

THE BEST OF 2015

YEAR-END REVIEW

Report to the PEOPLE

Volume 55 No.12 December 2015

CITY OF COMMERCE

2015

PROJECTS PROGRAMS EVENTS CALENDER OF EVENTS ATHLETICS



Commerce Projects

Commerce began and completed many projects in 2015, the largest being the \$38 million Washington Boulevard Project. Major progress has been made and the project is expected to be completed in early 2017. In conjunction with the City's 55th Birthday celebration, an official grand reopening was held for the renovated Rosewood Main Library. With the revenue from Measure AA, the City anticipates additional capital improvement project planning in 2016.



The overall feel of the new library is modern and comfortable. The library's official grand opening was held on Saturday, January 24.

FROM THE DESK OF THE City Administrator JORGE RIFÁ

As 2015 comes to a close, I can report that Commerce is moving in the right direction! City staff worked all year on many projects including capital improvement and beautification, growing businesses and hosting community events.

We kicked off 2015 by celebrating the City's 55 years of incorporation with a community birthday party at Rosewood Park. Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and Supervisor Hilda Solis joined the City Council in attendance to acknowledge the City, 55 years young! That same afternoon, the City hosted the grand "re-opening" of the newly renovated Rosewood Main Library with a special dedication ceremony of the Valentina Basset Children and Family Reading Room to honor her contribution as a member of the Commerce Incorporating Committee.

Commerce also broke ground on the highly anticipated, \$38 million Washington Boulevard Project. The project took years of planning and preparation. When completed, Washington Boulevard will expand to three lanes each way, feature ADA compliant sidewalks as well as upgraded and energy efficient LED lighting and traffic signals, raised medians and drought tolerant landscaping.

Speaking of water conservation, the City partnered with Cal Water to implement water use restrictions and an education plan for residents and businesses. Commerce is making every effort to meet Governor Jerry Brown's Executive Order mandating a 25% statewide reduction in water use and I have no doubt we will meet that goal. It is up to all Californians to use water responsibly and move us out of this drought.

This year the City also brought unique services to the residents of Commerce. For example many women who would not otherwise have the means or opportunity to obtain a mammogram were able to do so at our community health fair. "Inner Images", a local non-profit, brought their mobile mammogram unit and provided breast examination and mammograms, free of charge to qualified women. With the help of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's office, the City was also able to secure the participation of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Resource Fair. The VA brought their mobile bus which provided basic health exams for veterans.

The Commerce Main Library hosted its first Comic Book Invasion which drew more than 300 participants, many in "cosplay", aka costumes. The event featured presentations and workshops by industry professionals as well as activities for guests of all ages. It was great to see the enthusiasm of these comic book and graphic novel fans.

I hope to see you all at our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, December 7 at 6:00 pm sharp on the steps of City Hall. Don't forget to attend the many other holiday activities and events which make the Commerce holiday season so special. As a reminder, all City facilities will be closed on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1 in observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Please have a safe and happy holiday season.



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.



Large trucks pass by as Noel Pimentel and Hugo Lujan from East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice address the community at the unveiling of the "No Idling" signs.



L. to r. are John Yonai, Tierra West Advisors; Steve Craig, Craig Realty; Public Works & Development Services Director Maryam Babaki; Miss Commerce Denize Rodriguez; Ali Cayir, Transtech Engineers; City Administrator Jorge Rifa; Ursula Parra, Senator Mendoza's Office; Kimberly Tachiki-Chen, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard's Office; Melissa Demirci, Transtech; John Griffo, Commerce Casino.



Washington Boulevard will be under construction through early 2017. The project will widen the street and ease traffic flow.

Commerce Programs

Commerce is well known for the outstanding and low cost programs it offers residents. Whether it is educational, recreational or community improvement, the City offers something for everyone. Residents are also encouraged to join a civic or service club. Many of the clubs work with the City on programs and events. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation office at (323) 887-4434.



The Commerce Hotel and Casino generously donates \$50,000 each year toward the Commerce Scholarship Program. Scholarship winners and their families also enjoy a complimentary breakfast courtesy of the Casino.



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.



Commerce Teen Adventure Club explore the rugged terrain of the Anza Borrego Desert. Trips like this one and many others are available for residents of all ages.



There are many programs and activities for campers to enjoy at Camp Commerce. These residents are engaging in a friendly game of volleyball.



Participants in Dr. Who Fest 2014 pose for a photo in front of a replica of the famous "Police Box" from the show.



Commerce high school seniors from throughout the Montebello Unified School District participated in the Annual Student Government Day. These young adults received hands on training in public service. Each followed an employee of the City to get an understanding about the way city government works.

Commerce Events

When people come together as a community, they can make things happen. Commerce offers residents several opportunities to participate in outstanding events throughout the year. Emphasizing social interaction, tradition, enhanced quality of life and fun. In 2015 the City hosted and participated in many events including Cinco de Mayo & Independence Day Celebrations, the Miss Commerce Pageant, Dia de los Muertos, the Commerce Citadel Job Fair and many others.



Introducing the City of Commerce 2015 Royal Court from l. to r. Miss Fourth of July Cecilia Campos, Miss Dodgers/Miss Friendship Destanee Rose Cortes, Miss Commerce Diana Lopez, Miss Clippers Alyssa Rubio and Miss Cinco de Mayo Dayana Ruiz Marquez.



This young resident demonstrated how to be cool and safe as he rode his scooter wearing a mohawk helmet. Safety first!



Carnival-goers enjoyed the many rides at the 3-day event. The Scrambler was one of the more popular rides of the weekend.



The 2015 Young Man of the Year Gage William-Cean Torres made his debut at the Miss Commerce Pageant. Gage will also represent the City at events alongside Miss Commerce.



Master of Ceremonies Adolfo Marquez with one of the City's youth dance teams enjoying the Tree Lighting Ceremony held in front of City Hall.



Longtime Commerce resident Rosa Millan Pico turned 100 years of age this month. She is pictured here with family members at the Commerce Senior Center.



Dozens of young residents searched the grounds for hidden Easter eggs at Veterans Park during the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children also had the opportunity to take pictures with the Easter Bunny and enjoy some sweet holiday treats. Miss Commerce, the Royal Court and Young Man of the Year also joined in the frivolity.



Cancer survivors kicked off the 24 hour event that raised money and awareness about all forms of cancer. In total, the Commerce Relay For Life teams raised nearly \$23,000 for the American Cancer Society.



Veterans Park Tiny Tots celebrated Cinco de Mayo by dressing up in traditional costumes and of course breaking open a pinata full of candy. Clearly Commerce has some of the most festive kids around.



The City's Community Services Department was joined by Officer McGruff and the LA County Sheriff's Department in a visit to Rosewood Park and Bandini Elementary schools as part of Red Ribbon Week activities.



From l. to r. are City employee Hector Orozco, Miss Commerce Diana Lopez, Miss Clippers Alyssa Rubio, Young Man of the Year Gage Torres and Traffic Commissioners Isabel Caldera and Karl Baker with the winners of the Commerce Arbor Day Poster Contest from Bandini Elementary.



The City's Animal Control Services team has partnered with the Commerce Cable Channel to feature pets available for adoption to loving homes. To date, each animal featured on the show has been adopted. This has been a great way to help homeless pets and educate our residents about pet overpopulation.



Dozens of Commerce youth from various athletic teams and service clubs participated in the 5th Annual Commerce Clean Up. Steve Craig donates more than \$10,000 to youth for their participation, which helps pay for things like equipment and excursions.



The theme for this year's Kids are Cute Baby Show was the Wizard of Oz. These young residents racked up the awards as Glinda the Good Witch and a member of the Lollipop Guild.



Longtime Commerce resident Carmen Marquez received the 58th Assembly District Woman of the Year Award from Assemblymember Cristina Garcia at the 2015 Woman of the Year Awards Luncheon held at the Southern California Gas Co. Energy Resource Center in Downey.

Commerce Athletics

The City offers youth sports including: baseball, basketball, boxing, flag football, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball and water polo. The Sports Division also coordinates the adult sports program which includes: basketball, coed softball, coed volleyball, karate, men's baseball and men's softball. For more information about the City's sports programs, contact Sports Coordinator Frank Garcia at 323-887-4432.



Commerce Men's Water Polo team traveled to compete in Hungary, also known as the water polo capital of the world.



Commerce Boxing has one of the top-ranked programs in the region. Athletes from all over So Cal compete at the City's Boxing Show.



Commerce Crush Volleyball Program and its six teams for a great season.



Jaden Ortiz is recognized for winning a Junior PGA Tournament.



These teens enjoy themselves early in the Turkey Trot 5K run.



Ten year old Ryder Gonzalez is an exceptional Commerce adaptive athlete. He took first place in the 60 meter dash at the 2015 Angel City Games. He plans to continue to compete in sports.



Olympic hopeful, Pauline Viesca is a rising star in USA Boxing.



Two Commerce youngsters had the opportunity to meet some of the athletes from Team USA. They are pictured in front of the Special Olympics flame.



Congratulations to the 2015 Hall of Champions inductees from l to r: Sarah Magdaleno Orozco Ibarra, Arcenio Ramirez and Patricia Cardenas.



COMMERCE CALENDAR DECEMBER

Important Phone Numbers

City Hall (323) 722-4805
 Code Enforcement Ext. 2293
 Animal Control (323) 887-4460
 Weekends/Evenings (562) 940-6898
 E.L.A. Sheriff's Office (323) 264-4151
 Graffiti Hotline (323) 887-4444
 CalMet Services (562) 259-1239
 Vector Control (562) 944-9656
EMERGENCY 911

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>January 2016</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>1</p> <p>Hecho a Mano/Hand Made Rosewood Library 11 a.m.</p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Senior Citizens Commission 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Teen Video Games Bristow Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Hecho a Mano/Hand Made Rosewood Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Teen Video Games Bandini Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Teen Video Games Rosewood Library 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Children's Holiday Program Council Chambers 10 a.m.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Hanukkah</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Intro to MS Access Bandini Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tree Lighting Ceremony City Hall 6 p.m.</p> <p>English Book Club 6 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Intro to MS Powerpoint Rosewood Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Advisory Commission 7 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Teen Video Games Veterans Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Intro to MS Excel Bristow Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Traffic Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Intro to MS Publisher II Veterans Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Community Services Commission 6 p.m.</p> <p>Hecho a Mano/Hand Made Veterans Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Teen Video Games Rosewood Library 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Rosewood Library Closes at 5 p.m.</p> <p>Tiny Pajama Party Bandini Park 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Children's Holiday Faire Veterans Park 10 a.m.</p> <p>Star Wars Reads Day Rosewood Library 11 a.m.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Education Commission 6 p.m.</p> <p>Christmas Home Decora- tions Contest Application Dead- line</p> <p>Loteria Game Night Rosewood Library 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Teen Video Games Bandini Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Spanish Book Club Call for location 6 p.m.</p> <p>Christmas Home Decora- tions Contest Judging</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Teen Video Games Rosewood Library 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Holiday Movie Rosewood Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Holiday Movie Rosewood Library 3 p.m.</p> <p>Teen Video Games Veterans Library 4 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Holiday Movie Rosewood Library 3 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Holiday Movie Rosewood Library 10 a.m.</p> <p>City Hall & Rosewood Li- brary Close at 1 p.m.</p> <p>Library Branches Closed</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>City Hall & Libraries Closed</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Library Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>City Hall & Rosewood Library Close at 1 p.m.</p> <p>Library Branches Closed</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.

City of Commerce

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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
Code Enforcement Ext. 2293
Animal Control
M-F 8 am to 6 pm (323) 887-4460
Weekends/Evenings (562) 940-6898
E.L.A. Sheriff's Office (323) 264-4151

Graffiti Hotline (323) 887-4444

FREE Bulky Item Pick-up call
CalMet Services (562) 259-1239

Vector Control (562) 944-9656

EMERGENCY 911

2535 Commerce Way · Commerce, CA 90040

FREE BULKY ITEM PICK-UP FOR COMMERCE RESIDENTS

Call to schedule your pick-up at least 1 day before your regular trash day.

CalMet Services
(562) 259-1239



Facebook: www.ci.commerce.ca.us/facebook
Flickr: www.flickr.com/commerceca
Twitter: @CityofCommerce

City of Commerce Code Enforcement Division and the Beautification Committee



The City of Commerce Beautification Committee will search the City looking for the winning home in each of the four neighborhoods. The Beautification Committee will only judge the outside of registered homes. Please note, live performances WILL NOT count towards your overall score.

There will be one winner in each of the four (4) neighborhoods and the winning prize is a \$100 Gift Certificate.

Deadline to register is Monday, December 14, 2015.

Judging date will be Thursday, December 17, 2015.

For more information and to obtain an application, contact Commerce Public Safety and Community Services Department at (323) 887-4460.



Keeping Connected In An Emergency

Register your phone number to receive City of Commerce "emergency alerts" on your preferred phone. During emergencies, the City will send important messages to registered phone numbers, utilizing the Blackboard Connect mass communication system. The service is free and messages will be recorded in English and Spanish. To register your phone number, please call the Public Safety and Community Services Department at (323) 887-4460.

Be Safe. Be Prepared.
El Niño
Online Resource Guide
www.lacounty.gov/elnino
@CountyofLA



In an emergency...

- Monitor radio and TV news closely for information about weather conditions, flooding in your area and safety precautions being advised.
- Be prepared to leave immediately if an evacuation is ordered. Have alternate evacuation routes out of your neighborhood.
- Stay away from flood channels and flowing rivers. You could be knocked off your feet in as little as six inches of water.
- Don't try to cross flooded areas and never enter moving water. Turn around—don't drown.
- Floodwaters pick up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms and factories. If your home has been flooded, protect your family's health by cleaning up right away. Throw out foods and medicines that may have been affected.
- Stay away from steep slopes that may become unstable when saturated.
- Never touch a downed power line as they can cause serious injury or death. Call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Look for tilted trees, telephone poles, fences or walls, and for new holes or bare spots on hillsides.
- If trapped in your vehicle, stay with it. If possible, relocate to the hood if water continues to rise.