



# Report to the People

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Is Our Tradition

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*Bristow graduates celebrate with confetti and laughter at the Commerce Preschool Graduation Ceremony.*

## First Stop on the Road to Higher Education

**"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." – Dr. Seuss**



*An excited Bandini graduate.*

Families packed Veteran's Stadium on Saturday, June 1st for the annual Commerce Preschool Graduation. The ceremony was Dr. Seuss themed and characters from the famed children's author decorated the stadium grounds. The City Council, Miss Commerce and her court, along with City staff joined families in the festivities.

With 104 graduates participating from all four parks, the ceremony was a celebration of all the things they learned throughout the year. Each park followed a curriculum that exposed the children to critical developmental skills and experiences.

"Our preschool provides a great socialization program including intro-

ductory academics, arts and fitness," said Terry Ann Westmore, Parks and Recreation Supervisor. "Parents trust us to provide structure to their kids and we do."

Childhood experts agree that kids who attend a quality preschool, do better in elementary school and have more success in reading and math. Additionally, they are more likely to graduate from high school and find good jobs. Commerce preschool instructors have seen this time and again.

"I just heard another one of my former students is graduating from college," said Desiree Munoz, Rosewood Park Preschool Instructor. "That makes me feel like I had a real impact."

For over 50 years, Commerce has provided a safe and healthy learning environment for its youngest residents. Some start in the tiny tots program at 3 years of age and then the preschool program. Instructors

see the progress made from the very beginning.

"When they arrive, the kids say 'I can't' or 'I don't know how'," said Rosewood Park Preschool Instructor Margaret De La Rosa. "But by the end of the year they have confidence and independence and they are saying 'I can do it'."

Most of the instructors have been involved with the preschool program or the City of Commerce for years; some for decades. They fully understand that for two hours a day, two days a week, they are making an impact on the lives of these children and they are invested whole-heartedly in the success of each child.

"At Saturday's graduation, a mother of one my students approached me and was crying," said Kam Jackson, preschool instructor. "She thanked me for teaching her child and that was so rewarding."



*The ceremony ended with a crowd pleasing blast of confetti on the baseball field.*

## Mayor Presents

### State OF THE CITY to Business Community

The Mayor presented the 2013 State of the City Address to a packed room at the Commerce Industrial Council Chamber of Commerce B.A.S.I.C. (Buy and Sell in Commerce) luncheon held at Stevens Steak and Seafood House on June 4.

The Mayor began his speech by welcoming representatives of local businesses including commercial developers, Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroads, the Citadel Retail Outlets and the Commerce Hotel and Casino.

The Mayor discussed the fiscal challenges the City faced as a result of the Great Recession and the State's elimination of redevelopment in 2012.

"We had to refocus and look at everything we do with a fresh perspective and we have emerged stronger than ever," said the Mayor. "This year, the local economy has improved and revenue has increased which has given us cause for optimism. This has inspired the Council to seize this opportunity to help build a stronger local economy that benefits all of the City's stakeholders. I want to be clear that this isn't just talk. Ladies and gentlemen we have a plan!"

This ambitious plan of major infrastructure projects outlined by the Mayor focuses on rebuilding or upgrading streets, roads and City facilities, as well as beautification. These efforts are aimed at improving the look and feel of Commerce to benefit community residents, Commerce's 40,000 plus daytime working population and a stakeholder group that is playing an increasingly important role in the City's economy: tourists.

In recent years, Commerce has witnessed a growing number of regional tourism from locales like Orange County and Downtown Los Angeles, as well as international tourism from places like Europe, Asia and Australia. Many of these vacationers visit the Commerce Casino and the Citadel along the Telegraph Road Corridor, which is a desirable location

## Community Will Provide Road Map for Measure AA Spending Committee Members Selected

Measure AA was approved by a majority of voters in November 2012 and went into effect on April 1. The ½ cent sales tax will offset severe state budget cuts to protect and provide funding for such things as police and fire services, maintenance and improvement of streets, sidewalks, public facilities, parks, libraries and other services in the City of Commerce.

In an effort to be fully transparent and allow community input on the use of funds, the City Council adopted a resolution to establish the Measure AA Advisory Committee. The seven-member committee is comprised of five residents each appointed by a Councilmember, two representatives from the business community and an employee representative. The employee representative is an 'ex-officio,' non-voting member of the committee. Each resident member will serve a four year term corresponding to the appointing Councilmember's term. The term for the business members and the employee representative will also consist of four years.

At the May 23 meeting, Council confirmed the committee members as follows: residents Joanna Flores, Annela Grajeda, Laura Perez, Sonia Rodriguez and Jason Stinnett. The Council voted unanimously to appoint business members Haig Papaian, President and CEO of the Commerce Casino, as well as Steve Craig, Managing Partner of Craig Realty, which owns and operates the Citadel Retail Outlets. The employee representative is expected to be appointed at a future meeting.

## Transportation: Keeping Commerce Moving



The award-winning Commerce Transportation Department provides a comprehensive selection of safe, reliable services to residents and the general public to get them where they need to go.

The Transportation Department is responsible for the operations of the City's five free bus routes, which travel to every residential and business area in the City. In addition, the Department oversees the new Citadel Express bus line, which connects Commerce to Downtown Los Angeles. Stops include Union Station and L.A. Live/Staples Center. All transit systems operated by the City are free.

The City is also a Metrolink stop, which connects to the City's Orange Bus Route. From the Commerce station, commuters can connect to stops in Norwalk, Orange County, the Inland Empire and Union Station. Use of the Metrolink is fast and easy with the introduction of their new TAP (Transit Access Pass) system. TAP-enabled tickets and monthly passes allow passengers to simply buy their ticket, tap it at the turnstile and enter the train.

For more information on the City transit system, contact the Transportation Department at (323) 887-4451 or visit the city website at [www.ci.commerce.ca.us](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us).

For more information on the Metrolink and the new TAP system, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

I want to start by congratulating everyone from the class of 2013, including our young Commerce residents who received their diplomas at the Commerce Preschool Graduation in June. Thank you to the teachers and staff for doing a wonderful job in making this school year a success, as well as to the parents and family members that provided their child with the love and support needed to achieve this first of many educational milestones.

Last month we discussed the progress of various infrastructure projects including street repairs, the new Emergency Operations Center and Safe Routes to School. I am pleased to report that the Bristow area street improvements will be completed as you read this article. Thank you to the residents in the area for working with city staff to ensure the streets that most needed repair were a top priority.

As the City continues its work on this ambitious agenda of short and long term public works projects, it is important that we do so in a manner that protects the environment and the use of natural resources. To ensure that we do so successfully and sustainably, the City Council approved a new ordinance to comply with state and federal requirements for stormwater and a Green Streets Policy (story on page 4), both of which will help guide future projects as the City continues to move forward.

I'd also like to provide an update on the recent community meetings regarding the Exide Technologies battery recycling plant in the City of Vernon. Exide is appealing an order from the State Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) to shut down due to health risks posed to the public by the plant's operation. Mayor Aguilar was on hand at the recent public meeting held in Commerce to express Council's concerns. The findings by the DTSC and the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) are troubling to say the least and on behalf of Commerce, the City is on record to say that if this company disregards the health and safety of the people who live and work in our community, their operations should not be re-instated. The Council wants to reassure our residents that we will follow this issue closely and provide updates as we receive them.

The City has continued to publicize public and private institutions that offer education and career based training opportunities in the region. In this month's RTTP we have a story on the L.A. Unified School District's Slawson Southeast Occupational Center located in our neighboring City of Bell. The school offers a number of exciting career training opportunities and we encourage you to consider a program that is right for you or someone you know.

Finally, I want to invite you to join us for the Annual Independence Day Celebration at Rosewood Park on July 4. The event will feature entertainment from our City's dance programs, carnival rides, contests, food, and of course our fireworks show. On behalf of the City, I want to thank the Commerce Casino and the 99 Cents Only Stores for their generous sponsorship of this year's celebration. We hope you can join us.

Remember that City Hall and Commerce libraries are closed on July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Please have a safe and happy Independence Day!

Sincerely,  
 Jorge Rifá



## COUNCIL ACTIONS

### REGULAR MEETING REPORTS

#### Regular Meeting of May 23

- Hosted the Commerce Armed Forces Day Ceremony honoring the five branches of the U.S. military.
- Received the Tree City U.S.A award for the 27th consecutive year from the LA County Fire Department Forestry Division.
- Recognized the 2013 Arbor Day Poster Contest winners.
- Received and filed an update on the fiscal year 2012/2013 Capital Improvement Program.
- Approved an agreement with the Commerce Aquatics Booster Club to operate a Fourth of July fireworks stand on Successor Agency owned property.
- Directed the City Administrator to execute and sign all necessary documents for approval of the plans for the Washington Boulevard Widening and Reconstruction Project.
- Amended an Agreement for Street Sweeping Services between the City of Commerce and Nationwide Environmental Services.
- Renamed the Community Development Department to the Public Works and Development Services Department.
- Appointed Jason Stinnett, Laura Perez, Joanna Flores, Sonia Rodriguez, Annela Grajeda, Haig Papaian, and Steve Craig to the Measure AA Advisory Committee.
- Created an ex-officio seat on the Measure AA Advisory Committee for a member of the City of Commerce Employees Association.
- Extended the Senior Rent Subsidiary Program to June 2014.
- Approved an agreement with Bob Murray & Associates to conduct the recruitment for the new established position of Public Works and Development Services Director.
- Received and filed an update on the Library Renovation Project.
- Allocated \$1,000 to pay for low income children's Resident Activity Cards.

#### Regular Meeting of June 4

- Presented plaques to BNSF Railway Company and Union Pacific Railroad in recognition for their donation to the Cinco de Mayo Celebration.
- Approved plans and specifications for the Central Library Renovation project.
- Opposed compacts for off-reservation or urban tribal gaming.
- Terminated the agreement between the City and Bob's Tow.



Union Pacific Railroad and BNSF Railway were honored for their generous donations to the Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Pictured here are Lupe Valdez of UP and Trini Jimenez of BNSF.

- Authorized Employer Paid Member Contributions for miscellaneous employees.
- Approved a City Senior Rent Subsidy Program. Received and filed an update on the 2014-2021 Housing Element.
- Approved a Green Streets Policy.
- Adjourned in memory of Ana M. Romero, longtime Commerce resident, and Ellen Brown, former longtime Commerce resident and retired City employee.

## Report to the People

*Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents*

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# A GUIDE TO RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

## DO YOU HAVE A DANGEROUS DOG?

The City's Animal Control (AC) officers encounter some pretty tough situations on a day to day basis. From dangerous dogs to abused animals, AC officers professionally balance humane education and enforcing the law. Recently, officers have seen an increase in bites and dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs.

"Unfortunately, these dogs are not being socialized and often not spayed or neutered," said Officer Joel Hurtado. "If a dog chases two people within 36 months and complaints are filed, the animal may be classified as a potentially dangerous dog which carries the same penalties as a dangerous dog, including hefty fines."

Other penalties can include euthanizing the animal, as well as a court order barring individuals from pet ownership.

Not only are these instances a danger to the public but it also expends additional City resources. In

May, Officer Hurtado was injured when he responded to a call of three large dogs chasing people. The three dogs were identified as a serious threat. Sheriff's units responded as well as an aerial unit to track the loose dogs. Rubber bullets and tasers were used to subdue the animals. As an animal lover, Hurtado said that type of force is not what he wants to use but sometimes it is necessary. He adds the AC team's goal is to prevent incidents from escalating through community education.

"When we receive a complaint, we try to work with people about remedying their situation," said Hurtado. "There are some people who are unwilling to cooperate, but for the most part once we educate residents they do their best to be a good pet

owner."

Another problem officers have seen on the rise is dogs left in hot cars. Officers rescued a dog that was left in a car for four hours in the parking lot of a local business. By California law, officers are allowed to break windows or use whatever means necessary to rescue a dog left unattended in a hot car. The distressed dog was taken to a veterinarian who determined if the dog was in the car for 15 more minutes it would have died. Officers successfully pursued charges against the owner.

If you are unable to take your animal inside your destination it is recommended you leave them at home. Here are some startling facts provided by the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

•On an 85 degree day, it



only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102 degrees, even when the windows have been left open an inch or two.

- Within 30 minutes, a car's interior can reach 120 degrees.
- When the temperature outside is a pleasant 70 degrees, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter.
- Pets most at risk for overheating are young animals, elderly animals, overweight animals, those with short muzzles and those with thick or dark-colored coats.



California State law prohibits leaving an animal unattended for any amount of time in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which include hot days. Under these laws, police, animal control agents and others may be authorized to enter by whatever means necessary to remove the animal. You could have your car damaged, be charged with a crime, and fined or imprisoned.

### Pet Safety Tips for Hot Weather

- Carry a gallon thermos of cold water or bring along a two-liter plastic bottle of water you froze the night before.
- Exercise your pet during the coolest parts of the day (dawn and dusk), and never immediately following a meal.
- Hot asphalt and tar can burn sensitive paw pads. Walk your pet on grass or dirt when possible.
- Provide shade when your pet is outside on a hot day.

Look at next month's RTTP for the second part of the Commerce Guide to Responsible Pet Ownership.



Kevin Lamas and Felipe Rojas with family pet Scooby at the June rabies and pet licensing clinic held at Rosewood Park.

## \$1M Bristow Park Street Rehabilitation Project Complete



### Newer and Stronger Streets

As part of the Fiscal Year 2012/13 Capital Improvement Program Budget, the City Council appropriated \$1,000,000 for street reconstruction and sidewalk repairs in the Bristow Park neighborhood areas between the I-710 FWY and Bristow Park.

The City would like to thank the residents who worked with city staff to identify the streets needing the most attention and repair. The streets included Duncan, McBride, McDonnell, Triggs, Dunham, and Noakes. Action was taken in order to address the deteriorated streets, damaged/lifted sidewalks and gutters, the installation of ADA-compliant curb cuts at street corners, adjusting sewer/storm drain manholes, and pavement restriping.

Additionally, the project called for cement treatment of the soil for added strength. This is to support heavy vehicles like City buses that travel through the area. Construction began on April 8, 2013 and was completed on June 14, 2013. The approximate total cost for all the improvements was \$1,000,000 (\$240,000 provided by CDBG Funds and \$760,000 provided by City Funds)..



## SAFE & SANE FIREWORKS



### Fireworks Safety Tips from the Los Angeles County Fire Department

Fireworks are often a part of special celebrations like the 4th of July but they can be dangerous. Using any type of fireworks exposes individuals to risk of injury or even death. Fireworks account for two out of five fires, more than any other cause of fires.

According to Los Angeles County Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Nick Duvally, who is in charge of fire protection services in the City of Commerce, safety should be the priority this Fourth of July.

"Members of the public should be careful, even with 'Safe and Sane' fireworks. If used incorrectly, they can be dangerous not only to homes and personal property, but to the health and safety of every member of your family," says Assistant Chief Duvally.

#### "Safe and Sane" FIREWORKS Safety Tips:

- Always read directions, use common sense and have an adult present
- Use outdoors only— away from buildings, vehicles, dry grass and other flammable objects
- Light one at a time, then move away quickly
- Keep others at a safe distance
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Never alter, take apart, re-light or attempt to fix malfunctioning fireworks
- Do not give to young children under any circumstances
- Have a bucket of water handy for emergencies and for dousing misfires and spent fireworks



For more helpful tips, members of the public can follow the Los Angeles County Fire Department on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/LACoFD](https://www.facebook.com/LACoFD) and on Twitter at: [www.Twitter.com/LACo\\_FD](https://www.twitter.com/LACo_FD).



## Putting Veterans First



Los Angeles Councilmember Jose Huizar joined American GI Forum State Commander Howard Hernandez and the Home Depot volunteers at the ceremonial re-opening of American Legion Post 804.

The Home Depot Foundation is an organization that focuses on the needs of our nation's veterans, and our local Home Depot in the City of Commerce is no different.

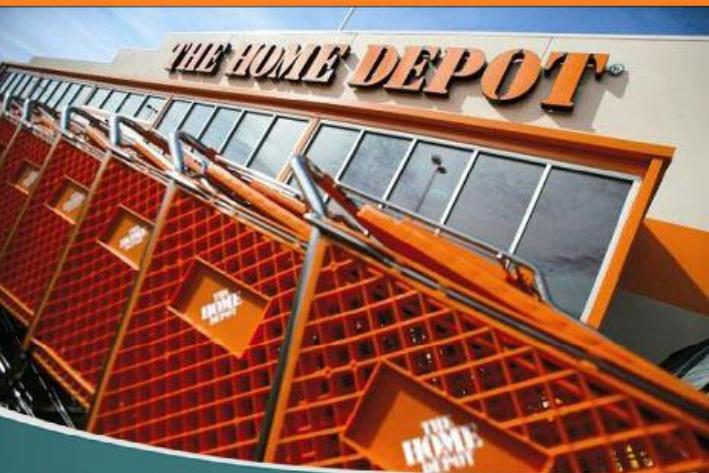
Since they opened up shop in 1994, the Commerce Home Depot has been a great community partner, donating money and time to various organizations and programs within the City. Recently their generosity has stretched just beyond Commerce's borders to Boyle Heights.

The hardware heroes made a stop at the Eugene A. Obregon American Legion Post 804 where repairs were desperately needed. The Home Depot team poured new concrete for a patio area and provided structural reinforcement.

On hand to celebrate the refurbished hall with American GI Forum State Commander Howard Hernandez was Los Angeles Councilmember Jose Huizar and representatives from Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's office, State Senator Ron Calderon's office and County Supervisor Gloria Molina's office.

The Home Depot Foundation's mission is to ensure every veteran has a safe place to call home. The Foundation is led by an army of their associates who volunteer their time and expert skills to repair and remodel veteran's homes and facilities.

The American GI Forum is Commerce's only veteran's service organization. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Howard Hernandez at (213) 305-0009.



## City puts 'LID' on Urban Runoff

Green Streets Policy Adopted .....

The Commerce City Council recently approved a Green Streets Policy to focus on water quality and waste discharge requirements as mandated by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board in accordance with the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

The Green Streets Policy will serve as the City's Best Management Practice (BMP) for transportation corridors associated with new and redeveloped roadway projects (exemptions include routine maintenance or repair). Green streets retain stormwater runoff and provide a design element that creates attractive streetscapes with more green space. It also provides benefits like water quality improvement, groundwater replenishment, creation of parks and wildlife habitats and pedestrian and bicycle accessibility.

The City will also adopt a LID (Low Impact Development) ordinance in an effort to curb the transport of pollutants to downstream receiving waters. Urban areas have less green space that can capture water and with new green designs. The City will be able to manage rainwater and urban runoff while mitigating the impacts of future development. Over time, LID green practices on the streets, at home, and in businesses will change the face of Commerce.

Please see page 8 for information about the WRD Smart Gardening Workshop and to get more information on green living, visit the City's Environmental Services web page on the City's website at [www.ci.commerce.ca.us](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us).



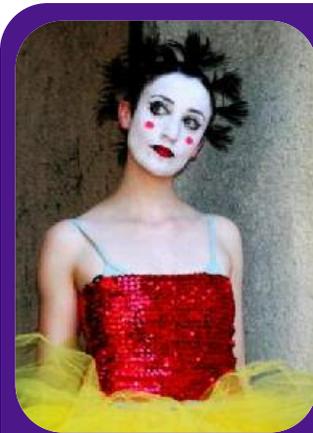
## LIBRARY NEWS

### Summer Reading Program Starts June 24

The Commerce Library's Summer Reading Program is a fun way to help your children retain or improve their reading skills over the summer – and it is absolutely free! The program is offered at all Commerce libraries and children who participate can earn prizes for reading. There

are also programs (see below) they can attend throughout the summer. Children can register at any of the four library branches. The first day for reporting is Monday, July 1.

For more information on the Summer Reading Program, contact Commerce Central Library at (323) 722-6660.



At library story times the week of July 1, April Shenkman will perform "Hava's Puppet Tree," a unique show inspired by Shel Silverstein's book "The Giving Tree" about a clown who discovers a box that grows a magic tree, bringing her many gifts.

The Franklin Haynes Marionettes will perform "The Princess and the Pirates," a funny pirate ad-

venture puppet show at all of the libraries during library story times the week of July 15.



The **Wildlife Learning Center** will bring animals including a fox, an owl, a chinchilla, an alligator and a red tegu to the libraries for "Meet and Greet the Animals" programs during story times the week of July 29.

## WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE

### Eliminate Standing Water Sources to Prevent WNV

Commerce residents may want to exercise caution now that mosquito season has arrived, and with it comes the risk of West Nile Virus. Although there has not been a recorded case of this dangerous disease in recent months, residents should still exercise caution and take necessary steps to prevent WNV.

WNV is transmitted to people and animals by infected mosquitoes. Only certain species of mosquitoes carry the virus and very few mosquitoes are actually infected.

Residents are advised to avoid activity at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, apply mosquito repellent containing the active ingredient DEET when outside, and wear protective clothing (loose, light colored, long sleeve shirts and pants).

Since mosquitoes breed in standing water, you can help stop the mosquito life cycle and WNV transmission by elimi-

nating standing water on your property by dumping or draining water in neglected swimming pools, ponds, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, or any container capable of holding water for more than a few days.

Mosquitoes can even breed in the drops of water that collect in the crevices of plants, so residents are encouraged to water their yards at ground level. You can significantly contribute to the fight against West Nile virus by following these simple actions. Remember, if they can't breed, they can't bite.

If residents notice the appearance of black and white striped mosquitoes or are bitten by mosquitoes during the day, they are encouraged to contact the Vector Control District.

For more information, contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 or visit their website at [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org).



# NEIGHBORS UNITE FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

■ Bringing the Community Together



As many as 1,500 residents participate in the City of Commerce National Night Out Celebration every year.



Los Angeles County Fire Department fire engines are a hit with Commerce youth at National Night Out.

Residents are encouraged to join their neighbors at this year's National Night Out (NNO) celebration on August 6th. National Night Out began as a way to promote public involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. NNO now involves over 37 million people and 15,000 communities from all fifty states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

This year is the 30th anniversary of NNO and as with most things in Commerce, the celebration is unique.

"We don't just have one block party, we have several," said Laura Tilley, Interim Public Safety Supervisor. "With 102 neighborhood watch block captains, we usually have about

15 different parties and as many as 1,500 residents turnout."

The event is a great opportunity for residents to hear what's happening specifically in their neighborhood, to talk with elected officials, law enforcement and City personnel and to get up close to fire trucks, Sheriff's cars, Commerce Public Safety cars and bikes, and the Emergency Preparedness Search and Rescue van. Target will be on hand as a community partner handing out goodies.

NNO locations will be available the last weekend in July. Please call the Community Services Department at (323) 887-4460 for NNO information or to learn how you can get involved in your local Neighborhood Watch Program.



The National Night Out against crime provides residents an opportunity to talk with City and public safety officials about ways to make their neighborhoods safer.

## NEW Occupational Center Offers Trade Training

■ Low-Cost Classes for Southeast Area Residents

The Slawson Southeast Occupational Center is LAUSD's new state-of-the-art job preparation facility offering a wide range of courses to train students for the workforce. It is the first of its kind to serve the southeast area communities.

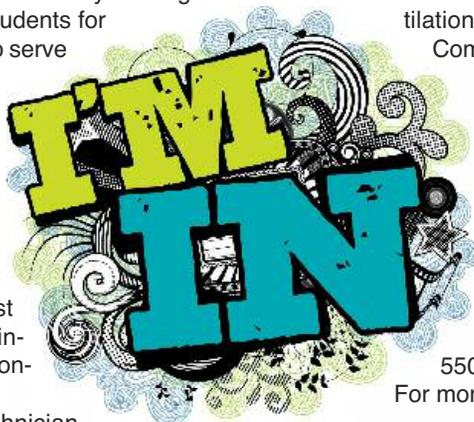
"In the past, residents in this area who were interested in attending an occupational center would have to drive or take the bus to either San Pedro or Los Angeles," said Dr. Clif de Cordoba, the Center's Principal. "We believe this is an essential alternative for this community that offers low-cost employment preparation by skilled instructors in a supportive learning environment."

Classes include Automotive Technician, Building and Grounds Worker, Child Development,

Computers, Construction, Cook Trainee, Cosmetology, Electrician & Photovoltaics, Forensic Science, Heating, Ventilation & AC, Manicurist, Mobile Electronics, Computer Networking, Pharmacy Technician or Clerk, and Security Guard Trainee.

Residents interested in attending classes may register during open enrollment on campus from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, July 1 – July 12 and July 29 – August 13. The low-cost classes vary in price and must be paid for at the time of registration.

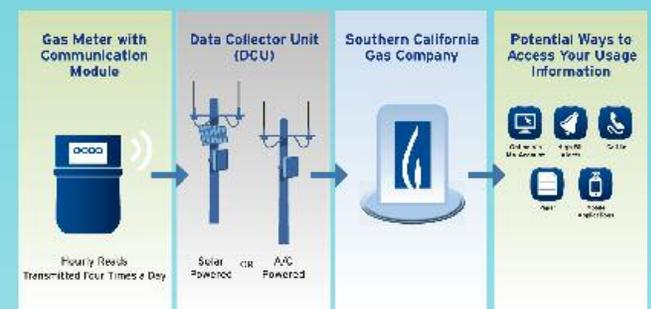
The center services both high school students and adults and is located at 5500 Rickenbacker Road in the City of Bell. For more information, call (323) 729-6400.



**ADVANCED**  
Southern California  
Gas Company  
**meter**

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**Advanced Meter Streamlines Service, Helps Utility Customers Save Money**



Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) is upgrading their metering system by adding a communication device to all residential and business natural gas meters. With an advanced meter, your gas usage will be measured just as it is today by your current meter. And your bill will continue to be based on a monthly read of your usage.

However, SoCalGas will no longer need to come to your property each month to manually read your gas meter. Instead, the advanced meter communication device will turn on for a fraction of a second each day, for less than a total of two minutes a year, to automatically read and transmit your encrypted gas usage information directly to the customer service and billing center.

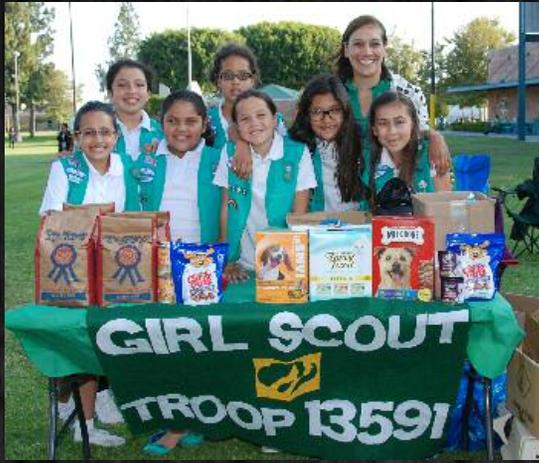
No sensitive, personally identifiable customer information is transmitted. And by having more frequent and detailed information about your gas usage, you can make more informed choices to better manage and control your gas costs. You will have access to view hourly, daily and weekly gas usage, as well as up to 13 months of monthly data (depending on how long you've been enrolled). SoCalGas wants to remind customers that the advanced meter upgrades will be performed by SoCalGas employees and will take place outside at the meter location and encourages customers to be vigilant and question anyone who presents themselves as a representative of the utility, especially if they ask to enter your home.

SoCalGas employee visits are typically in response to a service request. If no one scheduled an appointment, call SoCalGas before allowing anyone inside the home. Employees are almost always in uniform with a company logo, carry an official employee badge and most of the time drive a company car. Ask for identification, and if there is any doubt, customers should call headquarters at 1-800-427-2200 (or 1-800-342-4545 in Spanish) during normal business hours. For more information, visit [www.socalgas.com/advanced](http://www.socalgas.com/advanced) regarding Advanced Meter and [www.socalgas.com/safety](http://www.socalgas.com/safety) regarding safety.

# The Gallery



## GIRL SCOUTS SERVING THE COMMUNITY



Commerce Girl Scout Troop #13591 collected donated pet supplies for the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at the City's annual Rabies & Licensing Clinic.

## HONORING OUR NATIONAL HEROES



Commerce honored veterans, fallen heroes and active duty members of the military at the Armed Forces Day Ceremony at the May 23 Council Meeting.

## CAT IN THE HAT DANCE



The Cat in the Hat showed off his dance moves during the 2013 Preschool Graduation Ceremony.

## PRESCHOOLERS SING



Bandini's graduating preschool class sings "I Wish I had Duck Feet" for the adoring crowd.

## PRESCHOOL GRADUATION



More than 100 preschool graduates from all four parks wait in anticipation of receiving their diplomas.

## EOC NEARING COMPLETION



The City's new Emergency Operations Center is scheduled to be completed this summer.

## GUIDE TO GREEN WORKSHOP



The City partnered with the Commerce Industrial Council, FIGTREE Energy Financing and East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice to host a Guide to Green Workshop to help businesses reduce environmental impacts while saving money.

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER VISITS COMMERCE



58th District Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (Center, wearing gray vest) hosted a community walk and talk in the Rosewood area to answer questions and talk with residents about their concerns.

## ARBOR DAY POSTER



Winners of the Arbor Day Poster Contest from Rosewood Park School and Bandini Elementary with Bandini Elementary Principal Deanna Plascencia, Commerce Tree and Street Maintenance Supervisor Hector Orozco and Education Commissioner Carmen Marquez Cooper (far right).



# JULY 2013

## COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																				
<p><i>"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been."</i> Mark Twain</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Reporting Begins</p> <p>English Book Club, EOC room, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Advisory Commission 7 p.m.</p> <p>July 1-4 Family Week at Camp Commerce</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Senior Citizens Commission 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Traffic Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Independence Day City Hall &amp; Libraries Closed</p> <p>5K Freedom Run, Rosewood Park, 8 a.m.</p> <p>Independence Day Carnival and Celebration, Rosewood Park, 3 p.m.</p> <p>July 4-8 Independence Day Carnival, Rosewood Park.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation Commission 6 p.m.</p> <p>Summer Safari Movie Night, Rosewood Park, 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>July 5-7 Family Weekend at Camp Commerce</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>																																																																																				
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Americana Family Festival at the Bowers Museum 9 a.m.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Education Commission 6 p.m.</p> <p>July 8-11 Youth Week at Camp Commerce</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Tiny Travelers Excursion: Ernest E. Debs Regional Park 9 a.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Community Services Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Summer Safari Movie Night, Veterans Park, 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>July 12-14 Family Weekend at Camp Commerce</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Teen Center: Raging Waters Trip 8 a.m.</p> <p>Buenaventura Golf Course Tournament, 9 a.m.</p>																																																																																				
<p><b>14</b></p> 	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Library Embajadores Meeting, EOC Room, 6 p.m.</p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><i>Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today.</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Senior Center Luau 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Senior Day at Camp Commerce</p> <p>Summer Safari Movie Night, Veterans Park, 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>July 19-21 Family Weekend at Camp Commerce</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>LA County Household Hazardous Waste Roundup, Cerritos College Stadium Parking Lot C-1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.</p> <p>Doheny State Beach Excursion 9 a.m.</p>																																																																																				
<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>July 22-25 Youth Week at Camp Commerce</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Library Commission 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Tiny Travelers Excursion: Santa Ana Zoo 9 a.m.</p> <p>Teen Book Club 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Summer Safari Movie Night, Bristow Park, 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>July 26-28 Family Weekend at Camp Commerce</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>																																																																																				
<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Computer Classes, Central library, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Spanish Book Club, EOC Room, 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><i>"That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well."</i></p>	<p>August 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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</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>September 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>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</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					
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Report to the People

**RTTP Artículos en Español** Si le interesa recibir la versión en Español de algún 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

### Important Phone Numbers

City Hall (323) 722-4805	East L.A. Sheriff's Station (323) 264-4151
Code Enforcement Ext. 2293	Graffiti Hotline (323) 887-4444
Animal Control	
M-F 8 am to 6 pm (323) 887-4460	<b>Emergency 911</b>
Weekends/Evenings (562) 940-6898	<a href="http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us">www.ci.commerce.ca.us</a>

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## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

City of Commerce Department of Parks and Recreation

# Independence Day Celebration

Rosewood Park, 1481 Harbor Street, Commerce

Thursday, July 4, 2013  
2:00 – 10:30 p.m.

Meet Miss Fourth of July **Daniela Gomez**

Fireworks Display 9 p.m.

5K Freedom Run 8:00 a.m.  
Official Ceremony 3:00 p.m.  
Children's Entertainment  
Delicious Food Booths  
D.J. Boogie Night Entertainment  
Carnival-Thursdays, July 4 through Sunday, July 7  
Live on Stage: "Boxcar 7" & "Tease"

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at (323) 887-4434

CITY OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 30th ANNIVERSARY

1984 - 2014  
POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013

**JOIN US FOR OUR 30TH ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!**  
Your Neighborhood Watch Block Captain will be hosting a barbecue-style block party and YOU'RE INVITED!

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** is a fun, family event that promotes safety and crime prevention. Deputy Sheriffs, firefighters, Community Safety Specialists and City officials will visit each party to provide safety information and listen to your concerns. The City provides hot dogs, safety materials, giveaways and safety presentations at each party.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** is a Commerce tradition. Join our crime fighting efforts, enjoy a barbecue and meet our CRIME PREVENTION TEAM.

**YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN WILL CONTACT YOU ABOUT THE STARTING TIME AND LOCATION OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY**

For additional information, contact Laura Tilley at (323) 887-4460 ext. 2870.

## FREE Smart Gardening Classes!

Learn the best and easiest ways to create and maintain a beautiful landscape. We will teach you how to save water, energy, and money while protecting our natural resources.

Tuesday, July 2, 2013  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
ENGLISH / ESPAÑOL

Bandini Park Community Center  
4725 Astor Avenue, Commerce, CA 90040

Brought to you by

**WRD**  
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**SMART GARDENING**  
FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

For more information call 562-275-4235 or 888-CLEANLA or visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com)

## State of the City

CONT. FROM PG. 1

Telegraph Road Corridor, which is a desirable location for development due to its proximity to the I-5 freeway.

These projects will receive significant funding from Measure AA, the half cent sales tax passed by Commerce voters in November of last year, which is projected to generate \$4 to \$5 million annually.

According to the Mayor, the City has completed a number of residential street reconstruction projects this year

in the Rosewood and Bristow areas. In addition, he discussed a number of projects already underway or scheduled to begin in the

near future. The projects covered in the presentation were the \$4.84 million Central Library Renovation starting later this year; the



The State of the City Address discussed improving the local economy through investing in infrastructure.

new Emergency Operations Center, which is projected to be complete this summer; and the Safe Routes to School project, which is also near completion. In addition, he talked

about the \$32 million Washington Boulevard Reconstruction Project, which is scheduled to begin in 2014.

Other issues addressed by the Mayor were developing the local workforce and connecting businesses to City services like the Commerce Business Watch Program.

The Mayor concluded by emphasizing the City Council's dedication to progress and thanking the business community for their part-

nership. "You have our commitment that we will be relentless in working to improve and rebuild our streets and City facilities."

## City Channel 3

JULY FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

**Award winning cablecasts of the City Council Meetings:** Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m. (Live every first and third Tuesday)  
Wednesdays @ 10 a.m., Thursdays @ 5 p.m., Saturdays @ 9 a.m.

**"In A Council Minute" A recap of the City Council Meeting in One Minute:**  
Mondays @ 4 p.m., Tuesdays @ 9 a.m., Wednesdays @ 1 p.m., Thursdays @ 4 p.m., Fridays @ 3 p.m., Saturdays @ 11:00 a.m., Sundays @ 5:30 p.m.

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

**Commerce Community 4th of July Live Cablecast Celebration Live Broadcast from 12 pm to 10 pm on the 4th**  
Mondays @ 8 a.m., Tuesdays @ 11 a.m., Wednesdays @ 7 p.m., Thursdays @ 8 p.m., Fridays @ 2 p.m., Saturdays @ 7:30 p.m., Sundays @ 7:30 p.m.