



# Report to the People

*Where Quality Service  
Is Our Tradition*

Volume 54 No.4 April 2014

THE MODEL CITY

www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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## Cancer Fighting Superheroes Taking Over Veterans Park



Survivors take a celebratory lap at last year's Relay For Life of Commerce event at Veterans Memorial Park, which successfully raised approximately \$30,000.

Former and current cancer patients, caretakers, those who have lost a loved one to cancer, families, businesses, civic organizations and the public are invited to take part in the 3rd Annual Relay For Life of Commerce on Saturday, April 12 – Sunday, April 13 at Veterans Memorial Park. Kick off begins at 9:00 am on Saturday with a welcome from event organizers and dignitaries as well as a performance by the Bell Gardens High School Marching Band. This “celebration of life” brings the community together in a unified effort to celebrate the lives of those who have faced cancer and to remember the loved ones lost.

This year's theme is “Superheroes” because everyone involved in the fight against cancer is a Superhero. Teams will show their spirit by decorating their tents and dressing in costume. Donated prizes will be given to the best in show in several categories. Individual teams have been raising funds for months leading up to the event. Residents can still donate to a particular team by visiting [www.relayforlife.org/commerceca](http://www.relayforlife.org/commerceca). Residents are also invited to a comedy fundraiser at Steven's Steakhouse on Thursday, April 3. Hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm and the show begins at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20.00 and all proceeds will go to Relay For Life of Commerce.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a 24-hour, family-oriented event where participants enjoy the camaraderie of diverse teams while raising funds to help eliminate cancer.

Participants camp out at the Relay site, and when they are not taking their turn walking, they take part in fun activities and enjoy local entertainment.

“Relay For Life brings the progress against cancer to the forefront,” said Francine Ayala, event chair. “Many participants are our family, friends, and neighbors who have dealt with cancer themselves. Their involvement is proof of the progress we have made in not only reducing death rates, but also in the quality of life following cancer treatment.”

The funds raised will enable the American Cancer Society to continue their investment in the fight back against cancer through research, education, advocacy, and patient services. “Thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors like the Commerce Hotel and Casino, the Citadel Outlets and Steven's Steak and Seafood House, the money raised by participants goes directly to the American Cancer Society's lifesaving programs,” said Ayala.

For more information about how to form a team or become involved in Relay For Life of Commerce, please contact Kristen Mooney at 213-368-8529 or at [Kristen.mooney@cancer.org](mailto:Kristen.mooney@cancer.org).

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. For more information on ACS programs and events, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

## Commerce Gets New Dedicated Sergeant



Ray Lam, a 25 year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is Commerce's new dedicated sergeant. He will be coordinating the Sheriff's Department resources from the East Los Angeles Station to provide public safety and law enforcement services to Commerce.

“I'm very excited to have this opportunity to carry on the tradition of service the East LA Sheriff's Station has established here in the City,” said Sergeant Lam.

Lam comes to Commerce after having served for close to two years at the East Los Angeles Station where according to Sheriff's Captain Jim Wolak he's one of the most popular sergeants.

Promoted to sergeant in 2005, Lam previously worked at the Industry Station, which served the contract cities of La Habra Heights, La Puente and the City of Industry. He has also worked on the Asian Crime Task Force, which coordinated efforts with other law enforcement agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as well as the Monterey Park and Alhambra police departments and the FBI's Asian Gang Investigation section.

“Sergeant Lam understands the needs of the City so we are confident he'll do a great job,” said Captain Wolak who added Lam's ability to speak Spanish will provide an additional benefit to the community.

## Commerce Now on Instagram & Pinterest

To provide residents and other community members with an opportunity to get immediate updates on City events, news, and programs from the comfort of your phone, laptop or desktop computer, the Public Information Office has established the City's online presence through social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

To reach even more users, the City is now on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/cityofcommerce](http://www.instagram.com/cityofcommerce) and Pinterest at [www.pinterest.com/cityofcommerce/](http://www.pinterest.com/cityofcommerce/).

What all of these social media sites have in common is that community members can get important messages on City programs fast with new content every day Monday through Friday. In addition, residents also receive valuable information from local utilities or even news articles about issues affecting Com-

merce through any of these social media sites.

Commerce residents can also visit the City's website at [www.ci.commerce.ca.us](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us) which features news flashes, employment opportunities, contact information for local utilities, photo galleries, a City wide events calendar, a live online stream of the City's award winning Cable Channels 3 and 32, bus schedule information, including the Citadel Outlets Express and much more.

If you haven't already followed us on Facebook and Twitter you can visit the City website's main page and click on the appropriate icon in the lower right hand corner or visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Commerce/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Commerce/) or our Twitter page [@CityOfCommerce](https://twitter.com/CityOfCommerce) or [twitter.com/CityOfCommerce](https://twitter.com/CityOfCommerce).



## From The Desk of Jorge Rifá City Administrator

The City, in partnership with the Commerce Industrial Council Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to be co-hosting the **3rd Annual Commerce Relay for Life on April 12 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Veterans Park.**

This 24 hour event is held to encourage people and organizations to help in the fight against cancer. Last year the event raised nearly \$30,000. To join the fight by volunteering or contributing, check out the story on page 1 or visit [www.relayforlife.org/commerceca](http://www.relayforlife.org/commerceca).

Spring is around the corner and it's a great time of year for college basketball and baseball fans. For the Council and for City staff, spring means budget season is about to start. Budgeting is always a challenge since it is difficult to balance priorities. This budget year is no different as we continue to grow stronger after four years of financial worries. From my desk, the budget priorities which lay ahead are **needed investments in maintenance and repairs for all City facilities.**

The deadline for the **2014 Commerce Scholarship Program** is rapidly approaching on Thursday, April 17 at 5 p.m. Last year 65 scholarships between \$400 and \$5,000 were awarded to 65 Commerce residents through this program. Interested residents can apply online only via the Commerce Library's website at [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org) or the Library section of the City's website at [www.ci.commerce.ca.us](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us).

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, which serves Commerce and 77 other cities in the region, will host an **Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The entire family is invited. The event is free and will be held at the Sanitation Districts' Parking Lot at 1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601. For more information visit their website at [www.lacsd.org](http://www.lacsd.org).

Finally, keeping Commerce beautiful is important. To help residents beautify their particular part of the City we will be holding the **Spring Clean Up & Volunteer Clean Up Day event on Saturday, April 5 from 8 a.m. to noon.** Large bins will be set up so residents can dispose of bulky items for free with locations throughout the City.

Safeshred and E-Waste Center, two Commerce businesses, are partnering with us once again so residents can safely and securely dispose of personal documents, as well as electronic waste. To volunteer or for more information, contact Code Enforcement at 323-722-4805 ext. 2812.

The annual **Easter egg hunt is set for 11 a.m. sharp on April 19 at Veterans Park** so don't be late. Last but not least, remember that the IRS deadline for your patriotic contribution or refund is April 15.

On behalf of the Council and the City's personnel, I want to wish everyone in our community a wonderful April and a wet spring for all of California...we need the water!

Sincerely,  
Jorge Rifá

## Report to the People

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents

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or visit us online at [www.ci.commerce.ca.us](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us).



## Council Approves Measure AA Funds to Resurface Basketball Courts

After the recent approval of \$2.15 million Slauson Ave. Street and Sidewalk Improvement and Tree Planting Project, the City Council approved the Measure AA Committee's second recommendation to appropriate \$50,000 to resurface outdoor basketball courts at the City's parks.

The scope of the project will resurface and seal the bas-

ketball courts at Bandini, Bristow, Rosewood and Veterans Parks. This maintenance is important because the basketball courts are a popular park amenity and with the high demand there is an increase of wear and tear.

The courts are typically resurfaced every five years to maintain a safe surface and control long term costs. Last completed in 2008 with grant funding, the Measure AA Committee's recommendation was to fund the project this year and to encourage budgeting for this recurring cost in the future.

### Regular Meeting of March 4

Presented new City Clerk Lena Shumway.



Commerce's new City Clerk Lena Shumway was introduced to the community at the March 4 Commerce City Council Meeting. Shumway is a Certified Municipal Clerk with a Master's Degree in Political Science.

Presented newly assigned Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sergeant Ray Lam.

Proclaimed Wednesday, March 26, 2014 as Arbor Day in the City of Commerce.

Proclaimed March as Women's History Month in the City of Commerce.

Approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) to prepare a CEQA document for the Slauson Avenue Sidewalk Improvement and Tree Planting Project.

Approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the installation, removal, maintenance and storage of Holiday Decorations.

Approved an Agreement with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank for participation in the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Allocated \$50,000 of Measure AA Funding to resurface the outdoor basketball courts at all city parks and authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposal for the Project.

Approved the third Amendment to the services agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for monitoring, operation and support of the City's Traffic Signal Control Program.

Directed staff to develop a new proposal effective date of the Council Reorganization in conjunction with the date of the Miss Commerce Pageant.

Received and filed an updated report on the Library Renovation Project.

Received and filed a presentation on possible City Council protocols.

Received and filed a report on the placement of unattended donation collection bins in the City.

Appointed Antonio Gonzalez to the Traffic Commission.

Appointed Patricia Acero to the Pageant Steering Committee.

Received and filed a legislative update.

Adjourned in memory of longtime Commerce resident Maria Dolores Garcia De Lao.

### Regular Meeting of February 18

Commended Alex Hamilton, Assistant Director of Public Works and Development Services for his service to the City of Commerce.

Received and filed a report on Camp Commerce improvement projects.

Approved preliminary consideration of the issuance of refunding bonds and other related action.

Held a public hearing regarding the abatement of noxious or dangerous weeds.

Approved the allocation of the Community Development Block Grant Funds for the 40th consecutive year.

Approved revisions to the 2013/2014 Fiscal Year budget as recommended via the mid-year budget review.

Receive and filed a report regarding results of an investigation arising from allegation made in an anonymous letter dated June 15, 2013.

Adjourned in memory of Commerce resident Fernando Viramontes.

## First West Nile Virus Positive Dead Birds Confirmed in GLACVCD for 2014

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed its first West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead birds for 2014. The dead birds were reported in Long Beach (zip code 90808). Statewide, there have been three additional positive dead birds reported in Santa Clara County this year.

"The exceptionally warm winter this year is a factor in the earlier-than-average virus activity," says Susanne Klueh, Director of Scientific-Technical Services for the District. "This shows that West Nile virus is endemic to our region. We can anticipate more activity as the season progresses."

GLACVCD will continue to monitor and control the area and throughout the District for increased mosquito activity. However, residents are urged to report any dead birds to [www.west-nile.ca.gov](http://www.west-nile.ca.gov). Reporting dead birds helps with West Nile virus surveillance and control efforts because birds play an important role in spreading the virus.

### Additionally, residents can do the following to protect themselves:

- Report mosquito problems and sources to GLACVCD at 562-944-9656 or online at [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org).
- Remove all standing water sources around their homes.
- If residents must be outdoors during dusk and dawn - when

mosquitoes are most active - they are advised to use insect repellent that contain EPA-registered active ingredients such as DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus or picaridin.

"Even the smallest of breeding sources can contribute to a large public health problem within the Greater Los Angeles County area," says Levy Sun, public information officer for the District.

West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no cure for West Nile virus. One in five persons infected with West Nile virus will exhibit symptoms. Symptoms usually occur between five and 15 days and can include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, or a skin rash. These symptoms can last for several weeks to months. One in 150 people infected with the virus will require hospitalization. Severe symptoms include high fever, muscle weakness, neck stiffness, coma, paralysis, and possibly death.

GLACVCD recommends that individuals exhibiting these symptoms following a mosquito bite consult a physician as soon as possible. Those at highest risk for severe cases of West Nile virus are the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.



## Get the SCE Smart Phone App for Updates and to Report Outages

Power outages are an unfortunate inconvenience. To make it easier for utility users to report outages and find out important information when service is down, Southern California Edison has a smart phone app free for download for iPhone and Android devices.

With this easy to download app, users can report power outages and view an interactive outage map specifically designed to fit your web-enabled mobile phone's display. This will make it easier to figure out which areas will be affected by power outages.

Remember to keep your smart phone charged since it may be your only means of communication in an emergency since other forms of communication may be down

to due to possible power outages.

While the quickest and easiest way to report power outages and other electric utility issues is online, if you do not have a smart phone and experience problems with your power for more than a few minutes, you can report those issues by calling Edison at 800-611-1911.

For more information about the SCE app, please visit their website at [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com) and type 'mobile app' into the search bar. The app is also free to download on the iTunes and Google Play app stores.

## Employees Honored for Service to the Community

The City recently honored two retirees and 92 Commerce employees at the 2013 Employee Service Awards Dinner at Stevens Steak and Seafood House on February 21.

Honorees were recognized for their years of dedicated service to the community. Loretta Gutierrez who served the City as the Director of Community Services and Linda Kay Olivieri who served as the City Clerk were the retirees recognized.

Three employees were honored for 35 years of serving Commerce residents. They were Recreation Center Supervisor Ernie Cadenas and Recreation Leaders Martha Lavin and Ray Zamora.

Thirty year recipients included Executive Assistant Rebecca Kuhn and Recreation Leader Denise Barajas and Facility Maintenance Worker Mike Vasquez, both of whom are also Commerce residents.

The nine 25 year recipients were Water Polo Coach Bobby Contreras, Office Specialist Elizabeth Contreras, Employment Services Representative Gabriela Fernandez, Recreation Leader Alfred Jaramillo, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Robert Lipton, Food Services Supervisor Blanca Massia, Bus Operator II Florencio Vasquez, Senior Food Services Attendant Teresa Vega and Recreation Center Supervisor Terry Westmore.

Twenty year recipients were Community Safety Specialist Greg Green, Library Assistant Erlinda Frias, Library Database Specialist Angela Carbajal, Class Instructor Alyce Villegas and Camp Cook Lourdes Ortiz.

The City would like to commend and congratulate all of these employees for their years of service to the residents and other stakeholders of the City of Commerce.



## SHINE A LIGHT FOR AUTISM



### April is Autism Awareness Month

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness and funding can help families today.

Knowing the signs is important because early identification of autism in children can change their lives. Autism is treatable. While children do not "outgrow" autism, studies show that early diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes.

Symptoms include a lack of or delay in spoken language; repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms (e.g., hand-flapping, twirling objects); little or no eye contact; lack of interest in peer relationships; lack of spontaneous or make-believe play; and persistent fixation on parts of objects.

Diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) can be difficult since there is no medical test, like a blood test, to diagnose the disorders. Doctors look at the child's behavior and development to make a diagnosis. ASDs can sometimes be detected at 18 months or younger. By age two, a diagnosis by an experienced professional can be considered very reliable.

ASDs begin before the age of three and last throughout a person's life, although symptoms may improve over time. Some children with an ASD show hints of future problems within the first few months of life. In others, symptoms might not show up until 24 months or later. Some children with an ASD seem to develop normally until around 18 to 24 months of age and then they stop gaining new skills, or they lose the skills they once had.

For more information on autism, visit [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org) or [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org).

# Need money for college?



Apply for the City of Commerce Scholarship program open to residents. If you are planning to attend college for the first time or are re-entering college you are eligible because there is no age limit to apply!

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a Commerce resident for a minimum of one year.
- Must be attending an accredited college or university.
- Must be a full-time student if pursuing an undergraduate degree.
- Must present proof of university acceptance.
- Must have a GPA (grade point average) of 2.0 if attending a community college or 2.5 if attending a four-year university.

Applications will only be accepted online and are available at [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org) or [www.ci.commerce.ca.us](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us). The application deadline is Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 5 p.m.

## Library Computer Classes April – June 2014



To provide Library patrons with E-learning opportunities the Commerce Public Library System is offering computer classes at Commerce branch libraries. Please sign up ahead of time via sign up forms provided at the library branches. Each session can accommodate 6-18 students per session. For more information or to sign up, visit the Atlantic, Bristow Park, Greenwood or Central Library reference desk or call at 323-722-6660 x2824.

### Sessions, Dates and Times:

**Introduction to Microsoft Word at Atlantic Library**  
Monday, April 7, 2014, 5:30-7:30 PM

**Introduction to Microsoft Word at Bristow Park Library**  
Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 4:00-6:00 PM

**Introduction to Computers/Keyboarding at Greenwood Library**  
Thursday, April 10, 2014, 5:30-7:30 PM

**Introduction to Microsoft Excel at Atlantic Library**  
Monday, May 12, 2014, 5:30-7:30 PM

**Introduction to Microsoft Excel at Bristow Park Library**  
Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 4:00-6:00 PM

**Resume Workshop and Search Job Tips at Greenwood Library**  
Thursday, May 15, 2014, 5:30-7:30 PM

**Introduction to Microsoft Publisher at Atlantic Library**  
Monday, June 9, 2014, 5:30-7:30 PM

**Introduction to Microsoft Publisher Bristow Park Library**  
Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 4:00-6:00 PM

**Introduction to the Internet Greenwood Library**  
Thursday, June 12, 2014, 5:30-7:30 PM

Visit the City of Commerce Public Library at [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org) for your information and entertainment needs.

## Students Take Over City Hall, Learn About the Commerce Community



Picture our Mayor riding a skateboard through the corridors of City Hall, wearing skinny jeans and an Arcade Fire concert t-shirt. While that may be a stretch, one never knows when the City is handed over to high school students for the Annual Student Government Day (SGD), which will be taking place on April 10. The program, which Commerce has been hosting for nearly 30 years, provides students with the opportunity to learn about their local government and motivate them to become more involved in their community.

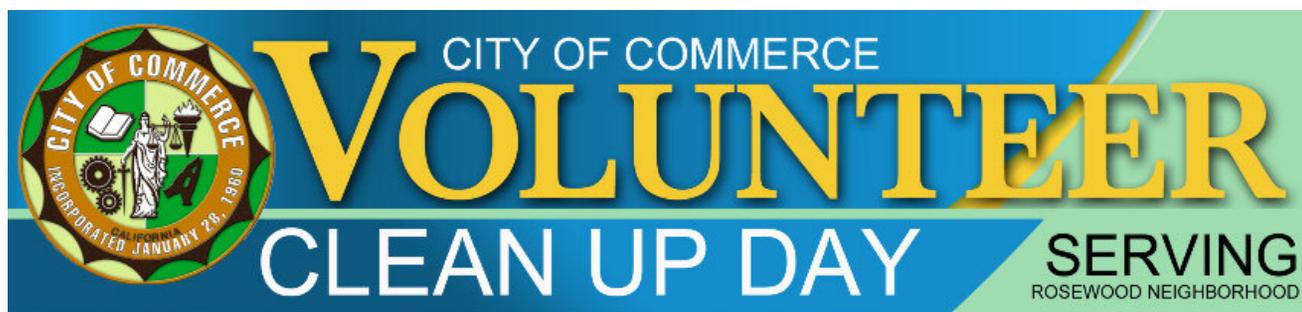
Participants take on the role of elected officials, department heads and staff to learn first-hand the processes of government. To help them understand the scope of work for a particular position, students are assigned a staff member to shadow for the day. Some students deliver reports on projects and events and others provide recommendations on issues such as the budget and public safety.

Organizers hope the interaction will create more informed and involved citizens and voters. "Student Government Day is a wonderful learning experience for our

young residents," said event organizer Lucinda Blancarte. "This program engages our youth and hopefully provides an understanding that will spark an interest to affect change at the local level. Students also have the benefit of learning about careers in public service."

Students selected to be Student City Councilmembers submitted an application that required five signatures from faculty members or community leaders. They were also required to present a speech titled "Why I should be elected to student council." A panel of Parks and Recreation Supervisors judged the speeches and selected the five-student council.

All other positions are appointed by the Student City Council with the assistance of the event organizer. Students will assume their roles and spend about three hours with their counterparts before attending a Student Council Meeting. Shortly thereafter all the participants will enjoy lunch at Steven's Steak and Seafood House and hear from a guest speaker.



## Out With the Old, In With the New

The Volunteer Clean up Day, which was postponed from its original January date due to nearby wildfires negatively impacting air quality, has been rescheduled to coincide with the City's Annual Spring Cleanup. Residents 12 years of age and older are invited to clean up the Rosewood Neighborhood on Saturday, April 5, from 8 a.m. to Noon. Volunteers will help with cleaning tree wells, painting red curbs, removing graffiti and bulky items.

Dumpsters will be located throughout the Commerce neighborhoods so residents can discard bulky items until noon. Locations include the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center, Bristow Park, the Teen Center, Veterans Park and three locations throughout the Rosewood Park neighborhood. Residents may also bring documents for free shredding or drop off their E-Waste in the City Hall parking lot on Commerce Way. E-Waste includes televisions, VCRs,

DVD players, computer monitors, cell phones, appliances, refrigerators, electric stoves, fluorescent lights, car batteries, radios, etc.

At dumpster locations, the City will accept green waste, bulky items including furniture, washers, dryers, mattresses, sofas and couches, toys, lawn equipment, patio furniture, and other miscellaneous items. Household hazardous waste such as paint, pesticides, household cleaners, batteries or construction debris such as concrete, drywall and steel WILL NOT be accepted.

The City would like to thank the event sponsors for their generous donations: CalMet, E-Waste Centers, SafeShred, Central Basin Municipal Water District, Hilton Gardens Montebello, Los Angeles-Commerce Doubletree Hotel and Sterling Meats.

**Only Commerce residents with a resident card or proof of residency may participate in the event.**

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at 323-887-4434.



Residents 18 years and older can register for a day long excursion to the beautiful City of San Diego. Known as the "birthplace of California," San Diego is the second largest city in the State with more than 1.3 million residents. In addition to 70 miles of beautiful coastline, San Diego offers many attractions and is a highly desirable tourist destination. Residents will have the opportunity to explore Old Town, Balboa Park and Seaport Village.

Old Town San Diego has over 30 full service restaurants from traditional Mexican cuisine to Italian, Sushi and other American favorites. The historic site also features several places to shop with unique merchandise including Bazaar del Mundo, Fiesta de Reyes and the Old Town Market.

Hailed as the nation's largest urban cultural park, Balboa Park is home to 15 major museums,

renowned performing arts venues, beautiful gardens and the San Diego Zoo. Admission to the park is free as is the Botanical Building and most of the gardens. Residents will have the opportunity to tour the park at their leisure.



person. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 323-887-4434.

Residents may also choose to explore the 14 acre waterfront complex known as Seaport Village. It features more than 50 diverse shops, 17 unique eateries and plenty of outdoor entertainment. The cobblestone pathways are bordered by ponds, lakes, fountains and colorful, lush landscaping which creates a beautiful backdrop.

This adventure-filled trip is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm.

The cost is \$2.00 per

### Citywide Events and Activities

## Bunny Hop and Easter Egg Hunt



Each year the City invites young residents to search the grounds of Veterans Memorial Park for coveted Easter eggs as part of the holiday festivities. To kick off Easter, the City will host **Tiny's Hopping in the Night on Friday, April 18 from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm** and is exclusively for 2-5 year olds. The kiddos will spend the evening with Peter Cotton Tail making crafts and creating snacks. There will also be a Bunny Hop and an Easter Parade. Parent participation is required. The cost is \$2 and registration begins on Tuesday, April 1 at your local park.

The following morning children 12 and under can scour the park looking for hidden eggs at the **Big Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 19 at 11:00 am sharp!** The Commerce Royal Court will be joined by the Easter Bunny to greet residents and take pictures.

## Women's "Fiesta" Leisure Weekend at Camp Commerce

Camp Commerce will dedicate April 25-27 to celebrating la mujeres as part of their Women's Fiesta Leisure Weekend. Ladies will be able to choose from themed activities including crafts, zumba, aerobics, yoga, hiking and shopping. Saturday night is the designated "Fiesta" dinner and dance. Participants are encouraged to wear their most festive attire. The cost is \$50 for residents and \$100 for industrial residents. The price includes transportation, meals, lodging and access to planned activities. **Space is limited.**

## Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 3 which is when the City will celebrate Cinco de Mayo. One of the largest events in the City, the Cinco de Mayo celebration will be held at Bristow Park from noon to 5:00 pm. Residents will be joined by local dignitaries, community leaders and the newly crowned Miss Commerce and her Royal Court, as well as the Young Man of the Year. The event will feature live Mariachi music, delicious food, free kiddie rides, raffles, piñatas, a boxing show, the "Hot Shot" exhibition games and a wrestling match.

For more information on these events and more, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 323-887-4434.

# The Gallery



## FOND FAREWELL



Senior Management Staff joined the City to honor Director of Public Works and Community Development Alex Hamilton for his dedicated service. Alex is moving on to become the Director of Community Development for the City of Montebello.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION



The Community Services Department has a free food distribution program for income qualified residents. For more information call Community Services at (323) 887-4460.

## BUSINESS IN MOTION



The Commerce Industrial Council partnered with chambers of commerce from Montebello and Pico Rivera for the Networking Breakfast 3.0. From l. to r. Industrial Council Executive Director Eddie Tafoya, Ozzie's Diner Owner Jim Javaheri, Industrial Council Vice President John Pringle and Industrial Council Ambassador Damien Orozco.

## LIBRARY RENOVATION MOVES FORWARD



The Central Library Renovation project is moving forward quickly with a grand opening planned for later this year.

## PENNY LANE RELOCATES



Social and mental health service provider Penny Lane celebrated the grand opening of their new location in the City of Commerce in March. Pictured here is Penny Lane CEO Ivelise Markovitz.

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER SPEAKS AT QUEEN'S BREAKFAST



Miss Commerce and the City's Pageant Steering Committee thank Assemblymember Cristina Garcia for delivering the event's inspiring keynote speech.

## ACCESSORIZING



Jewelry and apparel vendors were on hand with a wide selection of contemporary fashion and accessories. Miss Cinco de Mayo Kimberly Jimenez is pictured picking out her favorites.

## QUEEN'S BREAKFAST



Miss Commerce Shanese Parea welcomes guests and shares the memorable experiences she had throughout her reign.



# APRIL 2014

## COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>May 2014</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><i>"Autism is part of who I am."</i> <b>Temple Grandin</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Senior Citizens Commission 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Video Game Event Bristow Library 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Volunteer/Spring Cleanup 8 a.m. - Noon</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Measure AA Committee 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>English Book Club Transportation Conf. Room 6 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Advisory Commission 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>I-710 Local Advisory Committee 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Community Task Force 3 p.m.</p> <p>Video Game Event Greenwood Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Traffic Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Student Government Day</p> <p>Community Services Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><i>"Non-violence is hard Work. It is the willingness to sacrifice. It is the patience to win."</i> <b>Cesar Chavez</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Relay for Life Veterans Park 9 a.m.</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>Relay for Life Veterans Park</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Education Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Library Embajadores Meeting EOC Room 6 p.m.</p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Video Game Event Atlantic Library 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Scholarship Application Deadline 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Good Friday</p> <p>Tiny's Hopping in the Night Veterans Park 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt Veterans Park 11 a.m.</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Easter</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><i>"We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. We shall endure."</i> <b>Cesar Chavez</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Teen Book Club Atlantic Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Library Commission 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>I-710 Local Advisory Committee 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Spanish Reading Club EOC Room 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Día de los Niños Greenwood Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><i>"Autism is not the tragedy. Ignorance is the tragedy."</i> <b>Unknown</b></p>		



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COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL




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 Joe Aguilar, Councilmember  
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 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	<b>Emergency 911</b>
M-F 8 am to 6 pm (323) 887-4460	
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



## Subscribers Need Set-Top Boxes for Full Range of Services

To ensure Charter subscribers in Commerce have access to a full range of services, all subscribers will need a Charter-issued set-top box for each television in the household.

According to Charter, they have offered to supply Charter customers in Commerce with one additional digital set-top box or one high definition set-top box or one CableCARD at no cost for 12 months.

If you have existing set-top boxes, no action is required. To add a set-top box to any TV currently not equipped, visit the closest Charter Store to pick up a self installation kit that includes simple step-by-step instructions.

The two closest Charter Store locations are **748 E. Valley Boulevard, Alhambra, CA 91801**, which is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and **13300 Whittier Boulevard, Whittier, CA 90602**

which is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also per Charter, some current channels will be moving to a new location and some channels will be removed in order to expand channel, product and service offerings. For more information, visit [www.charter.com/digitalnow](http://www.charter.com/digitalnow) or call 877-959-1680.

## Commerce City Channel 3

### Award winning cablecasts of the Successor Agency Meeting /City Council Concurrent Regular Meeting

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. (Live every 1st and 3rd Tues.) Mondays 8 a.m.

Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Thursdays at 5 p.m., Saturdays at 9 a.m.

### “In A Council Minute” A recap of the City Council Meeting in One Minute

Mondays at 4 p.m., Tuesdays at 9 a.m., Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m., Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 11:00 a.m., Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

### 54th Annual 2014 Miss Commerce Pageant

Mondays at 12 p.m., Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 4 p.m., Thursdays at 3 p.m., Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 6 p.m., Sundays at 8 p.m.

### Commerce City News

Mondays at 4:30 p.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.

### Port of Long Beach

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

### California Green with Huell Howser

Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Thursdays at 1:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 a.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m., Sundays at 12 p.m.

## How to Identify Gas Leaks: **Look, Listen, Smell**



Natural gas is a great resource for keeping your family warm, providing hot water for showers and cooking meals. While gas provides great comfort, it's important to be able to identify leaks to keep you and your family safe, which is why we're sharing these life-saving tips from the Southern California Gas Company website.

For your protection, SoCalGas adds an odorant to give natural gas a distinctive odor so leaks can be more readily detected. However, you should not rely on your sense of smell alone to determine if you have a gas leak

Even though a distinctive odor is added to natural gas to assist in the detection of leaks, you should not rely on just your nose to alert you to the presence of natural gas. There are a number of reasons why your sense of smell may not always let you know that gas is leaking

or has been released. For example, some people may not be able to smell the odor because they have a diminished sense of smell, or are experiencing olfactory fatigue (normal, temporary inability to distinguish an odor after prolonged exposure to it).

In addition, the odor may be masked or hidden by other odors that are present, such as cooking, damp, musty or chemical odors. And certain conditions in pipe and soil may cause odor fade, which is the the loss of odorant so that it is not detectable by smell.

Spotting a dry patch of grass in your yard is one of many signs of a potential gas leak. That's just one example of why you should rely on all of your senses to identify the signs of a potential gas leak.

#### LOOK

- A damaged connection to a gas appliance
- Dirt or water being blown into the air
- Dead or dying vegetation (in an otherwise moist area) over or near pipeline areas
- A fire or explosion near a pipeline
- Exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster

#### LISTEN

- An unusual sound, such as a hissing, whistling or roaring sound near a gas line or appliance

#### SMELL

- The distinctive odor of natural gas

#### What to Do If You Suspect a Gas Leak

Immediately evacuate the area to a safe location and call SoCalGas at 800-427-2200, 24 hours a day seven days a week or call 911.