



# Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

June/July  
2013

A publication  
provided for residents by  
the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

## City of West Covina to Host FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The City of West Covina and the West Covina MDA Volunteer Committee are presenting West Covina's 23rd Annual Independence Day Celebration July 3rd and July 4th at Edgewood Middle School, which is located at 1625 W. Durness St. in West Covina.

Event proceeds will benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Thursday, July 4th, the festivities will begin with a pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. at Hurst Ranch, 1227 S. Orange Ave.



Both days will include a carnival, booths, rides and games from 4 to 11 p.m. There will be a \$1 entrance fee on both days beginning at 4 p.m.

On Thursday, July 4th beginning at 6 p.m., attendees can enjoy entertainment by the band Thief and the fireworks show, which is sponsored by the City of West Covina and Athens Services.

For more information on this two-day event, call the City of West Covina's Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430.

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## **City of West Covina Files Lawsuit to Stop State Raid of City Funds**

**O**n May 1, the City of West Covina filed a lawsuit against the State of California, applicable state agencies and taxing entities to protect the City from the State's intention of illegally taking City funds that legally and rightfully belong to the City and its residents. The State is attempting to invalidate legal loan agreements between the City and the former redevelopment agency and further take away \$12.2 million in legally repaid loan payments that West Covina received prior to the elimination of redevelopment.

The City loaned the former West Covina Redevelopment Agency more than \$21 million to seed the removal of blight in the community. Since 1973, the City received loan repayments on loans that had been previously recognized as valid agreements by the State and County of Los Angeles. The loans were utilized by the West Covina Redevelopment Agency to develop projects that are now integral parts of the community.

In the effort to take billions of dollars that would have otherwise been invested in local communities, the State balanced its budget on the backs of local

communities by eliminating redevelopment agencies, effective Feb. 1, 2012. The rush to eliminate redevelopment agencies resulted in poorly written and vague legislation, including the State's ability to



invalidate previously approved loan agreements between a city and redevelopment agency. In its haste to seize even more funds, the State granted itself the authority to reach back an additional 13 months prior to the elimination of redevelopment – to Jan. 1, 2011 – to take away more funds, including city loan payments, from cities.

Despite overwhelming evidence, the State of California denied the City's appeal, disapproved the \$12.2 million in loan repayments and demanded the

City remit payment to the county auditor or be subject to penalties and claw back (raid) on sales and property tax revenues in the future.

Currently more than 60 California cities have filed similar lawsuits against the State, challenging various aspects of the elimination of redevelopment and the taking of funds from cities.

Should the State be successful in taking monies that rightfully belong to West Covina and its residents, City core operations including police and fire would be severely crippled. The City would lose its cash flow and ability to obtain other short-term loans necessary to fund basic

operations and pay for salaries while the City sporadically receives revenue throughout the year. The loss of cash flow could also impact the City's credit rating, which in turn could result in higher interest rates being charged to the City on loans and bonds and further increasing the City's costs and budget expenditures. All of these potentially real impacts could place the City in serious financial peril and pose a real and present danger to a City that prior to the elimination of redevelopment was healthy, vibrant and progressive.

### **Passport Services Available at City Hall**

U.S. passport applications are accepted at the City Clerk's Office at West Covina City Hall. West Covina offers one-stop service with passport photo service on site. The City Clerk's Office is staffed with professionals trained in passport procedures.

The office is open for passport application acceptance Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk-in service only; no appointment is necessary.



Proof of citizenship and photo ID are required. Fees are payable by check or money order. There are additional requirements for children 15 and younger.

The City Clerk's Office is located at West Covina City Hall, 1444 W. Garvey Ave. South. For more information, visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), or call the City's passport hotline, (626) 939-8744.

# New Businesses Open in West Covina

**W**est Covina has been welcoming an array of new businesses to the community, including two new home design stores in West Covina: Ashley Furniture and KBJ Home Design Center.

As a result of the Community Development Commission's economic development efforts, Ashley Furniture opened a West Covina store in March at Eastland Center. In less than 10 years, Ashley Furniture HomeStore has become the No. 1 furniture store in the United States. Ashley Furniture offers the latest trends in furnishings including couches, bed sets, dining tables, the Ashley Sleep mattress line and the latest in home accessories. Need ideas to coordinate a new look for your bedroom, dining room or living room? Ashley Furniture's showroom has plenty of design ideas.



**ASHLEY FURNITURE**

If your home design extends beyond furnishings, KBJ Home Design Center can help with your needs. Known for custom kitchen cabinets, KBJ Home Design Center also provides home design services for remodels, additions, and exterior and interior improvements.

They carry an assortment of quality products from tiles, mosaics for backsplashes, granite and quartz countertops, to the latest trends in flooring. They also carry modern wall panels to provide that extra "wow" factor. KBJ Home Design Center's professional team combines design, concept and high-quality products to deliver the most desirable home designs for their customers. KBJ Home Design Center is located at 2690 E. Garvey Ave. in McIntyre Square.



**KBJ HOME DESIGN CENTER**

AccuVision Optometry, a state-of-the-art optometry office, has opened at 236 S. Citrus St., in McIntyre Square. In addition to eye exams, AccuVision offers specialized services that include vision therapy, CRT Ortho-K, ocular prosthetics, surgical and Lasik evaluation and consultation. AccuVision offers the latest fashions in both optical and sunglass frames, carrying brands such as Coach, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Marc Jacobs, Max Mara, Montblanc, Oliver Peoples, Jimmy Choo, Gucci, Oakley, Spy, Stella McCartney, Tom Ford and Ray Ban.



**ACCUVISION OPTOMETRY**

The Faceshop, a natural cosmetics and beauty supply store, opened in April at 240 S. Citrus St., in McIntyre Square. Their line of skin care, make-up, cleansers, masks and hair products, including a line for men, are made with all-natural products. The Faceshop brings together science and the perfection of nature to deliver the best products for your skin.



**THE FACESHOP**

The Building Room is another new addition to West Covina. A new concept in indoor playgrounds, The Building Room allows children to take their imagination to the next level. Children will be surrounded by various building toys that will inspire, encourage and motivate their creative genius hidden inside. The company's motto says, "Creative genius starts here." The Building Room, founded by Douglas Klaiif, was designed not only to help build children's imagination, but to help build the community, build better families, and encourage children to think and create for themselves. The Building Room is located at 1208F Francisquito Ave. in the Sunset/Francisquito Center.

These are some of the new businesses that will open in the coming months:

## Quailridge Shopping Center

- M.Y.O Sushi – now open
- Martabak Café – open in June

## McIntyre Square

- Guppy House – open in May
- A & J Hot Point – open in May
- Canaan Noodle House – open in July
- Cathay Bank – open in July
- Orlando Entertainment Karaoke – open in October
- Pho Island – open in October

## LA Fitness – open in September

## Westfield West Covina

- Altus-Mirus Tutoring Center – open in June
- Chipotle – open in June
- My Teeth Dental Group – open in June
- Amapola Deli & Market – open in August

## 501 Vincent Center

- McDonald's – open in June
- El Pollo Loco – open in August

Acupuncture Wellness Center  
1740 W. Cameron Ave. Suite 102  
West Covina, Ca 91790

[www.DrDeniseHoang.com](http://www.DrDeniseHoang.com)  
(626) 338-8700

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## Removing Shopping Carts is Costly to Everyone

An ongoing problem around town is abandoned shopping carts. California law makes it a misdemeanor to remove a shopping cart from a store without written permission from the owner or manager. The illegal removal and abandonment of shopping carts detracts from the aesthetics of our neighborhoods, presents safety hazards, and adds to the cost we pay for groceries and other goods.

Shopping carts often end up on the sidewalks or in the streets. Then they can become a public safety hazard to pedestrians and motor vehicles. They may be a tripping hazard for a person using the sidewalk or cause a serious accident by a driver swerving to avoid hitting one.



The removal of shopping carts from businesses also causes extra expenses for business owners. Many stores pay to have carts collected and returned, and unreturned carts have to be replaced at a cost of about \$300 each.

Although this doesn't sound like much, if you consider that a typical grocery store invests in more than 300 carts, the replacement can be very costly. Store owners generally pass on the costs of stolen and recovered carts to consumers. In the end we all pay with higher prices for our purchases.

If you find an abandoned shopping cart, call (800) 252-4613 for retrieval.



Community Partners

*Inaugural Event—Open to the Public*

### West Covina Community Fair & Business Expo

Saturday, June 15, 2013  
Starts at 10:00 a.m.  
**HURST RANCH**  
**1227 S. ORANGE, WEST COVINA**

**COMMUNITY & FAMILY EVENT**  
10:00AM to 4:00PM

Cost is \$5.00 per person or \$25 per family of 5 or more.  
Game booths: **FREE** play & prizes.  
Fun activities for children includes entertainment from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.  
Local restaurants will provide **FREE** food samples.  
Hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for sale.  
**Buy Tickets — Contact: Rod Perryman at 626-695-8175**

**5:00PM to 7:30PM**  
**BUSINESS EXPO**  
\$25.00/person entry fee includes a steak dinner with open bar, cigar bar, entertainment and dancing.



**7:30PM to 10:30PM**  
**ENTERTAINMENT by COLD DUCK**

**Buy Tickets — Contact: Rod Perryman at 626-695-8175 or Gary Lawson at 818-489-0041 / email: gnlawson@verizon.net**

Coordinated by Community Partners for the City of West Covina in Partnership with Hurst Ranch Foundation. Proceeds will benefit a variety of local charities

## West Covina Earns Award for Park Planning and Design

**T**he City of West Covina has won the California Park and Recreation Society District 13 Award for "Facility or Park Planning and Design" for the Del Norte and Palmview Park renovation projects.

Each year, the California Park and Recreation Society District 13 Awards Committee recognizes members of the parks and recreation profession, community members and organizations who work toward the betterment of public and private parks and recreation programs.

At Palmview Park, a new and expanded playground was installed adjacent to the Sabre Jet with amenities that provide significant exercise opportunities for children, where they can climb from one feature to the next without ever touching the ground. For parents watching their children, physical fitness equipment stations were also

installed, with a cooling station that sprays water mist. The improvements also increased accessibility to children with disabilities.

At Del Norte Park a new playground was installed that features rocket ships, swings and spinning orbiters. The park has the city's first splash pad playground.

At Del Norte Park is the city's first dog park, named "Central Bark," which includes a play area for large dogs and another for small dogs.

In a period of 16 months, the City of West Covina was able to successfully renovate two community parks, bringing a new splash pad and a dog park, as well as two unique destination playgrounds, utilizing grant funds to fully fund the project and provide for ongoing maintenance for years to come.



*Palmview Park playground*



*Del Norte Park playground*



*Del Norte Park splash pad*



*"Central Park" dog park at Del Norte Park*

## City of West Covina Honored as 'Playful City USA'

**T**he City of West Covina was recently honored as a KaBOOM! Playful City for 2013. West Covina is one of 37 cities nationwide to receive this recognition for the first time.

Sponsored by the Humana Foundation, Playful City USA is a national program from KaBOOM!, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., that celebrates and promotes local policies that increase play opportunities for children across the United States. The Playful City USA program was established in 2007 to help local governments address the lack of play in communities across the United States and to recognize those communities that



**Playful City USA Honoree**

are making a commitment to play and physical activity by developing unique local action plans to increase the quantity and quality of play in their community.

West Covina projects that received recognition included the new playgrounds at Palmview and Del Norte parks, as well as the new splash pad and dog park at Del Norte Park. In addition, West Covina was recognized for the many partnerships with local nonprofit organizations and businesses in an attempt

to maintain previous levels of community services programming and recreation opportunities in the City. For more information on the KaBOOM! Playful City USA program, visit [www.playfulcityusa.org](http://www.playfulcityusa.org).

The Greater West Covina Business Association and the City of West Covina proudly present

## FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

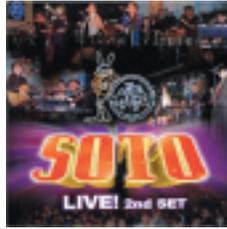
Thursday nights, 6 to 9 p.m. in the West Covina City Hall Courtyard

The series begins July 11 and runs through Aug. 17

July 11  
Cold Duck



July 18  
Soto Band



July 25  
Bumtowntown Band



Aug. 1  
Aztlán Soul Band



Aug. 8  
Mariachi Divas



**Food truck frenzy! Get hungry, West Covina!**

**On Saturday, Aug. 17 from 5 to 10 p.m., some of the tastiest food trucks in Southern California will roll into West Covina City Hall for our food truck frenzy and concert!**

For more information, call (626) 939-3350 or visit [www.greaterwestcovina.com](http://www.greaterwestcovina.com).

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/greaterwestcovina](http://www.facebook.com/greaterwestcovina)

The Summer Concerts are being funded by a generous grant from Athens Services.

Free!!

# Kids Summer Lunch Program

City of West Covina  
Community Services Department

Where?

**New Location!**  
Cameron Park  
1305 E Cameron Ave  
West Covina, CA 91790

Cost? Free!!

Who? Any child under the age of 18

When? **June 17th to August 9th**  
Monday through Friday\*

Time? **11:45PM to 12:45PM**

Call for volunteer opportunities!! (626)939-8430

Visit [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org) for more information

\*Lunches are pre-ordered and limited to first-come, first-serve.

We will not be serving lunch July 4th.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# SUMMER MOVIES IN THE PARK 2013



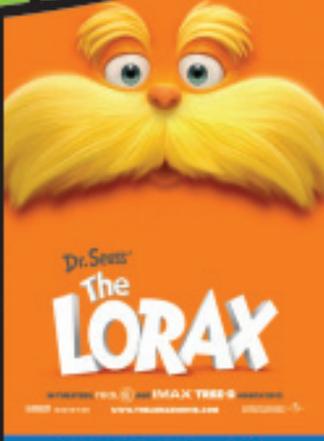
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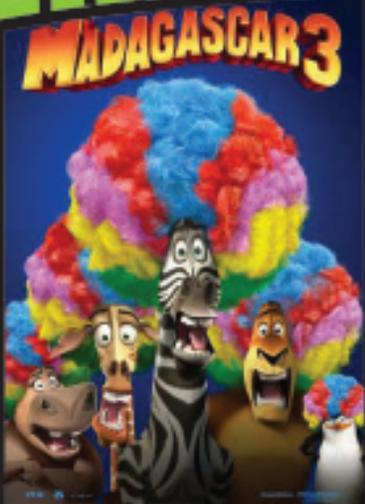
Free!



JUNE 25



JULY 2



JULY 9



JULY 16



JULY 23



JULY 30

Tuesday Evenings  
8:00p.m. to 10:00p.m.  
Civic Center Courtyard  
1444 W. Garvey Ave  
Bring your blanket and spend  
a night under the stars with your  
family as we show  
the following films.  
Snacks will be made available  
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\*MOVIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT (626)919-6966

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- Respite care to provide rest for family member caring for a loved one
- Private Duty in the hospital, nursing home or assisted-living facility

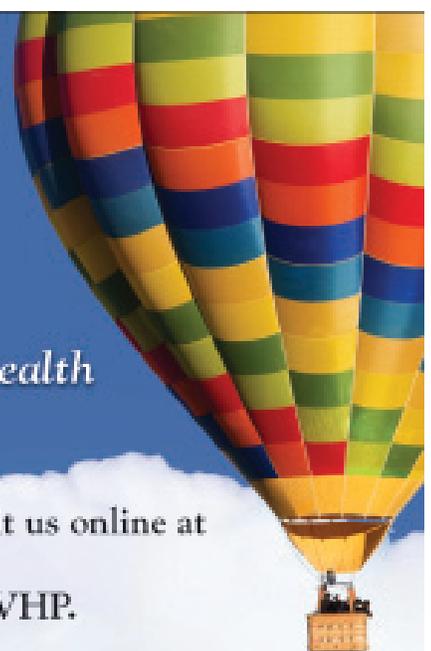
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## City of West Covina Names 2013 Volunteers of the Year

The Community & Senior Services Commission has selected the 2013 City of West Covina Volunteers of the Year. Each individual has gone above and beyond to promote the community and the programs offered by the City. The honorees were recognized at the Feb. 19 city council meeting.

• **Community Services: Norma Marx**, a West Covina resident for more than 50 years, has been an active

volunteer at the Woman's Club of West Covina for 22 years and is active at Queen of the Valley Hospital, Ontario USO and Christ First Baptist Church.

• **Recreation Services: Carolyn Laskowsky** has been an active volunteer at Galster Wilderness Center since the park's activities began in 2006. She is responsible for the "Wild Wednesdays" and "Twilight Tuesday" programs at the park during summer.

• **Senior Services: John Hughes** has been an active senior in the community for many years and has spent countless hours making a difference in the fight against neuromuscular diseases. Hughes is a community leader who has helped to preserve the City's Annual Fourth of July Celebration, raising more than \$1 million for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



*The West Covina American Little League Major Division Mets won the West Covina 90th Anniversary Little League Baseball Tournament Championship at Cortez Park on April 6.*

*From top left: coach Eddie Alvarez, Manager Frank Valles, coach Robert Valles, Daniel Valles, Nick Calderon, Andrew Garcia, Chris Lara, Andy Alvarez, Joanne Mize, Cairo Barba, Jamie Leal, Dakota Diaz, Michael Sato and Joshua Rodriguez.*

*Not pictured: coach Mike Madrid and player Andrew Madrid.*

### City Seeks Donations for Veterans Memorial

Be part of a true community effort. Help the City of West Covina and local veteran groups raise the \$50,000 needed to make the Veterans Memorial at City Hall a reality.

Make checks payable to "West Covina Community Services Foundation - Veterans Memorial" and mail to 1444 W. Garvey Ave., West Covina, CA 91790.



## SENIOR VOLUNTEERS HELP POLICE AND SAVE CITY MILLIONS

Since its inception in 1991, West Covina's SHOP program (Seniors Helping Our Police) has been a model of success. The program allows senior citizens to channel their energy back into the community by performing nonhazardous public-safety duties on a volunteer basis, freeing up police officers, who are made more available to fulfill essential emergency and law enforcement duties in the field.

SHOP volunteers work two-person teams in fully equipped marked vehicles, seven days a week, providing many types of support to police officers. To date, SHOP volunteers have marked more than 17,000 abandoned or illegally parked vehicles, performed more than 27,000 vacation house checks for residents, served more than 8,000 subpoenas and issued more than 35,000 parking citations.

In total, SHOP personnel have volunteered almost 190,000 hours, saving the City more than \$4 million! The program is a recipient of awards from the Foundation for Improvement of Justice and the American Society for Public Administration, recognizing SHOP's innovation, success and prudence.

SHOP is a vital part of the public safety effort in West Covina and is seeking new members. If you're 55 or older, in good physical condition, have a valid California driver's license and can volunteer at least four hours per week, call (626) 939-8500 for more information.





# HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



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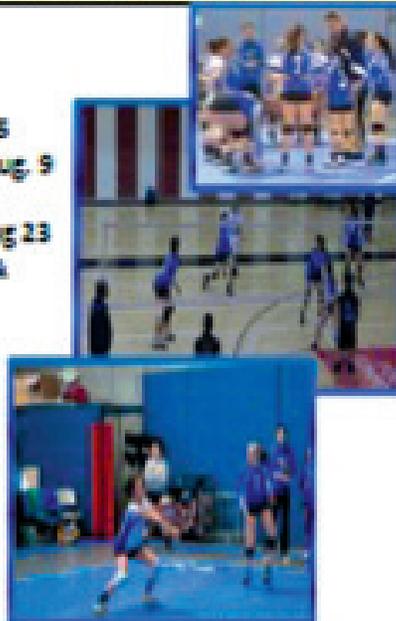
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*\*Valid for new  
patients, restrictions  
apply, void where  
prohibited.*

## 2013 Summer Volleyball Clinics

CAMP	Session	Dates
All Skills*	Session I	July 1 - 12
All Skills*	Session II	July 15 - 26
All Skills*	Session III	July 29 - Aug. 9
Advance Team Skills Session*		Aug 12- Aug 23
Advanced Hitting Clinic		July 7, 21 & Aug 4, 18

\*Each session will be on **Monday, Wednesday**  
and **Friday** evenings for two weeks.



Contact us at:

[www.clubheightsvolleyball.com](http://www.clubheightsvolleyball.com)

Phone #: 323-250-3388

email: [lisa@clubheightsvolleyball.com](mailto:lisa@clubheightsvolleyball.com)



Club Heights Volleyball is proud to  
announce their summer program for girls  
and boys ages 8-18.

All Skills Camp will focus on the individual  
technical advancement in the skills of  
serving, passing, hitting, defense and  
blocking.

Advance Team Skills Camp is designed to  
focus on getting you ready for your school  
season. All aspects of the game, along with  
drills and warm-ups will have an emphasis  
on team work and team play.

Advanced Hitting Clinic will receive  
detailed instruction in proper arm swing  
mechanics, how to contact and to control the  
ball, approach footwork and efficient jumping  
technique.

## *West Covina Fire Department Reminds Residents of Pool Safety*

**A**dding as many water safety measures as possible is the best way to ensure a safe and fun experience in a residential swimming pool or spa. Parents and families can build on their current safety practices by adopting water safety steps for home pools and spas.

These are safety steps you can adopt for your pool or spa:

### **Children and the Pool**

- Always watch your children when they are in or near a pool or spa.
- Teach children basic water safety tips.
- Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings to avoid entrapment.



- Have a portable telephone close by at all times when you or your family are using a pool or spa.

- If children are missing, look for them in the pool or spa first.
  - Share pool safety instructions with your family, friends and neighbors.

### **Water Safety Skills**

- Learn how to swim and teach your children how to swim.
- Learn to perform CPR on children and adults, and update those skills regularly.
- Understand the basics of life-saving techniques so that you can assist in the event of a swimming pool emergency.

### **Pool Safety Measures**

- Install a four-foot or taller fence around the pool and spa, and use self-closing and self-latching gates. Ask your neighbors to do the same for their pools.
- Install and use a lockable safety cover on your spa.
- If your house serves as a fourth side of a fence around a pool, install door alarms and always use them. For additional protection, install window guards on windows facing pools or spas.
- Install pool and gate alarms to alert you when children go near the water.
- Ensure any pool and spa you use has compliant drain covers. Ask your pool service provider if you do not know.
- Maintain pool and spa covers in good working order.
- Consider using a surface wave or underwater alarm.

For more information, call the West Covina Fire Department, (626) 939-8824.

## **REGISTER FOR SWIM LESSONS AND MORE AT WEST COVINA MUNICIPAL POOL**

**S**ummer is back and the heat is back! Welcome to the 2013 summer pool season. Here in West Covina, community safety is a top priority. We know that for our residents, summer means time to relax and spend time with family and friends at the pool. At the West Covina Municipal Pool, we offer a number of activities that cater to our residents.

Our learn-to-swim program accommodates people of all ages, from 6 months old to 106 years old; you are never too old to learn to swim. Our swim lessons consist of eight 25-minute lessons,

held in the mornings and evenings. The cost for the eight lessons is \$32.

In addition, the City offers recreation swim Monday through Thursday, from June 10 to Aug. 8, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$1.50 for children and

\$2.50 for adults.

For those interested in putting a competitive foot forward, our "Waves" swim team is available for children ages 6 to 18 and is \$65 a month.

Registration dates for residents are June 5, June 19, July 2, July 17, July 31, Aug. 14 and Aug. 28. Registration dates for non-residents are June 6, June 20, July 3, July 18, Aug. 15 and Aug. 29.

For information, call the Cameron Park Community Center at (626) 919-6966, or the West Covina Municipal Pool, Monday through Thursday, at (626) 960-7266.





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