



Report to the People

SPRING
CLEAN-UP PAGE 7

Where Quality Service
Is Our Tradition

Volume 51 No. 4 April 2011

www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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Newly crowned Miss Commerce and her Royal Court smile for the camera. From left to right, Miss Fourth of July/Miss Friendship Rocio Espinoza Ulloa, Miss Dodgers Shanese Shawntae Perea, 2011 Miss Commerce Lesly Mendez, Miss Galaxy Natalie Contreras and Miss Cinco de Mayo Janet Garcia.

MISS COMMERCE 2011 AND COURT CROWNED

Commerce resident Lesly Mendez was crowned Miss Commerce 2011 at the 51st Annual Miss Commerce Pageant held at Steven's Steak and Seafood House on Feb. 26.

An actress and model, Mendez has previous experience on the Royal Court having served as Miss Dodgers in 2008 so she is well versed in the role of serving as an ambassador for her City. Mendez works part time at Calvin Klein at The Citadel and participates in charity work for Save the Children and the Leukemia Foundation.

Mendez is the daughter of Vicente Mendez and Alma Grijalva and is currently attending California State University,

Dominguez Hills where she is majoring in Public Administration with a concentration in health care management. After graduation she intends to study for two more years to become a registered nurse. Mendez said she was inspired to get into the health care field by seeing how diabetes affected members of her family.

Joining Queen Mendez on the court are Miss Dodgers Shanese Perea, Miss Galaxy Natalie Contreras, Miss Fourth of July/Miss Friendship Rocio Espinoza Ulloa, and Miss Cinco de Mayo Janet Garcia.

Miss Dodgers Shanese Perea, 17, is a senior at Schurr

High School where she made the honor roll and was recognized as a Who's Who among Students, just as she was in elementary and middle school. The studious Perea plans to become a child psychologist so she can devote her career to helping children. Perea is also an athlete who played volleyball throughout high school.

Miss Galaxy Natalie Contreras, 18, is studying to become a registered nurse and plans to continue her schooling so she can become a surgical technician so she can assist doctors with surgeries and operations. Contreras also rescues stray animals by taking them to an

See **Miss Commerce 2011** page 8

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER LOTTERY HELD

Four lucky families were selected in the First Time Homebuyer Lottery held during the Commerce City Council Meeting on Feb. 1.

The winning applicants were Mario Coronel, a single father with two adult children; Laura Miranda, a single mother with two children, Daniel and Myrna Escobar who are married with three children; and Luis Mendez, a single dad with two children.

Under the newly revised First Time Home Buyer (FTHB) Program guidelines these families will receive up to \$150,000 in down payment assistance to help them purchase a home. In addition to helping these qualified homebuyers, the program also allows for expansion of Commerce's affordable housing inventory by targeting existing homes already for sale in the City.

The road to the FTHB Lottery started when City staff released interest forms to the public in June of last year. Sixty-four households submitted interest forms and had their information entered into the City's FTHB Database. Applications were then distributed to 61 households on the interest list who had inquired by the October 31, 2010 deadline. Twenty-five of those applications were returned, 19 of which met the program eligibility requirements and were included in the lottery.

Staff anticipates that the selected households will complete the process by purchasing a home under the FTHB Program. Once the process is complete staff plans to report the program's results back to the City Council and provide recommendations regarding the program's future.

For more information on the Commerce First Time Homebuyer Program, call the Community Development Department's Housing staff Christina Perez or Viviana Molinar at (323) 722-4805.

STUDENTS CELEBRATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY IN COMMERCE



High School students pose with Teen Librarian Sonia Bautista (second from right).

Local high school students marched into City Hall for a Council Meeting on Thursday, March 3. Fortunately, it wasn't a teenage revolution but an important part of a course on government that students are required to complete before graduation. The Annual Student Government Day event, in which local students from Bell Gardens High School and

other area schools are given the opportunity to work with city officials and staff from the cities of Bell Gardens and Commerce, has become a popular local tradition.

The student mayor of Commerce was Bell Gardens High School Senior Agustin Martinez, the student mayor pro tem was Garfield High School Senior Connie Arteaga and

the student councilmember for the day was El Rancho High School Senior Alexandra Romero.

Early in the day students were paired with members of the City Council, department heads, and other city employees to spend the day touring City Hall, culminating in a student run council meeting

See **Student Government** page 3

On behalf of the City Council, I'd like to thank all the students who participated in Student Government Day on March 3. Sixty seniors from area high schools worked alongside city officials and staff to learn how local government operates. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about the type of work government employees do and to see how Council meetings are conducted. We hope the experience encourages them to take an active role in their community.

The renovation of the Aquatorium will continue through June of this year. The swimming pools will remain closed to the general public during construction, with the exception of the Aquatics teams and students enrolled in swimming lessons. The fitness facilities on the second floor are still open for patrons who want to work out, but because both locker rooms are closed during the renovation, they will have to shower elsewhere. To make up for the inconvenience, the Parks and Recreation Department has increased the hours of operation at the Veterans Park fitness room. We thank our residents for their patience. We promise it will be worth it.

Just a reminder that this year's Easter Egg Hunt is 11 a.m. sharp, April 23, at all City Parks. And don't forget to have a Happy Easter on April 24!

The City Council continues to take steps to protect our local redevelopment funding. In February, the Council joined forces with the League of California Cities and the California Redevelopment Association (CRA) in condemning Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to terminate redevelopment agencies and to use those funds to address California's projected budget deficit of \$25.4 billion.

Our local redevelopment funding has greatly benefitted Commerce by revitalizing declining neighborhoods and creating jobs. The Vista Del Rio Housing Development and The Citadel are just two examples of local Commerce redevelopment funds being put to good use.

The property which is now Vista Del Rio was a blighted, underused industrial site and public safety hazard. With redevelopment monies, the City was able to clean up the property and reuse it to construct 102 homes, providing much needed, affordable housing.

Redevelopment also made it possible for the old Uniroyal tire factory to become The Citadel, a vibrant regional shopping destination and tourist attraction. The Citadel generates approximately \$2.4 million per year in local sales tax revenues to the City and is expected to generate more than 1,000 new jobs and bring an estimated \$7.3 million in tax increment revenues (net to Commerce) over 20 years.

These projects show how redevelopment funds have allowed Commerce to revitalize and strengthen its economic base by creating jobs and enhancing the quality of life for residents and businesses.

Statewide, redevelopment contributes more than \$40 billion annually to California's economy in the generation of goods and services, according to the League of California Cities. It also supports more than 300,000 jobs and generates more than \$2 billion in state and local taxes annually. Elimination of Redevelopment funding will be a devastating loss to our local economy and to our City's growth and vitality.

In the last two budget years, the state has raided local redevelopment funds taking just over \$7 million dollars from our community. Our concern is that the State will take these funds and never return them to our communities. Our Council wants to make sure that these local tax dollars benefit our residents by staying local.

We encourage residents to let their voices be heard by contacting our State legislators, Senator Calderon and Assembly member Lara to urge them not to eliminate redevelopment agencies.

Sincerely,
 Jorge Rifa



MUNICIPAL NOTES

I-710 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS MONTHLY

Residents can learn about the I-710 Freeway Expansion Project by attending the I-710 Local Advisory Committee meetings in the City Hall Emergency Operations Center on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The I-710 Committee Reports will also be presented at City Council/Community Development Com-

mission meetings. The meeting schedules are posted on the City's online calendar at ci.commerce.ca.us (but check with the department to verify each date).

For more information, call Community Development at 323/722-4805, ext. 2230.

COUNCIL HONORS SHERIFF'S COMMANDER, FIRE CHIEF

The City Council honored Los Angeles County Sheriff's Commander Marilyn E. Baker, Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief P. Michael Freeman and City employee Tina Fierro at its meeting Feb. 15. Baker and Freeman received commendations for their service to Commerce and their respective agencies. Baker retired from the Sheriff's Department on Feb. 25 and Freeman

retired from the Los Angeles County Fire Department on Feb. 24. Fierro was honored with a Certificate of Achievement for receiving the 2010 Southern California Municipal Federation Special Recognition Award for her exceptional service to Commerce youth.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Regular Meeting of February 1

- Approved a recommendation to postpone the March 15 City Council/Community Development Commission meeting to March 22, so that the City Clerk may complete the canvassing of the March 8 General Municipal Election.
- Approved a resolution accepting the work performed by General Physics, Inc. for the design-build of the Commerce LNG/CNG Station.
- Approved a resolution declaring the City's intention to abate weeds, brush, rubbish and refuse on or in front of specified City properties.
- Approved a resolution allocating Community Development block Grant Funds for fiscal year 2011/2012.
- Approved a resolution increasing the water rate in the City of Commerce Water System. The increase is necessary to offset unexpected increases from the Central Basin Municipal Water District and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California.
- Received and filed a report by Adrian-Gaus Architects, Inc. on preliminary design plans to modify the City Council Chambers to ensure it will comply with the American with Disabilities Act requirements.
- Continued a recommendation to consider granting the Commerce Employee Association limited Commerce Service Organization equipment and facility privileges for the next Council meeting.
- Appointed members to the Housing Committee and I-710 Local Advisory Committee.
- Approved the restructuring of a Commission approved 2007 Bond Issuance for Project Area #1.
- Received a report on State legislation that affects local government and redevelopment agencies.
- Approved the revised City's First-Time Homebuyer Program Guidelines, adding provisions for a lottery system to select qualified applications and appropriating additional set-aside funds for the first-time homebuyer program.
- Received a report from the I-710 Local Advisory Committee on the I-710 Freeway Expansion Project.

Regular Meeting of February 15

- Presented a commendation to Commander Marilyn E. Baker of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in recognition of her service to the County of Los Angeles and City of Commerce while serving in the capacity of commander. Baker retired on Feb. 25.
- Presented a Certificate of Achievement to Teen Center Assistant Supervisor Tina Fierro in recognition of receiving the 2010 Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation Special Recognition.
- Presented a commendation to Chief P. Michael Freeman recognizing his service to the County of Los Angeles and the City of Commerce while serving as fire chief.
- Approved 2011 Civic/Service Organization renewals for Boy Scout Troop 473, Commerce Evening Lions Club, Women's Club of Rosewood Park, Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles and Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Approved retirement commendations for 19 employees who retired in the year 2010.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the destruction of City records, documents, instruments, books or papers that are no longer required.
- Approved a resolution authorizing staff to retain the firm of LaBelle Marvin to investigate and determine the underlying

- causes for the pavement distresses in recently resurfaced streets in Rosini and Rosewood.
- Approved a resolution for a services agreement with Block Environmental for additional phase 11 site assessment work on the property located at 6300 East Washington Boulevard.
- Passed a resolution approving an engagement letter with Sterne, Agee and Leach, Inc. for broker-dealer services needed in order for the Commerce Community Development Commission to comply with its 2007 Bond Issuance obligations.
- Conducted a public hearing allowing property owners to protest their inclusion on a list of properties requiring weed, rubbish and brush abatement.
- Received and filed a report on Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Crime Statistics for the period of January through December 2010.
- Approved a co-sponsorship request by Rosewood Park School to utilize Camp Commerce for its ASB Leadership Camp held in June.
- Received and filed a presentation on the proposed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to the Council Chambers.
- Received and filed a report on a street sweeping services survey.
- Appointed representatives to Housing Committee and I-710 Local Advisory Committee.
- Approved a resolution to conduct a lottery to select four City of Commerce first-time homebuyer program applicants from a pool of nineteen qualified applicants for fiscal year 2010/2011 funding.
- Considered a freeway ramp beautification initiative in partnership with Cal Trans and the Commerce Industrial Council.
- Approved for first reading an ordinance adopting the County Building and Fire Codes with County amendments. Memorialized debt owed by the Commerce Redevelopment Commission to the General Fund for project areas no. 1, 3 and 4. The action will document the loan, recognize the commission's contractual obligation and constrain the State's ability to redirect local redevelopment revenues.
- Received and filed a report on pending State legislation that could impact the City.
- Received and filed report on the I-710 Local Advisory Committee I-710 project.

Report to the People

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents by the Commerce Public Information Office

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WATER RATES INCREASED BY 3 PERCENT

■ OUTSIDE COSTS UNEXPECTEDLY INCREASE

Due to unexpected and significant increases in the cost to purchase water and water replenishment assessment, the City Council reluctantly approved an increase in Commerce water rates at its meeting on Feb. 1.

The new proposed rates, which became effective in March, increased the average Commerce customer's water bill by 3 percent or about 98 cents per month. The increase in rates is directly attributed to an unexpected increase in outside costs.

The City purchases its water from the Central Basin Municipal Water District. Last July, Central Basin increased its water rate from \$791 to \$805 (approximately 1.7 percent) and increased its wholesale rate from \$805 to \$855 (approximately 5.8 percent), effective Jan. 1,

2011. The Water Replenishment District of Southern California, which manages the groundwater basin, increased its replenishment charge from \$181.85 to \$205 (approximately 11.3 percent).

The increases were not included in the current City water rates because the Annual Rate Recommendation was approved by the Council in 2009, before the increases were made.

Cal Water, who leases and operates the Commerce Water System, recommended the increase to offset the unexpected increases in outside costs. After careful review, the City Council concluded the recommended rates were necessary and justified.

COMMERCE CIVIC/SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

■ APPLICATIONS RENEWED

The City Council approved 2011 renewal applications for the following civic and service organizations.

Civic Organizations

Asamblea Un Nuevo Comienzo, Auld Lang Syne, Club Boy Scouts –Troop #473, Commerce Aquatic Boosters Club, Commerce Evening Lions, Commerce Garden Club, Commerce Senior Citizens Club, Commerce Sister City Association, Commerce Social Club, First Baptist Church of Commerce, First Baptist Church of Commerce-Spanish Department, Model City Democratic Club of Commerce, New Life Family, Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Marcellinus Church Holy Name Society, United Family of Bristow, Women's Club

of Commerce, Woman's Club of Rosewood Park.

Service Organizations

American GI Forum**, Cub Scout Pack #473, Door of Hope Community Center, Mount Wilson Vista Girl Scout Troop 336, Organizations for the Physically Impaired, Rosewood Park School PTA**, Rotary Club of Rio Hondo/Bell Gardens/Commerce and St. Marcellinus Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

The list reflects approved organizations as of March 3, 2011. For more information, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at 323/887-4434.

**Probationary Service Organizations

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

■ CONT. FROM PAGE 1

dent run council meeting where they discussed numerous issues that included the city's YES (Youth, Education and Service) summer youth employment program, library services and parks and recreation programs.

"Today I learned a lot about how a City works and what different departments do," said student mayor Martinez to his fellow program participants during their student City council meeting.

In addition to learning how local governments provide programs and services to City residents and other local stakeholders, students learned about career paths they might not have previously considered. Student participants took on roles such as judge, sheriff's captain, finance director, recreation supervisor, as well as mayor and city council.

After adjourning the meeting, the student city employees and council broke for lunch at Steven's Steak

House with their counterparts. The keynote speaker was Adam Christing who is one of the world's premiere interactive entertainers. Christing did magic tricks, comedy and talked about the three D's: desire, dedication and determination. He concluded his act with the famous words of Winston Churchill: "Never, never, never give up!"

Student Government Day is an annual event, cosponsored by the cities of Commerce and Bell Gardens. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Fire Department and Court System also participate to give students an in depth, hands on learning experience introducing them to the responsibilities and duties their respective city officials serve in municipal government

CHAMBER IMPROVEMENTS MOVING FORWARD

■ CITY TO RENOVATE COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The City Council is moving forward with plans to improve the City Council Chambers for people with disabilities. The plans were unveiled to council members with a presentation at the February 15 Commerce City Council Meeting.

The designs feature a number of improvements to the chamber to ensure it is accessible to all members of the public and meets Federal American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

When finished there will be a section for wheelchairs, assisted listening devices for the hearing impaired, an ADA accessible entrance and a ramp to provide access

to the council dais.

The project will cost approximately \$155,000 and is funded through a combination of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds in the amount of \$102,894 and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount of \$52,106.

Currently, the specifications are being prepared and staff plans to have Council approve the specifications for bid advertisement by May 2011 and a contract will be awarded during July for construction to be completed by September of 2011.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

WHAT'S IN THE AIR INSIDE YOUR HOUSE?

The EPA says all of us face a variety of risks to our health as we go about our day-to-day lives. Driving in cars, flying in planes, engaging in recreational activities, and being exposed to environmental pollutants all pose varying degrees of risk. Some risks are simply unavoidable but indoor air pollution is one risk that you can do something about

The most efficient way to reduce pollutants is to use an electrostatic air filter in your heating and cooling system. You can also use paint with zero VOCs and add an Energy Star® qualified air purifier.

There are many GREEN cleaning products now available without harsh chemical fumes that pollute the environment. These include laundry detergent, dish and hand soap, glass cleaners, mold and mildew stain removers, kitchen and bathroom cleaners, and so much more. The cost of GREEN products is now comparable to non-green products. Look for them at the grocery store and local home improvement store.

For more about improving the air quality in your home, go to epa.gov.



Commerce Scholarships

Applications Due May 6

Residents applying for a 2011 Commerce Scholarship must turn in their applications and supporting documents to the Commerce Public Library or Commerce Literacy Center by 5 p.m., Friday, May 6. No exceptions. Early submissions are encouraged.

The scholarship is open to Commerce residents who are currently enrolled in college or who will be attending college this fall 2011. Applications are available online only via the Commerce Library's website at www.cocpl.org or the City's website www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

To be eligible, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Be a current resident of the City of Commerce for at least one year.
- Carry 12 or more units (full-time status).
- Provide proof of college or university acceptance and establish financial need.
- Have an overall grade point average of 2.0 if attending a junior college, or 2.5 if attending a university or four-year college.
- Be available for an oral interview.
- Submit the application packet by the deadline.

Applicants are scored on their application and interview. An unbiased panel from the City of Commerce business community and networking agencies score both the verbal presentations and written applications.

The Scholarship Awards Dinner will be held at the Crowne Plaza on July 28.

For more information, call Scholarship Coordinator Beatriz Sarmiento at www.cocpl.org.

Commerce Scholar and Role Model

The Future is Bright for Commerce Resident Rocio Rodarte

Below is Part II of a special interview with Commerce resident and scholar Rocio Rodarte. If you missed Part I of the interview see the March issue of RTTP.

1. You've mentioned that you're majoring in International Relations and you hope to attend law school. When do you graduate and what kind of law would you like to specialize in?

I've been volunteering with Project Health (a non-profit organization that aims to connect underprivileged individuals with the resources needed to ultimately attain health care) here in Providence, Rhode Island for a year now. I help people find jobs, lower their debt, and get access to community health centers. Working for these causes has exposed me to an array of issues that I look forward to improving one day. My work with Project Health and my experience on the Hill have not only reassured me of my passions, but have also motivated me to pursue a career in public policy and public interest law.

2. What are your plans after graduation and for the future?

I would ideally like to do a fellowship on the Hill for a couple years before going back to school. I feel it is very important to experience multiple fields before committing yourself to a specialized career path. I would then like to pursue a dual degree in Public Policy and public interest law.

3. What's your advice to aspiring scholars from the City of Commerce?

They've probably heard this before, but I will say it again: work hard and you will be compensated! There are so many opportunities in our community that there really is no excuse! The City of Commerce provides our city's youth with invaluable resources, from sports programs and recreational activities to the Summer Reading Program and scholarships. I definitely benefited substantially from all of these programs and can only hope to give back one day to this City that I love so dearly.

4. As a three time Commerce Scholarship Program Scholar having been named the Laurence P. Frank

Foundation Scholar in 2007, a Commerce Casino Scholar in 2009 and the Harvey Capital Scholar in 2010, what has the Commerce Scholarship Program meant to you?

(Only a handful of Scholarship Program participants are named Commerce Scholars each year.) I am very thankful to the Commerce Scholarship Program and all of the contributors. Even though Brown and the Gates Millennium Scholarship have covered the majority of my college tuition, the Commerce Scholarship has provided significant aid by paying for my flights and books. The Commerce Scholarship has generously supplemented my college education and consequently facilitated my financial responsibilities, giving me more freedom to truly focus on my academics at Brown. I am tremendously appreciative to the scholarship and can only hope to repay them through my commitment to hard work, community service, and academic excellence.

5. Would you recommend applying for the internship to other Commerce residents?

I would definitely recommend the CHCI internship to all Commerce college students. It is undoubtedly a great starting point for any career. Meeting the right people on the Hill can open the door to opportunities of a lifetime.

This concludes the interview with Rocio Rodarte. Since we printed the first half of the story last month, RTTP learned that Rocio was just hired as an intern with the office of the Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island, Elizabeth Roberts.

The City of Commerce would like to commend Rocio on all of her hard work and accomplishments, as well as wish her the best of luck in the future. Students who are interested in internship opportunities in Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's district or Washington, D.C. offices are encouraged to call her district office at (213) 628-9230.

For more information on the Commerce Scholarship Program, call Scholarship Coordinator Beatriz Sarmiento at (323) 722-2823.

Commerce Del Taco

Now Open

Del Taco whose burritos and tacos have been satisfying cravings for Mexican food lovers in the Los Angeles area for more than 40 years has opened their newest restaurant at 6126 E. Washington Blvd. in Commerce.

"We are excited to become part of the Commerce community and support schools, youth sports,

churches and non-profit organizations by hosting fundraisers at the new Del Taco," said Austin Berry, co-owner of the Commerce Del Taco.

Del Taco fans can "like" the company on Facebook at www.facebook.com/deltaco <<http://www.facebook.com/deltaco>> and receive coupons for free food.



The new Commerce Del Taco will be open 24 hours a day as indicated by Commerce Employment Business Development Center (EBDC) representative Juan Muniz, right. Also pictured from l. to r. are EBDC Employment Referral Specialist Liz Chavez and Del Taco owners Ryan Vanderweel and Austin "Chuck" Berry.



Del Taco drew hundreds of hungry customers on their first day of business in Commerce.

City Pursues Partnership

Approves Initiative To Beautify Freeway On/Off Ramps

To beautify the freeway on and off ramps in the City of Commerce the City Council directed staff to pursue the possibility of a private/public partnership with the Commerce Industrial Council/Chamber of Commerce and Caltrans to enact a freeway ramp beautification initiative under the umbrella of the City's Keep Commerce Beautiful Campaign.

The direction came about because City officials noted the condition of landscaping and maintenance of freeway on and off ramps has deteriorated. While Caltrans has been responsive to safety related re-

quests from the City, they have been unable to maintain the existing vegetation to visually attractive standards due to a lack of budget resources. Staff will research maintenance and landscaping options with Caltrans. Pending a response from Caltrans the next step will be to engage the business community to see if they can work with the City and

Caltrans to move forward in beautifying the on and off ramps. City staff is scheduled to report back on this item to the Council at the April 19 Commerce City Council Meeting.

For Safety's Sake

Keep Commerce Safe: Join Neighborhood Watch



We all want a safe community. Characteristics of a safe community are neighborhoods where everyone knows everyone and they all look out for the safety and property of one another.

One of the best ways to form this kind of network in your community is to join Neighborhood Watch. The Sheriff's Department. By looking out for one another and reporting suspicious activity, residents can

also help reduce graffiti, beautify city streets and decrease illegal parking. To help you know who to call, we have provided the Commerce Safe Neighborhoods Call List below.

Commerce Safe Neighborhoods Call List:

East L.A. Sheriff's Station (323) 264-4151

Special Problems Team Crime Tip Line (Completely Confidential):

(323) 838-4258 or email commercecrimetips@lasd.org

Neighborhood Watch/ComCats:

(323) 887-4460 x 2870

Parking Enforcement/Public Safety:

(323) 887-4460 x 2239

Graffiti Hotline:

(323) 887-4444

Code Enforcement:

(323) 887-4460 x 2338

Animal Control (Mon. - Fri.)

(323) 887-4460 x 2236

L.A. County Animal Control (weekends):

(562) 940-6898

Business Watch Program:

(323) 887-4460 x 2970

In an emergency always call 911.

For more information on the City's Public Safety programs and services or to join Neighborhood Watch call (323) 722-4805.

National Library Week Activities

City Sponsors Puppet Shows

To celebrate National Library Week, the Children's Library staff will be performing four children's puppet shows at each of the libraries in the Commerce Public Library System. The shows all begin at 6 p.m. as follows:

Monday, April 11 – Central Library

Tuesday, April 12 – Atlantic Library

Wednesday, April 13 – Greenwood Library

Thursday, April 14 – Bristow Park Library

For more information, call your local library.

"Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros"

Children's Storyteller Program



Storyteller Antonio Sacre will appear in Commerce on May 2.

Children's storyteller and book author Antonio Sacre will perform at the Commerce Central Library on Monday, May 2, to celebrate Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros also known as Day of the Child/Day of the Books.

Sacre is an internationally recognized Cuban-American storyteller, writer, and solo performance artist

based in Los Angeles who tours internationally on a

regular basis.

Sacre has written three bilingual children's books including the popular picture book "The Barking Mouse," and also "A Mango in the Hand," and "La Noche Buena: A Christmas Story."

After the storytelling program, Sacre will meet with children and parents to talk about his work and auto-graph books. The program is free and open to the public.

This is a great event for the entire family. For more information, call the Commerce Central Library at (323) 722-6660.



April 2011

Featured Highlights

Award winning cablecasts of the Community Development Commission & 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.

Commerce City News

Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 1:43 p.m.,
Wednesday at 1 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m.,
Friday at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 5:43 p.m.
& Sundays at 9 a.m. & 5 p.m.

"In A Council Minute"

Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m.,
Wednesdays at 9 a.m., Thursdays at 2 p.m.,
Fridays at 2:43 p.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m.
& Sundays at 8 p.m.

Twilight Dance Series "Ben Lee" Santa Monica Pier Concert

Mondays at 12:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 11 a.m.,
Wednesdays at 9:43 p.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m.,
Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 1 p.m.
& Sundays at 11:43 a.m.

Commerce Public Affairs Employment & Business Development Center

"How to Utilize Employment Services"
Geared to Job Seekers and the Business Community
Mondays at 2 p.m., Tuesdays at 4 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 4 p.m., Thursdays at 6 p.m.,
Fridays at 4 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m.
& Sundays at 1 p.m.

Step Aerobics Class

Mondays at 8 a.m., Tuesdays at 2 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 2 p.m., Thursdays at 10 a.m.,
Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 12 p.m.
& Sundays at 8 a.m.

Vintage Vehicle Show - Shows include:

The Vintage Vehicle Show
Viva Las Vegas Car Show Mondays at 1 p.m.
The Vintage Vehicle Show
Harnish Car Show Wednesdays at 3 p.m.
The Vintage Vehicle Show
Dan Jubie's 4 Speed Museum Thursdays at 1 p.m.
The Vintage Vehicle Show
Jesse Jones Collection Saturdays at 2 p.m.

Los Angeles County "LA Now" News Program

Mondays 10:00 a.m., Tuesdays 3:00 p.m.,
Wednesdays 5:30 p.m., Thursdays 9:00 a.m.,
Fridays 4:30 p.m., Saturdays 6:00 p.m.
& Sundays 5:30 p.m.

California's Green with Huell Howser

Mondays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 12 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Thursdays at 8 p.m.,
Fridays at 1 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m.
& Sundays at 10 a.m.

Channel 3 will play many different shows throughout the month of April 2011. Please see the ongoing Channel TV Guide for more info on show titles and show broadcast times. Remember to check this channel for major emergency info and basic info on what's happening in the City. Channel 3 can be viewed anywhere in the world from our city web site at ci.commerce.ca.us. Thank you for your viewing support.



City of Commerce Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future

Lesly Mendez



Miss Commerce 2011 Lesly Mendez with her proud parents Vicente Mendez and Alma Grijalva after being crowned.

Shanese Shawntae Perea Natalie Contreras



Miss Dodgers Shanese Shawntae Perea celebrates with her parents Martin and Doreer Perea.



Miss Galaxy Natalie Contreras with her parents Oscar and Patty Melendez pose for a photograph.

Rocio Espinoza Ulloa



Miss 4th of July/Miss Friendship Rocio Espinoza Ulloa with her parents Jose and Rosa Espinoza and her two trophies.

Janet Garcia



Miss Cinco de Mayo Janet Garcia with her parents Maria and Domitilo Garcia inside Steven's Steak House.

A Night To Remember



Miss Commerce 2011 Lesly Mendez poses outside Steven's Steak House after being crowned.

Young Man of the Year



Julian Christopher Casillas receives a check from the Pageant Steering Committee and John Griffo of the Casino after being named 2011 Young Man of the Year.

Pageant Steering Committee Scholar



Pageant participant Yvonne Marie Cortez (pictured third from right) displays the check she received from the Pageant Steering Committee and John Griffo of the Commerce Casino as the Pageant Steering Committee Scholarship winner.

Commerce Means Business



City staff accepts a certificate from the LAEDC for the City's Eddy Award nomination.

Best Wishes



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Commander Marilyn Baker pictured here with Captain Henry Romero displays the commendation she received from the city council.

Enjoy Your Retirement



Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman (center) was awarded a commendation by the Commerce council for his distinguished service with the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Crouching Tiger



Crime Prevention Program Coordinator Laura Tilley conducts a neighborhood watch meeting in front of the City's freshly painted and redesigned Crime Prevention Van.

Congratulations



City employee Tina Fierro was recognized by the city council for receiving the 2010 Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation award for exception service to youth.

The American Dream



Three of the four lucky families selected in the First Time Home-buyer Lottery display their winning tickets.

ANNUAL KIDS ARE CUTE BABY SHOW

CELEBRATING WITH THE



SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011
 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
 6364 ZINDELL AVE.,
 COMMERCE, CA 90040

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. All participants must have a current Resident Activity Card at the time of registration. Each baby in the pageant must be accompanied by an adult. There will be a one time Registration at your local park on Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There after you can register at the department of Parks & Recreation, if spaces permits. Once a division is filled that division will be closed.

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Babies are placed in their respective divisions according to their exact age on April 9, 2011.

DIVISION I:

Boys & Girls: 2 ½ yrs & 1 day to 3rd Birthday
 Check-in: 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. (must be prompt)
 Judging: 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

DIVISION II:

Boys & Girls: 2 yrs. & 1 day to 2 ½ year Birthday
 Check-in: 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. (must be prompt)
 Judging: 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

DIVISION III:

Boys & Girls: 1 ½ yrs. & 1 day to 2nd Birthday
 Check-in: 10:15-10:45 a.m.
 Judging: 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

DIVISION IV:

Boys & Girls: 1 yr. & 1 day to 1 ½ year Birthday
 Check-in: 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
 Judging: 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

DIVISION V:

Boys & Girls: 8months & 1 day to 1st Birthday
 Check-in: 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
 Judging: 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

DIVISION VI:

Boys & Girls: 4months & 1 day to 8 months Birthday
 Check-in: 12:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Judging: 1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

CATEGORIES

Please check-in at least 15 minutes before your category time to confirm registration and receive participant's number.

DIVISIONS I, II, & III

- Parent Look Alike
- Biggest Smile
- Biggest Eyes
- Longest Eyelashes
- Chubbiest Cheeks
- Cutest Nose
- Smallest Baby
- Tallest Baby
- Curliest hair
- Straightest hair

DIVISION IV, V, & VI:

- Chubbiest Cheeks
- Loast Hair
- Most Hair
- Cutest nose
- Longest Eyelashes
- Parent look alike
- Biggest smile
- Biggest eyes
- Smallest baby



Awards:

All children entering will receive participation ribbons. Trophies will be awarded for 1st place winners in each category after each division. 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive ribbons.

Souvenirs:

For every participant. Free raffle for every division.

THE CITY OF COMMERCE
 Community Development Department-Code Enforcement Division
 with participation from the Commerce Beautification Committee
 PRESENT

SPRING CLEAN-UP



Saturday
 April 30, 2011 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

We can accept

Green Waste, Furniture, Washers and Dryers, Mattresses, Sofas and Couches, Toys, Lawn Equipment, Patio Furniture, and other miscellaneous items

We can not accept

Household Hazardous Waste (paint, pesticides, household cleaners, batteries, etc.); Constructions Debris (concrete, drywall, steel, etc.); Electronic Waste (TV's, VCR's, DVD players, computer monitors, cell phones); Tires, Refrigerators and Electric Stoves

To volunteer for the event or for information contact Code Enforcement at (323) 722-4805, extension 2329.

Only Commerce residents
 (with a Resident Card or proof of residency)
 may participate in this event.



LOCATIONS:

- BRISTOW PARK, 1466 MC DONNELL AVENUE;
- CITY HALL NORTH ANNEX, 5550 HARBOR ST
- TEEN CENTER, 5107 ASTOR AVENUE;
- VETERANS PARK, 5550 HARBOR ST

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt
 Featuring the Royal Court and the Easter Bunny!
Saturday, April 23
11 am!
 Ages 12 & Under
 Bandini Park, 4725 Astor Avenue
 Bristow Park, 1466 S. McDonnell Avenue
 Rosewood Park, 5600 Harbor Street
 Veterans Park, 6364 Zindell Street

COMCAT VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for a select group of residents to join "ComCats", Commerce Community Assistance Team. Volunteers are cross-trained to assist the Public Safety Department and the Emergency Preparedness Office. Upon completion of training, COMCATS are certified as disaster volunteers.

Sample duties include:

- Patrolling residential areas and parks using City vehicles and City radios
- Assisting with Neighborhood Watch/Crime Prevention events
- Fingerprinting Children at Operation Kid I.D. events
- Setting up the Mobile Command Post for emergencies and drills
- Serving as "Disaster Volunteers" in disasters and drills

To Qualify for ComCats you must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Complete a ComCat application
- Consent to a "background check" by the L.A. County Sheriff's Dept.
- Be interviewed by the ComCat Coordinator

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LAURA TILLEY AT CITY OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT (323) 887-4460 EXT. 2870

COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL



Tina Baca Del Rio, Mayor
 Robert C. Fierro, Mayor Pro Tem
 Joe Aguilar, Councilmember
 Lilia R. Leon, 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 - www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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MISS COMMERCE 2011 AND COURT CROWNED

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

them to an animal shelter. Contreras stays active playing golf and volunteering as a salsa instructor's assistant at Steven's Steak House and a volunteer soccer coach at Bandini Park.

Miss Fourth of July Rocio Espinoza Ulloa was also selected by the pageant participants as Miss Friendship for being the friendliest and most helpful to everyone throughout the Pageant process. Ulloa plans to study communications at San Diego State University so she can become a broadcast journalist. For inspiration Ulloa looks to her brother Angel, who is a student at UC Berkeley and to Univision reporter Jackie Guerrido. Ulloa also believes in giving back to her community so she volunteers at the Bell Gar-

dens Library and the Commerce Central Library.

Miss Cinco de Mayo Janet Garcia is a senior at Montebello High School where she is deeply involved in numerous school organizations including Key Club, Spanish Club, Physics Club, Enrichment Club and the Associated Student Body in which she serves as secretary. The intensely active Garcia plans to get a degree in business administration. Garcia already has performed charity work for local seniors, veterans and low income families.

The Queen and Royal Court will serve as the City's ambassadors throughout the year at City programs and events.

In addition to their contributions to the

Pageant which includes the \$500 Pageant Steering Committee Scholarship, the Commerce Casino presented a check for \$50,000 to the City for the Commerce Scholarship program in honor of the City's birthday.

Participant Yvonne Cortez received the Pageant Steering Committee Scholarship based on a required essay explaining her intent to earn a degree. She wrote about her dedication to her studies to achieve her goals and to serve as a role model to her younger siblings as the first member of her family to go to college.

The Young Man of the Year scholarship was awarded to Julian Casillas. Second place went to Pedro Ramos; third place

to Jordan Betancourt and fourth place to Alberto Manquero.

This year's Miss Commerce Pageant was coordinated by the Miss Commerce Pageant Steering Committee and Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Scott Wasserman under the direction of Parks and Recreation Director Jim Jimenez.

The celebrity judges were actor and fitness model Lucas Ford, cosmetic industry executive and entrepreneur Judy Cervantes Arnold, actress and craft expert Kathy Jacobs, producer Ernest Quintero and actress and modeling instructor Luisa Ruiz. The event was telecast by the City's Cable TV Division.



APRIL DATES TO NOTE

2
 Baseball/Softball Registration,
 All Parks, 10 a.m.

4
 English Book Club, 6 p.m.
 Youth Advisory Commission, 7 p.m.

5
 City Council Meeting/CDC, 6:30 p.m.

6
 Senior Citizens Commission, 12:30 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Greenwood Library, 4:30 p.m.
 Housing Committee, 5 p.m.
 Traffic Commission, 6:30 p.m.

7
 Parks and Recreation Commission,
 6 p.m.

9
 Baby Show, Veterans Park, 10 a.m.

10
 National Library Week Celebration

11
 Teens Celebrate Libraries, Central Library,
 4 p.m.
 Education Commission, 6 p.m.
 National Library Week Program, Central Library,
 6 p.m.

12
 Beautification Committee, 3:30 p.m.
 Teens Celebrate Libraries, Greenwood Library,
 4 p.m.
 National Library Week Program, Atlantic Li-
 brary, 6 p.m.

13
 Community Task Force, 3 p.m.
 Teens Celebrate Libraries, Bristow Park Library,
 4 p.m.
 National Library Week Program, Greenwood Li-
 brary, 6 p.m.

14
 Community Services Commission, 6 p.m.
 Teens Celebrate Libraries, Atlantic Library,
 4 p.m.
 National Library Week Program, Bristow Li-
 brary, 6 p.m.

16
 Volunteer Recognition Breakfast, 9 a.m.

17
 Palm Sunday
 Garden Show, Rosewood Park, 1 p.m.
 to 4 p.m.

18
 Spring Day Camp, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

19
 Passover
 Library Embajadores, 6 p.m.
 City Council Meeting/CDC, 6:30 p.m.
 Spring Day Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

20
 Employment Task Force, 1 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Atlantic Library,
 4:30 p.m.
 Spring Day Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

21
 Earth Day Program, 6 p.m.
 Spring Day Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

22
 Good Friday
 Spring Day Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

23
 Easter Egg Hunt, All Parks, 11 a.m.
 Sharp!

24
 Easter

25
 Adult Computer Class, 5:30 p.m.
 Spanish Book Club, 6 p.m.
 Spring Day Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

26
 Library Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Central Library,
 5:30 p.m.
 I-710 Local Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.

27
 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

30
 Spring Clean-up, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Bristow Park, City Hall North Annex,
 Teen Center, Veterans Park

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 (800) 887-4442.

Cuando llame, indique el título del artículo, la fecha y la dirección de su domicilio o correo electrónico. La versión traducida se le mandará.