



Report to the People

Where Quality Service
Is Our Tradition

Special
Back to School
Issue!

Volume 53 No. 9 September 2013

www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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From l. to r. are Arlin De La Mora, Isabella Gorrocino, Denise Cervantes, Daniela Hernandez, Jenel Rivera, Stephanie Contreras and Meghan Nevarez who will be attending college this fall on academic and/or athletic scholarships.

Women's Water Polo Program Produces New Crop of Collegians

The Commerce Women's Water Polo Program has helped produce a crop of seven new student athletes who will be starting their collegiate water polo and academic careers this fall at four colleges.

These young women are Stephanie Contreras attending Arizona State University; Denise Cervantes attending Fullerton College; Daniela Hernandez and Meghan Nevarez attending University of California, Davis; and Arlin De La Mora, Isabella Gorrocino and Jenel Rivera who will be attending Whittier College.

That they'll all be attending college this fall wasn't a surprise to any of them, in fact it was expected because of their success in school and in the Commerce Women's Water Polo Team. "Commerce Water Polo opened more doors," said Cervantes, who will be majoring in broadcast journalism.

The group talked about starting college and playing water polo at the next level. "We know it's going to be a different atmosphere, but we're all really excited," said De La Mora.

Contreras who will be majoring in kinesiology chimed in, "I think we're prepared because Coach Martinez taught us to play every position in the pool," referring to Commerce Women's Water Polo Head Coach Gabriel Martinez.

All of these young women started in the Commerce Aquatics Program at an early age, some as early as five. This early start taught them about more than water polo, helping them develop valuable life skills as well. "We learned a lot about time management, which helped us balance sports with school," said Rivera who plans to major in biochemical engineering.

Surprisingly, not all of them were interested in playing water polo, at least not at first. Gorrocino wanted to play softball but ended up following in her older sister's footsteps. "I fell in the love with the sport of water polo," said Gorrocino who will be majoring in business marketing.

Gorrocino like other Commerce Aquatics alumni continue to succeed in what has become a tradi-

tion, which Coach Martinez has taken to calling the "Commerce Pipeline" because of the positive impact Commerce players have made in college water polo. Commerce alumni have helped win NCAA championships at schools that include USC, UCLA and Stanford, not to mention 2008 Olympian Patty Cardenas and 4-time Olympian and 2012 Olympic Gold Medalist Brenda Villa.

Martinez credits the success of these young women and the other girls in the program to the support of the City Council, the parents and the girls themselves. "It seems like I say it every year and every year it's true; you won't find a better group of young people," he said.

Hernandez, who will be majoring in managerial economics, summed up their feelings about water polo.

"It's not just a sport. It's showing up every day, being on time and working hard."

Scholarship Success Stories Ready to Give Back



2013 Commerce Scholarship recipient Vikash Desai and past scholarship recipient Shamir Narsai.

Shamir Narsai and Vikash Desai are cousins who grew up as close as brothers here in the City of Commerce. Encouraged by Vikash's mother, Usha Desai, to take advantage of all the programs the City had to offer, the boys participated in almost every recreational sport and activity they could fit in their schedule. It was this early exposure to the benefits of growing up in Commerce that instilled in Shamir and Vikash the resolution to one day give back to the community for all that they had gained.

"Sometimes it takes more than a family to raise a child and the City of Commerce definitely helped us become who we are today," said Shamir. "My characteristics are a reflection of where I grew up. Whether it was water polo, martial arts or basketball, it all helped me to develop my leadership skills and accomplish personal achievements at an early age."

Vikash agrees that the partnership of a supportive family and a generous City made a great combination for both his and Shamir's success. "My mother utilized the City's programs to keep us busy and out of trouble," said Vikash. "As a college graduate herself, my mother emphasized the importance of education but as a single parent I know she had to make many sacrifices to pay for my schooling. I'm thankful to the City for the scholarship program which helped to alleviate



Commerce Scholarship Program 52 Scholarships Totalling \$80,000

Story on Page 4



The 52 recipients of the 2013 Commerce Scholarship at a reception held at the Commerce Hotel and Casino.

Success Stories Page 8

This month we are excited to bring you our first ever 'Back to School' issue of the Report to the People to inspire our students while providing tips and information to help them have a safe and successful school year.

Commerce has many success stories on the value of education and we hope that sharing a few of them will inspire our young people to work hard and achieve in school. A good place to start is with Commerce Olympic Gold Medalist Brenda Villa.

Brenda is also a graduate of Stanford University, which is one of the most prestigious universities in the United States and the world. The example she set as a successful athlete-scholar has become a Commerce tradition.

Following in her footsteps are seven young women from the Commerce Women's Water Polo Team who will start college this fall. They are Arlin De La Mora, Isabella Gorocino, Denise Cervantes, Daniela Hernandez, Jenel Rivera, Stephanie Contreras and Meghan Nevarez. Read more about them on page 4.

Congratulations also to the 52 Commerce residents who received 2013 Commerce Scholarships totaling \$80,000. These students have worked hard to earn scholarships which will help them achieve their college degrees.

A great example of the success cultivated by programs like the Commerce Scholarship is our page 1 story about resident Vikash Desai who received a scholarship this year and his cousin Shamir Narsai, a past scholarship recipient.

Of course, the success of the Commerce Scholarship Program would not be possible without the generosity of individuals, local organizations and businesses. At the top of that list is the Commerce Hotel and Casino which has once again donated \$50,000 to this year's program. Their unwavering financial support has resulted in total contributions of nearly three quarters of a million dollars to the Commerce Scholarship Program since 1998. Such support goes beyond generosity; it also represents a significant investment in our young people and community.

The Commerce City Council shares this commitment to investing in our young people by providing programs that promote higher education and help create pathways to college. A good example is the Commerce-to-College Fair on Sat., Sept. 21. Please make time to attend with your school age children so they can start thinking about college early.

There is a multitude of programs available at all four Commerce libraries to help students of all ages, including homework help, free Wi-Fi, online research databases and even laptop computers that can be checked out with a Commerce Library card. For details, see page 4.

This month we're also continuing our new series that focuses on programs and services at City facilities with a profile on Camp Commerce. Located near Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains, Camp Commerce provides residents of all ages with an opportunity to enjoy the majesty of the great outdoors at a low cost. If you have not visited Camp Commerce, I encourage you to do so.

Remember that City Hall and Commerce libraries will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day.

Sincerely,
Jorge Rifá




2013-2014 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

COUNCIL APPROVES \$52 MILLION BUDGET

In July the Commerce City Council adopted an Operating Budget of \$52,034,078 for the 2013-14 Fiscal Year and a projected surplus of \$88,765.

In addition to the funds budgeted for the City's operations, other highlights are one-time cost items that include \$180,000 in funding for the Watershed Management Program, \$10,000 for catch basin screens to keep trash and debris out of the storm drains and \$50,000 for an organizational study of the Community Development Department which will be funded with savings from the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year.

Also among the one-time costs is \$239,234 in Capital Outlay for computer infrastructure, vehicles and other equipment.

A total of \$67,800 in funding was approved in Parks and

Recreation for the City's CRUSH competitive volleyball team, staff training, and supplies for parks and the Teen Center, as well as the Day Camp and Kids Club programs.

In addition, the Council approved \$900,000 for Bristow Street Improvements, as well as a \$450,000 transfer to the Water Fund. Also adopted were labor costs totaling \$405,275 which included benefit and cost of living adjustments for the city's part time, full time and executive management employees.

To view the 2013-14 Fiscal Year Budget visit the City's website at www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

REGULAR MEETING REPORTS

Regular Meeting of August 5

- Honored Park Maintenance Employees Anthony Delgado and Armando Zuniga for their heroic efforts in saving a man from a burning building.
- Authorized the filing of an administrative petition for review challenging the Los Angeles MS4 Stormwater Permit Adopted on November 8, 2012.
- Approved a professional services agreement with Transtech Engineers to conduct a tree and sidewalk study for Slauson Avenue.
- Approved and adopted an agreement with the County of Los Angeles Probation Department to provide prevention and intervention services.
- Approved a contract with Mike Rose Masonry for the Camp Commerce Retaining Wall project.
- Approved the agreement with MCI Sales and Service for the lease of a bus.
- Authorized City staff to apply for grant funding for Capital and Operating assistance for FY 2013-2014.
- Approved a taser policy for designated officers and specialists in Community Safety and Animal Control.
- Approved amending the MOU with mid-management and non-management full-time employees.
- Council approved the following appointments:
 - Adopted a resolution in support of Senate Bill 811 (Lara).
 - Approved a plan to remove unauthorized bus benches and replace them with new bus shelters without advertisement.
 - Adopted a resolution for a reimbursement agreement with Craig Realty Group Citadel, for pavement repairs and restriping of Camfield Avenue, Flotilla Street, Hoefner Avenue, Smithway Street, Tubeway Avenue and Telegraph Road.
- Approved naming the City's new Emergency Operations Center in honor of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard.
- Approved the FY 2013/2014 Capital Improvement Program budget.
- Adjourned in memory of Lillian Kawasaki, Water Replenishment District Board

Regular Meeting of July 16



Sharon Rowe was honored at the July 16 Council meeting for receiving the 2013 Veterans Recognition Award from the State Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs. Rowe is pictured with her fellow volunteers on the Commerce Community Assistance Team and Public Safety Manager Laura Tilley.

- Approved a commendation honoring and congratulating Chief Thomas M. Laing of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on his retirement.
- Approved a commendation honoring the Commerce Casino on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.
- Proclaimed Tuesday, August 6, 2013 as National Night Out in the City of Commerce.
- Approved rescheduling the August 6, 2013 City Council

Meeting to Monday, August 5, 2013 to avoid conflict with National Night Out activities.

- Approved contract with B.R. Tree service for the Forest Care Project at Camp Commerce.
- Authorized the City Administrator to accept all work performed by WLC Architects, Inc. and E. Avico, Inc. related to the construction of new EOC.
- Approved work performed by CTG Construction, Inc., dba C.T. Georgiou Painting Company for painting of Transportation Services Center garage and maintenance area.
- Approved amendment No. 4 to the August 26, 2005 loan agreements between the City, County of Los Angeles, Dedeaux Properties, LLC for a Section 108 Loan for the Commerce industrial Center Dart Development Project.
- Approved the Los Angeles County Fire Department Fee-For-Service Cities annual fee schedule for FY 2013-14.
- Approved Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department contract City law enforcement services for FY 2013-14.
- Approved County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control services for FY 2013-14.
- Approved agreement for construction management services with Swinerton Builders through June 30, 2014.
- Presentation by Southern California Gas Company on Advanced Meter System upgrade.
- Directed staff to take appropriate action to promote the Affordable Care Act's new online Health Insurance Marketplace.
- Continued item to consider taking appropriate action to remove unauthorized bus benches and reviewing the feasibility of allowing bus bench advertising.
- Approved the expansion of the El Sol East Los Angeles Shuttle System in Bristow Park area.
- Approved an application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for First Supervisorial District excess funding for improvement projects at Bristow Park.
- Approved the annual operating budget for the 2013-14 Fiscal Year.
- Approved an amendment to a professional services agreement for design and engineering services with RBF Consulting for the Washington Boulevard Widening and Reconstruction project.

Report to the People

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents

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



Is Your Pet a Criminal Offender?

Pick Up Poop, Don't Pollute

PET WASTE - Many cities, including the City of Commerce have implemented National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) rules in an effort to decrease the negative impact we have on our waterways. One of the easiest ways residents can help reduce this impact is by picking up after their pet. When dog feces and cat litter is improperly disposed of or not disposed at all, it can create many environmental problems.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pet waste, which includes kitty litter dumped outside, can be picked up by stormwater runoff and washed into stormdrains or nearby waterbodies. Since stormdrains do not always connect to treatment facilities, untreated animal feces often end up in lakes and streams, causing significant water pollution.

BARKING DOGS - It's natural for dogs to bark or howl; they vocalize to communicate, letting us know they want to go outside, play, want attention, or that something is wrong. While some breeds tend to bark more than others, excessive barking may be a behavioral problem caused by separation anxiety or

because the dog is not getting enough, attention, stimulation or exercise.

Here are some tips to preventing excessive barking:

- Make sure your dog gets plenty of exercise to burn off pent-up energy.
- Avoid leaving your dog alone for long periods of time.
- Comforting your dog when he is barking may encourage the behavior. Instead, distract him and when he stops

barking reward with a toy or treat.

- Don't shout at your dog to stop barking. Because it may actually cause more barking.
- Avoid punishments like shock collars which are painful and unkind.

- If your dog is outside, do not allow him to bark incessantly. Be considerate of your neighbors.
- Consult your veterinarian or a trainer to help you if the behavior continues.

In Commerce, excessive barking is a nuisance issue and residents may be fined \$250. For more information about these laws and others, please call the City's Animal Control Division at (323) 887-4460, ext. 2236.

Did you know pet waste consumes oxygen and sometimes releases ammonia? Low oxygen levels and ammonia can damage the health of fish and other aquatic life. Pet waste carries bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can threaten the health of humans and wildlife. It is a common misconception that leaving pet waste will fertilize lawns. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote weed and algae growth. Cloudy and green, eutrophic water makes swimming and recreation unappealing or even unhealthy.

Report to the People

Resident Secures Employment with help from the Commerce EBDC

Commerce Resident Nancy Alvarez was looking for work and decided to call the City's Employment and Business Development Center (EBDC). Alvarez was persistent and tireless in her search, applying for various positions listed with the EBDC.

An employment opportunity as a security guard for the Citadel Retail Outlets caught her eye. Nancy applied, was hired and has been happily serving both the residents of Commerce and the thousands of tourists who shop at the Citadel Retail Outlets every year.

"The Citadel is a great place to work. What I enjoy most are the people that I work with. We're like one big family," said Nancy who has been employed with the Citadel Outlets for two years. During that time she has been honored as 'Employee of the Quarter.' She has also been recognized for her attendance. Working five to six days a week, often on weekends, Nancy still hasn't missed a day of work.

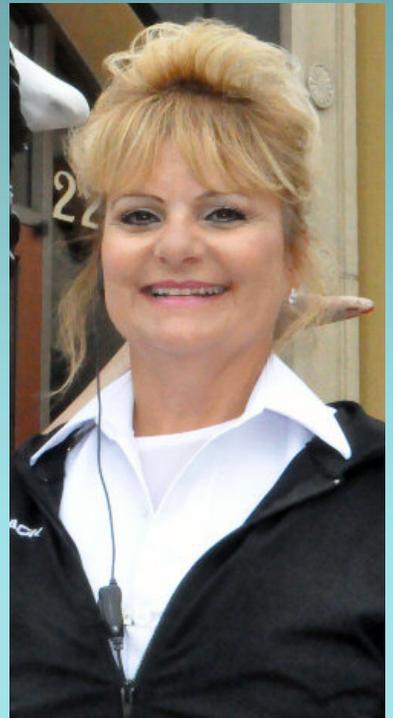
Another accomplishment Nancy is proud of is the job she did repainting the waitress statue located in front of Ruby's Diner. "I mentioned I knew how to paint porcelain so they asked me to paint the statue. Now she looks much better," said Nancy.

Commerce employee Juan Muniz first told Alvarez about the job opportunity and was thrilled to hear that she got the position. "She did her footwork. She filled out an application, interviewed and got hired," said Muniz. "The staff at the Employment Business and Development Center tries their best to help everyone who comes to us, but the fact that she was a Commerce resident made it extra special."

The Commerce Employment and Business Development Center (EBDC) is a service that's free to job seekers and to businesses. In fact the EBDC has developed strong relationships with many local businesses including the Citadel Retail Outlets. "The Citadel has been great about partnering with the City to promote and create job opportunities," Muniz said.

A perfect example of this collaboration is the annual Citadel-Commerce Community Job Fair, which will be held on Wednesday, September 11. The job fair attracts hundreds of employers and thousands of job seekers every year.

For job seekers unable to attend the fair, they can still take advantage of the EBDC's job referral service, as well as other programs offered including workshops on interview skills, grooming tips, filling out applications and resume writing. The EBDC's free Job Preparation Workshops are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the EBDC at (323) 887-4461.



Nancy Alvarez got a job with help from the Commerce EBDC.

Clean Sweep for Local Volunteers

200 Volunteers Participate in 3rd Annual Commerce Clean Up

For the third consecutive year, the Citadel Outlets, in partnership with the City, led the Commerce Clean Up to beautify neighborhood streets. On Saturday, August 10, over 200 volunteers started their day at 6 a.m. ready to remove debris and landscape properties on and around Hoefner, Smithway, Tubeway, Gaspar, Camfield and Telegraph.

The Citadel Outlets provided all the supplies needed for a safe cleanup including gloves and gardening tools. In addition to the many civic and service organizations taking part, the Citadel increased their volunteer army by engaging the support of some of their vendors including Waste Management, Hillyard, Apelinc, X-igent Printing, Twin Valet and Ben's Asphalt.

The Citadel Outlets also made significant donations to each youth organization who participated in the cleanup. All volunteers received a complimentary breakfast and lunch catered by Ruby's Diner and a commemorative t-shirt. They were also entered into a prize drawing and were part of a slide presentation dedicated to all sponsors and contributors on the Citadel Outlets digital billboards over the I-5 freeway.

Not only did Steve Craig of the Citadel Outlets organize a successful cleanup, but simultaneously scheduled a little over two miles of roadway repair. Smithway, Camfield, Hoefner and Flotilla streets were covered with a brand new slurry coat and restriped giving it a nice, clean surface. Tubeway was a complete reconstruction project where 3-4 inches of pavement were removed and replaced with Petromat as well as three inches of asphalt material and restriped. Petromat extends the life of asphalt pavements by acting as a barrier to prevent water infiltration and as a stress absorber to reduce cracking. And all potholes along Telegraph will be patched from Tubeway to the entrance of the 5 freeway. This will be a temporary improvement until the official repaving project on

Telegraph takes place sometime in the near future. The cost for the resurfacing project is estimated at \$107,528.95. Craig Realty Group has agreed to pay \$40,601.97, City of Commerce will pay \$40,601.97, the Commerce Casino has agreed to pay \$21,325 and a donation of \$5,000 from a local movie studio secured by Steve Craig covers the remainder.

Also helping to keep the cost down is Ben's Asphalt who asked their vendors for a discount on the Petromat and slurry coat. In addition, Ben's Asphalt essentially donated the labor for the entire project. Without all the discounts and volunteer labor, the cost of the project would have been closer to \$250,000.



Members of the Commerce Boxing Team group up to grab rakes, shovels and brooms during the Commerce Clean Up.



These volunteers work together to dispose of weeds pulled from a property on Telegraph Road.

PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S PRECIOUS COASTLINES AND WATERWAYS



Although Commerce is not a coastal city, residents may not realize that the City's water discharges into the Long Beach waterways near the Queen Mary. To do our part in helping keep our beaches beautiful, the City of Commerce Environmental Services Division is encouraging residents to join Heal the Bay in the state's largest volunteer event: the California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 21.

According to the California Coastal Commission, previous Cleanup Days have attracted over 82,000 volunteers and in one day, removed more than 1.2 million pounds of trash and recyclables from beaches, lakes and waterways. If debris is not removed, it can be harmful and even fatal to the fragile marine wildlife, including those unique to the California Coast. Not to mention a health hazard for humans. People from all over the world come to California for the breathtaking ocean views and beach recreation. It would be a serious economic blow to tourism if the beaches were not cared for and clean.

"As residents of this great state, we should care about protecting all of our shared natural resources," said Environmental Services Manager Gina Nila.

This is a great volunteer opportunity for service organizations, college bound students and residents who love the beach and care about our environment. Each person must have a signed waiver to participate in the beach cleanup. For more information about volunteering for Coastal Cleanup Day, visit the volunteer section on the Heal the Bay website at www.healthebay.org.

did you know?

Cigarette butts are the number one item picked up at the beach cleanups.

5 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN:

- Leave beaches, parks and neighborhoods cleaner than you found them – pick up trash even if it's not yours.
- Use public transportation. Bike or walk instead of driving.
- Bring a bag with you when you go to the store instead of accepting a paper or plastic bag. For small or single items, tell the clerk you don't need a bag.
- Seek out products with minimal packaging and avoid products with excessive packaging. For instance, avoid individual servings in favor of larger packages and bulk foods. Foods like fruit and vegetable can usually be found with less packaging than processed foods.
- Don't leave the water running when you brush your teeth or shave.



Commerce Scholarship Program Awards 52 Scholarships Totalling \$80,000



John Griffo of the Commerce Hotel and Casino with Casino Scholars Andrea Ordaz, Serene Beltran and Ernesto Covarrubias.

Students Find Help Paying for College

Benjamin Franklin said "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." That's exactly what the Commerce community is banking on as they awarded an incredible, \$80,000 to 52 deserving resident scholars at the 2013 City of Commerce Scholarship Luncheon.

The City of Commerce Scholarship Program began in 1980. Originally, money was donated from local civic organizations and service clubs and scholarships ranged from \$50-\$300. While that was a great help to many stu-

dents, the cost of education has increased dramatically over the years. Fortunately for Commerce residents, local businesses and individuals have stepped up with considerable contributions increasing scholarships both in the size of the award and in the number given.

"I am so proud of all the scholarship winners and what they have accomplished, I know it's only the beginning of great things to come," said Beatriz Sarmiento, Director of Library Services. "I also want to say Bravo to the parents! Their support and encouragement helped propel their children onto a path of higher education."

Statistics from the National Center for

Education indicate that in 2008, the median earnings of a young adult with a bachelor's degree was \$46,000, while the median income was \$36,000 for those with an associate's degree, \$30,000 for those with a high school diploma or equivalent, and \$23,500 for those who did not earn a high school diploma. The median earnings of a young adult with a master's degree or higher is \$55,000 which is 20% more than adults with a bachelor's degree.

The Commerce City Council is dedicated to promoting higher education in the community and is happy to help make college more available to its residents.

The City would like to thank all of the contributors listed below:

\$50,000 California Commerce Club, Inc.	\$500 AltaMed Health Services Corp., Bakura Db	\$132 Sigrid G. Hudson
\$10,000 Harvey Capital Corporation	Commerce Truck Storp, Elkay Plastics Co., Inc., The GEHR Industries, Inc., and Women's Club of Rosewood Park	\$125 Kleen Kraft Services
\$5,000 Sheila Gold Foundation	\$330 Anthony R. Aguilar and Family	\$100 Anonymous City Employee, Mr. Jorge J. Rifa and Sharon A. Rifa and Ms. Nellie M. Zepeda
\$4,000 the Lawrence P. Frank Foundation	\$300 Commerce Petro Fuel, LLC, and United Family of Bristow	\$50 Annabelle Palacios
\$1,000 AMVAC Chemical Corp., Ashland Inc., and Robles Family	\$288 Kim Seng Company	\$25 Cleancraft Industries, Inc. and John C. McCall and Marie J. McCall
\$550 Scott M. Wasserman	\$150 Prudential Overall Supply	

Library News: Back to School Resources

Homework Centers are available at all four libraries and provide homework help for students from kindergarten through college. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Additional hours available at Central Library: Fridays 3-6 pm; Atlantic Branch: Saturday 11 am-3 pm; Bristow Branch: Friday 3-5 pm and Saturday 11 am-3 pm; and Greenwood Branch: Friday 3-5 pm.

Online Resources for Students: To access the online resources, go to www.cocpl.org and click on the Electronic Resources tab. A Commerce Library card number is required to log into most of the online resources.

• **Live Homework Help**—Free online homework tutors are available in all subjects for elementary to college students, from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Students can also register and download the free Tutor.com app to use on their mobile device.

• **World Book Web**—Students can use The World Book Online encyclopedia to read or print articles from any Internet computer; great for reports and other school projects!

• **Popular Magazines Database**—Thousands of online articles from popular magazines and journals are available. The database is a great research tool for students, especially for reports and research papers.

• **BookFlix** -- For children ages 3 to 8 years old, the library of-

fers an online e-reading program for children to read along with their favorite picture books and easy information books to practice their reading.

Get Your First Library Card in September & Enter to Win a Blu-ray Player

The smartest card in your wallet -- and the most important school supply -- is a library card! Register for a Commerce Library card during the month of September 2013 for the first time (or bring someone to get their first library card) and enter a raffle for a Blu-ray player. Prize raffles will be held at each Commerce library at 3:00 p.m. on October 3, 2013. Winners do not need to be present to win.

PUBLIC LIBRARY CARD GIVES YOU FREE ACCESS TO:

- Laptops & E-Readers
- Public Internet computers in the library
- Online Resources: Mango Languages, MedLine Plus, World Book Encyclopedia & other programs
- Free Online Homework
- Renew library materials online

Camp Commerce



In 1961, the City of Commerce had just been incorporated for one year and listed only 12 paid employees. This small but mighty City had the vision to purchase the Los Angeles Kiwanis Club camp in the San Gabriel Mountains near the town of Wrightwood for \$45,000 in hopes of offering a vacation spot for those who lived in Commerce. This destination was very popular among residents until a highly visible fault line was found under the mountain retreat. The City quickly leased another location and later purchased the 2.2 acre camp in 1985 after confirming there were no geological hazards. This is the location we all know today as Camp Commerce.

Thousands of Commerce families have made lasting memories at Camp Commerce. Those who went up to Camp as kids are now bringing their children and grandchildren. After all these years, there has been one constant -- Camp Director Ruben Villalobos. Ruben started at the original Camp Commerce location in 1971. He said he has enjoyed being part of so many residents' childhood memories.

"I get a kick out of seeing these kids grow up," said Villalobos. "It's a reminder that what we do as a City to expand the experiences of Commerce families is unique and I hope residents realize just how special it is to live in this City."

Camp Commerce offers something for everyone: a four-day trip during the week or a three-day weekend getaway for specific groups like teens, active adults and families, all year round. The friendly and highly-qualified staff will lead campers in a variety of activities. Camp Counselors are trained in CPR and First Aid and are knowledgeable about local wildlife providing an educational and safe experience for all age groups.

Camp Commerce is also available to rent by private groups and organizations. It's ideal for reunions, company picnics or social activities. Residents interested in signing up for Camp Commerce can contact the Parks and Recreation Department for available dates at 323-722-4805 ext. 2806 and those interested in private rental can call Ruben Villalobos at 909-337-6680.

Nestled amongst the towering pines of Lake Arrowhead, Camp Commerce has, for decades, been the perfect getaway for residents of all ages. No other City in Southern California offers their residents an amenity like Camp Commerce at such a low cost. All meals, transportation, supervision and activities are included in the one-time fee of \$25.00 per resident. But did you know that this is the second Camp Commerce location?

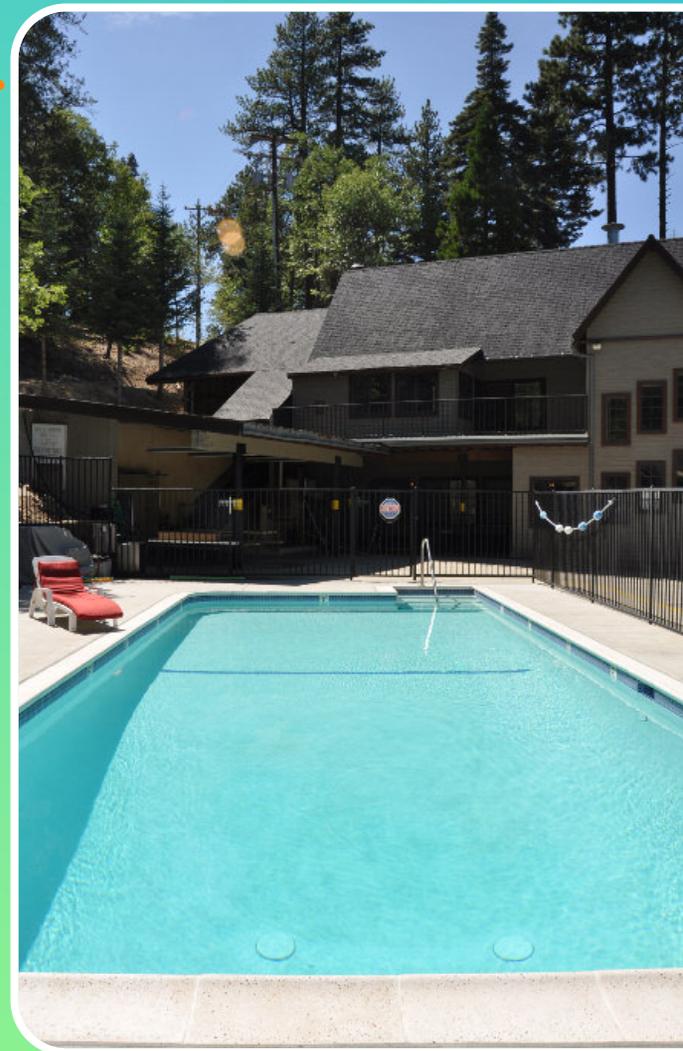


Accommodation

Camp Commerce is an all inclusive facility that can accommodate up to 60 people in dormitory-style housing which includes shared showers and restrooms in each cabin. Just a 90 minute drive from Los Angeles, the grounds feature seven, two-story buildings.

Kitchen

The camp features a modern dining area with a full kitchen staff that prepares breakfast, lunch and dinner. Meals are served buffet style with a variety of menu choices.



Outdoors

There are several ways to enjoy the outdoors. The heated swimming pool and Jacuzzi, guided hiking tours for all levels and abilities, as well as volleyball and basketball courts. All of the amenities are subject to seasonal availability.



Shuttle service is available to nearby Arrowhead Village for shopping and dining. Other nearby attractions include fishing, boating, ice skating, snow skiing, mountain biking, movie theaters, fairs and festivals.



Guests are welcome to relax in the comfortable lodge which includes a fireplace, snack kitchen, 50 inch TV and DVD player, billiards, ping pong and air hockey.

The Gallery



HEROIC EMPLOYEES



Park Maintenance workers Anthony Delgado and Armando Zuniga were honored by the City Council in August for saving a man from a burning building.

GOLD MEDALISTS



Brenda Villa visited the Library to display her four Olympic medals. She's pictured here with her gold medal with visitors from the Girl's 10 and Under Water Polo Team showing off their own gold medals earned at the Junior Olympics in July. From l. to r. are Erika Silva, Bianca Becerra, Villa, Victoria Padilla, Sophia Martinez and Bianca Borunda.

COMMUNITY DODGER NIGHT



Miss Dodgers 2013 Brigit Escobar shows off a Dodgers Baseball at Community Dodger Night. Residents cheered the Dodgers on to a comeback victory in the 12th inning versus the New York Mets.

TIGHT KNIT COMMUNITY



Friends, neighbors, volunteers, public safety and City officials gathered at National Night Out block parties throughout the City on August 6.

CLEANING UP COMMERCE



More than 200 volunteers, including many from Commerce sports and youth programs participated in the 3rd Annual Commerce Clean Up event on August 10.

LABJ VISITS COMMERCE BUSINESSES



Writers and editors from the Los Angeles Business Journal toured Commerce businesses in August. Steve Craig, managing partner of the Citadel Outlets is pictured here (center) conducting a tour of the Citadel Outlets.

CASINO CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

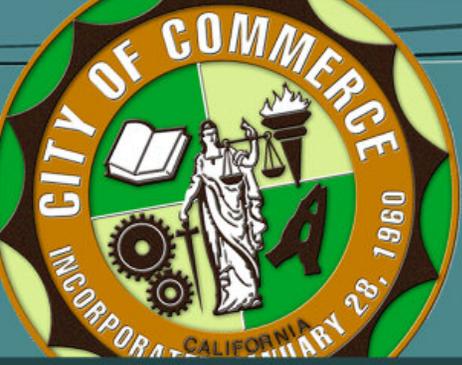


The Commerce Hotel and Casino celebrated their 30th Anniversary in August. Pictured at the celebration are Miss Fourth of July/Miss Friendship Daniela Gomez, Miss Commerce Shanese Perea and Miss Dodgers Brigit Escobar.

SAFE SENIORS

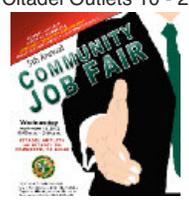
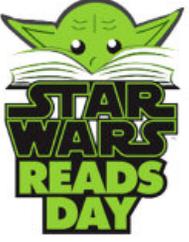


Seniors participated in a large and successful National Night Out party at the Commerce Senior Center.



SEPTEMBER 2013

COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day City Hall & Libraries Closed 	3 City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m. Youth Advisory Commission 7 p.m. 	4 Senior Citizens Commission 12:30 p.m. Rosh Hashanah	5 Parks & Recreation Commission 6 p.m.	6 <i>"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other."</i> Abraham Lincoln	7 Camp Commerce Registration Fall/Winter/Spring Council Chambers 8 a.m. 
8 <i>"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."</i> Benjamin Franklin	9 Education Commission 6 p.m.	10	11 Community Job Fair Citadel Outlets 10 - 2  Traffic Commission 6:30 p.m.	12 Community Services Commission 6 p.m.	13 Yom Kippur	14
15	16 English Book Club Atlantic Library 6 p.m.	17 Library Embajadores Meeting, EOC Room 6 p.m. City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m. 	18	19	20 <i>"Do or do not. There is no try."</i> Yoda	21 Commerce to College Fair Veterans Park 10 a.m. 
22	23 <i>"The voyage in discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."</i> Marcel Proust	24 Library Commission 5:30 p.m.	25 Teen Book Club, EOC Room 5:30 p.m. Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.	26	27	28 Star Wars Reads Day 11 a.m. 
29 	30 Spanish Reading Club EOC Room 6 p.m.	September is <i>Library Card Signup Month</i>  Central Library: 722-6660 Atlantic Library: 780-1176 Bristow Park Library: 265-1787 Greenwood Library: 927-1516				October 2013 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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	E.L.A. Sheriff's	(323) 264-4151
Code Enforcement	Ext. 2293	Graffiti Hotline	(323) 887-4444
Animal Control		Emergency 911	
M-F 8 am to 6 pm	(323) 887-4460		
Weekends/Evenings	(562) 940-6898		www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
ROBERT CORNEJO

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2013
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
VETERANS PARK
6384 ZINDELL AVE. COMMERCE, CA

RAFFLE PRIZES:
+3 NETBOOKS
+GRAPHIC CALCULATORS
+GIFT CARDS
+PLUS MUCH MORE...

FREE LUNCH

SHUTTLE BUS WILL RUN FROM CITY PARKS TO EVENT.
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 323-722-8080 OR VISIT WWW.COCPL.ORG

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

5th Annual COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

Wednesday
September 11, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

CITADEL OUTLETS
100 CITADEL DR.
COMMERCE, CA 90040

For more information contact:
City of Commerce Community Services
Department Employment and Business
Development Center (323) 887-4461

- Dress for success
- Bring plenty of copies of your resumes
- Interviews on the spot

MEET FACE TO FACE WITH EMPLOYERS WHO ARE HIRING!

UNITED FAMILY OF BRISTOW PARK
PRESENTS

16th of September FIESTA!

"DIA DE LA FAMILIA"

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2013

11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
BRISTOW PARK

Live Music, Folk-lórico Dancers & Singers
Food on Sale

Scholarship Success Stories

CONT. FROM PG. 1



Vikash Desai at the Scholarship Reception with fellow scholarship recipient Monique Rodriguez.

scholarship program which helped to alleviate some of that burden."

Shamir is a four-time Commerce Scholarship recipient. He is also a graduate from the University of California, Irvine and from Thomas Jefferson Law School in San Diego where he earned his Juris Doctor. Vikash is a five-time scholarship recipient and is nearing completion of his Masters Degree in teaching from UC Irvine. Both young men are enthusiastic about

having chosen to remain residents of Commerce and are dedicated to finding ways to give back their beloved community.

Although Shamir holds a law degree, he has chosen to pursue a career in real estate development. As a licensed broker, Shamir said he hopes to help Commerce continue the current revitalization and beautification efforts going on in the City. The Bell Gardens High School graduate said he looks forward to helping Commerce residents and businesses.

Vikash plans to return to Commerce, where he would like to begin his teaching career. With math and science teachers in such high demand, the Schurr High School graduate will likely have his choice of schools to teach at, which is good news for students from the City of Commerce. Vikash also plans to become a mentor for Commerce residents that are planning to pursue higher education.

Commerce City Channel 3

SEPTEMBER FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

Award winning cablecasts of the City Council Meetings

Live every first and third Tuesday 6:30 p.m. (Live every 1st and 3rd Tues.)

Replay on Tuesdays at 9 a.m., Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Thursdays at 5 p.m., Fridays at 6 p.m., Saturdays at 9 a.m. and Sundays at 5 p.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 11:00 a.m., Sundays at 5:30 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.

Commerce Public Affairs Show

Featuring: *Southern California Edison*

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 Public Affairs Show

Featuring: *Animal Control Services*

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.