



Report to the People

Celebrating
55
Years

Where Quality Service Is Our Tradition

Volume 55 No 4 April 2015

THE MODEL CITY

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An new air conditioning and heating unit was installed at the Commerce Senior Center in February to ensure seniors are warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The \$250,000 project cost was fully funded by Measure AA.

AA Senior Center Improvements Underway, Street Enhancements Update: Scheduled

Thanks to Measure AA's expectation surpassing pace of revenue generation of more than \$6 million annually, the City has been able to initiate an aggressive infrastructure improvement strategy.

In February a huge yellow crane gently delivered a brand new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit onto the roof of the Commerce Senior Citizens Center for installation. This \$250,000 HVAC project ensures that the unit is now operating with greater cost and energy efficiency and will keep seniors cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

The Senior Center will also receive an additional \$200,000 in Senior Plaza improvements and American Disabilities Act upgrades for a total of nearly half a million dollars in improvements paid for entirely by Measure AA funds.

Residents have other changes to look forward to at City facilities thanks to Measure AA. Other Measure AA projects in the pipeline include \$340,000 in improvements at Bristow Park for roof repair and HVAC replacement; \$15,000 for sewer line improvements at Bandini Park; \$150,000 to resurface seven outdoor basketball courts; and \$450,000 for the Rosewood Main Library facade improvement to ensure the exterior of the Library is as impressive as the ren-

ovated interior of the Library.

Street and road improvements, which have been in the planning stages, will break ground this year. These projects include the Slauson Avenue Sidewalk Improvement and Tree Reforestation Project and the Slauson Avenue Walkway Construction Project (Gage Ave. to I-5 Underpass).

Also due to commence construction in the coming months is the Eastern Avenue Resurfacing Project. The Eastern Ave. project was selected because the pavement was in reasonable enough condition that rapid repair and maintenance would reduce long term costs by avoiding complete reconstruction of the road base and surface.

To ensure this long term cost control strategy is taken on all of the City's residential streets and major thoroughfares, Measure AA has funded a study to create a Citywide Pavement Management Plan. Once complete, the plan will prioritize streets in greatest need of repair and provide a multi-year roadmap to ensure a strong, well maintained system of streets and roads throughout the City for years to come.

Home Improvements Grant Program



The City of Commerce has implemented the Home Preservation Grant Program through funds from the Los Angeles Community Development Commission's Federal Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Program.

The CDBG program helps eliminate substandard housing conditions and promotes property maintenance by providing grants of up to \$20,000 to qualified low and moderate-income residents living in a single-family, owner-occupied dwelling within the City of Commerce.

Program funds will be utilized to assist with essential home improvements like window replacement, roof re-

Relay for Life 2015 Will be a Circus



This year's Commerce Relay for Life (CRFL) is going Big Top with its circus themed 24-hour relay scheduled for April 18th from 9:00am to April 19th at 9:00am at Veterans Memorial Park. The CRFL is the world's largest grassroots fundraising movement and mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones who were lost, and provide participants with an opportunity to fight back against the disease.

CRFL brings together friends, families, businesses, schools, faith-based groups; people from all walks of life focused on creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

"This is Commerce's fourth year participating in the Relay For Life event and each year it gets larger and larger," said Francine Ayala, the former Chair for the CRFL and now a Relay Specialist for the American Cancer Society. "This has become an emotional and uplifting event for our community, allowing us to come together as neighbors to mourn, heal, celebrate and move forward in our fight against cancer."

Relay For Life began in 1985 with one man who walked and ran around a track for 24 hours and raised \$27,000 for the American Cancer Society. Each year, Relay For Life takes place in 6,100 communities in the United States and 20 other countries to raise funds to support the mission of the American Cancer Society to save lives. To join or form a team to participate in the Commerce Relay For Life, call Francine Ayala at 626-290-8650 or visit www.relayforlife.org/commerceca.

Home Improvement Grant continued on page 8

**FROM THE DESK OF JORGE RIFA
CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Spring is around the corner, which means college basketball and baseball fans are in for another season of excitement and competition. For the Council and for City staff, spring means budget season is about to begin and fortunately, after five tough recession marked years, we share a measured level of excitement thanks to an improving economic picture that began last year and continues to get better.

We also look forward to being strong competitors to bring new businesses to the City. Commerce is an attractive place to invest because of our vibrant business community and the multimillion dollar investment in the City's infrastructure, which has been made possible by Commerce voters that approved the Measure AA ½ cent sales tax in 2012.

Measure AA has been a huge difference maker for the City. To date the City Council has allocated more than \$5 million in Measure AA funds that are positioned to make major improvements in Commerce's streets, roads and City facilities. For more details on all of these wonderful improvements, please see the article on page 1.

For residents, another benefit of Commerce's improving economy is that it gave the City Council the ability to eliminate resident card fees and still maintain a balanced budget. These fees established in 2010, were successful in preventing cuts to City programs and services. The restoration of the City's previous resident activity card policy means that they will be offered for a \$5 processing fee, which we hope will result in making City programs easily accessible to residents.

The deadline for the 2014 Commerce Scholarship Program is rapidly approaching on Thursday, April 16 at 5 p.m. Last year 54 scholarships between \$500 and \$5,000 were awarded to Commerce residents seeking to improve their lives through education. Interested residents can apply online only via the Commerce Library's website at www.cocpl.org or the Library section of the City's website at www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

Finally, keeping Commerce beautiful is important. To help residents beautify the City we will be partnering with the Citadel Outlets to host the Volunteer Clean Up Day event on Saturday, April 11 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Bandini neighborhood. Large bins will be set up so residents can dispose of bulky items for free with locations Citywide. Safeshred and E-Waste Center, two Commerce businesses, are also 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 Parks and Recreation at (323) 887-4434.

I also want to encourage you to participate in the Annual Relay for Life on April 18-19. 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.

The annual Easter egg hunt is set for 11 a.m. sharp on April 4 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 City staff, I want to wish everyone a happy Easter.

Sincerely,




Municipal Notes

March 3 City Council Election Results

The City of Commerce held a general municipal election on March 3 to fill two seats on the City Council. Hugo A. Argumedo and Oralia Y. Rebollo received the highest number of votes respectively and were sworn in at the March 17th council meeting.

The final results are as follows:

John Diaz	404	Sonia T. Rodriguez	294
Denise M. Robles	497	Oralia Y. Rebollo	556
Hugo A. Argumedo	599	John Soria	272

Council Eliminates "Recession" Resident Card Fees

To improve affordability and access to programs and services for Commerce residents, the City Council eliminated the fee increases established in 2010 to fund programs during the "Great Recession."

The action, which was taken at the February 17 Council Meeting, also eliminated the three-tier resident ac-

tivity card and replaced it with a single resident activity card available to residents for a \$5 processing fee. The projected budget impact of this action is \$65,000.

New Sister City President to Serve on National Board



From l. to r. CSCA member Joe Zarahy, Libby Zarahy, Daniel Holdridge, newly elected CSCA Treasurer Patty Gonzalez-Holdridge, newly elected CSCA President as well as newly elected Director of the USMSCA Damaris Gonzalez, CSCA Board Member Laura Perez, Vanessa Stinnett, Sandra Jimenez and Jose Luis Rodriguez, Board Director of USMSCA.

Newly elected Commerce Sister Cities Association President Damaris Gonzalez was also elected as a Director to serve on the U.S./Mexico Sister Cities (USMSCA) Association Board of Directors.

The USMSCA works to provide information and organizational support for cities with existing affiliations between the US and Mexico to strengthen relationships

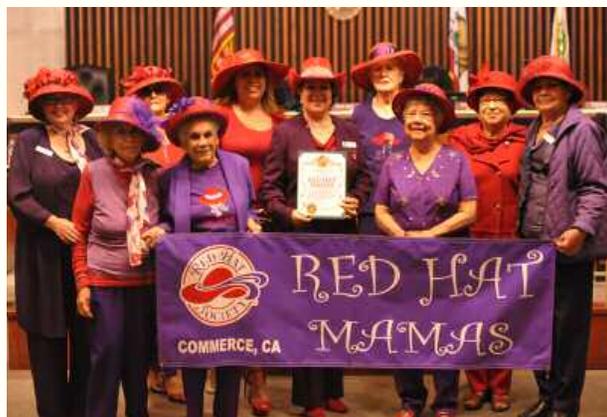
and promote cultural exchange including programs that focus on athletics, industry, charity and commercial issues.

The CSCA was established to promote cultural exchange between Commerce and its Sister City Aguascalientes, Mexico. For more information on this Commerce civic organization or to join, call Treasurer Patty Gonzalez-Holdridge at (562) 355-9284.

CITY OF COMMERCE COUNCIL ACTIONS

Regular Meeting of February 17

Honored the "Red Hat Mamas," the Commerce Chapter of the Red Hat Society on their 10th Anniversary.



Received and filed a presentation on the Bristow Park Town Hall Meeting.
Directed staff to continue the discussion with a vendor to provide a Farmers Market in Commerce
Received and filed a report regarding the City's Digital Billboard Displays.
Approved an amendment to the Annual Operating

Budget as part of the Mid-Year Budget Review.

Approved a contract with NCE for developing a Pavement Management System.

Received and filed a report on the status of the Gage Avenue Landfill.

Received and filed a presentation on the Citywide Pothole Condition Assessment.

Received and filed a report on the Fourth Annual Spring Clean Up Event.

Received and filed a presentation on the 2015 Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

Regular Meeting of March 2

Received and filed a report on freeway interchanges and signage in the City of Commerce.

Approved a request to hold the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Rally event at Rosewood Park.

Directed staff to develop a Street Light (LED) Conversion Project

Received and filed a Presentation on the proposed Bristow Park Satellite Sheriff's Station.

Received and filed a report on the art in public places ordinances.

Approved issuance of a request for proposals for a feasibility study on an indoor recreation facility.

Learning About the Complex Condition of Autism

April is Autism Awareness Month and what research has shown is that through increased awareness, early intervention and appropriate treatments, people with autism can lead fuller, more complete lives.

According to Autism Speaks, an organization dedicated to raising money for research and awareness through its "Light It Up Blue" campaign, Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development.

These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication and repetitive behaviors. ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art.

Although autism appears to have its roots in very early brain development, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge between 2 and 3 years of age. Re-

search continues in an effort to find effective methods for earlier diagnosis, as early intervention with proven behavioral therapies can improve outcomes.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 1 in 68 American children is identified on the autism spectrum—a ten-fold increase in prevalence in 40 years. Careful research shows that this increase is only partly explained by improved diagnosis and awareness. Studies also show that autism is four to five

times more common among boys than girls. An estimated 1 out of 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls are diagnosed with autism in the United States.

ASD affects over 3 million individuals in the U.S. and tens of millions worldwide. There is no established explanation for this continuing increase, although improved diagnosis and environmental influences are two reasons often considered. For more information about Autism, please visit the autismspeaks.org website.



Assemblymember to Host Student Career/Trade Fair at Bell Gardens High School

To educate high school students about career opportunities in diverse occupations, including nurses, firefighters, police officers, chefs, paralegals or electricians, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia is hosting a Career and Trade Fair for high school students at Bell Gardens High School, 6119 Agra Street, Bell Gardens 90201, on Thursday, April 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to attend with their children to learn more about possible career paths for their children. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Martin Medrano at martin.medrano@asm.ca.gov or Carina Chacon at carina.chacon@asm.gov. For more information, call Assemblymember Cristina Garcia's Office at (562) 861-5803.

Free Tax Prep for Income Qualified Residents

Assemblymember Cristain Garcia and State Controller Betty Yee are sponsoring free tax preparation and filing services for individuals with household incomes of \$53,000 a year or less through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program at the ABC Adult School, Room H-8, 12254 Cuesta Drive, Cerritos CA 90703 on Thursday, April 2.

What to Bring:

- Valid photo ID
- Social Security Card or individual taxpayer identification number for dependents that will be listed on the tax return
- All 2014 income statements

- Bank account/routing number for direct deposit
 - Receipts for child/day care expenses and provider's ID number
 - Tuition fees and expenses (1998-T's, receipts, etc.)
 - Landlord's name, phone number and address for CA Renter's Credit
 - Copy of prior year's (2013) tax return if possible
- Appointments are required. To make your appointment, call Assemblymember Cristina Garcia's Office at (562) 861-5803.

Fight the Spread of Yellow Fever Mosquitoes



1/4 Inch

like specs of dirt. The female mosquito lays them on the sides of containers that are holding or routinely hold water. When the eggs get wet, they hatch and the immature mosquitoes (larvae & pupae) spend the first 5-7 days of their lives living in your

water-filled containers. You have probably seen these 'wigglers' before, but never realized that they were mosquitoes! Soon after, they develop wings and emerge from the water to begin their life as a free-flying, biting, and disease-spreading menaces.

The eggs of the yellow fever mosquito are so small, they look

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District is partnering with the City of Commerce to promote Spring Clean-Up on April 11. Finding mosquito eggs is hard, but finding and removing containers, clutter, trash, old storage tubs, buckets and tires, and any other item that can or has held water in your yard is much easier!

Throw out these items or thoroughly scrub them with hot, soapy water and store them indoors. Don't forget to look for plant saucers under your potted plants or buckets/vases that you may have to root plants, and get rid of them! These mosquitoes particularly love these. Look indoors, too – check for and remove water-filled vases with cut flowers or plant stems. Mosquitoes can lay hundreds of eggs every week, so what you do now is critical. On April 11, we encourage you to make your home beautiful and healthy!



City Hall Prepares FOR TEENAGE TAKEOVER

Commerce high school seniors who are interested in learning about city government are encouraged to participate in the annual Student Government Day event on Thursday, April 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Commerce City Hall. This event gives high school seniors the opportunity to work side by side with staff in various government roles including, Mayor/Councilmember, Maintenance Supervisor, City Attorney, Fire Chief, etc. each of which plays an important role in making city government work. Lunch is included at Steven's Steak House.



Applicants must be a Commerce resident and high school senior with a "C" average or better on last semester's report card. Registration packets are available at all city parks, the Teen Center, and City Hall. **Completed applications must be submitted by Wednesday, April 8 at 5:00 p.m.** The packet includes an application for participation, a list of positions available, program itinerary and a letter from the Department of Parks and Recreation for your school so that you may be given an excused absence and/or receive credit for participating in the event. This is a great opportunity to learn about public service and how your city works. For more information, contact Lucinda Blancarte at (323) 707-6047.

Baby Pageant & Garden Show A Perfect Pair for Spring

The City's Annual "Kids are Cute" Baby Show will take place on Saturday, April 25 at Rosewood Park from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm. This year some great new categories have been added to the traditional favorites. This year's theme will be the Wizard of Oz. Babies will be placed in their respective divisions according to their exact age on April 25, 2015. Please check-in at least 15 minutes before your category time to confirm registration and receive a participant number.

All participants must have a current Resident Activity Card at the time of registration. Each baby in the show must be accompanied by an adult. Register now at the Department of Parks & Recreation or your local park. There is limited space available and when a division is filled, that age category will be closed.

Also taking place that day is the 42nd Annual Garden Show. This year's theme is "Funtastic Gardens." Residents are encouraged to bring their most prized plant or flower and enter it into the Garden Show, free of charge. The show will take place in the Rosewood Park Community Center from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Sign up now. For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 323-887-4434.

Report to the People

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

GET YOUR NEW COMMERCE LIBRARY CARD



To give library cards a fresh new look to match the newly renovated Rosewood Main Library, the Commerce

Public Library System (CPLS) has created a brand new design for Commerce Library Cards featuring the new logo.

1) Come in from now until the end of the National Library Week, Saturday, April 18, and trade in your old library card. You must turn in the old card in order to receive a new one.

2) Come in from now until the end of the National Library Week, Saturday, April 18, and show on your phone, tablet, laptop, etc. (Library has free WiFi) that you have "liked" the Library's Facebook page or followed the library's Instagram or Twitter accounts to automatically receive a new, free library card. There is no need to bring in your old card, but please note that the old card will no longer work.

The new card is not mandatory, as the old cards will still work.

Public Library System (CPLS) has created a brand new design for Commerce Library Cards featuring the new logo.

Two ways to get the new card:

COMMERCE LIBRARY HOSTS AWARD WINNING AUTHOR JOHN COREY WHALEY



Author John Corey Whaley, third from left, with Commerce Library staff.

The Commerce Public Library System hosted a visit with award-winning author John Corey Whaley who has written two books, "Where Things Come Back" and "Noggin," on February 21 in the Commerce Council Chambers.

More than 25 people showed up to hear from the author who talked about his books, inspiration and the writing process, as well as the impact libraries have had on his career. He also read passages from "Noggin."

Corey Whaley said he was a slow reader as a child. "It wasn't until I realized that my love for story telling could also translate into writing. I started writing before I became a huge reader and that's what kind of brought me into reading so many books when I was younger," said Corey Whaley.

He was asked about why he became a writer. "I wasn't good at anything else ever. I wanted to draw but couldn't draw. I took five art classes in high school. It really came with that fascination of telling stories when I was young. After reading books like *Catcher in the Rye* and *The Perks of Being a Wall Flower*, I thought it would be so neat to affect the lives of strangers in some way by being an author. I also thought it would be fun," said Corey Whaley.

Corey Whaley also discussed the possible adaptation of his books to film. "I hope they let me visit the set at least once. I don't have to hang around the set, but I do want to visit," he joked.

According to Library Director Beatriz Sarmiento, this kind of event is central to the Library's mission of helping readers and library patrons "Create, Discover and Connect," which is the CPLS's slogan. "Hosting authors at the library is a great way to bring a book to life by gaining insight about the story, its author and most importantly, it reminds us that we each have a story to tell," said Sarmiento.

Corey Whaley echoed her sentiments. "I love supporting public libraries in any way that I can and I always enjoy getting to know a community like Commerce by speaking with and interacting with readers and book enthusiasts."

After the event, Corey Whaley spent time chatting with library patrons and signing books. The Library is planning to host future "Meet the Author" events. If you have suggestions, please contact Erik Jackiw at the Rosewood Main Library at (323) 722-6660.

PROTECT OUR OCEANS AND WATERWAYS, DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and Department of Public Works are hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Roundup nearby the City of Commerce this month to provide residents a free and easy way to dispose of used motor oil and other hazardous substances. This roundup will be held at:

South Gate Park

Tweedy Blvd. at Hildreth Ave., South Gate 90280
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Motor oil, antifreeze, paint, paint thinner
- Turpentine, cleaners with acids or lye
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Household and car batteries
- Old computers and television sets
- Sharps or used needles

- Expired pharmaceuticals and mercury thermometers

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Explosives, ammunition or radioactive materials
- Waste from businesses will NOT be accepted
- Trash or old tires
- White goods such as washers, stoves, refrigerators or air conditioners

HOW TO PREPARE:

- In general, there is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 lbs. per vehicle.
- Bring items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers.
- Be prepared to leave your containers.
- Do not mix products together.

For more information, visit www.lacsd.org/ or call the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County at (800) 238-0172.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HALL OF CHAMPIONS

Last year, the City of Commerce established the Athletic Hall of Champions to recognize and honor those Commerce athletes who excelled in their respective sports. The inaugural inductees were Commerce aquatic and waterpolo alumni Priscilla Orozco, Sergio Macias and Brenda Villa.

These outstanding individuals were selected for helping to bring distinction and excellence to the City of Commerce by their conduct both on and off the field, court, swimming pool or other venue of competition.

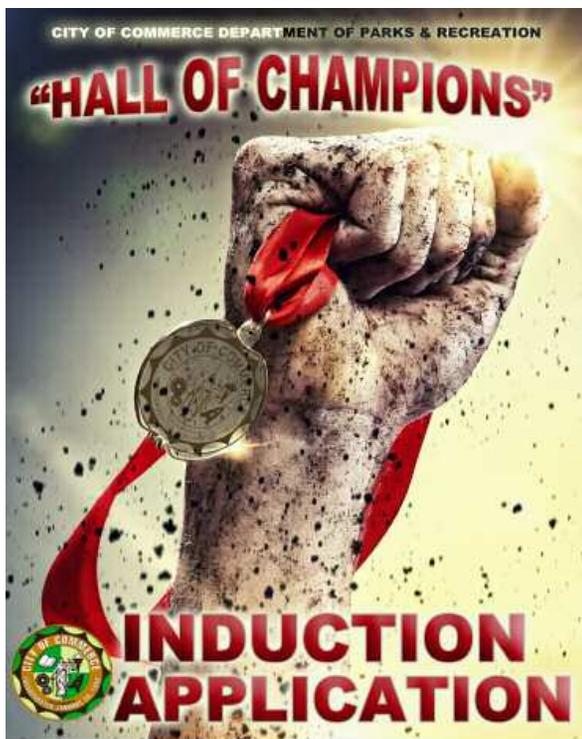
This recognition helps to maintain the spirit, pride and sense of community, as well as to serve as a historical account of the great athletic tradition of the City of Commerce.

Athletes are eligible for nomination 5 years after their last date of City competition. They must be in good standing as determined by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Nominated athletes must have competed in a City of Commerce funded team or sport that competed and excelled at a level equal to Junior Olympics, AAU, or other high levels at a regional, or national level. The nominee must have accomplished in setting new indi-

vidual or team records or titles, and/or made an impact on teams that won national or regional titles.

Nominations are also open to coaches, who must have participated with distinction and/or made significant contributions to athletics for the City of Commerce as evidenced, for example, by the success of their teams and the acknowledgment of their former athletes. Such coaches shall be eligible for nomination beginning 10 years after their hire date with the City of Commerce.

A candidate may be nominated for the Hall of Champions by any resident of the community. Nomination forms are available at the Parks and Recreation office or online at www.ci.commerce.ca.us. All applications must be received by the Parks and Recreation Department by April 30, 2015, in order to be considered for induction during the July 4th festivities. For more information, please call at the Parks & Recreation Office at (323) 887-4434.



GAGE TORRES: 2015 YOUNG MAN OF THE YEAR



To get to know Gage a little better we asked him five questions. Commerce will have an intelligent and ambitious ambassador in young Mr. Torres. Here is Gage in his own words:

WHY DID YOU APPLY TO BE YOUNG MAN OF THE YEAR?

I applied because my good friend and mentor, Ernie Cardenas, encouraged me to. He truly believed that I had the qualifications to be the City of Commerce Young Man of the Year. He has known me and my family since I was a child so I finally took his advice and signed up for it this year. I'm so glad that I did.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET OUT OF THIS EXPERIENCE?

I've lived in the City of Commerce since I was a child and I love it. I've participated in the YES program, the Turkey Trot, the summer trips and the youth sports teams. Ultimately, I would love to use this experience to get more involved with my city and give back to it in anyway that I can.

ARE YOU FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION/WORKING?

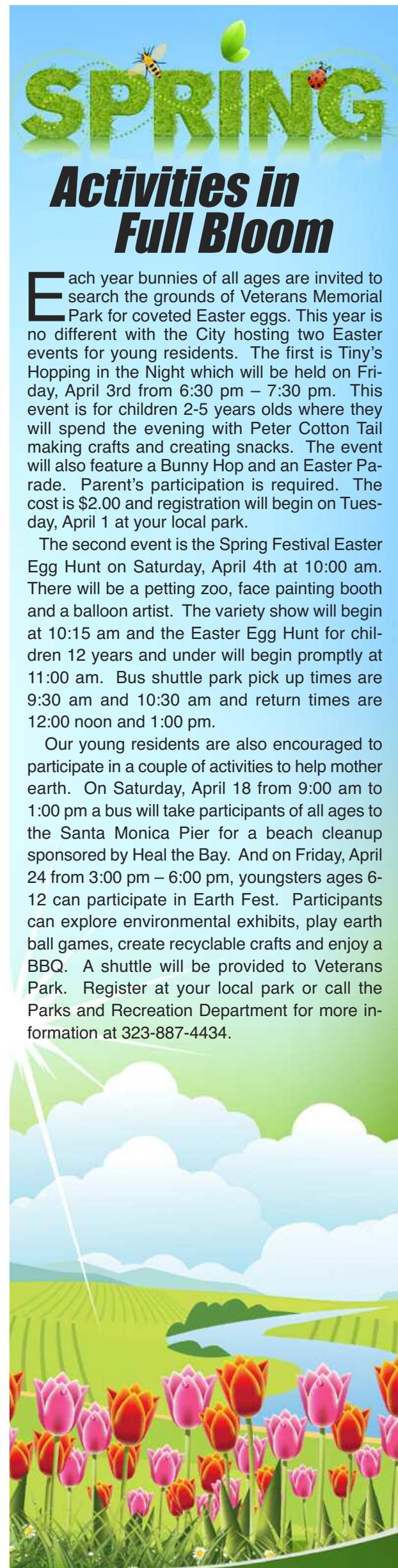
I am currently in my fourth year as a history major at California State University, Los Angeles. I'm a full time student and I also work full time at a bar and grill in West Hollywood. As of right now, I'm in the process of saving money so that once I am finished with my Bachelor of Arts degree in history, I can have enough money saved to take the next step in my education and get my Masters and finally, my P.H.D.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, INTERESTS?

I don't get much free time since I go to school on weekdays and work on the weekends but when I do I like to spend time with my family and friends. I love baseball and I'm a huge fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers and go to as many home games as I can each season. I also love music and play the guitar and drums. Me and my friends like to jam out and do covers of songs in my garage whenever we are all free. I mainly like to spend my time working, going to school, or being with my family.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

In the future, I aspire to become a teacher. I am close to getting my Bachelors degree in history and I am currently working on getting my teaching credentials. I hope that one day I will be able to teach at the high school level and then eventually become an advisor for the school. I'm taking baby steps to create the future that I want. This achievement proves I am heading in the right direction and I am well on my way to the future that I envision.



Activities in Full Bloom

Each year bunnies of all ages are invited to search the grounds of Veterans Memorial Park for coveted Easter eggs. This year is no different with the City hosting two Easter events for young residents. The first is Tiny's Hopping in the Night which will be held on Friday, April 3rd from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. This event is for children 2-5 years olds where they will spend the evening with Peter Cotton Tail making crafts and creating snacks. The event will also feature a Bunny Hop and an Easter Parade. Parent's participation is required. The cost is \$2.00 and registration will begin on Tuesday, April 1 at your local park.

The second event is the Spring Festival Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 am. There will be a petting zoo, face painting booth and a balloon artist. The variety show will begin at 10:15 am and the Easter Egg Hunt for children 12 years and under will begin promptly at 11:00 am. Bus shuttle park pick up times are 9:30 am and 10:30 am and return times are 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm.

Our young residents are also encouraged to participate in a couple of activities to help mother earth. On Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm a bus will take participants of all ages to the Santa Monica Pier for a beach cleanup sponsored by Heal the Bay. And on Friday, April 24 from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, youngsters ages 6-12 can participate in Earth Fest. Participants can explore environmental exhibits, play earth ball games, create recyclable crafts and enjoy a BBQ. A shuttle will be provided to Veterans Park. Register at your local park or call the Parks and Recreation Department for more information at 323-887-4434.

The Gallery



QUEENS BREAKFAST



Miss Commerce Denize Rodriguez with residents Maria and Amanda Viesca at the Queens Breakfast.

AQUATICS AWARDS CEREMONY



Members of the Commerce Swimming and Water Polo Teams were honored at the Annual Commerce Aquatics Awards Ceremony. Pictured here are members of the Men's Water Polo Team.

FARMER BOYS COMES TO COMMERCE



Miss Commerce Denize Rodriguez with representatives from Commerce's newest eatery, Farmer Boys at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

ROAD TO NATIONALS



The 28-member Commerce Dance Team has swept five competitions since they started training in June of last year, which has qualified them for Nationals this month in Las Vegas, NV. The group is pictured here at a Master Championship on Feb. 21.

COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF



This new HVAC unit installed on the roof of the Commerce Senior Center in February will help ensure seniors are warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The \$250,000 project cost was 100% funded by Measure AA.

CHINESE STUDENTS TOUR CITY HALL



Recently Commerce welcomed students from Nanning No. 2 High School International Division-Guangxi, China and gave them a tour of the Commerce Civic Center.



COMMERCE CALENDAR APRIL

2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>May 2015</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><i>"The earth laughs in flowers."</i> Ralph Waldo Emerson</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Senior Citizens Commission 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Teen Video Game Event Bristow Library 4 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Teen Video Game Event Rosewood Library 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tiny's Hopping in the Night Veterans Park 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt Veterans Park 11 a.m. sharp</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Easter</p>	<p>6</p> <p>English Book Club Bandini Library 6 p.m.</p> <p>PowerPoint Class Rosewood Library 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Advisory Commission 7 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Adults' Craft Program Rosewood Library 11 a.m.</p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>Task Force Committee 3 p.m.</p> <p>Teen Video Game Event Veterans Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Adults' Craft Program Rosewood Library 6 p.m.</p> <p>Traffic Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Community Services Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Teen Video Game Event Rosewood Library 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Volunteer/Spring Clean Up Bandini Park 8 a.m. - noon</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Education Commission 6 p.m.</p> <p>PowerPoint Class Rosewood Library 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>"It seems that for success in science or art, a dash of autism is required."</i> Hans Asperger</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Teen Video Game Event Bandini Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Adults' Craft Program Bandini Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Scholarship Applications Deadline All Libraries 5 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Teen Video Game Event Rosewood Library 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Relay for Life Veterans Park</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Relay for Life Veterans Park</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PowerPoint Class Rosewood Library 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Teen Book Club Bandini Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>"Every woman is a queen, and we all have different things to offer."</i> Queen Latifah</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Teen Video Game Event Rosewood Library 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Baby Show 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Rosewood Park</p> <p>Garden Show noon - 3 p.m. Rosewood Park</p>
<p>26</p> <p><i>"In winter, I plot and plan. In spring, I move."</i> Henry Rollins</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Library Commission Council Chambers 6 p.m.</p> <p>PowerPoint Class Rosewood Library 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Teen Book Club Rosewood Library 5 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Dia de los Niños Bristow Library 6 p.m.</p> <p>Spanish Reading Club Rosewood Library 6 p.m.</p> <p>PowerPoint Class Bandini Library 6:30 p.m.</p>		

Report to the
People

RTTP Artículos en Español Si le interesa recibir la versión en Español de algún artículo, por favor llame a la Oficina de Información Pública al (323) 887-4447. Cuando llame, indique el título del artículo, la fecha y la dirección de su domicilio o correo electrónico. La versión traducida se le mandará.

Where Quality Service Is Our Tradition

COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL



Mayor Lilia R. Leon
 Mayor Pro Tem Tina Baca Del Rio
 Councilmember Ivan Altamirano
 Councilmember Hugo A. Argumedo
 Councilmember Oralia Y. Rebollo

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
 M-F 8 am to 6 pm (323) 887-4460 **Emergency 911**
 Weekends/Evenings (562) 940-6898 www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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CITY OF COMMERCE
VOLUNTEER CLEAN UP DAY SERVING Bandini Park Area
 SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2015 8 A.M. TO NOON
VOLUNTEER CLEAN UP DAY IS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SPRING CLEANUP



ONLY COMMERCE RESIDENTS
 with a Resident Card or proof of residency may participate in this event.

Volunteers will help with cleaning tree wells, red curb painting, graffiti removal and assistance with bulky items.
TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE EVENT
 Please register at Rosewood Library, Bandini Library, Bandini Park or City Hall in the Department of Parks and Recreation.
 For more information, call (323) 887-4434. *Must be 12 years and older.*

DUMPSTERS
 Dumpsters will be located throughout the Commerce neighborhoods so residents can discard bulky items until noon.

FREE SHREDDING PROVIDED BY SAFESHRED LOCATED IN THE BANDINI PARK PARKING LOT.

DUMPSTER LOCATIONS:
 •TEEN CENTER PARKING LOT 5107 ASTOR AVE. TIRES AND USED AUTOMOBILE OIL WILL BE COLLECTED AT THIS LOCATION
 •CUL DE SAC AT ASTOR AVE. AND BARNEY ST.
 •COUTS AT JILLSON ON THE BANDINI SCHOOL SIDE.
 •CUL DE SAC AYERS AVE AT LEONIS.

SATELLITE LOCATIONS
 •BRISTOW PARK, 1466 MCDONNELL AVENUE
 •BRENDA VILLA AQUATIC CENTER PARKING LOT LOCATED AT 5550 HARBOR AVE.
 •VETERANS PARK, 6364 ZINDELL AVENUE

WE CAN ACCEPT:
 Green waste
BULKY ITEMS: Furniture, washers, dryers, mattresses, sofas and couches, toys, lawn equipment, patio furniture, tires and other miscellaneous items.
ELECTRONIC WASTE: Televisions, VCRs, DVD Players, computer monitors, cell phones, appliances, refrigerators, electric stoves, fluorescent lights, car batteries, radios, etc. (The E-Waste drop off location will be at Bandini Park). Tires and used automobile oil will be collected at the Teen Center parking lot – Maximum 4 tires per household.

WE CANNOT ACCEPT:
 Household Hazardous Waste such as paint, pesticides, household cleaners, batteries, etc. or construction debris, such as concrete, drywall, steel, etc.

EVENT MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

EVENT SPONSORS

- CAL MET
- EWC
- SAFESHRED
- CENTRAL WATER BASIN
- GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Home Improvements Grant Program

continued from page 1



repairs, exterior paint, electrical upgrades and other eligible home improvements.

Requirements include the following:

- Dwelling must be a single family residence.
- Dwelling must be owner's primary residence.
- Property must be the only real property owned by applicant.
- Subject property must not have code violations.

If any violations exist, Program funds may possibly be used to correct the issues.

•Household gross income must not exceed 120% of Area Median Income for Los Angeles County.

2014 INCOME LIMITS Moderate Income (120% of Area Median Income)
 Family Size
 1 \$46,650 2 \$46,650 3 \$52,200 4 \$58,700
 5 \$65,200 6 \$70,450 7 \$75,650 8 \$80,850
 9 \$86,100

Households interested in participating must fill out an Interest Form to be placed on the Waiting List. For more information or to obtain an application, contact the Housing Program staff at (323) 722-4805, extension 2810.

Commerce City Channel 3
 April 2015

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.

Commerce Public Affairs Show featuring Water Conservation
 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
 The Vintage Vehicle Show
 "TJH Classic Cars" Tuesdays at 3 p.m.
 The Vintage Vehicle Show
 "Goodguys Car Show" Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
 The Vintage Vehicle Show
 "Crevier Classic Car Company" Thursdays at 8 a.m.
 The Vintage Vehicle Show
 "Chevelle & El Camino 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.