



Report to the People

Where Quality Service
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Volume 54 No.5 May 2014

THE MODEL CITY

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Miss Commerce 2014 Denize Rodriguez and her Royal Court. From l. to r. are Miss Fourth of July Natalie Melendez, Miss Dodgers/Miss Friendship Chloe Romero, Rodriguez, Miss Clippers Samantha Juaregui, and Miss Cinco de Mayo Mariah Pino.

New Commerce Royal Court is Named

On Saturday, March 22 at the Commerce Hotel and Casino, the City of Commerce crowned their new Queen. Denize Rodriguez, a student at Rio Hondo College, was named the new Miss Commerce at the 54th Annual Miss Commerce Pageant. Rodriguez competed against 13 other young ladies for the prestigious title.

Joining Rodriguez on the Royal Court is Chloe Elizabeth Romero, Miss Dodgers/Miss Friendship; Samantha Ashley Juaregui, Miss Clippers; Natalie Melendez, Miss Fourth of July; and Mariah Pino, Miss Cinco de Mayo. The participants drew numbers from one to fourteen to establish a presentation order. A panel of celebrity judges individually rated each participant on a scale from 1-10, in the categories of beauty, poise, personality, grooming and the ability to communicate effectively. The judges were Rob Dionne, a Nationally rated Physique Competitor and owner of Open Sky Fitness, Renée Victor, stage and screen actress, dancer, singer and choreographer, Joe Camareno, an actor and multi-award winning producer and director, Monica Guzman, Telemundo Novela Actress and Gabriel Chavarria, actor best known for his lead role in the hit series "East Los

High."

Rodriguez plans to transfer to a four year university to pursue a degree in psychology. She balances school with her job as a stylist for BCBG Max Azria at the Citadel Outlets. In her spare time, she volunteers as a tutor at the City's Literacy Center helping students improve their reading, writing and spelling skills. Rodriguez enjoys being a member of the theater group and dance club at Rio Hondo College and modeling for local fashion shows. She also enjoys baking, going to the theater, playing with her dogs and gardening with her grandparents.

The Miss Commerce pageant is deeply rooted in tradition and began with the City's incorporation in 1960. The Queen and Court serve throughout the year as City ambassadors at various functions and social events.

The City would like to thank all their donors and give special recognition to those who donated at the highest level of sponsorship. They are the Commerce Hotel and Casino, Stevens Steak and Seafood House, Elliot Crabtree Photography, Color Image Apparel, Justman Packaging and Display and Rosalie Galloway Martinez, Miss Commerce 1964.

Cinco De Mayo Celebration at Bristow Park



The Cinco de Mayo celebration will feature the Commerce Boxing Club Exhibition.

This annual celebration, which highlights Mexican culture, and heritage, features fun activities, events and local entertainment, as well as a wide variety of Mexican and American cuisine offered by fundraising groups from Commerce's teen and pre-teen clubs, competitive sports teams and civic organizations like the United Family of Bristow.

There will also be carnival rides, karaoke and plenty of other fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Early afternoon highlights include entertainment provided by the Parks & Recreation dance program and competitive dance teams; an 18 bout USA Amateur Boxing event featuring members of the Commerce Boxing Team and the Hot Shots Tee Ball Season Opener, as well as a two day handball tournament.

Featured musical entertainment starts at 3:30 p.m. from the Susie Hansen Latin Jazz Band. Don't forget to register when you arrive to participate in the raffles being held throughout the day.

To celebrate Cinco de Mayo, which honors Mexico's 1862 Battle of Puebla, the City will host the Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Bristow Park on Saturday, May 3 from noon to 5 p.m.

Citadel Sales Projected to Break Half Billion

Steve Craig, President/CEO of Craig Realty Group, Owner and Operator of Citadel Outlets, reported that the Center is poised to break half a billion dollars in taxable sales in 2014, during his presentation at the March 18 City Council Meeting.

Craig's company, which assumed management of the 98,000 square foot property in 2002, transformed the Citadel Outlets by expanding it to 463,000 square feet of retail space featuring 130 stores. In 2014 the Center achieved a high water mark of close to \$450 million in sales. According to Craig, he expects to eclipse that figure this year with \$565 million in projected sales.

"To understand where we are today, you have to understand where we started," said Craig. Originally the iconic landmark, which was the Samson Tire and Rubber Company, later Uniroyal Tire, was constructed in 1930 and redeveloped in 1990 as a mixed-use retail and office space development by the Trammel Crow Company. After Craig Realty Group purchased the property in 2003, it began to grow the outlet center into four phases-including a \$53 million renovation in 2005 that added 35 new stores and another in 2010 that added 36 new stores. Last year Phase IV added a 501-space parking structure and new stores including Disney Outlet, American Eagle and Coach Men's.

"Obviously, there are great brands, new stores and a lot of good architecture all with the future in mind. We tried to create a model that people would want to come back to and tell their friends about," said Craig. He also spoke about the Center's distinctive amenities, like the "Mother's Lounge," VIP Lounge and what Craig referred to as the finest restrooms in the world designed "by women for women." The VIP lounge has proven to be an attraction that has enticed international tour companies to continue making Citadel Outlets a must-visit destination for their tour groups said Craig.

He talked briefly about the 10-ton bow placed on the Citadel Outlets' main building during the 2013 holiday season, a project that took over a year and a million dollars to complete. Craig said he plans to bring the bow back and to make the distinctive winged Lammasu structures atop the Citadel signs even more spectacular this holiday season.

Phase V is in the planning stage and will add new stores in the near future. "We're becoming a force to be reckoned with in the retail world," said Craig.

From The Desk of Jorge Rifá City Administrator

I want to start by welcoming you all to the very exciting month of May, which is full of fun activities for the whole family beginning with our annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Bristow Park on Saturday, May 3 from noon to 5 p.m.

As always this wonderful City event will feature local entertainment, sports events like the 18 bout Commerce boxing exhibition and a wide variety of Mexican and American food. It is a colorful celebration of culture and community and we hope you can join us.

May 1 – 7 is Public Service Recognition Week. On behalf of the Commerce City Council, I want to take this opportunity to thank our City employees for the wonderful job they do for Commerce. In March, we recognized 94 employees, including retirees, with a recognition dinner. These dedicated public servants received service awards for service ranging from 5 to 35 years. This is a testament to their commitment to the City of Commerce.

This month we will also observe May as Asthma Awareness month. Please see the story on page 8 about recognizing the signs of the condition as well as preventative measures you can take.

In March we experienced a 5.3 magnitude earthquake centered in La Habra, which was described by the media as moderate. Although the City Council has been proactive in our approach to emergency preparedness, notably with the recent opening of our new Emergency Operations Center, it is critical that we continue our community education efforts. In this issue you will find an article on earthquake preparedness and two related articles; one on the Blackboard Connect emergency notification system and the Homebound Emergency Services Program designed to help homebound individuals in the event of a major disaster. These services are free and we encourage your participation.

While we are honoring dedication, don't forget that May 8 is Mother's Day. Let's take time to appreciate our mothers, grandmothers, aunts and other significant women in our lives who do so much for us.

We'd also like to thank Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard who recently hosted a Women's Empowerment Forum in our Commerce Council Chambers. The successful event featured a distinguished panel of women who spoke on topics including equal pay and childcare. You can find a recap on page 5.

And finally, our country will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 26. It is a time to remember the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The City of Commerce is the proud home to many Veterans and military families and we are grateful for their sacrifice. In observance of this special holiday, Commerce City Hall and libraries will be closed on Monday, May 26.

Sincerely,
Jorge Rifá

Report to the People

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents

Editing/Writing:
Jason Stinnett
Herlinda Chico

**Graphics Design/
Layout & Printing:**
Anthony Aguilar

PIO Staff:
Darryl Leyden
Marie Hovik
Edward Torres
Joe Sandoval
Adriana Torres

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.

Municipal Notes

Commerce City Council Reorganizes

Commerce City Council members elected Tina Baca Del Rio as Mayor and Lilia R. Leon as Mayor Pro Tem for the next year at the annual reorganization meeting on March 18.

Prior to the reorganization, outgoing mayor Joe Aguilar was presented a plaque in recognition of his service as the City's

mayor from March 2013 to March 2014.

Baca Del Rio was first elected to the City Council in 2005 and reelected in 2009 and 2013. Leon served on the City Council from 1998 to 2001 and was reelected to Council in 2008, 2009, and 2013.

LA County Offering Free Blood Tests for Lead

Commerce residents can get a blood test for lead provided for free from Los Angeles County. The tests are being offered as part of an agreement with the company that owns the Exide battery recycling plant in Vernon following multiple instances of lead emissions in violation of legal limits at the plant located near parts of Commerce.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is making the free tests available to roughly 30,000 residents of the area surrounding the plant, including Commerce, parts of East Los Angeles, Bell, Maywood and Huntington Park. The tests are available through September.

Lead is toxic to adults and children. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control lead exposure poses a heightened threat to children causing intellectual and behavioral deficits.

KPCC Southern California Public Radio, recently reported

that County officials stated that if a test indicates unsafe levels, they will send an inspector and a public health nurse to identify the source of lead in the person's home and get rid of it. Also if necessary, they'll arrange treatment for children found to have dangerously high levels of lead in their system. In the areas near Exide, county officials say contamination from the plant may be a contributor, though the blood tests themselves can only indicate a presence of lead, not where it came from.

Residents interested in having their blood tested for lead can go to one of a dozen laboratories run by Quest Diagnostics within several miles of the plant. Residents first need to call (844) 888-2290. They will then be mailed a form, which must be taken to a lab where they will have their blood drawn. The results take approximately three weeks.

City of Commerce Council Actions

Regular Meeting of April 1

Introduced Miss Commerce 2014 Denize Rodriguez and the Royal Court to the community.

Introduced the student City Council participants for Student Government Day



From l. to r. are Recreation Coordinator Tina Fierro, Student Councilmember Bobbi Nunez, Student Mayor Pro Tem Carina Rodarte, Student Mayor Jonathan Gonzalez, Student Councilmember Jazmin Diaz and Director of Parks and Recreation Scott Wasserman.

Proclaimed April as Autism Awareness Month in the City of Commerce.

Approved the purchase of upgraded security cameras for the Transit Maintenance Facility in an amount not to exceed \$24,837.

Approved changes to the Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace Policy (III-3) and the Education Incentive Bonus Policy (IV-6).

Approved an agreement with Geosyntec Consultants for professional environmental consulting services for a property located on Gage Ave.

Approved plans and specifications for Phase IV of City Project No. 1306-Bus Shelter Installation Project.

Approved a license and hold harmless agreement with Craig Realty Group Citadel LLC for use of Successor Agency owned property for parking purposes.

Received and filed an overview of the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Budget.

Approved a public records request procedure and corresponding fees.

Approved an agreement with Intellibridge Partners for interim planning related services.

Approved a resolution in opposition to Assembly Bill 2189 which calls for assessment related to Water Replenishment Districts.

Regular Meeting of March 18

Introduced new Community Services Director Matthew Rodriguez.

Received and filed a presentation from Paola Bravo, CEO of S. Bravo Systems, which is located in the City of Commerce.

Approved the issuance of an RFP for the purchase of a compressed natural gas (CNG) service truck.

Approved a grade crossing construction and maintenance agreement with BNSF Railway Company and Chalmers Corporation, dba C.E.G. Construction Company.

Approved the first amendment to an agreement with United Pacific Services Incorporated for interim tree maintenance services and request for proposals for tree maintenance services.

Approved an agreement with Intellibridge Partners for interim public affairs/recall consultant services.

Received and filed a presentation from Steve Craig, managing partner of Craig Realty on the economic performance of the Citadel Outlets.

Received and filed a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 initial general fund projected numbers.

Appointed Susana Larios to the Education Commission.

Appointed Blanca Ramos to the Youth Advisory Commission.

Adjourned in memory of Donald Allen Wilson of Greensboro, North Carolina, father of Kathleen Jackson, transportation grants consultant for the Washington Boulevard Improvement Project.



Earthquake Preparedness

Nerves were rattled recently as Southern California experienced a series of serious shakers. In an effort to ready residents for the next earthquake, RTTP is sharing information provided by the Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA), a public-private partnership of people, organizations and regional alliances that work together to improve preparedness. The ECA's motto is Prepare – Before, Survive – During, and Recover – After. Residents can learn how to do this by following the seven following steps to Earthquake Safety:

PREPARE

Step 1: Secure your space by identifying hazards and securing movable items – Moving furniture such as bookcases away from beds, sofas or other places where people sit, sleep or spend a lot of time. Identify and fix things such as unsecured televisions, computers, bookcases, furniture, unstrapped water heaters, etc.

Step 2: Plan to be safe by creating a disaster plan and deciding how you will communicate in an emergency – Make sure that your emergency plan includes evacuation and reunion plans; your out-of-state contact person's name and number; the location of your emergency supplies and other pertinent information.

Step 3: Organize disaster supplies in convenient locations – Everyone should have disaster supply kits stored in accessible locations at home, at work and in your vehicle. Kits should include food, water, flashlights, portable radios, batteries, a first aid kit, cash, extra medications, a whistle, fire extinguisher, etc. Backpacks or other small bags are best they can be easily carried if evacuation becomes necessary.

Step 4: Minimize financial hardship by organizing important documents and considering insurance – You may need to leave your house quickly so have a “grab and go” backpack or bag with critical information. Consider copies of identification, copies of identification and insurance cards, emergency contact numbers and



photos of belongings in your home to help when filing an insurance claim. Keep them in a sealed plastic bag in an accessible location.

SURVIVE AND RECOVER

Step 5: Drop, cover and hold on when the earth shakes – Taking the proper actions, such as “Drop, Cover and Hold On” can save lives and reduce the risk of injury. Dropping down onto your hands and knees (before the earthquake knocks you down) protects you from falling but allows you to still move. Cover your head and neck (and entire body if possible) under a sturdy table or desk. Hold On to your shelter (or to your head and neck) until the shaking stops.

Step 6: Improve safety after earthquakes by evacuating if necessary, helping the injured and preventing further injuries or damage – The moment the ground stops shaking it is important to take action quickly and safely. Evacuate to higher ground if a tsunami is possible. If not, check for injuries and damages that

need immediate attention. Use your training in first aid to assist those in need. Look around your environment to identify any new hazards such as leaking gas lines, damage to the building, water or electric lines, especially if there are aftershocks. Be prepared to report damage to city or county government.

Step 7: Reconnect and restore, restore daily life by reconnecting with others, repairing damage and rebuilding community – Once you have dealt with the urgent and immediate needs after an earthquake, continue to follow the plan you prepared in advance. Communication will be important so turn on your portable radio for information. Following aftershocks, continue to check for gas leaks, chemical spills, damaged electrical wiring and broken water pipes.

For detailed information about what to prepare for an earthquake, visit the Earthquake Country Alliance website at www.earthquakecountry.org.



Register for City Emergency Notifications

The City's free Blackboard Connect emergency notification service gives the City the ability to reach residents with crucial information in minutes.

Registration is easy and takes less than a minute. Residents can choose to be reached via voice, text, email or social networks. The Commerce Emergency Preparedness Office encourages all Commerce residents to register with the City's Blackboard Connect service. To register, call Assistant Emergency Preparedness Officer Miguel Romero at (323) 887-4460 ext. 2809.

Commerce Spring Cleaning in Full Bloom



A youth volunteer plants a flower at Rosewood Park during the Commerce Volunteer Clean-Up Day.

Dozens of volunteers gathered last month to clean up the Rosewood Park neighborhood at the Volunteer Clean-Up Day held in conjunction with the annual Spring Clean-Up.

Residents showed up at various locations to dispose of bulky items and electronic waste while volunteers from the Commerce Girl Scouts Troops #13591, the Commerce Crush Volleyball Team and Commerce teen and pre teen clubs planted and cleaned up alongside community leaders like Community Services Commissioner Ernesto Gonzalez. “This is a great opportunity to get our youth involved in the community by coming out and beautifying our neighborhoods,” he said.

CalMet, the City's contracted refuse collection and recycling pickup provider donated seven large dumpsters placed throughout the City for residents to dispose of bulky items.

Commerce business SafeShred was also onsite to destroy old documents free of charge, as was E-Waste Center which helped residents dispose of electronic waste including televisions, VCRs, computer monitors, cell phones and more.

The City would like to thank SafeShred and E-Waste Center along with the other event sponsors who were Central Basin Municipal Water District, Sterling Meats, Hilton Gardens Montebello and Doubletree Hotel Commerce.

Homebound Emergency

Service Program



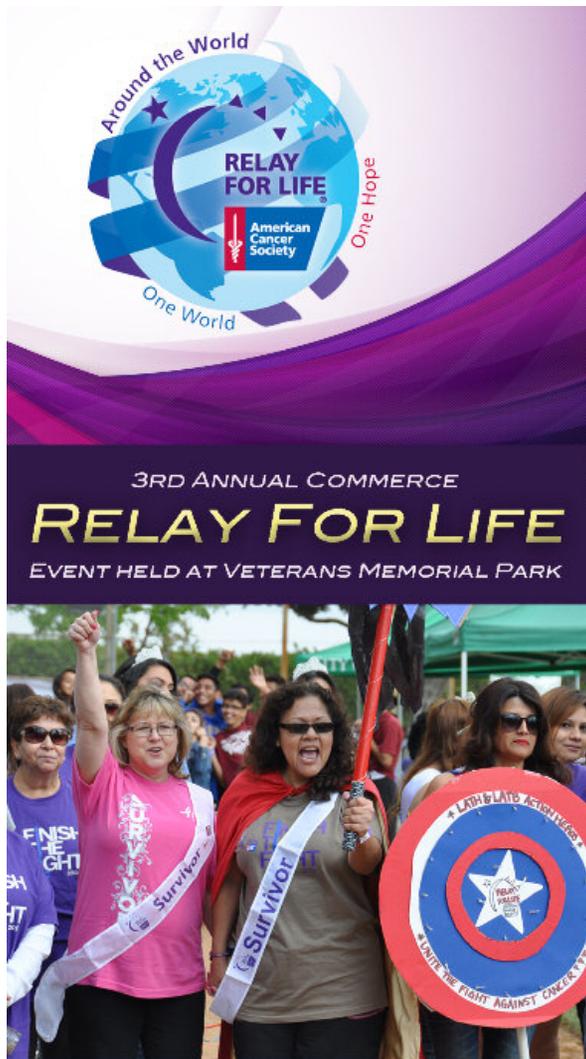
The City of Commerce Department of Community Services Social Services and Emergency Preparedness Divisions encourage residents with special needs to register for the free Homebound Emergency Service Program.

The program provides personal contact and emergency services to Commerce residents with physical or mental disabilities who may need assistance to ensure their safety during an emergency situation or disaster such as an earthquake.

Residents who register for the program will provide their personal contact information, which will be on file with emergency first responders during an emergency or disaster.

Residents with mental or physical disabilities and/or a significant lack of mobility, such as being bed or wheelchair bound, are eligible and can benefit from the program in the event of an emergency.

For more information or to register yourself or a family member, please contact the Community Services Department's Social Services Division at (323) 887-4460.



Hundreds of people participated in the 3rd Annual Commerce Relay For Life Event held at Veterans Memorial Park. During the 24 hour event, which raised nearly \$40,000 teams took turns walking laps with a member of each team on the track at all times. While there were plenty of fun-filled activities for the entire family, the event is designed to celebrate the lives of those who have faced cancer and remember loved ones who lost the battle.

During opening ceremonies, the crowd heard stories from survivors Christine Barajas Chico and Sandra Jimenez followed by the survivor's lap which kicked off the relay. The Commerce Relay For Life event raised thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society and their efforts to eliminate cancer through cancer research, education, advocacy and service. Organizers would like to thank the Commerce Hotel and Casino, the Citadel Outlets, Stevens Steak and Seafood House, Del Taco and the Bell Gardens High School Track and Field team and Cheer Squad for their contributions.



Finding Inspiration at the Library

Commerce Senior Librarian, Sonia Bautista, recently received the "Woman of Distinction" Award from Assemblymember Cristina Garcia for her tireless work to promote librarianship for Latinos in the United States.

Sonia's enthusiasm and dedication to the community is evident in the popularity of the programs and services she coordinates. Among her many duties, Sonia ensures that the library's collection of Spanish language books and materials meet the community's needs. Sonia has taken this work outside the scope of her job and is committed to providing the Latino community with access to exceptional library services.

"The City of Commerce is where I began my professional career as a librarian and I am thankful that I've been given the opportunity to work directly with the public and help bring great events to the community," said Bautista. "I guess I would consider myself a walking advertisement for libraries. I love sharing and seeing the faces people make when I tell them all the free resources libraries offer."

While there are many Latinos that visit public libraries in the United States, very few degreed librarians are Latino. Her passion for pub-

lic libraries and librarianship led her to get involved with, REFORMA, The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking. She has been actively involved with REFORMA for seven years and is currently the Southwest Chapter Representative which represents chapters in five southwest states including California, Arizona and New Mexico.

Through REFORMA, Sonia has traveled to Mexico to work with librarians who want to learn new skills and ideas to help bring the public into their library. She also provides workshops for southern Californian librarians on enhancing library programs to better serve the Latino community, she has volunteered at local LAUSD schools to encourage children to read and she has served as a workshop presenter at the California Library Association (CLA) conference.

Sonia continues to organize scholarship fundraisers to help Latinos pay for graduate school. She also organizes workshops for parents and high school students on topics such as financial aid and FAFSA. The City of Commerce and the community at large is fortunate to have a ded-



Commerce Librarian Sonia Bautista received a "Woman of Distinction" award from Assemblymember Cristina Garcia's Office.



COMMERCE LIBRARY NEWS

Free Computer Classes

To provide Library patrons with E-learning opportunities the Commerce Public Library System is offering free computer classes at Commerce Libraries. For more information or to sign up, visit the Atlantic, Bristow Park, Greenwood or Central Library reference desk or call at 323 722-6660 ext. 2824.

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
at 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

LEGO Building Program on May 17

The Library will host the LEGO Building Program on Sat., May 17 at 10 a.m. at the Atlantic Branch Library. The event will feature over 10,000 pieces of large, medium and small building blocks for children of all ages to build and create whatever they want! Racing ramp to race your creations against your friends! Cool music! Refreshments and raffle prizes! Fun for the whole family!

Visit the City of Commerce Public Library at www.cocpl.org for your information and entertainment needs.

Prevent West Nile Virus

In April Commerce and other cities throughout California partnered with State legislators to declare April 20 through April 26 as West Nile Virus and Mosquito & Vector Control Awareness Week with the goal of reducing risks of serious mosquito-transmitted disease this summer.

"This is an opportunity for our district to emphasize the importance of mosquito control and disease prevention," says Kelly Middleton, Director of Community Affairs for Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD). "Increasing mosquito activity in Los Angeles County is a reminder that the summer mosquito breeding season is here and residents need to take measures to protect against mosquito bites and disease transmission."

West Nile virus is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can lead to serious illness and even death in humans, horses, birds, and wildlife. The Asian tiger mosquito is a dangerous invasive species recently found in the cities of El Monte and South El Monte that is capable of spreading diseases such as dengue fever and chikungunya in our communities. Eliminating this mosquito is a tough, yet critically important challenge that requires everyone's help to keep our communities healthy and safe this year.

Here are some ways you can protect yourself from the threat of mosquitoes:

- Are you getting mosquito bites during the day? It could be a sign that Asian tiger mosquitoes are nearby. Report any daytime bites to us at 562-944-9656 or online at glacvcd.org.
- Do you notice dirty, green pools or other potential mosquito breeding sources in your community? Let us know! We do FREE inspections and can help many people solve mosquito issues in their neighborhood. Call us at 562-944-9656 or online at glacvcd.org.
- Take a few minutes and walk around your property EVERY WEEK. Dump out buckets, saucers, and other items that are holding water.
- If families are outdoors when mosquitoes are active, apply insect repellent. The most effective repellents contain active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or Oil of lemon eucalyptus (PMD). Always apply according to label instructions.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Invite us to your next event at a church, fair or organization. We love to educate the community!

For more information, call the GLACVCD at 562-944-9656 or email commaffairs@glacvcd.org.

Congresswomen Host Panel on Women's Economic Agenda



From l. to r. are Renee Martinez President of Los Angeles Community College, California State Senator Holly Mitchell, Congresswoman Janice Hahn, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Moderator Kimberly Freeman, and Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) Executive Director Patricia Castellanos.

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, who represents the City of Commerce, recently held a discussion in partnership with her Congressional colleagues Rep. Grace Napolitano and Rep. Janice Hahn, titled When Women Succeed, America Succeeds, promoting an economic agenda for women. Over 200 people filled the Commerce Council Chambers to participate in the discussion which focused on the Women's Economic Agenda's three main pillars: Work & Family Balance, Affordable Child Care, and Equal Pay, as well as actions that can be taken to address these issues.

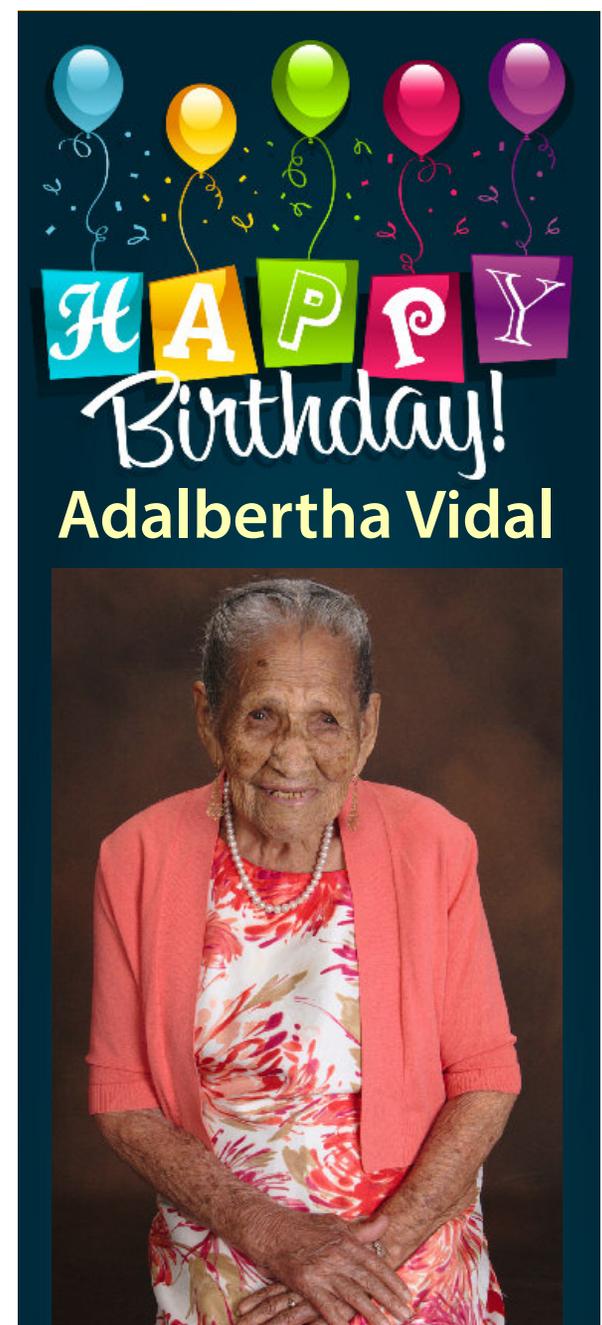
"Women work twice as hard and are still earning less," Napolitano said. "Equal pay would provide needed security and would put more money back into the local economy, which is good for individuals, families, and businesses. Believe in yourselves, mentor other women, and get involved. You need to not only help elect candidates that support these critical women's issues, but write those who do not, and hold them accountable."

"Today nearly half of all workers in America are women, and 40 percent of working women are the primary breadwinners in their

families," said Congresswoman Roybal-Allard. "It is unacceptable that women on average receive 77 cents for every dollar paid to male workers."

"Today, women across the country are facing unprecedented economic insecurity," said Congresswoman Hahn. "Right now, 42 million women and the 28 million children who rely on them are living in poverty or on the brink of poverty. Too many of us in this room know what it means to live paycheck to paycheck and not have the flexibility at work to care for your family."

The event, which was streamed online also included a prestigious panel of speakers including California State Senator Holly Mitchell; Los Angeles City Community College President, Renee D. Martinez; UCLA Assistant Dean for Diversity Initiatives & Community Relations, Kimberly Freeman; LAANE Executive Director, Patricia Castellanos; and local residents.



Bristow Park neighborhood resident Adalbertha Vidal celebrated her 100th birthday on April 23rd. A Commerce resident for the last 25 years, Adalbertha is spry and energetic despite having reached the century mark. "She still cooks, irons and washes for my dad Octavio. On weekends she even uses the stationary bike," said Adalbertha's grandson Art Juarez, adding that in addition to being in great physical condition, she's also very sharp mentally and keeps everyone in the family on their toes.

Her secret? "She loves her garden," said Juarez who helps her maintain a garden of flowers, fruits and vegetables. "She loves being outside to water her plants and turn the soil. She worries about her plants," he said, adding that she even uses recaptured rain water to keep her garden healthy.

Putting her green thumb to use isn't the only thing Adalbertha enjoys. A mother of thirteen, she likes spending time with her family of four generations, which has plenty of grandchildren and great grandchildren, all of whom celebrated her 100th birthday at a party on April 26 at El Dorado Regional Park in Long Beach. "It was a special day for her and the whole family," said Juarez.

The City Council presented Adalbertha with a certificate to acknowledge this milestone event and to wish her a happy 100th birthday on behalf of the City of Commerce. "I want to thank the City Council for honoring my grandmother. We knew it would be a great surprise for her and it has made our entire family proud of her being a part of the City of Commerce."

Q&A Literacy Services Volunteer Tutoring

Q. What are the benefits of tutoring?

A. Becoming a volunteer tutor is a great way to give back to your community and it's a great addition to your resume, and any scholarships you pursue. Many businesses and colleges look at volunteerism as an asset and an indicator of an applicant's maturity and willingness to help others.

Q. How can I become a volunteer for the City of Commerce Library Literacy Services?

A. In order to serve as a volunteer, you must agree to a personal background check, having your fingerprints taken, and having a TB test done. You must also complete 12 hours of tutor training.

Q. How much time do I need to commit to?

A. Yes. We would like a six month commitment from each Adult Literacy tutor. For the Commerce Kids Read! Program (CKR) tutor the minimum commitment is one complete session. See information below:

Spring (February – May) approximately 16 weeks

Summer (July – August) six weeks only

Fall (October – December) approximately 11 weeks

Q. What if I've never tutored before?

A. The tutor training you'll receive will give you the tools you will need to tutor adult or school-aged children improve their reading and writing. At the training you will receive a tutor manual that you will use with your students. You will also be able to practice the techniques you learned in the tutor training sessions before you are given a student or a group of students for the CKR program.

Q. How many students will I be working with?

A. Adult literacy tutors work with one adult at a time. CKR tutors

work with 3-5 children in a small group setting.

Q. What does it take to be a good tutor?

A. You need patience, a willingness to help another person and the ability to lead the tutoring session. Remember, praise your students for every success, no matter how minor!

Q. What will I teach my student(s)?

A. Your goal is to help them read independently and with increased understanding. You will read to them and with them. You will also work on vocabulary building, phonics, word-attack skills, comprehension, and writing.

Q. Where does the tutoring take place?

A. All tutoring is done at the Library Literacy Center which is located next to the Commerce Central Library.

Q. When do I start to tutor?

A. If you will be tutoring an adult learner, you will be paired with a student that matches your availability or schedule.

CKR sessions are offered throughout the year. See the schedule below:

Spring (February – May) approximately 16 weeks

Summer (July – August) six weeks only

Fall (October – December) approximately 11 weeks

Q. When do the classes meet for the CKR Program?

A. The classes meet one hour each day on the following days: Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday

Q. What time are the classes scheduled to meet for the CKR Program?

The Gallery



LEADERS OF THE FUTURE



To learn about government and possible career paths, local high school student participants in the City's annual Student Government Day program on April 10 these future leaders took on the roles of City staff and councilmembers for the day.

SPEAKING FOR THE TREES



Local students at Rosewood School and Bandini Elementary learned about and celebrated the importance of trees at the Annual Arbor Day Celebration sponsored by the City of Commerce.

BEAUTIFYING COMMERCE



Members of Commerce Girl Scout Troop 13591 helped beautify the City by planting flowers and other plants at the Volunteer Day of Service/Spring Clean-Up held on April 5.

THE FACES OF PUBLIC SAFETY



City of Commerce public safety team helps keep businesses and neighborhoods safe by augmenting patrols and other public safety services.

CRUSH CLEANS UP



Members of the Commerce Crush Volleyball Team and City staff pose for a photo in front of one of seven roll off bins provided by CalMet for the Commerce Volunteer Clean-Up Day/Spring Clean-Up.

BUSINESSES GIVING BACK



Commerce businesses like E-Waste Centers and Safeshred volunteered their services to help residents safely dispose of electronic waste and old documents at the Volunteer Day of Service/Spring Clean-Up. Pictured here is Commerce resident Saul Mendoza with a Safeshred worker.

ARTISTIC SENIORS



The Commerce Senior Center held an art show in March. Pictured here is Commerce senior Irma Flores showing off two of her art pieces from the show.

HELPING HANDS



Social Services Coordinator Ed Saucedo and Commerce senior citizen volunteer Eddie Espinoza hard at work putting together packages for the Commerce Food Distribution Program. For more information call the Social Services Division at (323) 887-4460.



MAY 2014

COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF ROSEWOOD PARK PRESENTES</p> <p>THE 16TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW</p> <p>AND LUNCHEON</p> <p>Saturday, May 17 at 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Steven's Steak and Seafood House 5332 Steven's Place, Commerce</p> <p>\$25 per person</p> <p>For tickets, call Sandy Cornejo (323) 726-8170 or Teresa Cruz (323) 767-7895</p>			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

June 2014

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					



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.

Measure AA Advisory Committee Date and Time TBD For Info Call (323) 887-4453

Where Quality Service Is Our Tradition

COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL




Tina Baca Del Rio, Mayor
Lilia R. Leon, Mayor Pro Tem
Joe Aguilar, Councilmember
Ivan Altamirano, 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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Breathe Easy: May is Asthma Awareness Month

Asthma is a chronic lung disease that affects an estimated 16.4 million adults and 7.1 million children in the United States. Although the exact cause of asthma is unknown and it cannot be cured, it can be controlled with self-management education, appropriate medical care and avoiding exposure to environmental triggers.

Sadly, one out of every 10 school-aged children has asthma, which is a leading cause of hospital emergency department visits and school absenteeism. In response to these alarming statistics, and in an effort to raise public awareness of the risks faced everyday by Americans living with asthma the City of Commerce is joining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to participate in Asthma Awareness Month and World Asthma Day.

Commerce is a transportation hub and therefore uniquely keen to environmental impacts. The City has been proactive in finding ways to decrease its environmental footprint, such as transitioning the City bus fleet to compressed natural gas. Asthma continues to be a serious public health problem.

- Asthma prevalence is higher among persons with family income below the poverty level.
- Almost 14 million people reported having an asthma attack in a recent government survey.
- African Americans continue to have higher rates of asthma emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths.
- Approximately 3 million Hispanics in the U.S. have asthma.
- Asthma is the third-ranking cause of hospitalization among children under 15.
- 10.5 million school days are missed each year due to asthma.
- The annual economic cost of asthma amounts to more than \$56 billion annually.

For more information on EPA's Asthma Program and Asthma Awareness Month, log on to the www.epa.gov/asthma or to find statistics compiled by the CDC, visit www.cdc.gov/asthma.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

Important Phone Numbers Utilities, Service Providers and Quality of Life Issues

To assist residents in finding important information from local service and utility providers, as well as what agency to call regarding quality of life issues in your neighborhood, City staff has compiled the following list of phone numbers that can be cut out and saved for future reference.

Local Utilities

California Water Service Co.: (323) 722-8601
Southern California Edison: (800) 655-4555
Southern California Gas Co.: (800) 427-2200

Service Providers

AT&T Uverse: (800) 310-2355
Charter Communications: (866) 499-8080
Direct TV (800) 531-5000
Verizon: (800) 483-3000

Environmental Issues

California Air Resources Board:
Idling locomotives, commercial vehicles
(800) 363-7664
California Department of Toxic Substances Control:
(800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/CalEPA_Complaint/index.cfm
California South Coast Air Quality Management District:
(909) 396-2000

Graffiti

Commerce Graffiti Hotline: (323) 887-4444

Animal Control

Mon.-Fri.
Commerce Public Safety Division: (323) 887-4460
Weekends/Evenings
Los Angeles County Animal Control: (562) 940-6898

Railroad Issues

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad: (800) 795-2673
Union Pacific Railroad: (800) 848-8715

Interstate Highways/Freeways

CA Department of Transportation/Caltrans: (916) 654-5266

Refuse Collection/Bulky Item Pickup

CalMet Services Inc.: (562) 259-1239

Tree and Street Maintenance

Commerce Public Works & Development Services:
Street lights, potholes and traffic signals (323) 887-4451

In the event of an emergency or life threatening situation, always call 911 immediately!

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.

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.

Cinco de Mayo Community Celebration

(Live Broadcast on May 3th, 2014 at 12p.m. to 5p.m.)

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.

Port of Long Beach

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

Vintage Vehicle Show - Shows include:

"Golden Super Cruise" Tuesdays at 3 p.m.
"Los Angeles Car Show" Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
"Simpson's Nursery" Thursdays at 8 a.m.

The Vintage Vehicle Show

"Louie Fest Car Show" Saturdays at 8 a.m.

Cheap Eats

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.