



# Report to the People

Where Quality Service  
Is Our Tradition

Volume 54 No.7 July 2014

THE MODEL CITY

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## ROLLED STEEL PRODUCTS

Committed to Quality and Family

From l. to r. are Raul Rodriguez, Mark Arrants, Lonnie Alperson, Ruben Olvera, Steve Alperson and Jesus Chacon.

**R**olled Steel Products (RSP) was founded in Commerce in 1951 to process steel for use in manufacturing a wide variety of products.

Originally located on Supply Avenue, the business was sold in 1973 to the Alperson family who still owns and operates RSP today. "We're committed to provide the best quality and service we can," said President Steve Alperson, who along with his brother and Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer Lonnie Alperson, are at the heart of Rolled Steel's way of doing business.

RSP is an industry leader and unique among west coast distributors in steel service. The material they fabricate is used in commercial products familiar to most consumers, such as laptop computers, barbecues, steel office furniture, home hardware and even Fender guitars. They also manufacture steel tread plates used on fire trucks, as well as steel used in manufacturing parts and materials that demand precision specifications for the automobile and aerospace industries.

This precision workmanship is something that RSP is known for as evidenced by their certification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The ISO provides standards and practices to help make industry more efficient while

breaking down trade barriers through global consensus.

While quality is a priority at Rolled Steel, it isn't the only one. The family-like environment cultivated by this family-owned business is a strong part of their organizational culture. This sense of family connects their 60 person workforce. Close to half have worked for the company for 20 years or more and in some cases they've even followed in their parents' footsteps as RSP employees.

"It's been good here," said Daniel Idzell, a 44 year employee who supervises the maintenance shop and whose father worked at RSP. "They've taken care of me so I take care of them. I feel like more than just a worker here."

While the size of their workforce is modest, it is productive. "We have a small crew that does excellent work. That's a necessity because we can't afford any down time," said Lonnie of the more than three million pounds of material RSP ships every month.

According to Lonnie, the productivity and quality of the steel produced by their workforce is enhanced by RSP's state-of-the-art equipment. This allows them to increase the

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## Program Provides Students Path to College; Mentors Opportunity to Give Back

**A** total of 121 Montebello Unified School District students graduated from high school last month and completed the five semester College Bound Today program, said Dan Clement, Co-founder of the College Bound Today Mentoring program.

Established in 2008, the program has produced numerous success stories. Georgetown, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Yale and nine other private colleges will be the destination for 14% of this year's graduating students, while 10% plan to attend community colleges and 1% will attend an out of state public college. Only one student of the 121 remains undecided.

The largest number of students totaling 74%, will be attending University of California or California State University

Schools. Those schools include UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, and UC San Diego and Cal State schools like LA, Fullerton and San Francisco State.

Even more impressive is 78% of the graduating seniors are the first generation in their families to attend college, while 88% come from low-income families. "College Bound Today strives to help each and every student who is selected by MUSD high schools to enroll in our program and we are pleased to serve so many low-income first-generation college goers," said Clement.

Since it began, the program has continued to help students at Bell Gardens, Montebello and Schurr High School successfully reach college. Earlier this year, the program expanded into the

Continued on page 8

## La Causa- Youthbuild Provides Hope for the Future

**L**os Angeles Communities Advocating for Unity, Social Justice, and Action, Inc. (LA CAUSA) is an organization that serves disenfranchised youth and their families from the greater East Los Angeles Area.

In partnership with YouthBuild Charter School of California (YCSC), LA CAUSA empowers youth through education and workforce development.

Using a project based model, the instructors use innovative teaching techniques, computer technology, and current events to engage students in the classroom and around the community with the goal of earning a high school diploma.

YouthBuild is not a school but a unique program specific to low-income young people who have dropped out of high school completely and are between the ages of 16 - 24. Unlike traditional schools that employ a standardized curriculum, students are empowered to take what they learn in the classroom into their communities to promote social justice through volunteerism and advocacy.

At the end of each trimester, students work together with teachers to create a culminating community action project.

These projects have included a Health Fair in Lennox, adding fresh food options to a liquor store in East Los Angeles, and a Town Hall event in Boyle Heights calling for an end to sheriff violence in L.A. County jails.

YouthBuild also partners with local community-based organizations to provide students with counseling services, college preparation, leadership development, vocational training, and the unique opportunity to revitalize their communities while earning school credit by building low-income housing.

"This program is for our youth who have been cast aside when traditional high school didn't work," said Sonia Sanchez, Executive Director of LA CAUSA YouthBuild. "We have high expectations but also provide a high level of support. We've seen these young people show their true potential and what they are really made of when given the right environment."

Prior to students even being enrolled in the program they must endure a rigorous two-week long mental toughness orientation. This includes physical, team-building and self-reflection activities to challenge the individuals and ensure they are fully aware of the commitment to the

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## From The Desk of Jorge Rifá City Administrator

Our Independence Day Celebration is the City's biggest annual event. As always we will feature outstanding local entertainers from the City's dance programs, fun activities and a spectacular fireworks show, which is always a huge hit with the community.

This year also marks the start of a new tradition: The City of Commerce Hall of Champions. The City Council has established the public area inside of the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center as the location to memorialize the accomplishments of our City's greatest athletes. The City will be dedicating three plaques this Independence Day starting with four-time Olympian and Olympic Gold Medalist Brenda Villa.

Also being inducted are Villa's fellow Commerce Aquatics alumni Sergio Macias and Priscilla Orozco Ibarra. Macias was a record setter and outstanding player at both Bell Gardens High School and Whittier College. Today he is the head Women's Water Polo Coach at Cerritos College and has led the team to the highest levels of competition in the State.

Priscilla Orozco Ibarra helped lead Commerce to four National Championships and won two National Most Valuable Player Awards. Priscilla's outstanding play continued in high school, as well as college where she helped the UCLA Bruins win back-to-back NCAA Women's Water Polo championships. While these snippets of their accomplishments do not tell the whole story of their outstanding careers, we encourage you to learn more by visiting the Hall of Champions.

We also encourage residents to join the Summer Reading Program offered by the Commerce Public Library System. The SRP holds fun events and activities for children and their families to help young people and adults retain and improve their reading and comprehension skills over the summer.

Speaking of academic achievements, the City's Preschool program serves as a bridge to programs and services designed to help children advance academically and socially. Check out page four for pictures of the graduation ceremony.

The City of Commerce partners with other agencies and organizations whenever possible to benefit the public. This month we wanted to shine a light on two local programs that provide opportunities to young people that face different kinds of challenges.

La Causa YouthBuild is a program that provides education and workforce training to young men and women ages 16 to 24, who have dropped out of high school. The benefit of programs such as this one is that they give young people a second chance to pursue an education and build a career. Read more about it on page 1.

Another local program highlighted in this month's RTTP is the College Bound Today Mentoring Program, which pairs adult mentors with Montebello Unified School District students to help them chart a successful path to college. We encourage students to apply for the program and adults to become mentors. It's a great way to invest in Commerce's future. See the full story on page 1.

On behalf of the City Council, have a fun and safe Independence Day. Remember that City Hall and Commerce libraries will be closed on Friday, July 4th in observance of the holiday.

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](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us).

## Municipal Notes Metro Seeks Community Input on Light Rail Transit Project

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) gave a presentation on the proposed Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project at the May 20 Council Meeting.

Two Light Rail Transit (LRT) routes are currently under review, one of which is Washington Boulevard. The project goal is to improve the region's public transit service and mobility by providing a connection to the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. Metro hopes this connection will improve the needs of residents who are transit dependent while promoting sustainable communities.

Metro is working together with the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers as well as Caltrans to ensure environmental coordination. The community is encouraged to get involved by attending station planning workshops, scoping meetings and participate in light rail transit webinars.

Metro will conduct open houses for communities along the pro-

posed alignments before releasing the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Impact Report (EIS/EIR) anticipated to be released this Summer. There will be a 60 day comment period and public hearings will be held in neighboring cities. The Metro Board will determine whether the project moves into the next phase of the study, which is the final Environmental Impact Study.

To stay up to date on the project, below is a list of resources:

**Phone:** (213) 922-2606

**E-mail:** [eastsidephase2@metro.net](mailto:eastsidephase2@metro.net)

**Project Website:** [metro.net/eastsidephase2](http://metro.net/eastsidephase2)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/metroeastsidephase2](https://www.facebook.com/metroeastsidephase2)

**Twitter:** @Eastsidephase2

**Interactive Map:**

[www.interactive.metro.net/projects/eastside\\_phase2](http://www.interactive.metro.net/projects/eastside_phase2)

### Regular Meeting of June 3

**Approved** an American with Disabilities Act Grievance Policy.

**Approved** revisions to the Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan to create new classifications and set salary level for Senior Facility Maintenance Lead Worker and Performing Arts Specialist positions.

**Approved** the purchase of Six (6) Mobile Digital Computer-Equipped Community Services Officer Vehicles from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

**Approved** an Agreement with Wilmington Trust, N.A. for Successor Trustee/Fiscal Agent Services.

**Approved** the purchase of Two (2) Sheriff's Portable Radios, Four (4) Satellite Phones, and One (1) Animal Control Truck to be paid for with Measure AA funds.

**Approved** Parcel Map No. 72186 for the property at the Northeast Corner of Washington Boulevard and Telegraph Road.

**Approved** the Second Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with the Gateway Cities Council of Governments for design and construction of the Truck Impacted Intersection Project Phase II: Washington Boulevard/Ayers Intersection Improvements.

**Approved** a new logo for the City of Commerce Public Library for branding and marketing purposes.

**Received** and filed a presentation on the Emergency Preparedness efforts of City staff.

**Approved** recommendations for Sergio Macias and Priscilla Orozco Ibarra to be inducted into the City of Commerce "Hall of Champions" located in the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center. Council also approved the induction of Brenda Villa.

**Approved** the Information Technology Infrastructure Upgrade Project.

**Approved** facilitation services for implementation of the Green Zones Policy by MIG Consulting.

### Regular Meeting of May 20

**Hosted** a special candle lighting ceremony honoring the five branches of military service and memorial ceremony to honor those killed or missing in action.



**Accepted** a \$250 donation to the City of Commerce Public Library from the Commerce Industrial Council Board of Directors.

**Received** and filed a presentation on services provided by non-profit organization La Causa Youthbuild.

**Proclaimed** May 2014 as "CalFresh Awareness Month."

**Approved** revisions to the City's Overtime Policy.

**Approved** a retainer agreement with Susan M. Woolley for Personnel Investigative Services.

**Approved** an agreement with Rick Larson, DBA World Amusements for Carnival Services for the 4th of July Celebration.

**Approved** the purchase of a compressed natural gas (CNG) powered bus to operate the Metrolink 26th Street commuter shuttle service.

**Approved** a Water Right Lease and Agreement with the City of Whittier for FY 2014-2015.

**Presented** award certificates and prizes to the winners of the Library Services Department 2014 Children's Bookmark and Essay Contest: Kindergarten/1st grade Kendall Jackson; Grade 2-3 Viviana Aguayo; Grade 4-5 Emely Ochoa; Grade 6-8 Sydney Garcia; Grade 9-12 Gabriela Santos.



**Authorized** the destruction of specific records consistent with California Government Code 34090.

**Approved** a revised services agreement with Pyro Spectaculars, Inc. for fireworks services for the 4th of July Celebration.

**Received** and filed a presentation by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) on the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project.

**Approved** an agreement with Multimedia LED Dynamic Displays for the installation of a replacement scoreboard at the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center.

**Approved** participation in the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

**Approved** three new contracts and amended an existing contract for the Home Preservation Grant Program under Project No. 601074-13 of the Community Development Block Grant program.

**Approved** plans and specifications for Project No. 1305 the Telegraph Road Street Improvement Project

**Approved** a resolution in support of the Community Alternative 7 for the I-710 Corridor expansion project.



## Rolled Steel Products: Continued from page 1 Committed to Quality and Family

strength of the metal and to make precision modifications within five ten thousandths (.0005) of an inch. All of these components help RSP to maintain a superior inventory that includes strip and sheet product; the full spectrum of hot rolled steel, and cold rolled commercial quality, galvanized, electro and hot dipped stainless steel.

The Alperson family, which has been in the service center business for over 70 years, moved the company to its current location in 1980 where they continued to emphasize the principles that have made them successful.

Their work ethic and innovative spirit helped RSP survive the Great Recession. "In 2008 the industry changed tremendously," said Steve explaining that profits were slimmer during the five year down period in the economy. "Fortunately, we weathered the storm." While business has not returned to pre-recession levels, it has improved in the last year due in part to an upswing in housing. RSP has also identified

new customer bases and worked with them to develop new steel products, such as computer server racks, which are purchased in large quantities by companies like Google and Visa.

"We strive to be a source for businesses and partner with people in the industry. That's the mark of someone who isn't just selling steel. We believe in what we do," said Steve who added that company is a believer in investing locally, which they do as members of the Commerce Industrial Council Chamber of Commerce and sponsoring local sports programs.

"We really like the City of Commerce. It's a great place to have a business," said Steve as he talked about RSP's plans for the future. "There are a lot of positives to doing business in Commerce, which is why we've stayed. We don't plan on moving."

## Something to **HOWL** About Coyote Sightings Prompt Community Awareness



Recently, there have been several sightings of a small group of coyotes in the Veterans Park area. The coyotes have only been seen in the areas north of Gage Ave. and south of Slau-son Ave., between the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo Channel. The coyotes most often are seen near Gage Ave. and Garfield Ave.

Due to these recent sightings the City would like to offer a few tips in order to help ensure the safety of residents, pets, and local wildlife:

- Do not feed the coyotes: It is important that the coyotes maintain their fear of humans. Lack of fear may lead to aggressive acts towards humans. People who feed coyotes are putting their neighborhood's pets and small children in danger.
- Feed your pets indoors and do not leave pet food outdoors for coyotes to scavenge.
- Ensure your trash can lids are closed properly to discourage scavenging.
- Keep small pets (cats & small dogs) indoors as much as possible and large dogs inside after dark. Coyotes are most active from sun-

set to the early morning hours and have been known to attack small pets. If keeping your dogs indoors is not an option consider an enclosed kennel.

•If you or your pet is approached by a coyote, try to frighten it away by shouting in a deep voice, waving your arms, throwing objects at the animal, and looking it directly in the eyes. Stand up if you are seated. If you are wearing a coat or vest, spread it open like a cape so that you appear larger. Retreat from the situation by walking slowly backward so that you do not turn your back on the coyote.

•If you or your pet is attacked by a coyote immediately clean the area where bitten or scratched and seek medical attention. Contact the City's Animal Control Office to report the attack.

It is important to understand that coyotes live throughout all of California and increasingly near urban areas. Since the City is not allowed to capture the coyotes, we must learn to live with the local wildlife. If you would like more information on coyotes you can visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/LivingWithWildlife/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/LivingWithWildlife/). If you have questions or concerns please contact the Commerce Animal Control Office at (323) 887-4460 ext. 2236.

## Save Water and Money Every Day at Home

The State of California is experiencing a severe drought, which means that conserving water is more important than ever to ensure a sustainable future. California Water Service, which serves residential and commercial customers in Commerce and surrounding areas, encourages customers to continue using water efficiently and take advantage of available conservation programs.

Dong simple things like turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth can save 2-5 gallons of water per minute. Here are a few additional tips to help you reduce water consumption, your environmental footprint and lower your water bill:

- Take shorter showers to save 2-5 gallons per minute.
- Only run full loads in the washing machine to save 15-50 gallons per load.
- Don't overwater your lawn to save 20-25 gallons per day.
- Reduce/adjust irrigation or sprinklers by 1-3 minutes to save

15-25 gallons per minute.

- Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints to save 20 gallons of water per day.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks to save 150 gallons per cleaning.

California Water Service Company offers free conservation kits to single family residential customers. Kits include two high efficiency showerheads, one hose nozzle, two bathroom faucet aerators, toilet leak tablets and one kitchen faucet aerator.

To receive your kit or find out more about conservation, visit California Water online at [www.calwater.com](http://www.calwater.com) or call them at (323) 722-8601. Next month the RTTP will provide information on ways to save water and money with high efficiency appliances and toilets, as well as rebates to make them more affordable.

## Employment Opportunities with 99 Cents Only Stores

Commerce based 99 Cents Only Stores is hiring for a variety of positions including clerical workers and forklift mechanics, with the greatest need being for selector positions to perform equipment operation and warehouse work.

The day shift for order selectors pays \$8.50 an hour and the night shift pays \$8.75 an hour. The Commerce Employment Business and Development Center will be referring applicants.



Requirements include a valid driver's license, social security card and the ability to lift up to 50 pounds. Three to four months of warehouse experience in the last 12 months is preferred. A basic math test will be administered.

Interested applicants must contact the Employment and Business Development Center to be referred. For more information, call the EBDC at (323) 887-4461.

**From the Office of State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover**

**This 4th of July, CAL FIRE's Office of the State Fire Marshal has the following fireworks safety tips:**

- Buy only State Fire Marshal-approved (Safe and Sane) fireworks. They must have the State Fire Marshal's seal on them and can only be purchased at licensed fireworks stands.
- Always read directions.
- Always have an adult present.
- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Never use near dry grass or other flammable materials.
- Light one at a time.
- Use common sense and keep a safe distance.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Never experiment with fireworks.
- Have a bucket of water and a hose handy.
- Never attempt to re-light or "fix" fireworks.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing.
- Never carry fireworks in your pockets.

**Remember fireworks are not toys and that parents are liable for any damage or injuries caused by their children using fireworks.**

City of Commerce  
*it's a*  
**SmallWorld**  
 Preschool Class of 2014



Excited graduates danced to music in a rainfall of confetti after the receiving their diploma at the City's Pre School Graduation ceremony.



One graduate waves to her family as she enters the stadium.



Miss Commerce, the Royal Court and Young Man of the Year congratulate a graduate after the ceremony.



Photos are viewable on the City's Flickr page. Visit [www.ci.commerce.ca.us/](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us/) and click on the Flickr button on the lower right side of the City's home page.



# Beat the Heat

## At City Pools, Community Centers and Libraries

Summer's high temperatures can pose health risks, especially to individuals who do not have access to air conditioning or other cooling resources. The City of Commerce reminds residents that air-conditioned City facilities can provide relief from the scorching heat of summer.

The facilities available for the public to cool off at during regular business hours are the park buildings at Bandini, Bristow, Rosewood and Veterans Parks; Atlantic, Bristow, Central and Greenwood Libraries; Senior Center; Teen Center and the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center.

On days when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees all four City Parks will play family movies during operational hours and provide chilled water.

Sports practices and outdoor activities will be held in the morning or early evening when the weather forecast predicts temperatures of 95 degrees or higher. Sports and outdoor activities will be

suspended when the air quality exceeds the moderate level.

**Tips to help with the summertime heat:**

- Pay attention to your hydration status and be sure to drink plenty of fluids.
- Avoid hot, enclosed places, such as cars. Never leave children or pets unattended in a car parked in the sun.
- Use a fan, if available.
- Stay on the lowest floor of your building.
- Eat well-balanced, light and regular meals.
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight and light-colored clothing.
- Cover windows that receive a significant amount of sun with drapes or shades to help keep your house cool.
- Weather stripping and proper insulation will keep cool air inside your home.

For hours of operation for Commerce facilities visit the City's

## LIBRARY NEWS Summer Reading Program Features Puppets and Science in July

In July, the Commerce Summer Reading Program is featuring Puppeteer Richard Woloski who will perform "The Wolf Who Cried Boy." This puppet show provides a twist on the classic cautionary tale and will be held at all of the libraries the week of July 14.

**NOTE:** "The Wolf Who Cried Boy" shows will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Atlantic, Greenwood and Bristow Park libraries.

Mad Science Los Angeles will present "Fire and Ice," an interactive science program with chemical reactions, states of matter, and bubbling potions during storytimes the week of July 28.

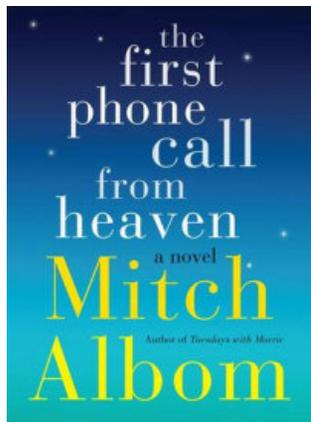
Registration for the Children's Summer Reading Program is open through August 9. The SRP Ending Celebration will be a high-energy, bilingual, pop music show for children of all ages performed by "Twinkle Time" at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 14 at Veterans Park.

**July Storytime Schedule**

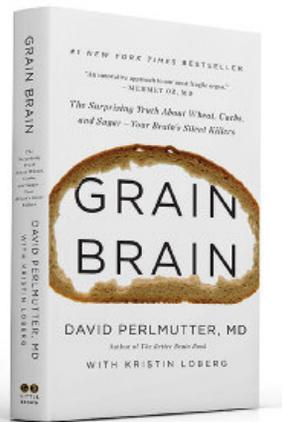
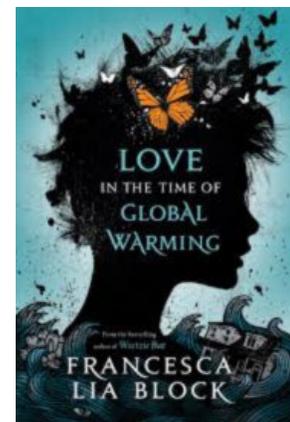
- Monday shows will be at the Commerce Senior Center at 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays at the Atlantic branch at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays at the Greenwood branch at 6:00 p.m.
- Thursdays at the Bristow Park branch at 6:00 p.m.

**Preschool Storytime** will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Fridays all summer at the Greenwood branch.

For more information, call your local Commerce Library or Central Library at (323) 722-6660 or go to [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org).



**HOT READS**  
 available @  
 the City of Commerce  
 Public Library



## Prevent the Spread of West Nile Virus

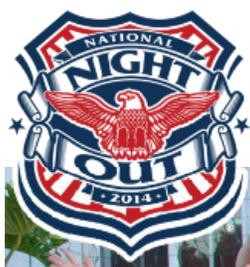
The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) recently confirmed the first West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito sample in Los Angeles County for 2014.

Last year, West Nile virus affected nearly 400 people in California – more than a third of those affected were Los Angeles County residents. The State Department of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention anticipate West Nile virus will pose a similar public health threat again in 2014.

Residents can take an active role in reducing the threat of WNV in their neighborhoods by taking the following steps:

- Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, watering troughs or anything that holds water for more than a week.
- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.
- Change the water in pet dishes, birdbaths and other small containers weekly.
- Request FREE mosquito fish from your local vector control district for placement in ornamental ponds.
- Report mosquito activity near vacant or foreclosed homes to your vector control district.
- Report neglected (green) swimming pools in your neighborhood to your vector control district.

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



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: Community, Public Safety and Fun



Neighbors come together in support of public safety and community building during the last year's National Night Out.

Commerce residents will come together the evening of Tuesday, August 5th to celebrate the 31st Annual National Night Out. In an effort to promote community participation, crime prevention education and police partnerships, Commerce residents will host block party barbecues in various locations throughout the City.

The Block Party Barbecues are hosted by Commerce's Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. The City supplies hot dogs, buns, tables, chairs and a small gift for all attendees. This event gives neighbors the opportunity to connect and discuss what is happening in their communities. Members of the Los Angeles

County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department and the City's Community Services Officers, staff and elected officials will visit each location to speak with community members about any issues or concerns.

National Night Out now involves over 37.8 million people and 16,124 communities from all 50 states, US Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

Commerce residents are encouraged to join in this great public safety event. A list of Block Party locations will be available this month through the Community Services Department at (323) 887-4460.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY SPOTLIGHT:

### CSS JESUS MEDA



Commerce Community Safety Specialist Jesus Meda enjoys interacting with the public. "When I started working for the City of Commerce six years ago, I didn't know how much time I'd be spending with people from the community building relationships," said Meda.

His relationships are one of the assets that has helped him be successful as part of the public safety team, which provides outreach to the community and support to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which provides the City's law enforcement services.

Meda, along with the Community Services Officers, conducts neighborhood patrols, assists with the Neighborhood Watch Program and performs parking enforcement.

If you have questions or would like more information on Neighborhood Watch, call the Public Safety Division at (323) 887-4460.

## Discussion: Mental Health and Resources for Minority Communities

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, mental illness affects one in four adults and one in 10 children in America. The US Surgeon General reports that minorities are less likely to receive diagnosis and treatment for their mental illness, that they have less access to and availability of mental health services and often receive a poorer quality of mental health care. In hopes of raising awareness about mental illness in diverse communities as well as highlighting avenues for wellness and recovery, the United States House of Representatives proclaimed July as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

The topic of mental health and societal responsibility has been widely publicized recently. While most mental health problems, even severe cases, are highly treatable, studies show that mental illness is a leading cause of disability and nearly

two-thirds of people with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment. Sadly, racial and ethnic groups in the US are even less likely to get help. Under the new Affordable Care Act, Medi-Cal has been expanded significantly to increase help for millions of Californians.

Services are also available specifically for our military veterans. According to the California Department of Veterans Affairs some soldiers may experience the onset of mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury or suicidal thoughts before, during or after deployment. To locate Veterans Affairs mental health services visit [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov).

To obtain general mental health services and resources for, visit the National Alliance on Mental Illness website at [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org). For anyone in an emotional crisis and in need of immediate help, call the National Suicide Prevention hotline at 1 (800) 273-TALK.

### 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.

## 4th of July Community Celebration Live from 12 pm to 9 pm

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.

## Metro Motion featuring: Los Angeles Union Station, Harvey House in Union Station, and a variety of entertaining and informative transportation news.

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:

"Jim Wagers Wahehouse" Tuesdays at 3 p.m.  
"Toyota" Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.  
"Runt to the Sun Cruise Night" Thursdays at 8 a.m.  
"Ford" Saturdays at 8 a.m.

## IMPACT featuring Mascots, L.A. River fishing, and K-9 Cops

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.



# The Gallery



## ANNUAL PET LICENSE AND VACCINATION CLINIC



Residents brought their dogs to Rosewood Park for the Annual Rabies and Vaccination Clinic. If you missed it, please contact animal control at (323) 887-4460 for information on licensing.

## SAFE PETS, SAFE COMMUNITY



Vanessa Hinojosa and four-legged family member Shadow at the annual pet licensing clinic. Dog owners must keep their pet's vaccination and license up to date to keep the community safe and help recover them if they get lost.

## ON PATROL



The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Traffic Division patrol Commerce and help keep the community safe.

## COMMERCE STEPPING IT UP WITH CITY DANCE TEAM



The award winning Commerce Dance Team has performed well this year with a third place finish in a competition at Knott's Berry Farm in March, second place at a May competition in Hawaii and top honors at a San Diego competition held in February.

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER WALK & TALK



Assemblymember Cristina Garcia hosted her June 'Walk and Talk' event in the City of Commerce.

## NEIGHBORHOOD BAKERY



Rolling Pin Bakery is now open and will be serving freshly baked goods and sandwiches 24 hours a day.

## LIBRARY CONTRIBUTION



Eddie Tafoya, Commerce Industrial Council Executive Director is not paying a library fine but rather presenting a donation for \$250 on behalf of the CIC to Beatriz Sarmiento, Director of Library Services.

## PATH TO SUCCESS



Two students from the the LA CAUSA YouthBuild program work on classroom computers for an upcoming project.



# JULY 2014

## COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>August 2014</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>	<p><b>September 2014</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Atlantic Library 6 p.m.</p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Senior Citizens Commission 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Greenwood library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation Commission 6 p.m.</p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Bristow Park Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Independence Day</b></p> <p>5K Run Rosewood Park 8 a.m.</p> <p>Celebration &amp; Carnival Rosewood Park 2 p.m.</p> <p><b>City Hall &amp; Libraries Closed</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Carnival Rosewood Park</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Carnival Rosewood Park</p>	<p><b>7</b></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>Teen Library Program Greenwood library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Spanish Book Club Noche de Pelicula Senior Citizens Center 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Community Task Force 3 p.m.</p> <p>Teen Library Program Bristow Park Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Traffic Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Teen Library Program Atlantic Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Community Services Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Teen Library Program Central Library 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>"The first wealth is health." Ralph Waldo Emerson</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Senior Citizens Center 5 p.m.</p> <p>Education Commission Council Chambers 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Atlantic Library, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Greenwood Library 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Bristow Park Library 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Teen Library Program Greenwood Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Library Commission 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Teen Library Program Bristow Park Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Teen Library Program Atlantic Library 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Teen Library Program Central Library 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>"In the practice of tolerance, one's enemy is the best teacher." Dalai Lama</b></p>
<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Senior Citizens Center 5 p.m.</p> <p>Spanish Reading Club Community Services Conf. Room 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Atlantic Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Greenwood Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Summer Reading Program Event Bristow Park Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p>CITY OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS &amp; RECREATION</p> <p><b>Independence Day Celebration</b></p> 	

Report to the People

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

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**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		<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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**Education and Workforce** *Continued from page 1*



Students in the residential construction program learn how to safely work with tools of the trade.

are fully aware of the commitment to the transformative process on which they are embarking.

"I'm truly inspired by these youth who have so many other challenges like incarcerated or ill parents, newborn babies or getting out of work at 4:00 am and still making it to class at 8:00 am," said Sanchez.

Students can choose among several career and workforce development options such as residential construction, solar panel installation, certified nursing assistant, technology, health and wellness and postsecondary education (Associates to Bachelors Degree and Vocational Certification). YouthBuild works closely with the building trades like Painters, Ironworkers and Electrical Workers as well as non profits like Catholic Charities and Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy.

While LA CAUSA assists with transportation and provides bus passes they would eventually like to expand their services to include transitional housing and childcare. LA CAUSA YouthBuild is housed in the Telacu Building at 5400 E. Olympic Boulevard. For more information, call (323) 887-2500.

**Required Documents for Enrollment:**

- *Official High School Transcripts (must be sealed)*
- *Valid ID/Driver's License*
- *Birth Certificate*
- *Immunization Record (Tdap vaccine required if under 18)*
- *Proof of Income: Pay stub within the last three months, income tax form or benefits award letter (self-employed or no-income form available)*
- *Utility Bill in the past three months: water, gas or electricity bill*
- *If applicable, a copy of Individualized Education Plan (IEP)*

**Opportunity to Give Back** *Continued from page 1*



Members of the College Bound Today program participate in College Tours like this one at UCLA. Pictured are students from the Bell Gardens High School class of 2015.

ly reach college. Earlier this year, the program expanded into the Applied Technology Center (ATC) in Montebello. Much of that success is achieved through the work of volunteer mentors, many of whom have come back to work with students from their alma mater. Second year mentor Patty Cardenas is a graduate of Bell Gardens High School, a Commerce resident and an Olympic silver medalist from the 2008 USA Women's Water Polo Team that competed in the Beijing Olympics. She decided to

join the program to help students overcome some of the very same obstacles she faced. "I know first-hand how overwhelming and stressful the college application process can be and how being first in your family to attend college is a challenge in itself," said Cardenas, who attended Golden West College and graduated from USC in 2009.

Mentors are recruited, trained, assigned and supervised by College Bound Today staff with the support of MUSD teachers and administrators. They are also required to complete a Live Scan background

check through the California Department of Justice, and they must have a current TB test.

The program includes Saturday morning meetings on the campuses eight times each year during which mentors spend time with the students helping them chart their course to college, advising on college preparation processes and providing general guidance to aid them in overcoming obstacles.

"I personally see the group as 'my team.' We rely on each other. The students are responsible for taking care of business in the classroom and as mentors we provide guidance to get them closer to college admission," said Cardenas.

Mentors like Cardenas also stay in touch with their students between meetings and accompany them on tours of universities and colleges in the area like Cal Tech, UCLA, and schools in the Cal State system, as well as universities farther afield like UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara. According to Clement, five new groups of students and mentors commenced the program this year and participated in field trips to Chinatown, the Los Angeles Music Center, and Cal State LA. As always, the goal is to get students to college.

"I can't wait to be at graduation next year and know that all my students have been accepted to college," said Cardenas.

The College Bound Today application process is open to MUSD students in their sophomore year. Students can pick up applications in January of their sophomore year from the college counselor(s) or grade level coordinator(s) at each high school.

The College Bound Today program actively recruits mentors on a year-round basis. Anyone interested in serving as a mentor should contact Dan Clement at (310) 710-4071.