trees, and install new directional signs.

This project will be funded through a combination of City, Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), State, and Federal funds and will have no additional impact on the City's current operating budget.

Notifications will be issued before the project commences in order to mitigate impacts to residents and businesses. There will also be town hall meetings in the near future for stakeholders to ask questions and present their concerns.

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

COUNCIL ACTIONS

REGULAR MEETING REPORTS

Regular Meeting of March 20

- Certified the results of the March 5, 2013 Municipal Election.
- Presented certificates of election and oath of office for newly elected councilmembers.
- Appropriated \$3,000 to the 20th Annual 34th Congressional District Student Art Competition.
- Approved a Standard Contract with Sequel Contractors, Inc for the Bristow Park Neighborhood Street Rehabilitation Project.
- Approved the allocation of \$53,000 to repair the Bristow Park Spray Pool and the pool deck in the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center.
- Adjourned in memory of Fortunato S. Capili, retired City employee; Juanita Salas, longtime Commerce resident and mother of former City employee Terry Salas Ortiz and mother-in-law of City employee Jorge Ortiz, and Lupe Sanchez, longtime Commerce resident.

Regular Meeting of April 2

- Proclaimed April 4, 2013 as Student Government Day and introduced the 2013 Student City Councilmembers.
- Introduced the 2013 Miss Commerce Shanese Perea, Miss Dodgers Brigit Escobar, Miss Clippers Alyssa Rubio, Miss Fourth of July/Miss Friendship Daniela Gomez, Miss Cinco de Mayo Kimberly Jimenez, and 2013 Young Man of the Year Armando Valencia.
- Commended Adelita Zepeda on being recognized by the Human Services Association for her volunteer work at its Spirit of Service Gala.
- Recognized Lorenzo Cardoza Jr. for being awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and wounds received in action as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War.
- Commended Sandra Jimenez on being recognized as one of the 58th Assembly District's 'Distinguished Women' of the Year.

- Recognized Commerce retirees and employees with 20 or more years of service to the City of Commerce.
- Designated the month of April 2013 as Autism Awareness Month.
- Proclaimed the week of March 31-April 6, 2013 as "Safety Seat Checkup Week."
- Approved additional 2013 Service Organization renewals. Allocated \$12,433 for spring swimming lessons at the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center.
- Approved the 2013/2014 YES Program Guidelines.
- Approved an amendment to an agreement with RBF Consulting concerning the Washington Blvd. Widening and Reconstruction Project.
- Approved a Letter Agreement amending an agreement between the City and Clean Energy.
- Approved a Real Estate Donation Agreement with BNSF Railway Company.
- Received and filed an overview of the budget for the 2013/2014 fiscal year.
- Appointed Rod Gallegos to the Community Services Commission.
- Appointed Nancy Barragan to the Planning Commission.
- Appointed Isabel Caldera to the Traffic Commission.
- Adjourned in memory of Alfredo Vela, 35 year Commerce Employee and former Commerce resident.

Report to the People

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

BULKY ITEM PICK UP

■ GET RID OF BULKY ITEMS FOR FREE



Dispose of bulky items curbside for free by calling CalMet services at least 24 hours prior to your regularly scheduled trash collection day.

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 to schedule a pick-up.

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 automotive, boat, or vehicle parts will not be picked up. Hazardous waste is also ineligible and will not be picked up.
- There is a limit of 4 items or 4 bundles per service request.
- Bulky items are picked up the day of regular schedule trash collection.
- 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. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the available services which not only helps to Keep Commerce beautiful but makes your home clutter free.

If you have questions or would like to schedule bulky item pick-up, contact CalMet Services at (562) 259-1239.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

With the state located on the San Andreas Fault, earthquakes are common occurrences in California. There are many thousands of small earthquakes per year, most of them so small that they are not felt. However, it is important to be prepared for bigger ones.

Below are steps you can take before, during and after an earthquake to help you prepare for and better cope in the event of an earthquake.

Steps You Can Take Before an Earthquake Occurs:

- Know the fire evacuation and earthquake plans for any building you occupy regularly.
- Pick safe places in each room of your home, place of employment or school, under a piece of furniture or against an interior wall.
- Practice drop, cover and hold on. If you do not have sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Keep a flashlight and sturdy shoes by each person's bed.
- Make sure your home is securely anchored to its foundation.
- Bolt and brace water heaters, gas appliances, book cases, china cabinets and other tall furniture to wall studs.
- Hang heavy items, such as pictures and mirrors, away from beds, couches and anywhere people sleep or sit.
- Install strong latches or bolts on cabinets. Large or heavy items should be closest to the floor.

Steps you can Take During an Earthquake If you are inside:

- Drop, cover and hold on. Move as little as possible.
- If you are in bed, stay there, curl up and hold on. Protect your head with a pillow.
- Stay away from windows to avoid being injured by shattered glass.
- Stay indoors until the shaking stops and you are

sure it is safe to exit. Use stairs to exit the building rather than an elevator.

If you are outside:

- Find a clear spot away from buildings, power lines, trees and streetlights and drop to the ground. Stay there until the shaking stops.
- If you are in a vehicle, pull over to a clear location and stop. Avoid bridges, overpasses and power lines if possible. Stay inside with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Drive carefully, avoiding bridges and ramps that may have been damaged.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle, do not get out. Wait for assistance.

Steps You Can Take After an Earthquake:

- Prepare for potential aftershocks, landslides or even a tsunami. Each time you feel an aftershock, drop, cover and hold on.
- Put on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and work gloves to protect against injury from broken objects.
- Look quickly for damage in and around your home and get everyone out if your home is unsafe.
- Listen to a portable, battery operated or hand-crank radio for updated emergency information and instructions.
- Look for and extinguish small fires. Fire is the most common hazard after an earthquake.
- Clean up spilled medications, bleach, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately.
- Open closet and cabinet doors carefully as contents may have shifted.

Earthquakes strike suddenly and without warning, occurring during the day or at night, in any season of the year. For more information on what you can do to remain safe during an earthquake, visit www.red-cross.org.

CITY OF COMMERCE CHANNEL 3



May 2013 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 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.

Cheap Eats

Mondays at 12 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 4 p.m., Thursdays at 9 p.m.,
Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 6 p.m.,
Sundays at 8 p.m.

Commerce City News

Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 10 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 with Huell Howser

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 7:30 p.m.

Twilight Dance Music Concert Series "Ben Lee"

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 11:30 a.m.,
Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

Vintage Vehicle Show - Shows include:

The Vintage Vehicle Show

"West Coast All AMC Show"

Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

"Roddin' the Rockies"

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

"Chrysler Collection"

Thursdays at 8 a.m.

"The San Diego Collection"

Saturdays at 8 a.m.

K9 Corner

Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 1 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 8 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



RELAY FOR LIFE

A TEAM EVENT TO FIGHT CANCER

Thank you!

From The City of Commerce,
the Commerce Industrial Council,
and The American Cancer Society



Miss Commerce Shanese Perea (center), Miss Clippers Alyssa Rubio (left) and Miss Fourth of July/Miss Friendship Daniela Gomez show their support for the Fight Against Cancer.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered or contributed to the Commerce Relay for Life. All of your help and support helped raise awareness and funds to help in the Fight Against Cancer. Special thanks to Commerce Relay for Life Chairperson Francine Ayala of Popular Community Bank and to the fundraising teams below:

- Team Love= \$7,260
- Team Barajas= \$3,642
- Vernon Commerce Federal Credit Union= \$3,062
- Citadel Cancer Crusaders= \$2,420
- LATH and LATB= \$2,397
- Concept 7= \$1,839
- Navarez= \$1,754
- Team Commerce Casino= \$1,619
- Doubletree Commerce= \$1,526
- Hilton Gardens Inn Montebello-Los Angeles= \$1,315
- Team Zavala= \$1,110
- Cancer Terminators-PCB= \$1,031

Thank you also to the rest of our fundraising teams: **Commerce Industrial Council Cancer Fighters!**, ACDC, Team Beat It, Team Sanchez & We are the World.

Contributions are still being accepted. If you would like to donate visit the Relay for Life website at www.relayforlife.org, click on the 'MY RELAY' section on the top of the page, then type 90040 in the

SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

Programs and Events for Commerce Seniors



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 being held year around.

On May 3, in lieu of the nutrition program, the Senior Center will be celebrating Cinco De Mayo with live music and a taco lunch. The lunch costs \$5 and includes a choice of several different kinds of tacos along with rice, beans and a drink. Space is limited.

The Senior Center staff will be hosting a trip to Olvera Street on May 7, with a guided tour of the historical landmarks. After the tour, the group will be free to lunch and do some shopping.

The cooking classes will continue throughout this month every Wednesday at 1 p.m. except for May 8. The cooking class is open to everyone. Registration and the \$5 fee are due a week in advance.

The Senior Center's nutrition program will celebrate Mothers Day on Wed. May 13. There will be music and activities to make the day special for every mom in attendance.

The Senior Center would like to congratulate Connie Ochoa on being nominated as the recipient of the Older American Recognition Day Award. Connie was chosen for her dedication and volunteerism to the city and civic organizations of Commerce. She will be honored at a luncheon at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on May 22.

For more information on programs and activities at the Senior Center, call (323) 887-4430.

COMMERCE RELAY FOR LIFE

CONT. FROM PG. 1

ball game at Veterans Park. She was 12 at the time. Unable to walk on the injury she was taken to a doctor where she was diagnosed with cancer. "The doctor said I might not have made it another week if I hadn't been diagnosed," said Ashley.

Ashley underwent nine months of treatment, which included aggressive chemotherapy that caused her hair to fall out. "Losing my hair was really hard. When you're a girl, your hair has a lot to do with how you feel about yourself," she said. She finally reached a point where she was able to have surgery, but there was a catch.

"The doctors told me I might not have my leg when I woke up." Fortunately she was blessed to come through the surgery with both legs and today is living a happy and healthy life as a cancer survivor. "When I was asked to

speak here today I didn't want to at first because I was nervous but I decided that it was important to share my story."

Cancer survivors like Ashley were honored that evening during the 'Luminaria Ceremony,' which features electric "candles" placed inside of bags along the field. Each is lit by a sponsor in honor of someone they knew who was affected by or lost their life to cancer. Once lit, the fundraising teams walked a lap of silence in their honor.

For those who missed the Commerce Relay for Life there is still an opportunity to contribute by visiting the website at www.relayforlife.org, clicking on the 'MY RELAY' section, then typing 90040 in the 'search for an event' box.

LIBRARY NEWS

Commerce Celebrates National Library Week

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Friday, May 10: Greenwood Library
Drop your stuffed animal off at the Greenwood Library by 5 p.m. and return on Saturday, May 11 at 10 a.m. to see how the animals' "sleepover" went. The event will also include Story Time and morning refreshments! Children of all ages are welcome. Remember, only the stuffed animals will spend the night in the library.

Léa L.A. Excursion

The library will be hosting a trip to the Spanish Book Festival, "Léa L.A." at the LA Convention Center on Saturday, May 18. A bus will depart from the library at 9:30 a.m. from the Central Library parking lot and return to Commerce at 5:30 p.m. People interested in attending should sign up at their local Library starting May 1, 2013.

'The Brick People' Documentary

On Sunday, June 2, the Library will be showing a 30 minute documentary titled "The Brick People" at 2 p.m. in the Council Chambers. 'The Brick People' tells the story of the people of Simons Brickyard, which was a company town located in what is today Commerce and Montebello. The Brickyard housed the workers of Simons Brickyard No. 3 that existed from about 1905 to 1955. After the screening, there will be a Q&A panel with producer Art Kirsch, author of the book 'The Brick People' Alejandro Morales, screenwriter Alessandra Morales-Gunz and director Mike Kirsch.

Comic Book Day

The Commerce Central Library will be celebrating

Comic Book Day on May 4 at 11 a.m. Come join us for games, comics, prizes and much more. Make sure to come by dressed as your favorite comic book character.

NASA Engineer Talks Tech with Teens

In celebration of Teen Tech Week in March, Aaron Yazzie of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) visited the City of Commerce Public Library and shared his experience working on NASA's Curiosity project. Yazzie is a Mechanical Engineer working on the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) Rover, Curiosity, for NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Specifically, he on a team testing the rover's capabilities to gather surface samples on Mars.

Yazzie spoke about improvements in technology and science and the impact they have on scientific discoveries like those on the planet Mars, such as "drinkable" water found by the Curiosity rover. He also talked in depth about the possibility of space exploration. He concluded the talk by taking some tough questions from the young students in the audience, one of whom asked about the possibility of bacterial life on Mars. One student in attendance said to Yazzie "One day, I'm going to work for NASA."

Teen Tech Week is an annual celebration of technology and its importance to society. The goal of this event is to encourage teens to be both competent and ethical users of technologies through fun and educational activities, hosted by the Library.

United Family of Bristow Celebrates 30 Years

Commerce Civic Organization's Proud History of Service



The United Family of Bristow members are pictured at Bristow Park in a photo taken in April during a monthly meeting.

The United Family of Bristow recently celebrated their 30th year of service to the community as an official City of Commerce civic organization with a dinner at Stevens Steak and Seafood House.

The origin of the United Family of Bristow goes back to 1982 when close to 20 Bristow area residents came together to find ways to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood. Together they founded the United Family of Bristow, gaining formal recognition as a civic organization in June of 1983.

Saul Ledesma served as the group's first president, with fellow Bristow area resident Willie Gonzalez, now a retired city employee, serving as the organization's first vice-president.

Their founding mission: Get rid of gang influence within the area, stop graffiti, create a network of neighbors to help each other, and to build a community center. From there the group went into action lobbying members of the City Council and bringing their ideas and concerns to City staff. As a result one of their first major accomplishments was the establishment of a brand new community center to replace the temporary bungalows that served as the community center and library for years. The Bristow Park Community Center still stands proudly today as the home of the Bristow Branch Library, the Commerce Boxing Gym and numerous community rooms to serve the people of Commerce.

With their hard work having paid off, the group continued to grow and provide positive change within their community. Current United Family of Bristow president Joe Lozano started with the club 20 years ago, encouraged by his father Jose Andres Lozano who was a founding member. "I'm very excited about our 30th anniversary. With 30 years, I think this is just the beginning. We have so much more to do for our community. We will easily go another 30 years to help our neighborhood and make it better," said Lozano.

Commerce resident Sofia Gonzalez, wife of Willy, was with the organization from the beginning and since then has gained the respect and admiration of her fellow members for all the hard work she has done in the organization. "I really like being part of the United Family of Bristow. We work hard to keep our streets safe and help our neighbors with whatever they need, whether it's help with medicine or bills. They know we are here for whatever they need," said Gonzalez, who is also a volunteer in the Commerce Community Assistance Team aka the ComCATs.

The United Family of Bristow has accomplished a great deal during their 30 years of service, such as their donation of computers to the Bristow Park Library. This action from the UFB led to a Council deci-

sion to provide computers to all four Library branches.

In addition to accomplishments like these the group also sponsors teenage athletes from Bristow and awards their annual Jose Andres Lozano Scholarship. They also attend Neighborhood Watch meetings; assist needy neighborhood families and those who have lost family members with bills, food, healthcare, and support, as well as donating to the Commerce Scholarship, the Holiday Cheer Program, the Commerce Relay for Life and the Miss Commerce Pageant. This year they co-hosted the Martin Luther King, Jr., annual Day of Service.

Founding members Mr. and Mrs. Alberto and Margarita Mafud are excited about the 30th anniversary. "I'm very proud of the group because we worked very hard to help out a lot of people in our neighborhood. Whether it's keeping an eye out on the street, reporting gang activity, reporting graffiti, or just talking with each other, it helped to bring our neighborhood closer together, as a family," Margarita said.

Maria Mosqueda, also a retired City employee, was an active participant within the group, enjoying her time giving back to her community. "I was in charge of collecting canned goods for hungry families, money for those who couldn't pay their bills, and bringing flowers to the families of dearly departed. The organization has really grown these past 30 years. It's filled with friends, good times, great memories and positive accomplishments."

For more information on the United Family of Bristow or to become a member, contact Joe Lozano at (323) 266-0502. For more information on other official Commerce civic and service organizations, call Parks and Recreation at (323) 887-4434.



The Bristow Park Community Center was dedicated on January 24, 1988 thanks in great part to advocacy efforts by the UFB.

Report to the People

City of Commerce Woman of Distinction Sandra Jimenez



Sandra Jimenez is pictured here with her husband Sergio and their children Allan, Laura and Sergio, Jr.

Commerce resident Sandra Jimenez was recognized by Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia as one of the 58th Assembly District's "Distinguished Women of the Year" at a luncheon ceremony held on March 25 in Cerritos.

Jimenez was nominated for the award because of her deep involvement in many community organizations and activities. Jimenez is active in various civic and service organizations, including the Commerce Evening Lions Club, the Sister Cities Association, and the Commerce Aquatics Booster Club. She is also a member of the City's Relay for Life committee and currently serves as president of Educating Bodies and Minds (EBM), an organization that offers scholarships, and provides nutrition, anti-bullying and martial arts classes to youths.

In addition, Jimenez is a staunch supporter for public safety issues, working on policy recommendations to the city council as a Community Services Commissioner. She also volunteers with the City's Community Assistance Team (ComCATs), providing support to the Public Safety Division with crime prevention programs. She is also trained to help the Emergency Preparedness Office with disaster response due to her Community Emergency Response Team Training received from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Despite her busy schedule, Jimenez, who is a married mother of three, still makes family her top priority. Jimenez raises funds for her children's sports and recreation programs, including the Commerce Boxing Team and the Commerce Aquatics Program. Apparently, leadership runs in the family... Jimenez's daughter, Commerce Water Polo player Laura Jimenez was featured in last month's RTTP for being honored as the "Athlete of the Week" her recognition from Telemundo as an "Athlete of the Week."

Sandra Jimenez is indeed a 'Distinguished Woman' of the 58th Assembly District because of her volunteer efforts, compassion and desire to make her community a better place through her dedicated service.

Report to the People **COMMERCE GALLERY**

Taking the Fight to Cancer



The 2nd annual Commerce Relay for Life kicked off with cancer survivors leading the annual Survivor's lap. The City raised more than \$29,000 for the American Cancer Society.

BGHS Band at Commerce Relay for Life



The Bell Gardens High School Band helped get the Relay for Life off to a great start by playing fight songs during the official opening ceremonies.

Dedicated Volunteer



Resident Adelita Zepeda was honored by the Human Services Association and the City for volunteering more than 750 hours a year to help her fellow seniors.

Commerce Boxing Show



Miss Commerce and the Royal Court pose for a photo with participants at the Commerce Boxing Show held on March 24.

Easter Egg Hunt



Hundreds of kids participated in the Annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Veterans Park on March 31. In addition to the Hunt, there was also a petting zoo for kids of all ages to enjoy.

Library Employee of the Year



Acting Senior Librarian Sonia Bautista was recognized by the Library Department as the Library Employee of the Year.

Student City Council



From l. to r. are at Student Government Day are student Councilmembers Steven Escobar and Stephanie Garcia, Student Mayor Angelica Gambino, Student Mayor Pro Tem Justin Carmona and Student Councilmember Briana Stokes.

Public Employees for a Day



Senior Employment Representative Liz Chavez with Student Social Services Manager Azucena Garcia-Rendon and Social Services Specialist Edwin Benitez at Student Government Day.

Senior Scam Stoppers



Senator Ron Calderon's office hosted a Senior Scam Stopper seminar at the Senior Center to educate seniors on how to protect themselves from fraud.



MAY 2013

COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																											
<p>June 2013</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	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							<p>July 2013</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	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					<p>1</p> <p>Senior Citizens Commission 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Traffic Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Commission, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>May 3-5 Family Weekend Camp Commerce</p> <p>Cinco De Mayo Program Bristow Park Library, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Kids Are Cute Baby Show Rosewood Park, 9 a.m.</p> <p>Comic Book Day, Central Library, 11 a.m.</p> <p>Cinco De Mayo Celebration Rosewood Park, 11 a.m.</p> <p>Garden Show/Going Green Rosewood Park Community Center, 1 p.m.</p>
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	<p>Youth Advisory Commission 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Senior's Olvera Street Tour 10 a.m.</p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency, 6:30 p.m.</p>		<p>Mothers Day Craft Program All parks, 4 p.m.</p> <p>Community Services Commission, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Mommy and Me Tea Time Rosewood Park, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Elkins Ranch Golf Course Tournament, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Stuffed Animal Sleepover Program, Greenwood Library, 10 a.m.</p>																																																																																											
	<p>English Book Club, Atlantic Library, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Education Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Day Camp Registration Department of Parks and Recreation, 8 a.m.</p>			<p>May 17-19 Family Weekend at Camp Commerce.</p> <p>Senior Day at Camp Com- merce.</p>																																																																																												
		<p>Library Embajadores Meeting EOC Room, 6 p.m.</p> <p>City Council/Successor Armed Forces/Memorial Day Agency, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Teen Book Club, Central Library, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.</p>			<p>Old Town San Diego & Sea Port Village Excursion, 9 a.m.</p>																																																																																											
	<p>Armed Forces Day</p> <p>City Hall & Libraries Closed</p>	<p>Library Commission 5:30 p.m.</p>																																																																																															

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



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



The Public Information Office welcomes your story ideas, suggestions, and opinions. Deadline for submission is the first of each month for publication the following month. For more information, call 323•887•4447

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

The City of Commerce Department of Parks & Recreation Proudly Presents

CINCO DE MAYO

Celebration 2013

Saturday, May 4th, 2013
Rosewood Park
5600 Harbor Street
12 - 5 p.m.

FOOD & GAME BOOTHS

- Raffle prizes
- "KIDS 'R' CUTE" Baby Show (Boys at 10a.m.)
- Best Food in Town-Tacos, Tequilas, Tortas

ENTERTAINMENT

- Live Band Entertainment: 3:30-4:45 p.m. Susie Lansen Jazz Band
- Opening Day "Hot Spot" T-Ball Game
- Folk and Dancers, Recreation & Competitive Tennis
- Garden Show
- Boxing Exhibition

Come join Miss Cinco de Mayo **Kimberly Jimenez**

SPECIAL OFFER

Trade in your old lawn mower and Save from 50% to 75%

Electric Lawn Mower Exchange Program

Looking to save some green? Trade in your old, operable gas-powered lawn mower, replace it with a high-performance electric mower, and score up to 75 percent in savings. Choose from two brands and five models. They're cordless, more than 50 percent quieter than a traditional gas-powered mower, environmentally friendly and lighter for easier operation. You must pre-register to cash in on this great offer!

South Coast AQMD

Greenation 20" \$150	Greenation 20" \$220	Black&Decker 18" \$379	Black&Decker 19" \$479
Greenation 20" \$459	Greenation 20" \$499	Black&Decker 18" \$100	Black&Decker 19" \$250

Scheduled Events

Mark your calendar - register for open on Wednesday, April 17.

Long Beach May 5th	Pasadena May 25	Riverside June 11	Anaheim July 13
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Quotas and limited registration is required. Call or register online to save your spot and save some green.

You must pre-register at: www.aqmd.gov or call 1-888-425-6247

City of Commerce

Armed Forces Day Ceremony

Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 5655 Jillson Street

The public is invited to honor veterans, fallen heroes, and members of the military for their service and sacrifices for their country at the Armed Forces Day Ceremony

MISS COMMERCE

CONT. FROM PG. 1



Commerce 2013 Young Man of the Year Armando Valencia and Miss Commerce Shawnese Perea.

The Queen and Royal Court will serve as the City's ambassadors throughout the year at various City programs and events. Pageant contestant Ashley Paez received the \$500 Pageant Steering

Committee Scholarship for her essay that discussed the challenges of balancing work and school, her career goal to be a police officer, and the choices she makes in life to empower herself. The Pageant Steering Committee Scholarship

was generously funded by the Commerce Hotel and Casino.

Also honored at the event was Commerce Resident Armando Valencia Jr., who was named the 2013 Young Man of the Year and was awarded a \$1,200 scholarship. Valencia, 18, is currently a senior at Bell Gardens High School. He is a writer for the Lancer Scroll student newspaper and plans to go into journalism or political science. He is the son of Armando and Miriam Valencia.

The City would like to thank the celebrity judges: hip hop artist and producer Curtis Young; Telenovella actress Joanna Zanella; fitness guru Robert Dione; producer/actress Blanca Valdez; and marketing mogul, "Smitty."

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

STUDENTS

CONT. FROM PG. 1

Peril" about three college-bound young men attending Bell Gardens High School. He told humorous stories about his travels to India, Ireland, and Japan, each with a message to the students who were listening.

"Every culture is unique, but the people are always the same." Streeter said during his speech. "Always go for your dreams and your vision, and don't worry about the laws of physics," he added.

Afterwards, student Mayor Angelica Gambino presented Streeter with a certificate of appreciation and gave her closing remarks, thanking students for their participation and the City for hosting the event.

Student Government Day is an annual event sponsored by the City of Commerce to give students an in depth, hands on learning experience that introduces them to local government and possible career paths in public service.