



Report to the People

Where Quality Service
Is Our Tradition

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CINCO DE MAYO

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www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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The Commerce Refuse to Energy Facility incinerates approximately 350 tons of trash per day to generate 10 megawatts of power, which is enough to power 10,000 households.

COMMERCE REFUSE TO ENERGY FACILITY

The Commerce Refuse to Energy proves burning trash to generate energy is a viable method of solid waste management in the South Coast Air Basin, where air pollution requirements are the toughest in the world. In fact, the facility, which has been in operation since 1987, incinerates 350 tons of trash per day on average to make 10 megawatts of power, which is enough electricity to power 20,000 households.

Approximately 250 truckloads of trash are brought to the facility each week. After processing about 30 truckloads of surplus trash, 50 truckloads of ashcrete and 10 loads of metal leave the facility each week.

Matt Eaton, Supervising Engineer for the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County has worked at the facility for more than a decade. "We constantly monitor

the facility to ensure we are well within all applicable Federal and State emissions standards," said Eaton.

Eaton said the white plumes that come from the stack is a mix of nitrogen and oxygen. It appears grey when combined with ammonium chloride, a salt which is present in extremely small amounts and is not toxic. As material travels through the furnace it is exposed to temperatures of up to 2000F.

As a result, more than 99.98% of what comes out of the stack is nitrogen and oxygen. The remaining .02% is mostly carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulfur and dust particles. For each of these pollutants the facility is consistently below permitted limits.

In operation since 1987, the facility was the first plant in the

world to use a unique state of the art combination of air pollution control devices, which have become standard for similar facilities. The trash goes through an ammonia and limestone injection in the furnace, followed by a dry scrubber and finishing with a bag house. The destruction process has earned the Commerce plant a reputation as one of the cleanest of this type in the world.

In addition to generating electricity the facility recycles metals that are separated from the trash before it's burned. The recovered metal is sold and recycled into other products.

The ash that is produced from burning the trash is recycled by mixing it with cement to make an "ashcrete", which is very similar to concrete. The ashcrete is used in place of base rock at the Puente

See **Refuse to Energy** page 8

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

The devastating earthquake and tsunami which hit Japan in early March is a reminder how catastrophic the sudden shaking of the earth can be.

Most Americans think California and the West Coast are the most susceptible areas in the United States for an earthquake.

However, the majority of states and territories in every region of the country are at some risk for an earthquake.

In Japan, the strong earthquake led to a tsunami which swept miles inland from coastal areas, destroying everything in its path. Can a tsunami occur in the U.S.? The answer is yes, these mighty waves have already affected the U.S. Hawaii, Alaska and the West Coast are most prone to tsunamis, according to the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Earthquake Hazards Program, while the giant waves are not as much of a threat on the Gulf Coast and East Coast.

Below are steps you can take before, during and after an earthquake to help you prepare for and better cope in the event of an earthquake.

Steps To Take Before an Earthquake Occurs

- Know the fire evacuation and earthquake plans for any building you occupy regularly.
- Pick safe places in each room of your home, place of employment or school, under a piece of furniture or against an interior wall.
- Practice drop, cover and hold on. If you do not have sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Keep a flashlight and sturdy shoes by each person's bed.
- Make sure your home is securely anchored to its foundation.
- Bolt and brace water heaters, gas appliances, bookcases, china cabinets and other tall furniture to wall studs.
- Hang heavy items, such as pictures and mirrors, away from beds, couches and anywhere

See **Earthquake Preparedness Month** page 3

FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT J. CORNEJO DIES



Robert J. Cornejo, a former Commerce City council member and long-time resident who was instrumental in creating City job opportunities for youth—in particular the YES program, died on Feb. 23. He was 76 years old.

A Commerce resident for 54 years, Cornejo's dedication to the community was demonstrated through his many years of community service and leadership.

Robert Chavez, director of the Public Safety/Community Services Department, was Cornejo's neighbor.

"I was fortunate to be raised across the street from Mr. Cornejo since 1959," said Chavez. "I always knew him and Sandy (Cornejo's wife) as great neighbors who always stood up for what was right."

"Mr. Cornejo had a great love

for his community and had a big place in his heart for the talent he saw in people who lived here," added Chavez.

Chavez recalled that it was Cornejo who convinced him to sign up for the City's Junior Recreation Program which provided him with a summer job and the means to pay for school clothes and college textbooks.

See **Robert J. Cornejo** page 3

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Japanese people as they struggle to deal with the loss of lives and the devastation in their country. On behalf of the community, the Mayor and City Council recently enacted a Resolution expressing its condolences to the nation of Japan and asking our business and residential communities to support the relief effort. If you would like to donate to the relief effort in Japan, you will find links to humanitarian and relief organizations on the City's website at www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

The magnitude of the disaster in Japan is a powerful reminder of the importance of being prepared for an emergency. The Red Cross recommends that the public be prepared by knowing what emergencies and disasters are most likely to occur in their communities, having a family disaster plan in place and practicing it, and getting an emergency preparedness kit. You can visit the Red Cross website at www.redcross.org for more information.

Disasters are unpredictable, but preparedness can increase your chances at staying safe and protected. We urge you to start planning now for an emergency.

Our community recently lost former council member and long-time resident—Robert J. Cornejo. Mr. Cornejo was a beloved and respected community leader who made significant and lasting contributions to the City. We offer our condolences to the Cornejo family. He will be missed.

Our efforts to save redevelopment agencies continue. Even while we campaign against Gov. Brown's proposal to eliminate redevelopment agencies, we are looking at viable options that would meet the needs of the State, cities and schools. The California Redevelopment Association recently came up with an alternative proposal. In exchange for this voluntary contribution to schools, redevelopment agencies would be granted extensions of their project life-spans. Because the program would be voluntary, it would not violate the State Constitution, or the will of the voters who overwhelmingly supported Proposition 22. Proposition 22 prohibits the State from taking funds used for transportation or local government projects and services.

If redevelopment agencies are eliminated, upwards of 300,000 private sector jobs will be lost every year. Projects like Vista Del Rio, that provided affordable housing and The Citadel, which revitalized the City and generates revenue, would be threatened. We will continue to keep you updated on this issue.

May 1 – 7 is Public Service Recognition Week. On behalf of the Commerce City Council, I want to take this opportunity to thank our City employees for the wonderful job they do for Commerce. In March, we recognized 80 employees—including retirees, with a recognition luncheon. More than half the employees honored have given Commerce 20 or more years of service. That is a testament to their dedication to public service. Once again, thank you City of Commerce employees.

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

The deadline for Commerce Scholarship applications is Friday, May 6. Commerce college students shouldn't miss this opportunity to get financial support for their education. Turn applications and supporting documents to the Commerce Public Library or Commerce Literacy Center by 5 p.m., Friday, May 6.

Don't forget that City Hall and the Libraries will be closed on May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.

Sincerely,
Jorge Rifa



MUNICIPAL NOTES

CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZES

The Commerce City Council reorganized at its meeting on March 22. Council members unanimously elected Joe Aguilar as Mayor and Tina Baca Del Rio as Mayor Pro Tem. Joining Aguilar and Del Rio on the City council are Robert C. Fierro, Lilia R. Leon and council newcomer Denise M. Robles.

This is the second time that Aguilar, who was first elected to the City council in 2007, will serve as mayor.

Outgoing mayor Baca Del Rio was presented a plaque in recognition of her service as the City's mayor from March 2010 to March 2011.

CITY OF COMMERCE ELECTION RESULTS

The Commerce City Clerk certified the results of the March 8 Municipal Election during the City Council Meeting on March 22.

Commerce voters elected City Council incumbent Joe Aguilar and newcomer Denise Robles to fill the two open Council seats. Aguilar came in first with 25.72 percent, or 671 votes, and while Robles came in second with 20.58 percent, or 537 votes.

Candidates Jaime Valencia was third with 447 votes (17.13%), Jose S. Acero was fourth with 355 votes

(14.10%), George Kevanian fifth with 242 votes (9.28%), Ray Gordy Cisneros sixth with 209 votes (8.01%), Liz Flores seventh with 81 votes (3.10%) and Shawn Estrada had 67 votes (2.57%).

Commerce voters also overwhelmingly passed Measure A limiting the number of terms and/or total years a city council member may serve. The measure passed with 72.89 percent or 675 "Yes" votes. "No" votes totaled 27.11 percent or 251 votes.

Voter turn-out in Commerce was 24 percent.

ROSEWOOD/ROSINI STREET RESURFACING UPDATE

As RTTP was going to press, a geotechnical study commissioned by the City Council was underway in order to determine the underlying causes for the distressed pavement in the recently paved streets in the Rosewood and Rosini neighborhoods.

LaBelle Marvin, Inc., is conducting the study and will submit their findings to the City on April 19.

The report will identify the underlying cause for the pavement failures and put forth recommended corrective actions for the Council's consideration.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Regular Meeting of March 1

- Proclaimed March 3 as Student Government Day. Commended Commerce Casino Corporate Secretary Debbie Payne.
- Proclaimed March 23 as Arbor Day in Commerce.
- Adopted the following revised policies and procedures: Classification Plan Administration Policy 11-1, Reclassification Policy II-2, Salary Plan Administration Policy II-3; Overtime Compensation for Non-Exempt Employees Policy II-6, and Harassment Free Workplace Policy III-7.
- Approved a request for proposals to provide auditing services to the City of Commerce and the Community Development Commission.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the city administrator and/or his designee to execute the Municipal Transit Operators Coalition consulting agreement on behalf of the City, including processing the City's portion of the cost to hire a lobbyist. Commerce joined seven other cities to form the Municipal Transit Operators Coalition in 1999 to jointly seek federal funding for public transportation related projects and hired the Ferguson Group to represent the coalition in Washington D. C.
- Approved a services agreement with SCS Engineers for removal of a waste water clarifier on commission owned property at 5901 Telegraph Road.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the city administrator, director of finance and acting director of transportation to sign certification and assurance documents required by Cal Trans to use and account for Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement Account bond funds.
- Approved a resolution rejecting proposals for consulting services to design/build a landfill gas collection and treatment system at the Structural Materials site, located at 7025 E. Slauson Ave.
- Approved a resolution accepting the work performed by Rodriguez Construction for the refurbishment of the Rosewood Park picnic shelters.
- Approved and ratified an agreement with Onward Engineering for design and engineering services for the Commerce Bus Shelter.
- Approved an agreement for consulting services with Bartel Associates to perform a study that would determine the long-term costs of the City's health and medical retirement benefits. The information was needed to comply with Governmental Accounting Standards

Board's requirements.

- Approved a revision to the I-710 Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Membership creating alternate member positions for the Planning and Traffic Commissioner appointments.
- Approved adoption of Los Angeles County building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, residential, green and fire codes to apply to Commerce.
- Adjourned in memory of former Councilmember and longtime Commerce resident Robert J. Cornejo; longtime resident Magdalena Morales; former City employee Carlos Correa; and George Ramirez, father-in-law of City employee Maria Villasenor.

Regular Meeting of March 22

- Adopted a resolution certifying the results of the March 8 General Municipal Election.
- Approved the presentation of certificates of election and the oath of office for new councilmembers.
- Reorganized and selected a mayor and mayor pro tempore for the period of March 2011 to March 2012.
- Approved a proclamation supporting the Japanese disaster relief effort and encouraging humanitarian assistance for the Japanese people.
- Proclaimed the month of April 2011 Sexual Assault Awareness Month and April 27 as "Denim Day" in Commerce.
- Appointed City commissioners and committee members.

Report to the People

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Editor:
Brian Wolfson

Writers/ Photographers:
Jason Stinnett
Sylvia Rico-Sanchez



Graphics Design/ Printing:
Anthony Aguilar

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

Please call (323) 887-4453 or (323) 887-4447 or visit us online at www.ci.commerce.ca.us.

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

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beds, couches and anywhere people sleep or sit.

- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Install strong latches or bolts on cabinets. Large or heavy items should be closest to the floor.

Steps To Take During an Earthquake

If you are inside when the shaking starts:

- Drop, cover and hold on. Move as little as possible.
- If you are in bed, stay there, curl up and hold on. Protect your head with a pillow.
- Stay away from windows to avoid being injured by shattered glass.
- Stay indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. Use stairs to exit the building rather than an elevator.
- Be aware that fire alarms and sprinkler systems frequently go off in buildings during an earthquake, even if there is no fire.

If you are outside when the shaking starts:

- Find a clear spot away from buildings, power lines, trees and streetlights and drop to the ground. Stay there until the shaking stops.
- If you are in a vehicle, pull over to a clear location and stop. Avoid bridges, overpasses and power lines if possible. Stay inside with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Drive carefully, avoiding bridges and ramps that may have been damaged.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle, do not get out. Wait for assistance.
- If you are in a mountainous area or near unstable slopes

or cliffs, be alert for falling rocks and other debris. Landslides are often triggered by earthquakes.

Steps To Take After an Earthquake

- Prepare for potential aftershocks, landslides or even a tsunami. Each time you feel an aftershock, drop, cover and hold on.
- Put on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and work gloves to protect against injury from broken objects.
- Look quickly for damage in and around your home and get everyone out if your home is unsafe.
- Listen to a portable, battery-operated or hand-crank radio for updated emergency information and instructions.
- Look for and extinguish small fires. Fire is the most common hazard after an earthquake.
- Clean up spilled medications, bleach, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately.
- Open closet and cabinet doors carefully as contents may have shifted.
- If you were away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.

Earthquakes strike suddenly and without warning, occurring during the day or at night, in any season of the year. For more information on what you can do to remain safe during an earthquake, visit www.redcross.org.

Information in this article comes from the American Red Cross.

ROBERT J. CORNEJO

■ CONT. FROM PAGE 1

school clothes and college textbooks. The employees' tuition reimbursement program which Cornejo helped to establish, provided him with the opportunity to earn a master's degree, Chavez said.

"When I think of Mr. Cornejo and my personal life, I can sincerely say that I live in the home I live in and enjoy the lifestyle I have today because of the programs that he, Mr. Eula, Mr. Vasquez, and the councils he sat on implemented for us," said Chavez.

Cornejo was first elected to the City Council in 1984. He was reelected in 1988 and 1992, serving twice as Commerce's mayor.

"Bob was an integral part of formulating many improvements for Commerce residents," said Artemio Navarro, who served with Cornejo on the City Council. He described Cornejo as having "a passion for improving the quality of life for every resident."

Jim Jimenez, director of the Parks and Recreation Department who worked with Cornejo professionally, remembers the council members' finesse and communications savvy. "He had an uncanny ability to liven-up a serious discussion with one of his humorous jokes, but still get across the seriousness of the situation."

"Mr. Cornejo was, in my opinion, one of the principle

decision makers for the City that brought programs, projects and revenue ventures to the City that we are benefiting from today," said Jimenez.

While on council, Cornejo was committed to supporting education and public safety services and responding to residents' concerns.

Cornejo advocated for the creation of the Youth Employment and Service (YES) summer youth employment program and was also a founding member of the City's Community Anti-Gang Task Force, which continues today as the Commerce Community Task Force.

He also championed the City's interests at the regional, state and national levels of government during his tenure and was known as a staunch advocate for the local businesses.

Cornejo was active in many of the City's civic and service organizations, which included the Model City Democratic Club, the St. Marcellinus Holy Name Society and the Bell Gardens High School Booster Club. He served as a member of the City's Planning Commission up until his death.

Cornejo is survived by his wife Sandy, three daughters Chris, Gloria, and Cynthia, son Robert Jr., four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

WATER POLO PROGRAM HONORED

■ COMMERCE CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The City of Commerce Department of Parks and Recreation was selected as the recipient of the Paragon Award - Water Polo Category by the International Swimming Hall of Fame. The award recognizes the City's commitment to excellence and its long standing tradition in the field of competitive aquatics, particularly in the sport of water polo.

"This is such an honor," said Parks and Recreation Director Jim Jimenez. "The City is ecstatic and very appreciative of the recognition."

The International Swimming Hall of Fame is a not-for-profit educational organization which promotes the

benefits and importance of swimming as a key to fitness, good health, quality of life and water safety for children.

The Annual Paragon Awards are sponsored by Paragon Aquatics, manufacturers of swimming pool deck equipment. The awards are presented for outstanding contributions to competitive swimming, water polo, competitive diving, aquatic safety, synchronized swimming and recreational swimming.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be recognized at an awards ceremony May 7 at the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



LOW-WATER/DROUGHT-RESISTANT PLANTS SAVES MONEY, WATER

"Studies of residential properties that have been partially or fully converted to water-wise landscapes have for several years reported actual water savings of 20-50%, but savings can be even higher," according to Amy Vickers in the "Handbook of Water Use and Conservation."

While the amount of water that can be saved varies, "Properties converted from conventional irrigated landscaping to pure water-wise landscaping with no supplemental irrigation can potentially save as much as 100%, excluding the water initially required for plant establishment," according to Vickers.

Water-wise landscapes also conserve water. The California Water Service Company says using low-water and drought-resistant plants can significantly reduce outdoor water usage.

Cal Water has provided the following list of plants which are appropriate for California's climate and that use less water. Residents may want to consider using them for their yards and gardens.

Perennials, Shrubs, and Ornamental Grasses--Agave species (Agave), Alyogyne huegelii (Blue Hibiscus), Arcostaphylos species (Manzanita), Artemisia species (Sagebrush), Ceanothus species (California Lilac), Chamelaucium uncinatum (Geraldton Waxflower), Cistus species (Rockrose), Dudleya species (Live Forever), Echeveria species (Hens-and-Chickens), Encelia californica (California Encelia), Galvezia speciosa (Island Bush Snapdragon), Grevillea species (Grevillea), Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon), Lavandula species (Lavender), Leucophyllum species (Texas Ranger), Lobelia laxiflora (Mexican Bush Lobelia), Mahonia nevinii (Nevin's Barberry), Melaleuca nesophila (Pink Melaleuca), Myrtus communis (Common Myrtle), Nassella species (Needlegrass), Penstemon species (Penstemon), Rhus species (Sumac), Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary), Salvia, selected species (Sage), Sisyrinchium bellum (Blue-Eyed Grass), Tapetes lemmonii (Copper Canyon Daisy), Verbena, selected species (Verbena)

Trees--Arbutus unedo (Strawberry Tree), Chitalpa tashkentensis (Chitalpa), Geijera parviflora (Australian Willow), Laurus nobilis (Sweet Bay), Olea europaea 'Swan Hill' (Swan Hill Olive), Pinus eldarica (Afghan Pine), Prosopis chilensis (Chilean Mesquite), Quercus agrifolia (Coast Live Oak), Rhus lancea (African Sumac)

Vines--Bougainvillea species (Bougainvillea), Macfadyena unguis-cati (Cat's Claw), Vitis californica (California Wild Grape)

Turf--Buchloe dactyloides, (Buffalograss), Cynodon dactylon (Hybrid Bermudagrass), Zoysia 'Victoria' (Victoria Zoysiagrass)

Ground Cover--Acacia redolens 'Desert Carpet', (Dwarf Prostrate Acacia), Achillea species (Yarrow), Baccharis species (Coyote Brush), Cotoneaster dammeri (Bearberry Cotoneaster), Lampranthus species (Ice Plant), Lantana montevidensis (Trailing Lantana), Myoporum parvifolium (Myoporum), Sedum species (Stonecrop)

This list is a representation of low-water consuming plants that are easily available. Check with a local nursery for suggestions about what is best suited to the area.



City of Commerce Scholarships

Applications Due May 6

Commerce residents currently enrolled in college or that will be attending an accredited college or university this fall are invited to apply for a 2011 Commerce Scholarship, but applications must be turned in by May 6.

The Scholarship is open to undergraduates carrying 12 or more units (full-time status) and post graduates meeting all eligibility requirements.

This year the application is available online only at the Commerce Library's website at www.cocpl.org.

For more information, call Scholarship Coordinator Beatriz Sarmiento at (323) 722-6660



COMMERCE LIBRARY NEWS

BRISTOW PARK LIBRARY STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

The Bristow Park Branch Library will host a Stuffed Animal Sleepover for children's favorite stuffed animals.

To participate, children drop off their stuffed animal at the Bristow Park Library before 5 p.m. on Friday, May 13.

The toys will stay overnight for a "sleep over." The children and their families return to the Bristow Park Library at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 14 to find out what their toys

did overnight in the library, listen to stories about stuffed animals, and enjoy morning refreshments. Note: Only the toys will stay overnight in the library!

For more information, call the Bristow Park Library at (323) 265-1787

CINCO DE MAYO CRAFT AND CELEBRATION AT GREENWOOD LIBRARY

The Greenwood Branch Library is hosting a Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Thursday, May 5 at 4 pm in honor of Cinco de Mayo. As part of the celebration children can

participate in a craft to make a bean bracelet.

For more information, call the Greenwood Branch Library at (323) 265-1787

JOIN THE SPANISH BOOK CLUB TODAY

If you enjoy reading Spanish language novels, the Commerce Public Library has a large Spanish book collection and also hosts the Spanish Book Club, which meets monthly,

This month the Spanish book club is reading *El Ticket de tu Vida* by Brendon Burchard. The club meets on Monday, May 23 at 6 pm. For more information, call the Commerce Central Library at (323) 722-6660.

COMMERCE ADOPTS PROCLAMATION FOR JAPAN

URGES SUPPORT FOR DISASTER RELIEF

In response to the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that occurred in Japan on March 11, 2011, the Commerce City Council has approved a proclamation encouraging the public to provide humanitarian assistance to the disaster victims.

The proclamation highlights the city's association with the Japanese business community and urges the public to contribute to aid organizations accepting donations for

earthquake and tsunami relief.

A link to organizations accepting donations for the victims have been added to the City's website.

To date, the government of Japan has evacuated individuals who were living within a 20-kilometre radius around the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

For more information, contact the City of Commerce Administration Department at (323) 722-4805.

COMMERCE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

KEEP CONNECTED IN AN EMERGENCY

City officials are urging residents to sign up for Blackboard Connect, a system which sends time sensitive messages to subscribers during unexpected events in whatever way they prefer. The subscriber decides if the message will be sent via phone, email, TDD or social media.

"With this system, our ability to warn and alert the community has increased immensely," said Director of Community Service Robert Chavez, who expects the system to help the City reach residents if there is a disaster or an emergency.

In the event of an incident, residents who have signed up for the service may be told to stay indoors, report to an evacuation site or to contact police or fire agencies for additional information. The network operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and messages can be sent in multiple languages.

In an effort to educate the community about Blackboard Connect, please read the following FAQs:

Q: How do I register?

A: City residents with a listed phone number are automatically registered at no cost. Residents and Commerce industrial residents within the city limits without a listed phone number can register online at ci.commerce.ca.us and selecting the link on the City's home page or by going to the Community Services Department or the Public Safety Division at City Hall, 2535 Commerce Way, Commerce California to sign up in person.

Q: Why is the City encouraging the community to use this service?

A: Despite the extraordinary precautions that the transportation industry and our industrial neighbors take to maintain a safe environment, we must be prepared for the unexpected. An overturned truck, a derailed train or an industrial accident all have the potential to affect the community. Blackboard Connect is one additional way to alert and inform the community.

Q: If I don't have a home phone, how does it work?

A: The system also works with mobile phones but the subscriber must sign up first for the service. Cell phone users will get a phone message or an email or a TDD message. It is especially important that people who rely on a cell phone register with Blackboard Connect to receive the City's alerts.

What languages are supported?

A: Translation services are offered for English to Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian and German.

Q: What if one of my young children answers the Blackboard Connect call?

A: Discuss your emergency plan with all family members, especially children and disabled adults. Instruct children to call you to the phone and to listen very carefully until you arrive. Involve everyone in your emergency plan so they all know how to respond.

Q: I have an unlisted phone number. Can I still maintain my privacy?

A: Blackboard Connect maintain the highest security standards in the industry to protect all data. The information is never sold or provided to anyone outside Blackboard Connect and it is used exclusively for emergency notification purposes.

Q: What will using the service cost me?

A: Nothing. The system is offered free by the City of Commerce. There is no software to install and no maintenance fees for subscribing and using Blackboard Connect.

By registering for Blackboard Connect, residents and industrial residents can ensure that they will be notified and/or updated during any emergent incident. Many people are already registered in the program, however if you have recently changed your address or you have an unlisted phone number you should do so again. For the system to work effectively, it is essential that the City have access to the right information for everyone in the network.

Q & A: MISS CINCO DE MAYO

JANET GARCIA



Miss Cinco de Mayo Janet Garcia.

Miss Commerce and the Royal Court not only serve as community role models but host many City events during the year.

RTTP spoke with Miss Cinco de Mayo Janet Garcia about the City's upcoming Cinco de Mayo Celebration being held at Bristow Park on Sunday, May 1. **RTTP: What do you enjoy most about serving as a City ambassador on the Royal Court?**

Janet: Although I've only been on the Court a short time I've really enjoyed serving the community and interacting with Commerce

residents at events like Arbor Day and the City Council Meetings.

What I've enjoyed the most is talking with the little kids. I see the way they look up to us (as members of the Court) and that inspires me to be the best role model I can for them. I hope that in turn I inspire them to look ahead to accomplish their goals.

RTTP: What does Cinco de Mayo mean to you?

Janet: To me Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of our culture. It also represents our community and our roots. It's important to know your history so you don't forget your past.

RTTP: What are you most looking forward to at the Cinco de Mayo Celebration?

Janet: I'm looking forward to all of the dancing because I enjoy dancing, but mostly, I'm looking forward to all the delicious food that will be served by Commerce's local civic and service organizations.

RTTP: Is there anything you'd like to say to Commerce residents?

Janet: I hope everyone can get to the event and has a safe and happy Cinco de Mayo!

Garcia is a student at Montebello High School. Her hobbies include running and dancing.

For more information on the Commerce Cinco de Mayo Celebration see the information in this issue of RTTP.

Channel 3



May 2011

Featured Highlights

Award winning cablecasts of the Community Development Commission & City Council Meetings

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. (Live every 1st and 3rd Tues.)
Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Thursdays at 5 p.m.
& Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Cinco de Mayo Community Celebration (Live Broadcast on Saturday, May 1st at 12 p.m.)

Mondays 10:00 a.m., Tuesdays 3:00 p.m.,
Wednesdays 5:30 p.m., Thursdays 9:00 a.m.,
Fridays 4:30 p.m., Saturdays 6:00 p.m.
& Sundays 5:30 p.m.

Commerce Basketball

"Veterans Park vs. Rosewood Park"

Mondays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 12 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Thursdays at 8 p.m.,
Fridays at 1 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m.
& Sundays at 10 a.m.

Commerce City News

Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 1:43 p.m.,
Wednesday at 1 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m.,
Friday at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 5:43 p.m.
& Sundays at 9 a.m. & 5 p.m.

"In A Council Minute"

Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m.,
Wednesdays at 9 a.m., Thursdays at 2 p.m.,
Fridays at 2:43 p.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m.
& Sundays at 8 p.m.

Twilight Dance Series "Ben Lee"

Santa Monica Pier Concert

Mondays at 12:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 11 a.m.,
Wednesdays at 9:43 p.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m.,
Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 1 p.m.
& Sundays at 11:43 a.m.

Commerce Public Affairs

"Emergency Preparedness"

Mondays at 2 p.m., Tuesdays at 4 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 4 p.m., Thursdays at 6 p.m.,
Fridays at 4 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m.
& Sundays at 1 p.m.

Step Aerobics Class

Mondays at 8 a.m., Tuesdays at 2 p.m.,
Wednesdays at 2 p.m., Thursdays at 10 a.m.,
Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 12 p.m.
& Sundays at 8 a.m.

Vintage Vehicle Show - Shows include:

The Vintage Vehicle Show
Green Car Show Mondays at 1 p.m.
The Vintage Vehicle Show
Port Orchard Cruz Wednesdays at 3 p.m.
The Vintage Vehicle Show
Beverly Hills Concours D'Elegance Thursdays at 1 p.m.
The Vintage Vehicle Show
Street Rod Visions Saturdays at 2 p.m.

ARBOR DAY HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE CELEBRATES AT LOCAL SCHOOLS



Smokey the Bear with contest winners at Laguna Nueva with Miss Commerce and Court, City staff, & representatives of the LA County Fire Forestry Division and the US Department of Agriculture.

To highlight the importance of trees and a clean environment, the City of Commerce sponsored Annual Arbor Day Celebrations for 4th graders at Bandini, Laguna Nueva and Rosewood Park Elementary Schools.

"In California, Arbor Day is celebrated March 7-14, and there are many ceremonies held for planting a tree, to help keep our land beautiful," said Miss Commerce 2011 Lesly Mendez to students.

During the event, Mendez along with Miss Galaxy Natalie Contreras, Miss Fourth of July/Miss Friendship Rocio Espinosa, and Miss Cinco de Mayo Janet Garcia gave out small free tree saplings for the students to plant at home. The trees were provided by West Coast Arborists.

Commerce Tree and Street Maintenance Supervisor Hector Orozco talked to the students about the benefits

of an urban forest. He then assisted Principal Karen Pugh at Bandini Elementary, Principal Jose Franco at Laguna Nueva Elementary and Principal Robert Cornejo at Rosewood Park School by presenting awards to the winners of the Arbor Day Poster Contest.

The awards went to Daija Pinal-Varela, 1st place, Humberto Hernandez, 2nd place and Michelle Perez 3rd place at Bandini Elementary. The winners at Laguna Nueva Elementary were Christopher Olivares, 1st place, George Bernabe, 2nd place and Gissele Fernandez, 3rd place. At Rosewood Park School Hailey Herrera took 1st place followed by Paola Ornelas in 2nd place and Danielle Martinez in 3rd place.

Arbor Day was founded by Julius Sterling Morton, a journalist turned newspaper editor and politician, who was famously quoted for saying: "Each generation takes the earth as trustees."

Morton, who proposed that a day be dedicated to tree planting and increasing awareness of the importance of trees, worked to improve agricultural techniques in his adopted state of Nebraska and throughout the United States as Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland in 1872.

His dream was realized across the entire United States when Arbor Day was recognized nationally in 1970.

For homeowners who wish to keep their home and the City of Commerce beautiful, Arbor Day is an excellent opportunity to take stock of the trees on your property and plan for the future. Trees help to clean the environment by converting carbon dioxide and other pollutants into oxygen. Trees also provide a sense of wellbeing, add value to properties and enhance the City.

PARK PLAYGROUNDS & ROSEWOOD PICNIC SHELTERS PROJECTS COMPLETE

To ensure facilities are in good condition and safe for public use, the City refurbished the picnic shelters at Rosewood Park and resurfaced the rubberized surface on the playgrounds at each of the City's four parks.

The refurbishment of the Rosewood Park shelters included new paint, new lighting, closing the roof openings in the middle of each shelter and new composite roofing.

The picnic shelter project cost \$33,180, 11% less than the contract amount and 25% less than the

\$50,000 initially budgeted for the project; saving the City \$16,820.

The Playground Rubberized Resurfacing Project resurfaced the playgrounds at all four City parks to improve the playground surfacing and safety.

The project cost the City \$156,787, part of which will be reimbursed by the State and the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Prop Maintenance and Service Fun. The City's portion was \$30,782.

Channel 3 will play many different shows throughout the month of May 2011. Please see the ongoing Channel TV Guide for more info on show titles and show broadcast times. Remember to check this channel for major emergency info and basic info on what's happening in the City. Channel 3 can be viewed anywhere in the world from our city web site at ci.commerce.ca.us. Thank you for your viewing support.

Report to the People **COMMERCE GALLERY**

ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



Pictured here are the 4th grade student winners of the Arbor Day Poster Contest from Bandini and Laguna Nueva Elementary Schools and Rosewood School. Pictured with the students are school representatives and Tree and Street Maintenance Supervisor Hector Orozco (middle).

MISS COMMERCE AND ROYAL COURT



Miss Commerce Lesly Mendez and the Royal Court were introduced at a Council Meeting in April. They are pictured here with members of the Pageant Steering Committee.

DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANTS



The City Council honored employees who have served the City of Commerce for 30 years or more. From l. to r. are Linda Kay Olivieri, Louie Bejarano, Dan Gomez, Art Martinez, Bernard Perez, Rudy Torres, Loretta Valles and Beverly Wiggins.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Bus Operator Sergio Castro was honored as the Commerce Employee of the Quarter. He is pictured here with Acting Director of Transportation Claude McFerguson.

ONE OF A KIND!



The Industrial Council Board of Directors recognizes Commerce Casino Executive Secretary Debbie Payne on March 10, 2011 for her dedicated service to the community.

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE AT THE CITADEL



The Commerce Industrial Council Board of Directors presents a plaque to The Children's Place during the store's ribbon cutting at the Citadel. The store opened for business on March 29th and 19 of their 25 employees live in the area.

CONGRESSWOMAN ALLARD MEETS IN COMMERCE



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard recently met with local health care leaders at the Rosewood Park Meeting Room to discuss health care issues in the region.

CSS FINGERPRINT TRAINING



Community Safety Specialists Jesus Meda and George Leiva at fingerprinting training. CSS will collect prints to assist in residential burglary investigations.

REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM



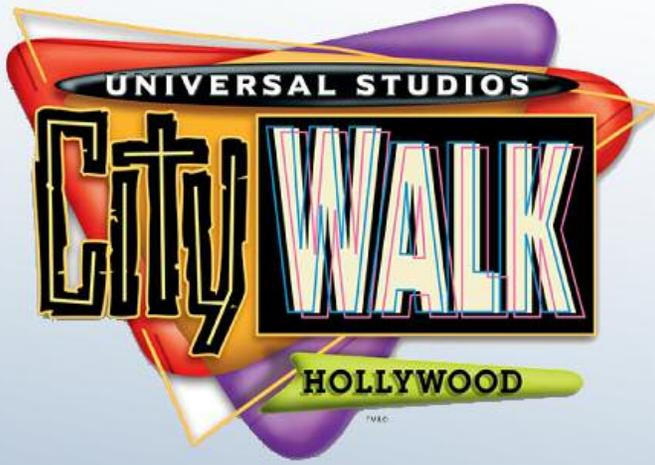
Rain didn't dampen the house warming City staff held on March 23 to celebrate the first project to be completed as part of the City's Substantial Rehabilitation Loan Program.

BEFORE & AFTER



Commerce resident James Hernandez, the first participant in the City's Substantial Rehabilitation Loan Program, holds his new house keys while city staff hold photos showing the house before and after remodeling.

City of Commerce Department of Parks & Recreation



Saturday, May 21

\$2 per person

5 p.m. to midnight

Come and enjoy an evening of fine dining, live bands or shopping. You can also catch a movie or enjoy bowling at Jillians. Signups begin Friday, May 6 at the Department of Parks and Recreation.

For more information, call 323/887-4434.

COSTUME CONTEST:
My Favorite Little Mariachi
12:30 p.m. SHARP!

City of Commerce
Department of Parks & Recreation
Proudly Presents

CINCO DE MAYO

Celebration 2011
Sunday, May 1, 2011

Bristow Park
1466 S. McDonnell Avenue
12- 6 p.m.

FOOD & GAME BOOTHS
Sponsored by Commerce's Civic & Service Organizations & Teen Clubs

- Raffle prizes and free kiddy rides
- "Hot Shot" T-Ball Exhibition
- Boxing Exhibition
- Commerce Folklorio Dancers & Commerce Talent
- Commerce Handball Tournament
- Best Food in Town-Tacos, Taquitos, & Tortas, "Oh, my!"

ENTERTAINMENT

- Birdie's Playhouse
- Trio Elias
- Susie Hansen Latin Band

Come join Miss Cinco de Mayo 2011 Janet Garcia

City of Commerce Community Services Department
Summer Safety Fair 2011

CALLING ALL SUPER HEROES!

Saturday, June 4
Veterans Park 6364 Zindell Avenue
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Commerce Kids Must Bring their I.D. Card to receive a **FREE GIFT**

LIVE DJ
RAFFLE PRIZES
Child Health & Wellness Booths
Best-dressed Super Hero Contest
(Prizes awarded to kids & parents)
Live Demonstrations by L.A. County Fire & Sheriff's Departments

For more information call the Community Services Department at (323) 887-4460

Armed Forces Day & Memorial Day Ceremony

Tuesday, May 17
at the Commerce City Council Meeting
at 6:30 pm

Ceremony will feature:

- Recognition Honoring All Branches of the US Military
- A Live Performance of the National Anthem
- A Wreath Presentation by The American GI Forum

For more information, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at (323) 887-4434

COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL



Joe Aguilar, Mayor
 Tina Baca Del Rio, Mayor Pro Tem
 Robert C. Fierro, Councilmember
 Lilia R. Leon, Councilmember
 Denise M. Robles, Councilmember

The Public Information Office welcomes your story ideas, suggestions, and opinions.

Deadline for submission is the first of each month for publication the following month.

For more information, call 323-887-4447 - www.ci.commerce.ca.us

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COMMERCE REFUSE TO ENERGY FACILITY

CONT. FROM PAGE 1



All of the ash produced at the facility from incinerating refuse is made into "ashcrete" which is used to make roads at the Puente Hills Landfill.

1987, incinerates 350 tons of trash per day on average to make 10 megawatts of power, which is enough electricity to power 20,000 households.

Approximately 250 truckloads of trash are

brought to the facility each week. After processing about 30 truckloads of surplus trash, 50 truckloads of ashcrete and 10 loads of metal leave the facility each week.

Matt Eaton, Supervising Engineer for the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County has worked at the facility for more than a decade. "We constantly monitor the facility to ensure we are well within all applicable Federal and State emissions standards," said Eaton.

Eaton said the white plumes that come from the stack is a mix of nitrogen and oxygen. It appears grey when combined with ammonium chloride, a salt which is present in extremely small amounts and is not toxic. As material travels through the furnace it is exposed to temperatures of up to 2000F.

As a result, more than 99.98% of what comes out of the stack is nitrogen and oxygen. The remaining .02% is mostly carbon

monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulfur and dust particles. For each of these pollutants the facility is consistently below permitted limits.

In operation since 1987, the facility was the first plant in the world to use a unique state of the art combination of air pollution control devices, which have become standard for similar facilities. The trash goes through an ammonia and limestone injection in the furnace, followed by a dry scrubber and finishing with a bag house. The destruction process has earned the Commerce plant a reputation as one of the cleanest of this type in the world.

In addition to generating electricity the facility recycles metals that are separated from the trash before it's burned. The recovered metal is sold and recycled into other products.

The ash that is produced from burning the trash is recycled by mixing it with ce-

ment to make an "ashcrete", which is very similar to concrete. The ashcrete is used in place of base rock at the Puente Hills Landfill to make roads. In addition to generating revenue and electricity, the CREA Facility also helps the City meet State mandates for waste diversion.

The facility uses a comprehensive program to check for hazardous materials to ensure that contaminants are not burned at the plant. That security includes radiation detectors that scan for materials before they go to the feed hopper. Eaton recommends that residents and businesses not throw paints, batteries, electronics, thermometers, old thermostats, mercury switches, and items containing lead in the trash.

The cancer risk for the average person living near the Facility is .2 in a million according to a health risk assessment prepared by an independent consultant. To



MAY DATES TO NOTE

1
Cinco de Mayo Celebration,
 Bristow Park, Noon

2
 English Book Club, 6 p.m.
 Dia De Los Ninos, Central Library, 6 p.m.
 Youth Advisory Commission, 7 p.m.

3
City Council/CDC, Council Chamber,
6:30 p.m.

4
 Senior Citizens Commission, 12:30 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Greenwood Library, 4:30 p.m.
 Traffic Commission, 6:30 p.m.

5
 Parks and Recreation Commission, 6 p.m.
 Cinco de Mayo Teen Program, Bristow Park Library, 6 p.m.

6
 Commerce Scholarship Applications Due

8
Mother's Day

9
 Education Commission, 6 p.m.

10
 Beautification Committee, 3:30 p.m.
 I-710 Local Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.

11
 Community Task Force, 3 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Bristow Park Library, 4:30 p.m.

12
 Community Services Commission, 6 p.m.

14
 Day Camp Registration,
 Council Chambers, 8 a.m.

14
 Stuffed Animal Sleepover,
 Bristow Library, 10 a.m.

17
City Council/CDC, Council Chambers,
6:30 p.m.
 Armed Forces/Memorial Day Ceremony, 6:30 p.m.
 Library Embajadores, 6 p.m.

18
 Employment Task Force, 1 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Atlantic Library, 4:30 p.m.

22
Armed Forces Day

23
 Adult Computer Class, 5:30 p.m.
 Spanish Book Club, 6 p.m.

24
 Library Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, Central Library, 5:30 p.m.
 I-710 Local Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.

25
 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

30
Memorial Day,
City Hall and Libraries Closed

RTTP Artículos en Español

Si le interesa recibir la versión en Español de algun artículo, por favor llame a la Oficina de Información Pública al (800) 887-4442. Cuando llame, indique el título del artículo, la fecha y la dirección de su domicilio o correo electrónico. La versión traducida se le mandará.