

April 2009

A monthly publication provided for residents by the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG



Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

CITY OF WEST COVINA HONORED WITH TWO STATE AWARDS

The City of West Covina Community Services Department received an Achievement Award from the California Park and Recreation Society for its efforts to comply with the Gender Equity Legislation, also known as AB 2404.

The legislation, which became effective in January 2005, is intended to ensure that government agencies provide equitable opportunities for girls and boys to participate in community athletics.

In addition, the City of West Covina also received the Award of Excellence for the West Covina Big League Dreams project, which underscored the value of converting a landfill to a public recreational space.

“The CPRS awards program is the highest recognition our agency can receive, and it’s an honor to be

recognized among the hundreds of outstanding parks and recreation departments throughout California,” Community Services Director Michele McNeill said.

The California Park and Recreation Society is a membership organization with 4,200 members

representing the 525 local parks and recreation agencies throughout the state. The mission of CPRS is to provide the leadership and resources to promote

the role of parks and recreation in creating community through people, parks and programs.

“These agencies represent the finest in recreation programming, park and



facility design, promotional materials, and park maintenance in California,” CPRS Executive Director Jane H. Adams said.

“Park and recreation agencies throughout the state provide families, individuals and groups with spaces to learn and play, create and imagine, and be safe and secure,” Adams added.

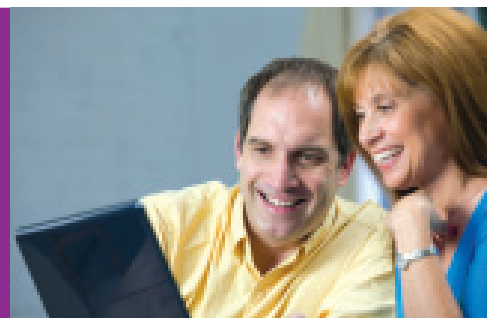
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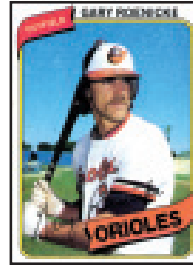
WHAT MAKES WEST COVINA A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY?

Watch an uplifting “Montage Video” on the City’s Web site. West Covina residents who want to take a glance back can watch a “Historical Video” about the City of West Covina. Both of these videos may be viewed online at the City of West Covina’s Web site, www.westcovina.org. Just click the links at the top of the home page.



Do You Know What's Been Happening in the City of West Covina

West Covina Big League Dreams 'Walk of Fame' Honorees



WALK OF FAME 2008 HONOREES

Rick Aguilera, Tom Brunansky, Jim Gonsalves, Mike Powell, Gary Roenicke and Ron Roenicke

City Now Accepting 'Walk of Fame' Nominations

This past November, the inaugural class of the West Covina Walk of Fame at the Big League Dreams Sportsplex was honored at a dedication ceremony. Honorees included Rick Aguilera, Tom Brunansky, Jim Gonsalves, Mike Powell, Gary Roenicke and Ron Roenicke.



The Walk of Fame was established to honor West Covina athletes, coaches and sport group volunteers who have made significant contributions to make West Covina a

better place to live, work and play.

The Walk of Fame includes bronze plaques that are inserted into the concrete walkways throughout the Big League Dreams facility.

Nominations are being considered for individuals who are currently in or have participated in any athletic program (i.e. baseball, softball, golf, football, track and field, etc.) as an athlete, coach or volunteer.

Nominees must have represented West Covina in local, collegiate, national

or international competition as well as volunteered their time to better the sports community for fans and players of all ages to enjoy. Nominees must have exhibited high ethical standards in their respective athletic fields.

Of those nominations received, the Walk of Fame Committee will evaluate and select the top candidates to be honored at a dedication ceremony later this year. The deadline for applications is June 1.

For the "Walk of Fame Application," visit the City of West Covina's Web site at www.westcovina.org.

STAYING HEALTHY Couldn't Be Easier!

Already a medical hub with excellent medical facilities, West Covina's new addition Nogales Medical Plaza is no exception.

The plaza, which opened in September and was recently honored with the West Covina Beautiful Award, is home to an array of clinics, a dentist, an optometrist, family practitioners, a sleep disorder specialist, an acupuncturist, a pharmacy and a state-of-the-art oncology center.

Among the medical service providers is the Advance Oncology Center, which provides quality care for those with cancer with the latest equipment specifically designed to improve the accuracy of radiation treatment.

In addition to medical services, the plaza offers other professional offices, including accounting, investment, law and insurance firms.

For a list of doctors and offices at Nogales Medical Plaza, call C.G.M Development at (626) 913-8939.



West Covina Police Get Results in Fight Against Graffiti

In 2006, the West Covina Police Department formed a four-man Graffiti Abatement Team (GAT).

The GAT team currently consists of Cpl. Ron Allen and officers Jeff Mosley, Ken Block and Matt Nelson. They focused their attention on analyzing graffiti; identifying tagging crews, gangs and individual taggers responsible for graffiti in West Covina; and making arrests for these crimes.

This past October, the police department purchased Graffiti Tracker software to help keep track of the graffiti that was removed. Graffiti Tracker is a wonderful tool that's like having an additional crime analyst at a fraction of the cost.

Twelve days into implementing the software, GAT made its first arrest by utilizing Graffiti Tracker. In the last two and half months of 2008, GAT made



25 arrests with the help of Graffiti Tracker. In the first three months of 2009, GAT has made 55 arrests with the help of Graffiti Tracker.

A few years ago, the City started the Graffiti Rewards Program, which has been very successful. In 2008, the department paid out \$4,600 to residents who called in with graffiti reports that resulted in an arrest. For Graffiti Rewards Program details, call (626) 939-8503. To report graffiti, call the Graffiti Hotline at (626) 939-8800.

- In 2006, GAT made 146 graffiti-related arrests, and in 2007 GAT made 228 graffiti-related arrests.
- In 2008, GAT made 318 graffiti related arrests. The rest of the police department made 109 graffiti-related arrests, for a total of 427 graffiti-related arrests in 2008.
- Of the 427 graffiti-related arrests, 144 were adults and 283 were juveniles.
- Of the 144 adults arrested, there were 82 felonies and 62 misdemeanors.
- Of the 283 juveniles arrested, there were 116 felonies and 167 misdemeanors
- In the first three months of 2009, GAT has made a total of 84 graffiti arrests.

Farmers Market Brings Fresh Produce to West Covina

Every Saturday, the West Covina Farmers Market offers a seasonal variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, hummus, fresh bakery goods, kettle corn, tacos, tamales and Sweet Lou's specially blended spices. An Asian selection of vegetables is available every other week.

The Farmers Market has recently relocated to the parking lot between Margarita Jones Mexican Restaurant

and Firestone Tire and Service Center at 1035 West Covina Parkway. The public is invited to the Farmers Market every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"All fruits and vegetables available at the Farmers Market are grown in California," Manager Roger Evans said. "They contain no preservatives or harmful pesticides, and they are grown with safe fertilizers, as regulated by the State of California."

The Farmers Market also hosts arts and crafts booths, which offer handmade aprons, blankets, crochet goods, jewelry, gift



baskets and fresh-cut flowers.

For more information about the Farmers Market, call the West Covina Chamber of Commerce at (626) 338-8496.



*"What better way to start your Saturday than visiting the West Covina Farmers Market & Street Festival for the best of the best in locally grown produce and a great selection of crafts."
- Tyra Mason*

Do You Know What's Been Happening in the City of West Covina



In previous editions of *Discover West Covina*, we asked residents for suggestions and ideas for our newsletter. The following letter is one response we received:

"... I think it would be a good idea to list all the volunteer activities and contact information that people can take part in! Hope it makes it to the newsletter. I think it would help both the volunteer groups and the volunteers." - Sandra Gonzalez

E-mail your comments to: discoverwestcovina@westcovina.org
or mail to: West Covina City Hall, City Manager's Office, Attn: PIO Sue Williams,
1444 W. Garvey Ave., P.O. Box 1440, West Covina, CA 91793

CITY OF WEST COVINA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Galster Park Nature Center

Have you always wanted to be a park volunteer and share your love of nature with others? The San Gabriel Valley Mountains Regional Conservancy provides training to help you become a volunteer at the Galster Park Nature Center. The nature education program is dependent on volunteers to serve as docents, trail guides, office personnel, program presenters and assistants. To volunteer, call the Galster Park Nature Center, (626) 919-0715.

West Covina Senior Center

The West Covina Senior Center, located at 2501 E. Cortez St., is always looking for volunteers to help at the center. Senior Meals Program volunteers help pass out meals to seniors in a congregate setting. The volunteers serve lunch to the seniors every day starting at 11:30 a.m. The Senior Center is always looking for people who would like to assist with answering questions from the community over the phone. Volunteer schedules vary on availability, and we are always looking for those who are interested in afternoon coverage from 1 to 5 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, call Senior Center Supervisor Travis Iseri, (626) 339-6057.



Police Explorer Program

The West Covina Police Department's Explorer program is open to youth volunteers between the ages of 14 and 21 who are interested in law enforcement and the policing profession. After completing a 13-week Academy, the Explorers meet every Thursday at the police department for continued training by police officers. For more information, contact Sgt. Richard Bell at (626) 939-8557.



SHOP (Seniors Helping Our Police)

West Covina's award-winning SHOP program allows senior citizens to channel their energy back into the community by performing non-hazardous public safety duties on a volunteer basis. SHOP volunteers perform non-hazardous law enforcement duties, including delivering legal documents, conducting vacation house checks, locating abandoned vehicles, writing parking citations, handling traffic control at collision sites and more. For more information, contact Lt. Marcos Plebani at (626) 939-8557.

West Covina Youth Council

Youth Council advocates increased social, recreational and educational opportunities for youth in the community. All West Covina youth from freshman to seniors are welcome to join. Youth Council members attend monthly meetings to determine courses of action they will take for upcoming programs and activities. Youth Council members help at various special events with activities, setup and cleanup. Youth Council members serve lunch and monitor participants at the Summer Lunch program. To get involved, call Community Services at (626) 939-8430.

RSVP (Seniors Helping Our Fire Department)

The West Covina Fire Department's Retired Seniors Volunteer Program ("RSVP"), which started in 2003, consists of five two-person teams working Monday through Friday. RSVP participants are uniformed volunteers who assist with daily fire department activities. Some duties include fire prevention support, inspection support services, public education program assistance, emergency response support, fire personnel and customer support, equipment reconnaissance and providing support duties to firefighters on the emergency scene. For more information, call (626) 338-8800.

THANKS TO ALL OUR HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS WHO GIVE BACK TO WEST COVINA

In 2008, volunteers in the West Covina Police Department's award-winning SHOP program (Seniors Helping Our Police) volunteered 6,935 hours. The **SHOP volunteers** are Ed Bacon, Ted Bautista, Lucille Brink, Ray Bulthuis, Floyd Crowell, Virginia Crye, Paul Doucette, Michael Francis, Joan Gaudreau, Mary Hanebuth, Gene Huber, Howard Leech, Billie Meneghel, Ray Munoz, Betty Parnell, Doris Postelle, Nickolas Ramirez, Ron Ray, Chuck Reynolds, Bill Schafer, Julie Shepherd, Marion Smithson, Willie Vogel, Bill Watson, Larry Wickersham, Ruth Weir and Carolyn York. Rev. Gordon Coulter, a former reserve officer, volunteers when needed for special services and functions as the police department chaplain.

Galster Park Nature Center volunteers have donated 1,644 volunteer hours annually. Thanks go to volunteers Nancy Begg, Russ Belevick, Dee Dee Hussey, Keith Krzywiec and Carolyn Laskowsky.

West Covina Youth Council volunteers have donated 1,000 volunteer hours annually. Thanks go to Youth Council members and volunteers Michelle Agostino, Harley Avelenda, Germaine Aziz, Julian Cardenas, Jennifer Carrillo, Catherine Chan, Ching-Ko Chou, Anthony Cordero, Jessica Diep, Jun Giang, Kaitlyn Gonzales, Cassandra Gonzalez, Brian Gutierrez, Steven Hang, Frank Hsieh, Danielle Johnson, Eric Kawaguchi, Mai Lynn Kee, Johnson Kha, Summer Ko, Kitty Lam, Sandra Largaespada, Shereen Lau, Bonnie Lee,

Charlene Lee, Justine Loera, Jerry Luna Jr., Lucy Luong, Quynh-Nhu Mai, Ryan Manalac, Kira Matila, Samantha Montiel, Tsung Mou, Juan Munoz, Tianna Negrete, Cynthia Nguyen, Christine Nguyen, Osmin Pena, Thien My Pham, Ashley Rozatti, Raymond Ruiz, Joel

Sedeste, Lianni Setiadi, Slamet Setiadi, Cora Sue Shaffer, Ria Sta Ana, Kevin Stapleton, Victoria Stapleton, James Thermos, Christin Tobey, Vicky Thoi, Rosella Trujillo, Lenore Vogel, Carol Wacker, Annette Westerdahl and Lillian Williams.



Glenn Kennedy with daughter Dana



Irene Fleck

Silva, Jacqueline Sun, Narith Ta, William Tong, Anthony Tran, Justin Tran, Sarena Tran, Catherine Vu, Frank Williams, Michelle Wong, Jay Wongwatana-anan, Eric Wu, Morgan Wynia, Roydel Yabut and Ann Yang.

West Covina Senior Center volunteers have donated 5,200 volunteer hours annually. Thanks go to volunteers Constance Aames, Ann Baca, Katherine Barney, Donna Brady, Antonia Cabal, Jonathan Chan, Kathy Cheng, Mary Curry, Connie Diaz, Delia Estrada, Luz Eusner, Chris Falia, Lou Feinberg, Christian Foster, Felicia Fraga, Phil Ghul, Rosario Gonzales, Kay Higbee, Art Knowles, Virginia Knowles, Nina Kozycz, David Landesman, Larry Lawson, Diana Loo, Victoria Macias, Joanne Moses, Therese Nguyen, Chiyomi Ogawa, Ruth Osterholt, Maria Palmas, Donald Pascoe, Evelyn Pascoe, Sara Peterson, Yanin Ramos, Monique Reyes, Zoe Rosal, Jane Rivera, Julieta

The Community Services Department presented two volunteer awards at the Feb. 17 city council meeting. The **2008 Community Services Volunteer of the Year** was Glenn Kennedy, and the **2008 Senior Services Volunteer of the Year** was Irene Fleck.

Kennedy, a 46-year resident of West Covina, has been a City of West Covina

commissioner for the last two years, and he has been a professional painter for 25 years. Two years ago, Kennedy helped initiate the West Covina community enhancement volunteer paint program to remove graffiti. He is currently the only person to volunteer his time to remove graffiti in the city. Since the program started, Kennedy has donated more than 1,000 hours and removed more than 1,000,000 square feet of graffiti.

The Senior Services Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an individual to recognize achievements and dedication for outstanding volunteer service efforts in activities that benefit senior citizens. Fleck is an active member of West Covina Beautiful, the Historical Society and the West Covina Library. As membership chairman of the Friends of the Library, Fleck promotes community awareness of the library and its programs.

Do You Know What's Been Happening in the City of West Covina

DID YOU KNOW?

The term “e-waste” is applied to consumer electronic equipment that is no longer wanted. E-waste can include computers, printers, televisions, VCRs, cell phones, fax machines, stereos and electronic games.

Electronics may contain lead, copper and other heavy metals or potentially toxic substances. It is critical to **reduce** e-waste by only buying what you need, **reuse** electronics that still work and **recycle** electronics at the end of their useful life cycles.

E-WASTE ROUND-UP

If your electronics are no longer usable, bring them to one of our E-Waste Round-Ups conveniently held on the following Saturdays: April 18, June 20, Aug. 15 and Oct. 17.

All E-Waste Round-Ups are held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the West Covina Maintenance Yard, 825 S. Sunset Ave. For more information, call (626) 939-8458 or visit www.westcovina.org/environment.

EARTH DAY EVENT SET FOR APRIL 18

You're invited to the Educational Expo & Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 18 at the West Covina City Hall courtyard. The event, presented by West Covina PTA, the City of West Covina and the West Covina Unified School District, will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about environmental programs offered in the community, participate in the Bottles and Cans Youth Collection Program, and take pictures with the Used Oil Race Car and the Athens Mighty Mite Trash Truck. There will also be prizes and giveaways, free food, free entertainment, free parent workshops and a free children's workshop sponsored by Home Depot.

This event is supported by the City of West Covina with funding from Integrated Waste Management funds and recycling grants. For more information on this event, visit www.wcusd.org and www.westcovina.org/environment.



City of West Covina 2009 CLEAN-UP SATURDAYS

→ SAVE THIS NOTICE ←

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Clean-Up Saturday
Your Trash Day					April 18th
	Your Trash Day				April 25th
		Your Trash Day			May 2nd
			Your Trash Day		May 9th
				Your Trash Day	May 16th

For more information, call Environmental Services at 626-939-8458

This program provides once-a-year, **unlimited pick-up** of household trash. This program is available to City of West Covina **residential customers only**. It does not include L.A. County unincorporated areas.

All items must be **placed at the curb by 6 a.m.** on your designated Saturday. Vegetation and tree branches must be cut and bundled to no more than 4 feet in length. See below for items that **do not qualify**.

If you miss your Saturday, call Athens Services, (626) 336-6100, to arrange for a regular bulky-item pickup (24-hr advance notice required).

ITEMS **NOT** ELIGIBLE FOR PICK-UP:

- any hazardous materials
- unbound vegetation and branches
- rocks, dirt, sand, gravel, sod, asphalt, concrete, etc.
- electronic waste, TVs, monitors, batteries
- auto parts, tires, oil
- any items set out after the area has been serviced

Gas Company Offers Customer Assistance Programs



Need help saving money and energy? The Gas CompanySM offers qualifying limited-income customers a 20 percent discount on monthly gas bills, free energy-saving home improvements and one-time bill assistance of up to \$100. Households with a family member or occupant who is seriously disabled

or has a life-threatening medical condition may qualify for more gas at a lower rate.

Learn more at www.socalgas.com/public/ for information in English and www.socalgas.com/publico/ for Spanish (Please note that the final slash must be included when you type these addresses.).

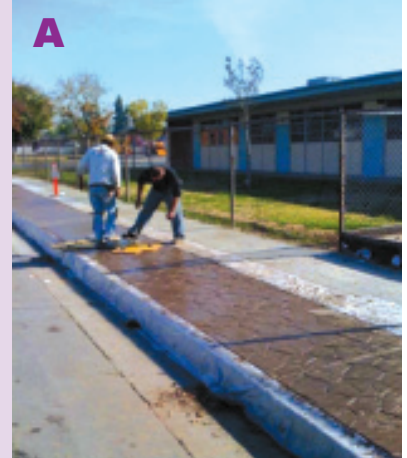
PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT UPDATES

A) Stamped Concrete Sidewalk – Colored concrete sidewalks with a cobblestone pattern have been installed at Merlinda and Walnut Grove elementary schools. These high-traffic areas were unable to sustain landscaping. Funding for this project came from the California Department of Transportation.

B) Glendora Business District - Improvements at the Old Town Business District have been completed with seal coating and restriping of the parking lot. New benches, trash cans, trellises, handicap ramps, street lights and landscaping have helped give the area a fresh new look.

C) Handicap Sidewalk Ramps – In February, the City installed and modified roughly 80 handicap ramps on sidewalks throughout the community. This work was done to ensure these ramps comply with current accessibility code requirements. Funding for this project was obtained via Community Block Development Grants.

Lark Ellen Sewer Project – L.A. County Sanitation District's Lark Ellen sewer main project will be wrapping up soon. Grinding and final paving on Lark Ellen in the City of West Covina will be completed this week. Raising of manholes, stripping and reinstallation of traffic loops should be completed by April 3. Work will continue until May or June north of San Bernardino Road on Lark Ellen outside the City.



Best Buy Construction
Best Buy has completed the masonry wall and has started work on the steel framework for the roof at its new location at Westfield West Covina.

2009 SPRING EGG CELEBRATION CANCELLED

The City of West Covina's annual Spring Egg Celebration, originally set for April 4 at the West Covina Civic Center, has been cancelled.

The City of West Covina wishes everyone a beautiful and joyful spring season. If you have any questions, call Community Services at (626) 939-8430.

the city of west covina
CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL
 East San Gabriel Valley
 Japanese Community Center, Inc. **2009**

Saturday, April 25 • Noon to 6 p.m.
West Covina Civic Center Courtyard

Free parking at Civic Center (no parking in marked employee spots)

Experience the tradition, join in the fun and taste the flavors of Japan with: taiko • martial arts • tea ceremony
 • japanese dancing • music • games • food & more!

For more information, call the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center at (626) 960-2566 or visit www.westcovina.org



GREAT NEWS FOR WING FANS! EXCELLENT NEWS FOR WEST COVINA!

In a climate of difficulty for businesses, West Covina prevails in attracting a new restaurant.

Well-famous for its New York-style wings and 14 signature sauces, Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar will be the latest addition to the Citrus Grove center, located at 2548 Workman Ave.

Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar will offer a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere for friends and family to watch their favorite sports teams or challenge others in a game of Buzztime Trivia while enjoying a healthy salad, a meaty hamburger, saucy wings, messy ribs or one of several specialty items.

Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar, which is anticipated to open this winter, will be a great addition to West Covina's prominent selection of restaurants.

WEST COVINA RESIDENT SELECTED FOR NATIONAL MISS JR. TEEN PAGEANT

West Covina resident Kensy Mirelle Zelaya was recently selected to participate in the National Miss Jr. Teen Pageant competition.

The national contest includes young ladies ranging in age from 7 to 19. Though competition included various modeling routines, judges also took into account personality during all phases of the competition.

Kensy's parents, Mario and Marilyn Zelaya of West Covina, are very proud of their 14-year-old daughter, who attends Suzanne Middle School. Congratulations, Kensy!



Do You Have Your U.S. Passport?



Beat the Crowd!

Apply Today!

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

Effective June 2009, U.S. citizens must present a valid U.S. Passport Book, U.S. Passport Card or other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security when entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land border crossings or sea ports-of-entry.

You can be ahead of the crowd by applying today!

Apply at: City Clerk's Office, Room 317 at City Hall
(626) 939-8744 • www.westcovina.org
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**WEST COVINA
 CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor: Roger Hernández
 Mayor Pro Tem: Shelley Sanderson
 Councilmember: Steve Herfert
 Councilmember: Sherri Lane
 Councilmember: Mike Touhey

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