



Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

February/March
2013

A publication
provided for residents by
the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

New West Covina Walmart Hits the Ground Running

AS NEWEST COMMUNITY PARTNER

Walmart recently celebrated the grand opening of their new store at the Eastland Shopping Center in late November by honoring local community organizations and charities that serve the West Covina area.

“At Walmart, we believe in the philosophy of operating globally while giving back locally,” said Chad Donath, Walmart vice president – Southern California. “Being a good community partner goes hand in hand with being a profitable business.”

As a show of support for their new West Covina neighbors, Walmart presented \$8,000 in checks to several different local organizations and charities, including Workman Elementary School, the West Covina High School Band, Homes for Hope Foster Family Agency, Shepherd’s Pantry, Faith Community Church, Greater La Puente Meals on Wheels, and the West Covina Police and Fire Explorer programs.

West Covina Store Manager Chris Turner pledged to continue to work with community organizations and residents to highlight the many benefits their local Walmart provides.

“We want to be the best neighbor and community partner we can,” Turner said. “Our stores are a



tremendous resource, from local and state grant programs, to educating residents on how Walmart can help their families eat healthier and save money on groceries.”

Members of local community organizations are encouraged to visit the Web site at

www.WalmartFoundation.com to learn more about local store and state grants that support area charitable and educational programs.

The new Walmart store, which created more than 200 new local jobs, is 121,000 square feet on two levels and carries general merchandise as well as a full line of fresh groceries.

Note: Walmart paid for this article.

**City of West Covina Recognized
for Energy Efficiency**

The City of West Covina was recently recognized for its accomplishments in energy efficiency. The Beacon Award is a statewide program that focuses on local leadership with respect to solving climate change. This award honors cities that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability.



The Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative honored the City of West Covina's achievements. West Covina was recognized for its leadership. Spotlighted accomplishments include achieving 22 percent electricity savings in agency facilities and operations since 2004, saving a total of 1,585,287 kWh, enough electricity to power approximately 250 average California homes for a year.

For more information about this program and other measures the City has taken, call Public Works at (626) 939-8425.

**OFFICER
NICK FRANCO**



**OFFICER
JOE SERRANO**



**WEST COVINA POLICE
OFFICERS HONORED**

Two West Covina Police K-9 officers were honored with the 2012 Second Quarter "West Coast Region Patrol Case Award" by the National Police Canine Association (NPCA) for their outstanding actions.

Officer Joe Serrano and his K-9 partner, "Rambo," apprehended an uncooperative suspect in a bank robbery and pursuit. Officer Nick Franco and his K-9 partner, "Rocco," apprehended a hiding burglary suspect who had an existing warrant and was a known gang member.

Serrano and Franco were the only two awardees selected from the entire state of California. This happened only one other time in the entire NPCA history, when these same two officers were honored previously. Thanks to these two officers for bringing honor to the City of West Covina!

**2013 Walk of Fame
Honorees Announced**

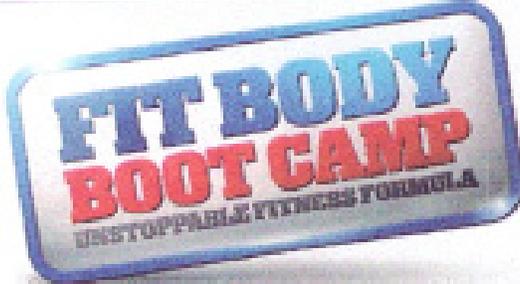
The City of West Covina has selected the 2013 Class of the West Covina Walk of Fame to be inducted during a ceremony at the Big League Dreams Sportsplex, 2100 Azusa Ave., on Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m.

In 2008, the West Covina City Council approved the creation of a Walk of Fame inside the Big League Dreams Sportsplex to honor athletes, coaches and sports group volunteers from West Covina that 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 that transverse the Big League Dreams facility.

Here are this year's honorees, selected based on nominations received from the public and evaluated by the Walk of Fame Committee.

- Tim Brancheau
- Jerry Curcio
- Christine Gil
- Kimberly Gil
- Lisa Gil
- Larry Gonzales
- Bob Lamb
- Mike Lasalette
- Gilbert Maxson
- Darrell Myrick
- Cameron Saylor
- Michael Touhey
- West Covina Pony Champions (1974, 1981 and 1982)





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West Covina Announces New City Manager

Christopher J. Chung

The West Covina City Council selected a new City Manager for the City of West Covina in December 2012. Christopher Chung has served West Covina for more than a decade, including serving as Acting City Manager in 2001 and most recently as the City of West Covina's Community Development Director. Chung has a wealth of experience – more than 20 years – working in city government.



others. He was also directly involved with bringing affordable housing, including the Senior Villas, to West Covina.

As a result of his hard work and dedication, the City earned more than 14 national, state and regional awards, helping to put West Covina on the map as a progressive, award-winning city.

Chung highlights his immediate priorities as new City Manager.

Under the City Council's leadership, Chung was instrumental in the City of West Covina's development efforts that brought in successful projects, including the award-winning West Covina Sportsplex – The Heights Shopping Center and Big League Dreams – Citrus Grove, West Covina Nissan, Penske Audi, Fairfield Marriott, the Westfield West Covina mall expansion and the recently remodeled McIntyre Square, among

“Of most importance, the city's relationship with the community, providing the best customer service with residents and the business community,” he said. “Also, I will be focusing on economic development to generate more revenue for the city's budget as well as create new jobs in West Covina. I look forward to working closely with the City Council on moving West Covina in a positive direction.”

Through a collaborative effort and leadership from the City Council, Chung was responsible for the development of more than \$600 million in new projects, increasing city sales tax revenues by more than \$6 million annually; the generation of more than \$18 million in direct land sale proceeds to the CDC/City; and the creation of more than 6,000 new employment opportunities.

Community Invited to FREE GARDENING WORKSHOP

The City of West Covina and Suburban Water Systems are offering a free gardening workshop for residents. Learn how to adjust your irrigation systems, how to plant low-maintenance plants and discover other techniques to tune-up your garden. This workshop will also show you methods to save time, money and water.

The workshop will be on Saturday, March 2 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the West Covina Senior Center, 2510 E. Cortez St. To register, call (877) 405-1747 or e-mail your name, address and phone number to wcgardenclass@swwc.com.

New Businesses Come to West Covina

City staff has been working closely with various businesses, sharing with them all the advantages to making West Covina their new home. Some of the businesses that have opened or will be opening soon include the following:

Eastland Center

- Ashley Furniture opens March 15.
- Chase Bank opens in March.

Hong Kong Plaza

- Banh Mi Che Cali Restaurant recently opened.
- Big 8 Pharmacy recently opened.

McIntyre Square

- Guppy House opens mid-March.
- A & J Hot Pots opens in April.
- AccuVision Optometry opens in April.
- Canaan Noodle House opens in May.

- Orlando Entertainment Karaoke opens in August.

Restaurant Row

- LA Fitness opens in September.

Westfield West Covina

- Minato Seafood Buffet opens in February.
- Amapola opens Aug. 1.

Other

- Centre Lake Imaging, 1700 West Covina Parkway, opens in March.

More details will be shared in the next issue of Discover West Covina.

You Are Invited to a Free Spring Special Event!

The Castucci Foundation and the City of West Covina Community Services Department will host the free Annual Egg Celebration on Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave, West Covina.



Egg hunts for various age groups will be held as follows:

- 10:30 a.m. Ages 2 and 3
- 11 a.m. Ages 4 and 5
- 11:30 a.m. Ages 6 and 7
- Noon Ages 8 and older

Crafts for children and photos with the Easter bunny will also be available. For more information about this "egg-citing" free event, visit www.westcovina.org or call (626) 939-8430.

FREE COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Saturday, Feb. 9 at 9 a.m.
West Covina Senior Center
2501 E. Cortez St.
Class size is limited, so registration is required.
To reserve your space, call (626) 939-8458.



FREE E-WASTE ROUNDUP

Saturday, Feb. 16
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
West Covina Maintenance Yard
825 S. Sunset Ave.
For info, call (626) 939-8458.



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GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION OF BIG 8 PHARMACY

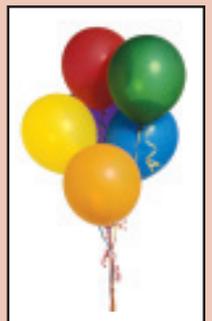
The West Covina City Council and Big 8 Pharmacy invite you to a free grand opening celebration that will include refreshments, entertainment and giveaways on Thursday, Feb. 21 at noon.

Big 8 Pharmacy is a retail pharmacy that dispenses medical prescriptions and sells over-the-counter medicine, medical supplies, vitamins, supplements and gifts.

Pharmacist Dat Chau, a graduate of USC's School of Pharmacy, has been serving patients for 15 years. He chose to locate his family-operated pharmacy to West Covina because of the City's "business-friendly environment" and to provide the community a small, independent pharmacy with a personal touch.

The ribbon cutting will take place at noon, and the first 100 customers at the store will receive a free gift and will be entered into a raffle for a Samsung 32" LED TV and other prizes. Customers who purchase \$10 or more in store merchandise will also be entered into the raffle. CareMore Bus will be on site to answer questions about health care plans and provide health care resources for seniors.

Visit Big 8 Pharmacy at 985 S. Glendora Ave. The phone number is (626) 851-8108.



City of West Covina Police Department Brings Cheer to Local Needy Children

Each year, the West Covina Police Department and community partners present the annual "Shop with a Cop" event. This volunteer program includes West Covina police officers who channel donation funds to needy children and their families before Christmas.

The most recent event helped spread holiday cheer by assisting 10 children from local schools and their families purchase items that included clothing, shoes, other necessities and toys.

To make a donation to this cause, call the Police Department at (626) 939-8500 or visit www.wcpd.org.



CITY PRESENTS LITERARY FESTIVAL FEB. 15 TO 17

On President's Day weekend, Feb. 15 to 17, the City of West Covina will present the San Gabriel Valley Literary Festival at the Civic Center, 1444 W. Garvey Ave. South, West Covina.

This free event will include appearances by poets, fiction writers, children's writers and artists from not only the Los Angeles area, but from all around the world.

There will be open microphones so local writers, including West Covina residents, will have the opportunity to share their own works. One of the poets being featured is Eloise Klein Healy, the newly named poet laureate of Los Angeles. Others include Suzanne Lummis, who has been a central figure of Los Angeles; Tony Barnstone; and international writers, such as T. Anders Carson from Canada and Simon Fruelund, one of Denmark's best-selling fiction writers.

The three-day event, scheduled for noon to 9 p.m., will have select days focused on mystery writers, graphic novelists and children's authors, along with booths for publishers, book stores, writers, magazines and artists.

For more information, call Lyndel Morgan with the City of West Covina Community Services Department at (626) 939-8440.



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ACCREDITED BUSINESS



CITY OF WEST COVINA TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

call (800) 425-5777.

Visit the City's Web site at www.westcovina.org/transit to view route maps and schedules.

In general, the shuttle schedules vary between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. At just 50 cents each way, the Red, Blue, and Green shuttles are a real bargain.

WestCo Dial-A-Ride

WestCo Dial-A-Ride is a shared curb-to-curb service provided on an appointment basis for seniors and disabled residents of West Covina. Customers may travel to or from any location within city limits for any

purpose or up to 3 miles outside city limits for medical appointments Monday through Friday.

Fares are 50 cents one way. Escorts and children younger than age 5 ride free. Fares must be paid at the time of boarding.

Candidates will need to submit an application to the City of West Covina before they can begin using the service. An application can be obtained by contacting the Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430, or from the City's Web site at www.westcovina.org/transit. Allow five business days for the processing of your application.

Go West Transit

The City's Go West transit system includes three routes: Red, Blue and Green. Go West provides service to many West Covina destinations, including the Westfield West Covina mall, Eastland Shopping Center, the West Covina Civic Center, the West Covina Senior Center, Cameron Community Center and many others.

For the location of shuttle stops, assistance in locating the shuttle stop closest to you, and for route schedules,

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EARTHQUAKE

Federal, state and local emergency management experts and other official preparedness organizations agree that “Drop, Cover and Hold On” is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes.



• **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!).

• Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table.

• **HOLD ON** to your shelter and be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops.

If there is no table or desk near you, drop to the ground and then, if possible, move to an inside corner of the room. Be in a crawling position to protect your vital organs, be ready to move if necessary, and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.

Following these guidelines can help

protect you during an earthquake:

If you are unable to drop, cover and hold on: If you have difficulty getting safely to the floor on your own, get as low as possible, protect your head and neck, and move away from windows or other items that can fall on you.

In a wheelchair: Lock your wheels and remain seated until the shaking stops. Protect your head and neck with your arms, a pillow, a book or whatever is available.

In bed: If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow. You are less likely to be injured

staying where you are. Broken glass on the floor has caused injury to those who have rolled to the floor or tried to get to doorways.

Outdoors: Move to a

clear area if you can safely do so. Avoid power lines, trees, signs, buildings, vehicles and other hazards.

Driving: Pull over to the side of the road, stop and set the parking brake. Avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over. If a power line falls onto the car, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.

For more information about earthquake safety, call the City of West Covina Fire Department at (626) 939-8824.

Prepare for Rainy Weather

With the rainy season upon us, it is time to look around your property to make sure there is proper drainage, particularly on hillside properties.

Make sure all gutters and drains are clean of debris. Make sure that water from your property drains to the street or to an appropriate v-ditch or yard drain. Taking these measures helps minimize excess water from flooding and eroding your property and that of your neighbors.

Keep sandbags, shovels and plastic sheets on hand for slope and runoff protection. Place sandbags around the house, gutters and drains as needed. Divert running water with plastic sheets or flexible polyethylene pipes.

Free sand and sandbags are available to West Covina residents at these locations:

- Fire Station No. 1, 819 S. Sunset Ave.
- Fire Station No. 4, 1815 S. Azusa Ave.
- Fire Station No. 5, 2650 E. Shadow Oak Drive

For more information, call the City of West Covina Engineering Division at (626) 939-8425 or check the City’s Web site at www.westcovina.org.

E-mail DiscoverWestCovina@westcovina.org
Sue Williams, PIO, City Manager’s Office

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