



# Report to the People

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Si le interesa recibir un artículo en español, por favor llama a la Oficina de Información Pública al (323) 722-4805 ext 4453. Indica el título del artículo, la fecha y su domicilio o correo electrónico.

Hundreds of Commerce residents took advantage of the beautiful weather and came out to participate in the 11 block parties during the City's Annual National Night Out (NNO) on Tuesday, August 2.

It was clear from the onset that this year more residents were participating in the event. Residents enjoyed hot dogs, chips, cookies and pastries provided by the City while talking to members of the City Council, City staff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies and Firefighters, and the Urban Search and Rescue Team about their concerns in their neighborhood and community. Children weren't left out of the festivities as city staff gave away goodies such as backpacks, flashlights, wristbands, Frisbees and much more.

Public Safety and Community Services Director Matthew Rodriguez said that gatherings like National Night Out are very important in keeping the community safe and to create a dialogue between the community and public safety officials. "It's a night for us to problem solve," Rodriguez said. "While the crime rate is down here in Commerce, we must continue to identify problems our residents have so that we can work on solutions to further reduce crime throughout the City."

This year, thanks to revamped planning and creative scheduling, city officials were able to attend each block party, giving residents a chance to share their thoughts and concerns about their neighborhoods.

The festivities began in the Commerce senior center where attendees partied the afternoon away with good food, good friends and karaoke. Community Safety Officer Kevin Thompson serenaded the room with a rousing rendition of "I Want It That Way" by the Backstreet Boys while senior center supervisor Ann Berrotteran and the entire senior center staff sang "Ring of Fire" to the jubilant crowd.

Afterwards, city officials spoke about the importance of being vigilant and reporting crimes to the police. One official recounted a story about a burglar being caught because he wore a Dodger jacket he stole from a home in the Village.

At the Bristow Park block party hosted by Maria Artiaga, neighbors shared hot dogs wrapped with bacon, rice, beans and other goodies as they addressed concerns about speeding on Triggs Street. City staff diligently compiled a complete list of community needs and committed themselves to address each of their concerns.

Community Safety Officer (CSO) Robert Taylor addressed residents' concerns and told them about the City's pilot program to deal with speeding. He also reminded them that the Public Safety CSO is stationed in Bristow Park from 2 p.m.-10 p.m. and listened to their concerns of the need for increased police visibility and quicker response times. "Our goal is to work with the community to ensure that you and your family are safe and secure here in the City of Commerce," Taylor said. "It is also important that residents get involved in programs like the Neighborhood Watch in order to let us understand the community's needs and concerns."

At the Miracle Place block party in the Ferguson area hosted by the Bonada family, City administrator Jorge Rifa heard from residents concerning traffic safety and pedestrian access. "I always love coming here to the Bonada residence every year for National Night Out," Rifa said. "The Ferguson area is a treasured gem within the City of Commerce and we intend on living up to our promise as City officials to help our residents."

Attendees at the Rosewood Park block parties gathered around barbecues to chat with family and friends while children played in the bouncy house rented for the occasion. Their main concerns were vehicle burglaries and the need for more patrols by deputies and CSO's. Block Captain and party host Eva Calderon is no stranger in helping keep her neighborhood safe and secure. "I was one of the first block captains for the City here in Jillson when the Neighborhood Watch program was first created," Calderon said. "I've been doing this for 33 years and I plan to do it until the day I'm gone."

This year's National Night Out was coordinated by the City's Public Safety and Community Services Department and sponsored by Target. NNO participants included City staff, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's and Fire Departments, the Commerce Community Assistance Team (ComCATs), the Search and Rescue Team, the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and of course Commerce residents.

To join Neighborhood Watch, call Robert Taylor at (323) 887-4460 ext. 2970. To report crime anonymously, call the Sheriff's Anonymous Crime Tip Line at (323) 838-4258.



On behalf of the Commerce City Council, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in last month's National Night Out. Council, city staff and representatives from the LA County Sheriff's and Fire Departments visited block parties throughout the City to meet and speak with residents to discuss new ways to improve safety and security in Commerce.

It is important for all of us to stay vigilant and engaged. The easiest way to do that is by being observant. If you see criminal behavior or anything else out of the ordinary, call the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Station at (323) 264-4151. For easy reference, we always include this and other important numbers on the back cover of the Report to the People.

Our own Public Safety Division works closely with the Sheriff's department and provide a valuable service to our residents. One way to become a part of Commerce's public safety team is by joining the Neighborhood Watch. For more information, call the Public Safety Division at (323) 887-4461.

Speaking of making a difference in the community, I would like to congratulate the 78 Commerce residents who received 2016 Commerce Scholarships totaling \$80,000. These students have worked hard to earn scholarships which will help them achieve their college degrees. Of course, the success of the Commerce Scholarship Program would not be possible without the generosity of our City stakeholders. At the top of that list is the Commerce Hotel and Casino which has once again donated \$50,000 to this year's program. I would like to thank Haig Papaian and the rest of the Casino's Board of Directors for their investment in our community youth. I'd also like to thank John Griffo, the Casino's Director of Casino Development, for being personally involved in the Scholarship program for 25 years.

I also want to thank Steve Craig and the Citadel Outlets team for putting together the 6th Annual Clean Up Commerce event. This event brings together local volunteers to clean up the community and earn money for their charity or organization. Thank you all for your help in Keeping Commerce Beautiful.

As a reminder, City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday weekend and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Sincerely,

**Report to the People**

Published Monthly and Mailed to Commerce Residents

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**REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 1**

**Recognized** Graphics and Printing Specialist Anthony Aguilar whose redesigned Library logo was recognized by the California Association of Public Information Officials.



**Approved** a Fund Trade agreement for the exchange of Proposition A funds with the City of Lancaster.

**Approved** a memorandum of Understanding with the Metro for Proposition C - 5% transit security funds.

**Renewed** a service agreement with Tutor.com for online learning services.

**Approved** an agreement with iLink Business Management and Express Employment Professionals for temporary staffing services.

**Authorized** MIG Planning and Environmental Management Services to proceed with the preparation of the necessary environmental documentation associated with improvements proposed at 972 Goodrich Boulevard.

**Recognized** Craig Realty Group Citadel, LLC for sponsoring and hosting the 6th Annual Commerce Clean-Up Day.

**Received and filed** a status update on the I-710 project.

**Received and filed** a status update on the Washington Boulevard Widening and Reconstruction Project.

**Amended** the Classification and Compensation Plan for Facility CIP Project Manager for the Public Works and Development Services Department.

**Approved** an agreement with the Mercer Group to provide consulting services to facilitate the adoption of a draft strategic plan.

**Authorized** a letter to Sister City, Aguascalientes, Mexico, to formally request the establishment of an annual goodwill program to host three (3) Commerce student ambassadors to participate in the City's Anniversary celebration in October.

**Received and filed** a Report on the City of Commerce's Code sections and State Law that prohibit street racing.

**Continued** an item concerning the creation of a Commissioners Handbook.

**Appointment** made to Oversight Board.

**Regular City Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the City Council Chambers located at 5655 Jillson Street.**

**REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 19**

**Presented** Certificate of Recognition to Employee of the Quarter Michelle Keshishian.



**Received** Donation from the Commerce Hotel and Casino for the 2016 Commerce Scholarship

**Commended** Connie Ochoa for her countless achievements and many years of dedicated service.

**Recognized** Pauline Viesca for winning the 2016 Youth Open Championship

**Recognized** Commerce Crush Volleyball Program for their outstanding performance in the 8th Annual Summer Soiree.

**Recognized** Commerce Eagles Senior Citizens Softball Team for their Gold Medal victory at the Senior Olympics.

**Approved** the Addendum to the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority agreement to admit the City of Cudahy as a Trade Member.

**Approved** an agreement with Nobel Systems Inc. for online Geographic Information Systems and with Environmental Systems Research Institute for ArcGIS software.

**Renewed** an Agreement with Swinerton Builders to provide ongoing Construction Management Services for 1773 hours during Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

**Authorized** Transpo Group to provide Traffic Engineering Services and prepare a Grant Application to the California Department of Transportation Highway Safety Improvement Program.

**Approved** a Request for Proposal for the Comprehensive Development Impact Fee and Nexus Study and authorize the Finance Department to advertise for proposals.

**Conducted** a public hearing to consider the confirmation of the 2015-2016 Weed Abatement Charges.

**Received and filed** a presentation from the Citadel Outlets announcing the 6th Annual Clean Up Commerce event.

**Received and filed** a presentation on the City's Emergency Preparedness efforts currently in place for the City.

**Received and filed** a presentation pertaining to security cameras for the City and the residents.

**Approved** the opposition of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Expenditure Plan for the 2016 Proposed Ballot Measure.

**Received and filed** an overview of the report "Appointed Commissions; Transparency will Maintain the Public Trust" prepared by the County of Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury.

**Received and filed** a status update on Exide related activity from DTSC representatives and City staff.

**Commerce Welcomes New Sheriff's Station Captain**



The City of Commerce is pleased to welcome Captain Chris Perez to the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Station. Captain Perez, a 26-year member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, started his career with the Department in 1990. After graduating from the Sheriff's Training Academy as a deputy, he was assigned to the Pitchess Detention Center, Santa Clarita Station, Weapons Training Unit, and Tactics and Survival Unit.

Upon his promotion to sergeant in 2006, Captain Perez was assigned to Carson Station, Lennox and Century Station, and the Weapons Training Unit. Captain Perez was promoted to lieutenant in 2011 and was assigned to the Pitchess Detention Center, South Facility, Marina Del Rey

Station, Compton Station, and the Undersheriff's Office as an Executive Aide.

Captain Perez holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from National University and is recognized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the California Professional Peace Officers Standard and Training (POST) as an instructor in firearms, tactics, use of force, and chemical agents.

Captain Perez immigrated to the United States when he was seven years old and credits his success to his parents. He and his wife Hayley have two children; a son who was awarded the Bronze Star representing our country as a soldier in the U.S. Army, 101st Airborne Infantry Division, during three combat tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a daughter who is currently attending college. In his spare time, Captain Perez enjoys evenings with his wife, boating, driving off-road vehicles, and competitive shooting.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKWAY TREES



Although the state of California is currently experiencing a drought, it is very important that Commerce residents help water and maintain trees located in their parkways. Not only does it help your community, but it also greatly benefits your own property. Trees play an important role in our lives, beautifying our environment and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Parkway trees are integral to Commerce, providing long-term aesthetic, environmental and economic benefits by beautifying our streets. A parkway tree is a tree that was planted adjacent to the edge of the roadway within the County's road easement by Public Works, a developer who built the home, or the property owner.

"I implore our residents to help maintain parkway trees by watering them from time to time," said Hector Orozco, the City's Street & Tree Maintenance Supervisor. "If they don't get sufficient water, we risk losing these beautiful trees. Their survival is imperative to the quality of the air we breathe, raise the value of properties, and are aesthetically pleasing to everyone who lives, works and visits Commerce."

Parkway trees also help promote more pedestrian activity, reduce the cost of summer cooling, mitigate noise pollution and improve air and water quality. During a drought, healthy trees are crucial to maintaining sufficient local water supply in our communities. A mature tree can capture thousands of gallons of rainwater in its canopy and root zone, sinking that rain into the aquifer.

## Here are some general watering guidelines:

- Water your trees, but not every day. A newly planted tree will need a lot more water than one that was planted six years ago.
  - New trees need about 15 to 20 gallons of water once or twice a week their first month in the ground and often all the way through their first summer.
  - To determine whether or not a tree needs water, dig down at least four inches and check for moisture. Remember, the surface will dry out much faster. If the soil below ground is still very wet, water less often.
  - Mature trees will need some watering this winter, too, even if they're California natives. But water them less frequently, perhaps just once a month. Keep in mind that you're only trying to replace the rain water that would have fallen in an average year, which is about twelve inches.
  - For mature trees, you should be watering about nine inches from the trunk out to the edge of the farthest branches (the drip line). This is where the majority of the feeder roots are.
- If you would like more information or need to report a hazardous condition, please contact Public Works at (323) 887-4451.



## BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME THROUGH THE FIX-UP GRANT

The City of Commerce will be conducting the second lottery for the Neighborhood Fix-Up Grant Program this year. This popular program provides financial assistance to residents for minor improvements to their homes. Residents must pre-qualify based on income guidelines and those eligible will be placed in a lottery. Applications are available now at City Hall. Residents must meet eligibility criterion and provide all documentation to the Planning Division (Window 2) by October 14, 2016 to be entered in the second lottery. The Neighborhood Fix-Up Grant is an ongoing program and applications will continue to be accepted for subsequent lotteries.

The Program provides funding for the cost of materials associated with eligible residence exterior upgrades that are visible from the street or public right of way. The Program may also assist with some improvements that are not visible from the public right of way or street, but only if they are tied to an improvement which is visible (e.g., fence, windows, etc.)

"Over the years, the Neighborhood Fix-Up Grant Program has proven to be successful in revitalizing residential areas within the City," said Maryam Babaki, Director of Public Works and Community Development. "The Program has made a significant visual impact in the City's neighborhoods and has brought about great improvements within the community of Commerce."

### GRANTS OF UP TO \$2,000 EVERY TWO YEARS MAY BE AWARDED TO INCOME-QUALIFIED RESIDENTS.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- The dwelling unit must be located within the City of Commerce boundaries.
- Only one application will be accepted per property.
- Gross household income must not exceed 120 percent of Area Median Income for Los Angeles County, as defined annually by the California Housing and Development Department (HCD).
- The Program will only cover material costs for eligible exterior repairs or alterations that are visible from the street or public right of way (e.g. paint, stucco, fence, door, windows, etc.). The Program may also assist with some improvements that are not visible from the public right of way or street, but only if they are tied to an improvement which is visible (e.g., fence, windows, etc.).

#### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ARE:

- Household Income Qualification: Applicant must provide supporting income documentation for all household members 18 and over.
- Proof of Tenancy (Copy of current gas, water, or electric bill).
- Property owner consent (applicable to renters).
- Qualified applicants will be placed in a lottery.
- Before and after pictures of your home will be taken by Planning Staff.
- Applicant must submit receipts to the City's Planning Division and must be no older than 6 months from the date printed on your Fix-Up Grant Approval Letter from Planning staff. Only original receipts will be accepted (e.g., Home Depot, Lowes, etc.).
- The reimbursement process will take approximately 4 to 6 weeks from the date of receipt submittal.
- Households must be within the maximum income limits shown below:

#### 2016 INCOME LIMITS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household Size:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Household Income is Less than:	\$54,450	\$62,200	\$70,000	\$77,750	\$83,950	\$90,200	\$96,400	\$102,650

#### HOW DO I APPLY?

#### SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION TO THE CITY'S PLANNING DIVISION:

- A Completed Neighborhood Fix-Up Grant Application (only one per property)
- Copy of Drivers License, California ID or school ID for all members of the household.
- Income Tax Return (1040 Form) for all members of household 18 and over.
- The last 3 paycheck stubs, SSI or Pension Statements for all members of household 18 and over (last three bank statements if direct deposit)
- "No-Income Certification" form must be submitted for all unemployed members of household 18 and over (if applicable)
- Copy of current gas, water or electric bill.

For more information about the program, contact the Planning Division staff at 323.722.4805 extension 2820.



## CRITTER CORNER: ILLEGAL TO TRAP ANIMALS

A variety of species of wild animals live in and around residential neighborhoods, including skunks, opossum, raccoon and squirrels. While these animals are generally considered pests, it is illegal to trap any wildlife in your property without authorization from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The City of Commerce Animal Control officers are trained to deal with stray and wild animals, but are not allowed to capture animals inside residents' properties.

"We do not trap or remove wildlife per State Penal Code," said Animal Control Officer David Colon. "We will respond if the animal is deceased and needs to be removed from the property."

However, residents can call Animal Control and request a trap cage registered with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife in order to remove any wildlife from their properties.

Dogs and cats are transported to local animal shelters for possible adoption or reunion with owners. Possums, raccoons and skunks are relocated to the wild, as state law prohibits them from being released in the city or destroyed.

The Animal Control division is one of the most recently updated and effective operations in the Public Safety arsenal. The City's three Animal Control Officers are trained to handle both exotic and domestic animals, excluding insects and rodents.

Residents are urged to report any suspected animal abuse or neglect. All reports will be investigated and most can be done anonymously. Residents can report an animal issue by calling (323) 887-4460, ext. 2236 during regular business hours which are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

City of Commerce Animal Control services are available after hours if a message is left on voicemail, which instantly alerts the officer. Messages should include a brief description of the situation, an address or specific location and most importantly a callback number in case the officer requires more information.

When the City's animal control officers are not on duty, the City contracts with LA County Animal Control for continuous service. They can be reached at (562) 940-6898.

# THE Y.E.S. PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

By Bela Gamboa & Daisy Rivera, Y.E.S. Workers

Amongst all the programs and events the City of Commerce provides, the Youth Education and Service (Y.E.S.) program gives young residents like us the opportunity to gain experience in the workplace. This program allows teens from every part of the City to learn the basic skills needed to gain and sustain a job. There are various departments a Y.E.S. worker can be placed in, such as Parks and Recreation, Library and Public Safety.

We were placed in the Cable TV division, which is under the auspices of the Public Information Office. We worked under Cable TV Coordinator Darryl Leyden and Cable TV Producer/Editor Joe Sandoval. In fact, Joe worked as a Y.E.S. worker 20 years ago, which proves the program opens doors to the youth of this city and benefits them.

While working for the City, we have been taught multiple skills needed to be a productive employee in the workplace, such as keeping up to date with the entire organization and taking pride in our work. Whether it's categorizing the film library or prepping the studio for filming, we worked hard.

In addition to these essential skills, we also learned the value of responsibility. This is taught to the Y.E.S. workers in every department throughout the City. In Cable, we were given the responsibility in preparing show programming for the municipal channels. This

taught us time management skills and to prioritize our work. Having the capability of being responsible and managing time properly can be applied to future employment opportunities, higher education and real life situations.

Initially, our choice of work placement had not been Cable TV. Instead, we had chosen the Parks and Recreation Department and City Attorney's office, respectively. But being placed in Cable TV gave us the unique opportunity to learn more about broadcasting and the basics of television production. We were also fortunate enough to assist with the production of the Commerce City News for the month of August.

One valuable teaching experience for us was working with Joe on producing a side program offered to the youngest residents of the city called "Little Broadcasters." The program teaches the basics of behind the scenes camera work to children ages 7-12.

Participating in the Y.E.S. program allowed us to meet people we would have met and to create lasting friendships. We found friends in our fellow Y.E.S. workers. This strong bond let us come together to compose this amazing noteworthy article, which is a manifestation of our experience. Signing off, this is Bela

Gamboa and Daisy Rivera for the Commerce Y.E.S. Program.



## PRINCESS PROFILE:

# Miss Clippers Melissa Avila-Briones

### How has your experience been on the court so far?

*So far my experience on the court has been very positive. I enjoy going to the events and being able to interact with the community. Being on the court has also helped me come out of my comfort zone and experience new things. It truly is a great experience and getting to go through it with the other girls on the court has made it even better.*

### What do you hope to get out of serving on the court?

*By being on the court I hope to leave my shyness behind and learn to network and interact in social situations. I also hope to be a positive role model for any of the girls that will be on the court in the future. While on the court I would like to represent my city to the best of my ability.*

### What is the best thing about living in the City of Commerce?

*The best thing about living in Commerce is how close our community is. Commerce gives you that comforting feeling of being a part of your community by creating events that allow us to interact not as individuals but as a community. Another good thing about living in Commerce is having the Citadel so close to us, making it a short drive for me to go to work.*

### Are you furthering your education and/or working?

*I am currently a Chemistry major at Cerritos College; with my degree I plan to pursue a career in Forensics. While being a full-time student, I also work part time at Ruby's Diner here at the Citadel. My job includes making all the desserts and shakes we are famous for.*

### What are your hobbies, extracurricular activities, interests?

*I regularly babysit my baby brother, but when I don't, I enjoy working out and going on hikes. My favorite thing to do at home to pass the time is reading a good book. I also love to travel: this summer I went to Japan and China for two weeks and I definitely plan to continue traveling.*

### What are your plans for the future?

*My plans for the future include obtaining my bachelor's degree and finding a job with my degree. I would then like to return to school to get my master's degree. Ideally my plan would be to stay in school until I get a doctorate. My plans also include traveling to become more culturally rounded as a person.*

## LIBRARY NEWS: BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

Homework Centers are available at all four libraries and provide homework help for students from kindergarten through college. The centers' hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Additional hours available at Rosewood Library: Fridays 3-6 pm; Bandini Branch: Saturday 11 am-3 pm; Bristow Branch: Friday 3-5 pm and Saturday 11 am-3 pm; and Veterans Branch: Friday 3-5 pm.

### Online Resources for Students:

To access the online resources, go to [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org) and click on the Electronic Resources tab. A Commerce Library card number is required to log into most of the online resources.

- Live Homework Help—Free online homework tutors are available in all subjects for elementary to college students, from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Students can also register and download the free Tutor.com app to use on their mobile device.
- World Book Web—Students can use The World Book Online encyclopedia to read or print articles from any Internet computer; great for reports and other school projects!
- Popular Magazines Database—Thousands of online articles from popular magazines and journals are available. The database is a great research tool for students, especially for reports and research papers.
- BookFlix -- For children ages 3 to 8 years old, the library offers an online e-reading program for children to read along with their favorite picture books and easy information books to practice their reading.

The Library also has ABCMouse educational digital games available on library computers for free and a new resource to help parents select books for young children called "Beanstack."

### Hecho a Mano

Hecho a Mano Adult Crafts programs will now be held at each neighborhood library! Please check the library's website for dates and times. The craft for September is Papel Picado Creations!

### College Fair

The City of Commerce Public Library and Education Commission are hosting the 11th Annual Commerce to College Fair on Saturday, September 17 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at Veterans Park located at 6364 Zindell Avenue.

All intermediate, high school and adult school students are invited to meet with college representatives and attend a variety of helpful workshops. More than 40 colleges and universities have confirmed their attendance as well as other organizations such as Latinas in STEM, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Electrical Training Institute and the office of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard which will provide additional information about various career opportunities.

This year's guest speaker is Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez.

There will be great prizes raffled off to participants including two laptops, one iPad Mini, graphing calculators, gift cards and more. Students must attend one workshop to enter the raffle for laptops. Free lunch will also be provided. A shuttle bus will run from Bristow Park, Bandini Park and the Teen Center to the event at Veterans Park.

For more information about the Commerce to College Fair, visit [www.cocpl.org](http://www.cocpl.org) or call (323) 722-6660

## VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER By Olivia Audoma, Veterans Resource Coordinator

The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) has approached its 6 month anniversary, with over 50 veterans and/or family members visiting our center. Some were in need of assistance, while others visited in order to recognize and appreciate the center for its value to the military community. Our benefit coaches have worked over 280 hours volunteering their time, answering questions, researching information and going out into the community to talk about the center.

The center is currently working in collaboration with Operation Gratitude, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide care packages to active military, veterans and first responders within our community.

Members of the public were given the opportunity to write letters to our active military men and women during the Fourth of July event held at Rosewood Park. The letters expressed their appreciation and love for the men and women who are protecting our country.

Along with the letters, the Crochet Circle at the Veterans Library are volunteering and donating their time and talent by crocheting scarves and hats that will be included in upcoming care packages that will go out to our heroes. Volunteers are also making paracord survival bracelets to ensure that our military heroes are better equipped in emergency situations.

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month, all veterans are welcome to come to the VRC from 5pm

-7pm and share refreshments and good conversation with fellow military. We provide a comfortable, welcoming area for our veterans to relax, converse, read a book and enjoy their time with us. September's meeting will be held on the 13th.

### BUT THERE IS STILL MORE WE NEED TO DO.

The VRC is currently looking for volunteers to work at the center located at the Rosewood Library. Becoming a benefits coach is a rewarding experience. Our coaches have the opportunity to interact with veterans and active military by assisting them in a variety of topics. Volunteer benefits coaches ensure that veterans and their families know how to get connected to the state and federal benefits and services they have earned through military service.

If you are interested in helping and serving veterans and their families; have patience, empathy and good listening and interpersonal skills; and are familiar with military life, veterans' issues, reintegration challenges, or a willingness to learn, then you can help!

If you are interested in donating your time either by becoming a Benefits Coach or participating in one of our Operation Gratitude projects, please contact Olivia Audoma at the Veterans Library (323) 722-4905, ext. 2851.



## BE PREPARED: WHAT TO DO DURING POWER OUTAGES

The chance of power outages in Southern California is higher than normal this year, which is why both Southern California Edison and the Southern California Gas Company are reaching out to customers in order to conserve both electricity and natural gas.

According to representatives at Southern California Edison (SCE), if your power is out and a neighbor's is not, your home could be on a different line, or it may be related to an electrical issue in your home. In either instance here's what to do if the power goes out.

There are two types of power outages: planned and unplanned. During a planned outage, power must be shut off so that crews can safely perform work. A planned outage helps improve the overall strength of SCE's electrical system, including equipment replacement and network alterations and upgrades.

SCE notifies customers at least three days before maintenance begins, but unforeseen conditions may require service to be postponed till a later date. It's important to remember that your power may not be off during an entire scheduled planned outage. SCE may need to turn it on and off more than once to make sure the system modifications are working correctly. If you have any questions about planned outages, call SCE 24 hours a day at 1-888-759-6056 or go online to [www.sce.com/outages](http://www.sce.com/outages).

### An unplanned outage can be caused by many factors, including:

- Severe weather: Heavy rain and high winds can break power lines, causing wires to snap or equipment to fail.
- Natural disasters: Earthquakes and fires can damage power equipment and networks.
- Hot temperatures: High power demand for air conditioning can overload lines and transformers.
- Traffic accidents: Live power lines can be exposed and severed when cars crash into utility poles.

During an unplanned outage, SCE's goal is to quickly and safely identify the problem. Crews then prioritize and work quickly to repair the outage. SCE staff then makes every effort to communicate with utility customers, emergency personnel and the media through their call center and website. If your power is out and a neighbor's is not, your home is likely on a different circuit or line, or it may be related to an electrical issue in your home. If it is an issue with SCE equipment, they will work as fast as possible to turn your lights back on.

### If your power goes out

- Check for blown fuses or tripped circuits and see if your neighbor has power.
- Call SCE to report the outage at (800) 611-1911 or use the SCE smart phone app free for download for iPhone and Android devices.
- Switch off your lights (except one). Also, to prevent damage when the electricity is restored, unplug all electrical equipment—including computers, stereos, televisions and air conditioners.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio for storm or emergency-related updates.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Check food for spoilage.
- Don't use equipment designed for outdoor cooking or heating, such as a camp stove, indoors. There could be toxic fumes released.

Remember if you see a downed power line, do not touch it. Call 911 immediately. You can find more information and check the status of an outage at [www.sce.com/outages](http://www.sce.com/outages), by using the SCE phone app or by calling (800) 611-1911.

# Commerce Gallery Rewind

## COMMERCE CASINO DONATION



John Griffo, the Director of Casino Development for the Commerce Hotel and Casino, presented a check for \$50,000 to the Commerce Scholarship Program.

## LIFETIME OF SERVICE



Longtime Commerce Preschool teacher Connie Ochoa was honored with a commendation for her many years of service in the City of Commerce.

## COMMERCE CLEAN UP



More than a hundred volunteers woke up early in the morning to help clean up the streets of Commerce during the Commerce Clean Up.

## PUBLIC SAFETY LUNCHEON



LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell took time from his busy schedule to attend the City's annual Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon, posing for pictures with the Commerce ComCAT volunteers.

## CRUSHING THE COMPETITION



The Commerce Crush 13-and-under team was honored by the City Council for their first place win at the Summer Soiree in Anaheim.

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM ENDS



Library staff honored the top readers of the Summer Reading Program with special prizes and gifts to encourage them to keep on reading.



# COMMERCE CALENDAR

# SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>October 2016</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p>	<p><b>November 2016</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>December 2016</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>September is Library Card Sign-Up Month!</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation Commission 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Flag Football/Volleyball Hot Shot Soccer Registration All Parks 6 p.m.</b></p> <p>Create Your Brand Rosewood Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Teen Video Games Rosewood Library 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><i>"It is only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things."</i> Theodore Roosevelt</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><i>"My mother gave me one piece of advice that stuck with me. She said don't forget where you came from."</i> Eva Longoria</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Labor Day</b> City Hall &amp; Libraries Closed</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Crochet Circle Veterans Library 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</b></p> 	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Senior Citizens Commission 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Task Force Committee 3 p.m.</p> <p>Video Games Bristow Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Hecho a Mano Rosewood Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Job Fair Citadel Outlets 10-2</b></p> <p>Community Services Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Teen Video Games Rosewood Library 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Camp Commerce Registration Council Chambers 8 a.m.</b></p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Teen Book Club Rosewood Library 5 p.m.</p> <p>Intro to MS Access Bandini Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Education Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Veterans Coffee Social Rosewood Library 5 p.m.</p> <p>Intro to the Internet Rosewood Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Measure AA Committee 6 p.m.</p> <p>Crochet Circle Veterans Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Video Games Veterans Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Hecho a Mano Bristow Library 6 p.m.</p> <p>Traffic Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Computers/Keyboarding Veterans Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Hecho a Mano Bandini Library 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><i>"When I work I relax; doing nothing or entertaining visitors makes me tired."</i> Pablo Picasso</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>College Fair Veterans Park 10 a.m.</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Fiestas Patrias Bristow Park 3 - 9 p.m.</b></p> <p><i>"Among individuals, as among nations, respect for the rights of others is peace"</i> Benito Juarez</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>English Book Club Bandini Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Library Embajadoras READs Center 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m.</b></p> 	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Intro to Social Media Bristow Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Crochet Circle Veterans Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Teen Video Games Rosewood Library 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Preschool Registration Council Chambers 8 a.m.</b></p>
<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Database Fair Rosewood Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Library Commission 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Video Games Veterans Library 4 p.m.</p> <p>Database Fair Bandini Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>I-710 Advisory Committee 6 p.m.</p> <p>Crochet Circle Veterans Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Oversight Board 5 p.m.</p> <p>Database Fair Veterans Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Database Fair Bristow Library 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Spanish Reading Club Rosewood Library 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Teen Video Games Rosewood Library 3 p.m.</p>	

Report to the  
**People**

City of Commerce 2535 Commerce Way Commerce, CA 90040 • (323) 722-4805 Fax (323) 888-6841

•www.ci.commerce.ca.us •Facebook:ci.commerce.ca.us •Flickr:commerceca

•Twitter:@CityofCommerce •Instagram:cityofcommerce

# CITY OF COMMERCE

2535 Commerce Way  
Commerce, CA 90040

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

### Important Phone Numbers

City Hall (323) 722-4805  
Aquatorium (323) 887-4404  
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  
Vector Control (562) 944-9656  
**Report Train Idling/Noise call**  
BNSF (800) 832-5452  
UPRR (888) 877-7267

**EMERGENCY 911**



**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**

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## Tailgates: Lock It or Lose It

While crime is down here in the City of Commerce, it is important to remember that vigilance is important in crime prevention. A growing concern in the community is the stealing of truck tailgates, a practice which has increased in California.

You don't hear much about pickup tailgate thieves in insurance industry reports because the majority of victims either are afraid their insurance policies will rise if the theft is reported — or the deductible is about the price of a new tailgate.

However, according to the latest report from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), tailgate thefts are rising every year. Last year, the number of tailgates stolen in California rose from 425 in 2014 to 450 in 2015.

Replacement tailgates are in high demand and can be purchased from dealers and auto part stores and can average from \$1,000 to \$3,000. The high cost of replacing tailgates has fueled what experts call "black market demand," ending up on websites such as eBay and Craigslist for resale.

Other tailgates end up at scrap dealers as the rising cost of metal has made it worthwhile to sell. In addition, tailgates can be stolen quickly and without the use of complicated tools. The most popular trucks targeted are late-model full-size pickups.

To keep your truck's tailgate where it belongs, the City offers these four tips for theft prevention:

- Use the integrated tailgate lock if your pickup has that option.
- Install an aftermarket tailgate lock.
- Park your truck close to a wall or other object so the tailgate can't be opened enough to remove it.
- Inscribe an ID or your truck's VIN number somewhere on the tailgate so it can be identified if found.

For more information, contact the Public Safety and Community Services Department at (323) 722-4805 ext. 2870



LANDMARK **3**  
TV CHANNEL  
**CABLE GUIDE**

## SEPTEMBER 2016 FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

**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 8 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 "Adopt a pet"**  
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.

**4th of July Community Celebration featuring the "Jersey Boys" live from Rosewood Park**  
Mondays at 6 p.m., Tuesdays at 12 p.m., Wednesdays at 8 a.m., Thursdays at 6 p.m. or after City Council Meeting, Fridays at 6 p.m., Saturdays at 11:30 a.m., Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

**Annual Twilight Dance Concert series featuring: 'The Lions'**  
Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 3 p.m., Wednesdays at 5 p.m., Thursdays at 3 p.m., Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.