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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

August 2008

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



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

BIG LEAGUE DREAMS ... *Off to A Successful Start!*

The West Covina Big League Dreams Sportspark has not been open an entire year yet, but it has already exceeded Year 1 operating goals by 225 percent. The West Covina Big League Dreams opened with 93 more softball teams than the Chino Hills facility, which has been open since January 2003.

An average of 1,200 players visit the West Covina BLD facility per league night, Tuesday through Friday. And during tournaments, an average of 2,000 people visit this facility each day.

In the first few months of operation, already 135,394 people have visited the BLD facility, not counting spectators under the age of 12.

Thus far for 2008, 47 weekend tournaments have been



booked, with 36 of them involving youth. During the week, 266 teams play adult softball, and 75 teams play adult soccer. BLD also hosts a senior softball league that utilizes the park on a regular basis for free play before 4 p.m. on weekdays. The West Covina Big League Dreams facility is available for rental, and thus far more than 30 groups have reserved space for activities such as birthday parties and

corporate events.

In addition to providing quality recreational activities for all ages, BLD has filled 87 job positions for this park.

If you would like to learn more about this facility or would like to take advantage of these amenities, call (626) 839-1100.

EFFECTIVE MONDAY, JULY 28, 2008

**CITY HALL, MAINTENANCE YARD,
AND FIRE ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE HOURS WILL CHANGE TO:**

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.

FRIDAYS CLOSED

What's Inside ...

PAGE 2

- City of West Covina Adopts 2008-2009 Budget

PAGE 3

- 'Go West' Shuttle Route Changes

PAGE 5

- Bob's Big Boy, Norm's Coming to West Covina

PAGE 6

- Coping with Urban Coyotes

West Covina City Council Adopts **BUDGET**

The West Covina City Council adopted the new fiscal year budget for 2008-09. This year's budget was one of the most difficult the City had to face. With the downturn of the economy, revenue sources have been greatly impacted. The City also expects that the state will attempt to raid local government revenues in an attempt to balance its own budget.

Although the City began last year with a balanced budget, a deficit is anticipated for this coming year. As part of this year's budget process, the City Council took into consideration a number of options to help reduce the deficit. These options included personnel and service cuts, as well as possible new revenue sources.

Some of the changes approved by the City Council at the June 17 meeting include prepaying the City's annual retirement contribution, restructuring certain City departments, suspending the police officer signing bonuses, and a 5 percent reduction for all city departments. These four items alone reduced the budget deficit by approximately \$5.2 million.

As part of the department restructuring, the Communications Department has been eliminated as a separate department, with the duties transferred to other city departments. The dispatch center is now handled by the Police Department, the radio and electronics division has become part of the Public Works Department and responsibility for the City's phone system has been

transferred to the Finance Department.

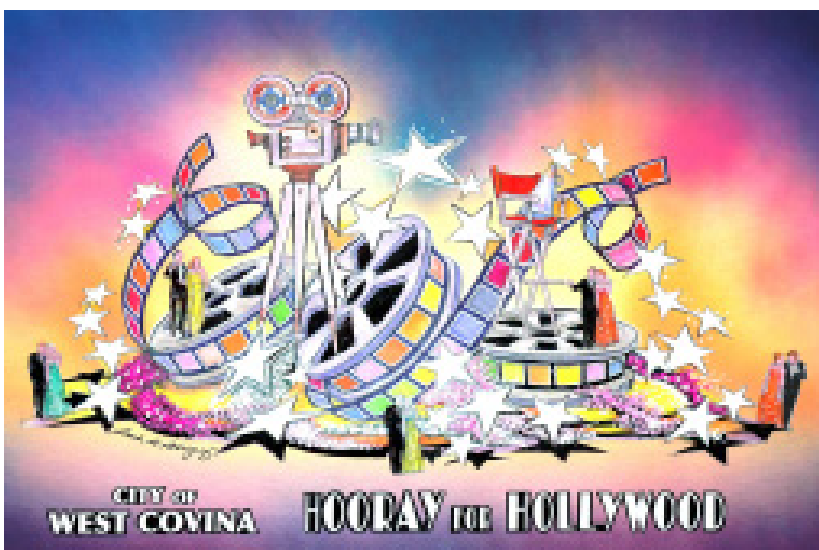
The Environmental Management Department was also eliminated as a separate department, with the duties transferred to other city departments. The air quality programs, franchise waste collection program and the waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs have been transferred to the Public Works Department. The graffiti abatement contract is now being handled by the Police Department. The Waste Management Enforcement Agency duties will be performed on a contract basis with the City Manager's Office initially overseeing the contract but the contract will ultimately be moved to the Public Works Department.

The Cable Television Division was eliminated, including all City of West Covina television programming.

Due to the hiring freeze that has been in effect, there have been no layoffs of full-time employees as a result of the restructurings. Existing employees in these departments were either transferred to other city departments or they retired. By restructuring, more than half a million dollars was saved to the General Fund.

In addition to the department restructurings, beginning July 28 City Hall will be closed on Fridays and will be open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

To view the entire budget summary, visit the city's Web site, www.westcovina.org.



HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

At the West Covina Rose Float Foundation's June 21 gala "Evening of Wine and Roses," West Covina's entry into the 2009 Tournament of Roses parade was unveiled. Titled "Hooray for Hollywood," this year's float highlights the classic aspects of Hollywood entertainment and the West Covina Rose Float Foundation's commitment to provide the West Covina community with a wonderful activity for youth and adults to enjoy. To volunteer to help make this year's float, visit the Foundation's Web site at www.wcrosefloat.org.

to Help Make It A Great Place To Live, Work & Play?

VOTER-APPROVED PROPOSITION

FUNDS MAJOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Voter-approved State Proposition 1B Transportation Bond funds will be used to improve or reconstruct streets in the City of West Covina that are most in need of repair. The initial improvements will include rehabilitation work on major streets and traffic signal improvement work.

The street rehabilitation work will consist of repaving of city streets, removal and replacement of damaged curb, gutter, driveway approach, sidewalks and wheelchair ramps to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Construction locations are as follows:

- Puente Avenue from Sunset to Azusa Avenues

- South Garvey Avenue from Citrus Street to Barranca Avenue

- South Garvey Avenue from Merced to Orange Avenues

- Merced Avenue from Sunset to Glendora Avenues

- Merced Avenue from Glenview Road to Lark Ellen Avenue

- Francisquito Avenue from Azusa to Hyacinth Avenues

- Francisquito Avenue from Valinda Avenue to Indian Summer Road

Work is scheduled to begin the first week of September and should be completed by November.

'GO WEST'

Fixed Route Change

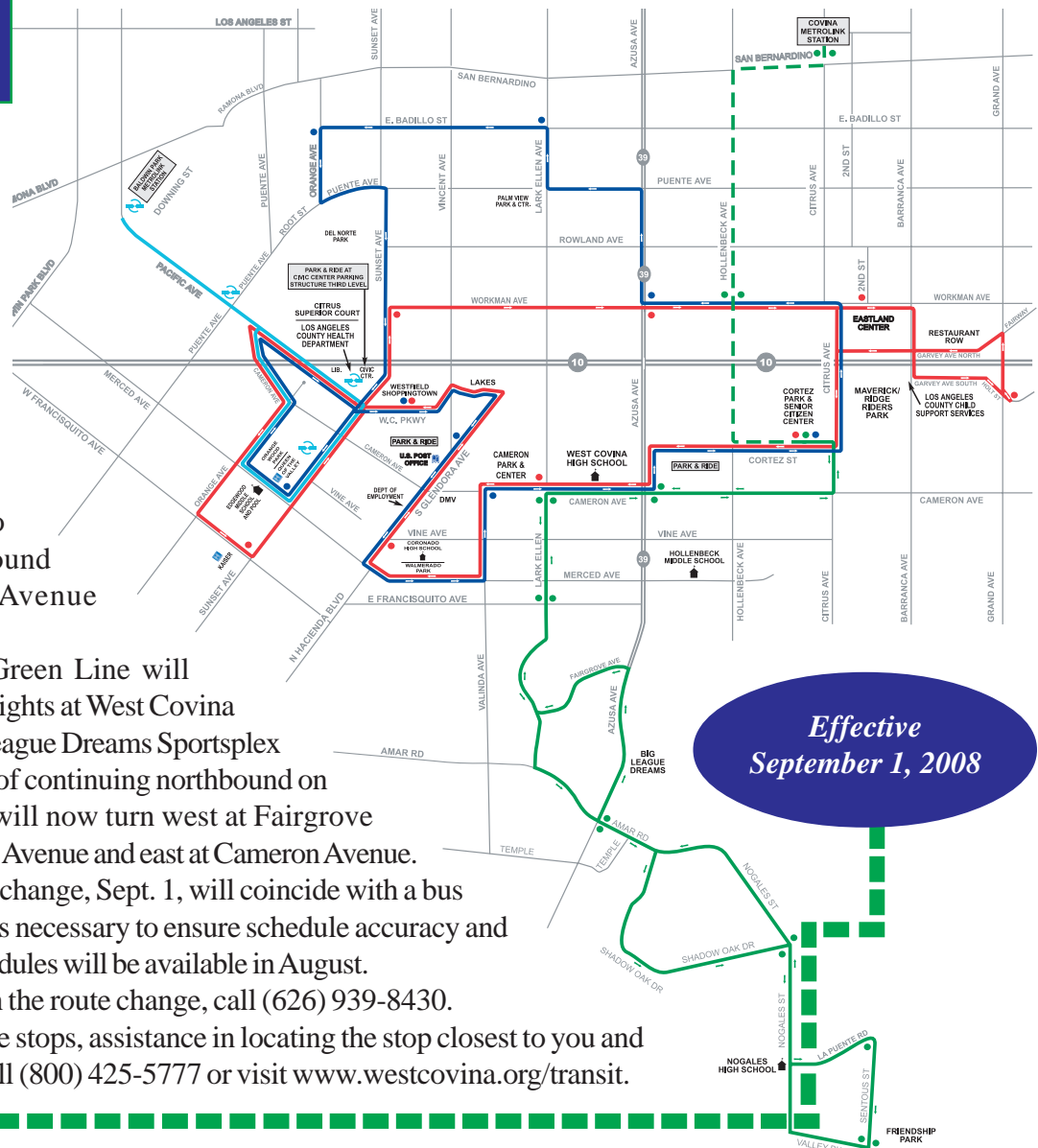
At the July 1 council meeting, the West Covina City Council authorized a route change to the "Go West" Green Line to partially restore northbound service to Lark Ellen Avenue effective Sept. 1, 2008.

The new northbound Green Line will continue to service The Heights at West Covina shopping center and Big League Dreams Sportsplex on Azusa Avenue. Instead of continuing northbound on Azusa, the revised route will now turn west at Fairgrove Avenue, north at Lark Ellen Avenue and east at Cameron Avenue.

The effective date of the change, Sept. 1, will coincide with a bus timetable revision, which is necessary to ensure schedule accuracy and reliability. The revised schedules will be available in August.

For more information on the route change, call (626) 939-8430.

For the location of shuttle stops, assistance in locating the stop closest to you and current route schedules, call (800) 425-5777 or visit www.westcovina.org/transit.



Help Conserve Water

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared that a drought condition exists throughout California. The West Covina City Council has adopted a voluntary water-conservation program. Here are some water-saving tips you can use:

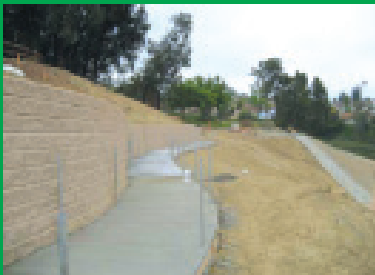
- Adjust sprinklers and irrigation systems to avoid overspray, runoff and waste.
- Avoid watering in the hot part of the day or during morning and evening peak hours, and avoid watering on windy days.
- Install or replace landscaping with drought-tolerant trees and plants and water-saving irrigation systems; mulch around plants to hold water in soil.
- Shut off decorative fountains unless a water recycling system is used.
- Do not hose down driveways, sidewalks and other paved surfaces.
- Install pool and spa covers to minimize evaporation.
- Do not allow water to run while washing the car; use a hose with an automatic cutoff valve.
- Turn off water while brushing teeth and scrubbing dishes.
- Retrofit indoor plumbing fixtures, such as shower heads and toilets, with low-flow devices.
- Check faucets, toilets and pipes both indoors and outdoors for leaks and repair them immediately.
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Take shorter showers.

Shadow Oak Park Update

Construction on the lower undeveloped level of Shadow Oak Park began in May. The grading is almost complete.

Construction has begun on the retaining walls and handicapped-accessible sidewalk/ramp that will connect the upper park.

The \$1.1 million project will include picnic tables, benches, security lighting, irrigation and some landscaping. The park should reopen in October. For more information, call Public Works at (626) 939-8425.



NEW LOOK COMING FOR FORMER MACY'S SITE AT WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN

On June 24, the Planning Commission approved a renovation to the Westfield West Covina Shoppingtown.

The scope of work includes the demolition of the building formerly occupied by Macy's department store and the construction of a new retail building in its place. In addition, new restaurant space will be constructed on the north side of the mall.

The project will introduce new colors and wall treatment to provide more interest on that side of the mall. The proposed colors are a variation of green and blue painted panels.

In addition, the project includes the installation of four 60-foot-tall advertising signs as well as three roof signs that will be architecturally and structurally incorporated into the building design.

Westfield anticipates that demolition of the former Macy's store will begin in the next few months, with the new buildings completed in the summer of 2009. Other businesses in the mall will continue to remain in full operation during the construction, and Westfield will take measures to keep any inconveniences to its customers to a minimum. Look forward to news in the near future regarding the new businesses and restaurants that will be coming to Westfield West Covina.

For more information about this project, call the City of West Covina Planning Department at (626) 939-8422.



ON THE MENU

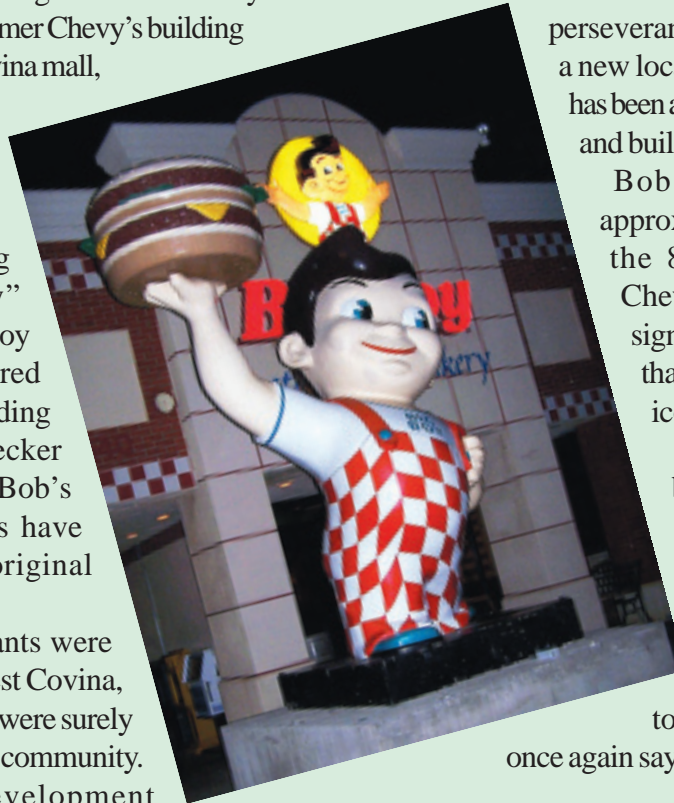


West Covina Welcomes Back Bob's Big Boy

The beloved Bob's Big Boy icon that was a part of West Covina history is returning to our community. Bob's Big Boy is coming to the former Chevy's building near the Westfield West Covina mall, located at 100-B S. California Ave.

Bob's Big Boy opened its three West Covina restaurants in 1962, bringing the famous "Big Boy" trademark of the chubby boy in red-and white-checked pants with suspenders holding Bob's famous double-decker cheeseburger to the City. Bob's Big Boy signature foods have expanded beyond the original double-decker burger.

Bob's Big Boy restaurants were well-known fixtures in West Covina, and when they closed, they were surely missed by the West Covina community. The Community Development



Commission ("CDC") was dedicated to bring back the iconic restaurant to West Covina. Out of perseverance, Bob's Big Boy identified a new location in the city, and the CDC has been assisting them to obtain planning and building approvals.

Bob's Big Boy will occupy approximately 5,677 square feet of the 8,962-square-foot former Chevy's building and will make significant interior improvements that will result in the return of the iconic Bob's Big Boy statue.

Construction is anticipated to begin this summer with the restaurant opening for business this fall.

The City is excited to welcome back the long-missed Bob's Big Boy and to have West Covina residents once again saying, "Ohhh Boy!"

Norm's Restaurant to Open in West Covina

The legendary diner Norm's is opening its West Covina restaurant at the former Steak Corral site, located at 501 N. Azusa Ave.

Norm's has been a part of Los Angeles history since it opened in 1949 and has expanded over the years to include 17 restaurants throughout Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties.

This legendary diner has become well-known for its specials and its popular phrase, "We never close."

The West Covina Community Development Commission has been

providing Norm's assistance in locating the restaurant to the city. In April, Norm's purchased the Steak Corral with intentions of transforming the uniquely octagonal-shaped building into one of the diner's first-class restaurants.

As of May, Norm's has obtained the necessary permits and is currently under construction. Norm's anticipates opening for business in September 2008.

"We never close"

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

NEW PUBLIC **ARTWORK** AT GROVE SHOPPING CENTER

On May 13, the Planning Commission approved public art for The Grove Shopping Center, located on the southwest corner of Workman Avenue and Citrus Street. The artwork has been installed and is located on the Citrus Street frontage.

The artwork is a sculpture called "Celebrating Old Glory." The sculpture depicts four children, a rock formation, a flagpole and a dog. At the top of the rock formation is a boy holding a

flagpole calling down to his friends while he prepares to plant the American flag.

The middle portion of the artwork includes a young girl reaching down to help another young girl climb the rock formation. The lower portion of the piece shows a young boy reaching out to the girl for assistance while a dog playfully tugs on the pant leg of the young boy.

The sculpture is lit and is located in a landscaped area.



COPING WITH THE URBAN COYOTE

Everyone enjoys observing wildlife in its natural environment. However, many well-meaning residents of urban hillside and rural areas have promoted an unnatural boldness in coyotes by intentionally or unintentionally feeding them.

The highly adaptable coyote is flourishing in populated areas, mostly because of the interesting menu available in the form of handouts, dog and cat food, or easy-to-open garbage cans. Coyotes can survive on whatever food is available, from rodents to rubbish, from insects to fruit to carrion. They can also be a threat to family pets, and, in isolated but tragic cases, they have attacked small children.

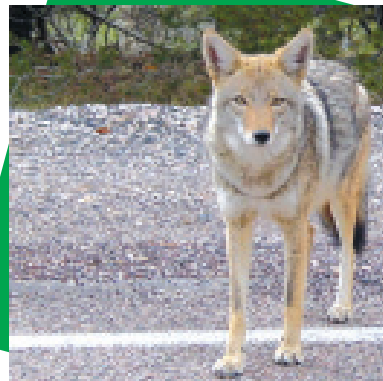
Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control. Where other natural predators have retreated, rats, mice and other small animals have increased. In such a situation, the coyote is beneficial, if residents wouldn't provide them with even more convenient meals.

'Coyote Country' precautions

- **DO** feed pets indoors or promptly remove dishes when pets complete their meals outside. Store bags of pet food indoors.
- **DO** clear brush and dense weeds from around property.

This deprives rodents of shelter and reduces protective cover for coyotes.

- **DO** use trash barrels equipped with tight-clamping devices on the lids and put trash cans out in the morning of their scheduled pickup, giving coyotes less time to scavenge.
- **DO NOT** feed or provide water for coyotes or other wildlife. This practice abnormally attracts coyotes and promotes increased numbers of rodents, birds, snakes and other creatures that can provide major portions of the coyote's natural diet.



- **DO NOT** approach a coyote. Teach children never to approach any unknown animals, including strange dogs. Keep all wildlife at a distance.

- **DO NOT** panic and do not run if you are approached or followed by a coyote. They are by nature fearful of humans. Wave your arms and make loud noises. If this fails, throw rocks in the animal's direction.

Always remember this: Be kind to coyotes – don't feed them! Attacks by coyotes are rare

and are almost always associated with coyotes developing a habit of depending on food supplied by people.

If you need to report a coyote in your area, call the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures at (626) 575-5462 or visit the Web site at <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us/scripts/coyo.htm> for more information.

REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE

New alternative-fueled city vehicles were purchased.



The City of West Covina "Go West" and WestCo Dial-A-Ride services use alternative fuel. The two City-owned vehicles, purchased in 2003 with grant funding, use compressed natural gas. The 12 contractor-owned vehicles use liquefied petroleum gas (propane).

CITY OF WEST COVINA HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT IN A BIG WAY

The City of West Covina is doing its part to "go green." From streets and parking lots paved with recycled materials to the purchase and use of energy-efficient vehicles, to the type of base used for sports fields, to recycling goods and products such as used oil and oil filters, paper, green waste recycling and more, the City of West Covina is doing its part to help the environment.



A total of 68,000 pounds (or three semi-trucks) of recycled tennis shoe material was used as a base for the horse arenas at the city-owned Ridge Riders park. Ten tons of recycled concrete asphalt was used on the access road surrounding the park.



Rubber tree grates recycled 4,595 tires, which are normally dumped into landfills. The grates keep moisture routed to the tree roots, reducing water required and water being wasted by runoff. They also deflect heat from the surrounding environment.



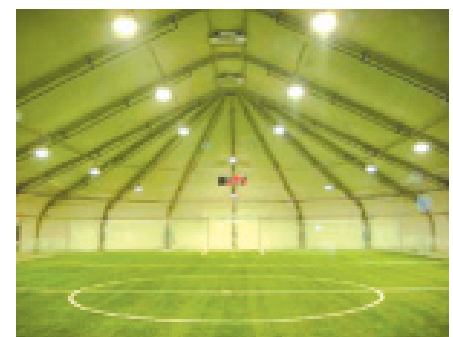
112 tons of recycled rubber was used to pave West Covina streets last year.



Approximately 7,100 tons of recycled old concrete and asphalt was used in the Big League Dreams parking lot.



110 cubic yards of recycled rubber pellets was used on the two tot lots at the Big League Dreams facility.



The new indoor soccer field at Big League Dreams contains approximately 45,000 pounds of recycled crumb, rubber pellets from recycled tires.

WEST COVINA DANCE GROUP ON TV SHOW

“Extreme Dance FX,” a West Covina dance group led by West Covina resident Valerie Ramirez, is a unique clogging group that has been dancing since 2001. The group has been practicing three to four days a week, up to five hours a day, at the West Covina-based dance studio, “The Dance Effects Studio,” located on north Azusa Avenue. The group consists of nine dancers ranging in age from 13 to 26 years old.

The group made it past the first round of pre-auditions in Los Angeles and then proceeded to the Las Vegas round of competition. Tune in to the TV show, “America’s Got Talent,” airing Tuesdays at 9 p.m., to support this West Covina group, and be sure to call in to vote for them!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Lunch Program -
Monday through Friday, noon to 1 p.m.
@ Orangewood Park

Summer Concerts - Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m.
@ Lakes Entertainment Center

Movies in the Park - Tuesdays, 8 to 10 p.m.
@ Civic Center Courtyard

“Wild Wednesdays” @ Galster Nature Center, 1620 Aroma Drive, West Covina
Call (626) 919-0715 to RSVP.

Wednesday, Aug. 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. -
“Leave No Trace” Outdoor Ethics. Learn how to enjoy the outdoors without damaging the natural environment by minimizing your impact. We will teach you the skills and ethics to support the sustainable use of woodlands and natural areas. For more information on the national “Leave No Trace” program, visit www.LNT.org.

For more information on these events, call (626) 939-8430 or visit www.westcovina.org and select “Community Events” for the latest “Community Recreation Guide.”

Cameron Community Center Programs

1305 E. Cameron Ave., West Covina • (626) 919-6966

HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER WITHOUT LEAVING TOWN!

“*Kids in the Kitchen*” - Join us as we prepare the latest snacks and treats in a fun-filled environment. Kids ages 6 to 12 are welcome to sign up for this annual summer program. Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. for ages 6 to 9, and 4 to 5 p.m. for ages 10 to 12. Participants must register in advance. A \$1 participation fee is required.

“*Wet Wild & Wacky Day*” - Join us as we beat the summer heat with some wacky water games on Wednesday, Aug. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. Children ages 6 to 12 are welcome to participate in this fun-filled and wet event! Dress appropriately and bring a towel. Pre-registration is required.



**WEST COVINA
CITY COUNCIL**

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

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