



# Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

June 2012

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



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

## West Covina Police Department Honored with National Awards

Two West Covina police K-9 officers, Nick Franco and Joe Serrano, recently received awards from the National Police Canine Association.

On July 17, 2011, Franco and his K-9 partner, "Rocco," joined the search for a suspect fleeing the scene of a robbery in a neighboring city. After a vehicle pursuit, the suspect hid from police, but Rocco and Franco located and arrested the suspect.

*West Covina's K-9 teams received the only two awards given this quarter by the National Police Canine Association for the entire state of California!*



L-r: Officer Joe Serrano, Chief Frank Wills and Officer Nick Franco arrested two suspects.

On Aug. 13, 2011, Serrano and his K-9 partner, "Rambo," joined the search for hidden suspects wanted for weapons violations. After West Covina police contained the area, Serrano commanded Rambo to search the properties where a suspect was last seen. Rambo and Serrano ultimately located and

The National Police Canine Association recognized each of these K-9 teams for their law enforcement efforts with awards – the only two awards given this quarter by this national organization for the entire state of California.

For more information, call the West Covina Police Department at (626) 939-8557.

## Get Into the Swim of Summer 2012



The City of West Covina offers many programs at the municipal pool, located at 1720 Merced Ave.

Swim lesson registration is being taken now, through Aug. 16, for classes including Parent & Me (ages 6 months to 3 years), Tiny Tots (ages 3 to 5 years), six different levels of lessons, group swim lessons, individual lessons and more.

Recreational swimming is also available at the city pool.

For more information, visit the city's Web site at [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org) or call the Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430.

The City of West Covina Independence Day Celebration returns. See page 6 for more information.

## Celebrate Play and Fitness at Palmview Park!

The City of West Covina will celebrate the new play and fitness features at Palmview Park, 1340 E. Puente Ave., on Thursday, June 28 at 3 p.m.

The new playground structure is designed to develop strength, balance, spatial awareness, agility and problem-solving skills while encouraging imagination, social interaction and inclusive play. Kids will get fit while having fun traversing the universe on the new space play structure.

Adjacent to the new playground is an outdoor fitness area for teens and adults. Parents can now get fit while they keep an eye on their children at the playground.

Join the city for a light snack and some play and fitness!

For more information, call the Community Services Department at (626) 939-8440.



## West Covina City Council Approves Grant-Funded Dog Park

The City Council approved moving forward with a dog park at Del Norte Park, 1500 W. Rowland Ave., located at Sunset Avenue, just north of the 10 Freeway.

This new facility will provide a place for canine owners to allow their dogs to run, exercise and play off-leash in a controlled environment. The fenced-in area, set aside for just this purpose, will include seating areas for pet owners to watch their pets, trees for shade, parking close to the area, drinking fountains, animal waste collection bags and trash cans.

The entire project is being funded by Proposition A grant funds. The dog park is anticipated to open in July.

## Second-Graders Learn from West Covina Mayor

*The following is an excerpt of an article from the Highlander newspaper, written by correspondent Hillary Smith.*

**Being Mayor is so easy, second-graders can do it. That's not anywhere near the truth of course, but it didn't stop the second-graders of Hollingworth Elementary School in West Covina from voting for their own Mayors and learning about the campaign process in a hands-on way.**

**Each second-grade class made its own city, wrote individual speeches and then voted on a Mayor. Afterward, the West Covina Mayor visited their classes to hear their speeches and talk to them about mayoral duties.**

**Second-grader Dante Ramos, one of the world's youngest "Mayors," has a few things on his list that he would do for his Star City as Mayor.**

**"I would make sure that everyone throws trash in the garbage, and I would make sure the roads are nice and clean," he said.**

*Principal Dr. Michael Hoon is shown here with the student Mayors: Patrick Perez, Nicholas Ramirez, Jasmyn Rivera, Dante Ramos and Brison Hirakawa. "The children were*



*delighted with his story about becoming Mayor and learned a lot about what the Mayor has to do for the City of West Covina on a regular basis," Hoon said. "The boys and girls were amazed by his size 18 shoes! He quizzed our students ... The boy who gave him the correct answer got a shoe signed by the Mayor, and the other shoe is housed in the school front office. Pretty impressive!"*

## Recycle Used Oil and Filters June 23

On Saturday, June 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pep Boys in West Covina will host a used motor oil collection and filter exchange event. The store is located at 501 S. Vincent Ave.

Exchange your used oil filter for a new, in-stock filter and a motor oil collection container for free. No purchase is necessary, but there is a limit of two filters and one collection container per resident, while supplies last.

You must be a West Covina resident to be eligible. Show your I.D. or a utility bill for verification.

Only motor oil that is not mixed with water, gasoline or other chemicals will be accepted.

For more information, all (888) CLEAN-LA.



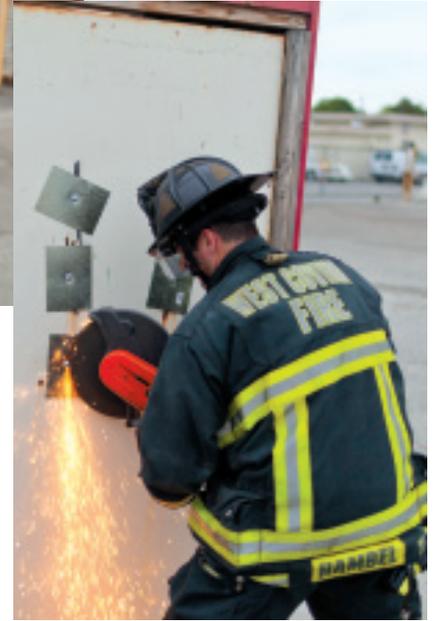
## Properly Dispose of Electronic Waste in a Safe and Easy Way

Take your electronic waste, or e-waste, to the free E-Waste Roundup on Saturday, June 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the West Covina Maintenance Yard, 825 S. Sunset Ave.

Types of e-waste accepted include computers, phones, scanners, VCR's, keyboards, servers, cell phones, PDA's, laptops, fax machines, printers, cassette players, stereos, monitors, shredders, flat-screen TV's, tape drivers, copiers and docking stations.

E-waste will be accepted on roundup day only. If you are unsure if a particular item qualifies as e-waste, call the Maintenance Department at (626) 939-8458.

This program is provided through restricted AB939 waste reduction funding.



## West Covina Fire Department Receives Training on Forcible Entries

The West Covina Fire Department participated in specialized forcible entry training. The training focused on particular challenges faced when trying to gain access involving commercial steel, security gates and other mechanisms unique to most commercial building fires.

The training drill included a morning class in which firefighters reviewed current practices and learned new theories and techniques to quickly gain

access and provide openings into these types of structures.

During the evening portion of the training, each firefighter was required to demonstrate proficiency in using available tools and equipment necessary to open a variety of doors, create openings and gain access in a variety of challenging situations. Practice props were created in advance to provide each firefighter hands-on opportunities to apply the skills and techniques learned.

## WEST COVINA HONORED AS 'TREE CITY USA' FOR 30TH YEAR

The City of West Covina has been named a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation. It is the 30th consecutive year West Covina has received this national recognition. In fact, West Covina was among the first 25 of the 145 cities in California to be designated as a Tree City USA.

ordinance, 3) a comprehensive community forestry program and 4) an Arbor Day observance.



This year's Arbor Day event, held in April, included the planting of three trees in honor of community leaders Richard Kinsler, former West Covina High School choir director; Kenneth I.

To become a Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards. It must have 1) a tree board or department, 2) a tree care

Chappell, former West Covina mayor and councilmember; and Ray Urrutia, past president of West Covina Lions Club.

## **Message from West Covina City Manager Andrew G. Pasmant**

Dear residents and business owners,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the current fiscal challenges being faced by the City of West Covina and cities throughout California. First, I would like to address some erroneous information being disseminated questioning the fiscal condition of the City. I want to make you aware of where to find accurate information about our fiscal condition and other questions you may have about the City.

The City of West Covina's most recent Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) states, "The General Fund Reserves had a balance of \$29.6 million for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2011." The information and other financial data is readily available on the City's official Web site at [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org). This fund balance was reported by the City of West Covina Finance Department and was confirmed by an independent auditor.

Unfortunately, as the State of California attempts to deal with its budget problems, lawmakers in Sacramento continue to adversely affect our City finances and threaten every aspect of local government throughout the state, including our fund balances and General Fund Reserves. Millions of your local tax dollars continue to be taken from our community to balance the state's budget.

Since 1992, the State of California diverted more than \$40 million in revenues from West Covina. The state has failed to repay the City more than \$1 million in unfunded mandates and has eliminated redevelopment tools statewide that were used in cities to generate jobs, create revenues and remove blighted conditions in our communities. The state continues to put stress on city budgets statewide, forcing cities year after year to reduce and restructure budgets.

Recently, the State of California, under Senate Bill 89, deferred approximately \$385,000 from the City's General Fund in vehicle license fees that paid for local services. An even more serious impact has been the state legislature's elimination of redevelopment agencies under Assembly Bill 1X26, which potentially threatens reserves and revenues.

Because of such actions, the City of West Covina recently was forced to eliminate our Community Development Commission (CDC), forcing the layoff/elimination of approximately 11 City employees and the reduction of programs. The CDC has historically supported programs that help create affordable senior housing units, repair and replace aging infrastructure and utilities, and attract new investment, business and jobs to our community.

This local government tool (redevelopment) was critical to the development of many of the major commercial developments in the City, but more importantly helped to create thousands of local jobs and maintain the quality of life and property values in the community.

West Covina is a proven leader in responsible economic development, earning numerous accolades from international, national and statewide agencies for the City's efforts in attracting new investment, creating new jobs and generating thousands of dollars in new tax revenues to pay for our local schools and public safety.

In the past three years, in addition to layoffs, the City has reduced its workforce by 20 percent – approximately 100 employees. Even with this reduction, the City has made every effort to minimize the impact on residents and the business community.

During the last few years, City employees have done their part to help with

*(continued on Page 5)*

## South Hills High Wins National Gold Medal



*Congratulations to West Covina's South Hills High School Percussion Ensemble! In April, they became the 2012 Scholastic Open Class champions. Their 2012 show, "Home," earned them the gold medal at the world championships in Dayton, Ohio. This is their third gold medal win since 2008.*

*(continued from Page 4)*

the City's finances. Many of the employee labor groups have taken salary concessions (cuts), reformed City pensions and taken on more responsibilities with the reduced staffing. Other employee group negotiations are in progress.

Despite these financial challenges, the City Council and City employees remain committed to provide residents and businesses with the highest level of service.

Even with the nationwide recession and financial challenges facing our community, the City is very proud of its accomplishments. West Covina was recently named the "Most Business Friendly City" in Los Angeles County for its low taxes, excellent customer service and commitment to make economic development and job creation a priority. West Covina is the first and only city in Southern California Edison's service area of more than 100 cities to be recognized as a Platinum Award community for being the most energy-efficient city, saving taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs.

The West Covina City Council is committed to protect your tax dollars and provide you with the quality public services you expect in the most cost-effective manner.

To help your City, you are encouraged to contact our state legislators and ask them to protect West Covina's local revenues, repay the unfunded mandates owed to our community, and provide the tools to allow cities to once again create jobs and spur economic growth throughout the state.

Sincerely,

**Andrew G Pasmant**  
City Manager

## Special Thanks to **VOLUNTEERS** Who Helped Clean City Parks

A multi-congregational group from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints assisted the City on April 28 in a clean-up project called the "Helping Hands Project."

This is an annual project in which volunteers work together to serve their community. This year, there were approximately 250 volunteers!

At Galster Park, they painted the Boys' Camp, the wood fencing at the south end of the upper parking lot and the trash enclosure door. They also painted over graffiti at Boys' Camp Amphitheater and rocks along trails, as well as removed litter throughout the park.

At Woodgrove Park, they removed dead plant material from the north slope, painted over graffiti on slope drains and removed litter throughout the park.

Craig Rigby of the Hacienda Heights congregation coordinated the event. Doug Rozsa is the stake president.



## Taylor House to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

On Sunday, June 24 from noon to 4 p.m., the Friends of the Taylor House will host the 100th anniversary of the Taylor House at Heritage Park, 3510 Cameron Ave.

The community is invited to join in the celebration, which will include a cake-cutting ceremony and docent tours of the Taylor House. Several local community organizations representing gardening clubs, historical societies and other local groups will be present to provide information about their organizations and how to become more involved in the community.

Event parking will be at Heritage Park, with overflow parking at South Hills High School at the corner of Barranca and Cameron avenues. Free shuttle service will be available between South Hills High School and Heritage Park.

Built in 1912 by Almo Taylor, the Taylor House is an excellent example of a Craftsman-style grove house built in the San Gabriel Valley in the early 1900s. It was fully restored and historically furnished



in 2007 with textiles, lighting and other decorative objects reflecting the Craftsman movement in America from the early 1900s.

THE CITY OF WEST COVINA AND  
THE WEST COVINA MDA VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE HOST

**22ND ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

EDGEWOOD MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  
1625 W. DURNESS ST.  
WEST COVINA, CA 91790

TO BENEFIT THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY, JULY 3RD - 4:00PM - 10:00PM -  
CARNIVAL, FOOD, RIDE & GAMES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT HURST RANCH  
1227 S. ORANGE AVE.  
8:00AM - 11:00AM

COST \$4:00 - PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, JUICE, MILK AND COFFEE

**\$1.00 ENTRANCE FEE BEGINNING AT 4:00PM**  
4:00PM - 11:00PM - CARNIVAL, FOOD, RIDES & GAMES  
6:00PM - 9:00PM - ENTERTAINMENT BY SANGRIA

FIREWORK SHOW BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE  
CITY OF WEST COVINA & WESTFIELD

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

## LOOKING FOR A SAFE AND FUN PLACE FOR YOUR KIDS TO PLAY THIS SUMMER?



The City of West Covina's summer day camps are supervised programs for youngsters in kindergarten through fifth grade. Children participate in recreational activities, including sports, swimming, arts and crafts, movies, field trips and much more. Daily snacks are provided.

The summer camp programs are conducted Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., from Monday, June 11 to Friday, Aug. 17. The fee is \$88 per week.

For more information or to register, visit or call any of the following sites:

- California School, 1125 Bainbridge Ave., (626) 960-8819
- Orangewood School, 1440 S. Orange Ave., (626) 337-2865
- Vine School, 1901 E. Vine, (626) 919-7807
- Wescove School, 1010 W. Vine, (626) 960-8890

## WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL APPROVES PARK SCULPTURES

The West Covina City Council on March 20 authorized staff to purchase two bronze sculptures for Cortez Park and Cameron Park.

Larger developments generally fulfill their artwork requirement by installing art at the particular business. Examples of this include the dolphin sculpture and base at the Fairfield Inn, 3211 E. Garvey Ave. North; the tile murals at Prosperity Business Park,

1733 San Bernardino Road; and the float-glass canopy at the entryway of East Valley Health Care, 420 S. Glendora Ave. Smaller projects, where the artwork allocation results in a small monetary value, are funded with money donated to the City of West Covina's Art in Public Places fund.

The City's Public Arts Commission reviewed hundreds of pieces of submitted art and recommended its top three selections to the City Council for consideration.



*For Cortez Park: "Sports Buddies" by Victor Issa*



*For Cameron Park: "Hanging Around" by Mark Hopkins*

The art for Cortez Park is a sculpture called "Sports Buddies" created by artist Victor Issa. The sculpture will be located on the knoll in the southern section of the park overlooking the sports fields.

The art for Cameron Park is a sculpture called "Hanging Around" by artist Mark Hopkins. The sculpture will be located in the triangular grass area in front of Cameron Community Center.

Installation of these sculptures is anticipated by the end of this summer.

**THE SCULPTURES ARE BEING PURCHASED AND INSTALLED WITH FUNDS PROVIDED FROM DEVELOPERS THROUGH THE CITY'S ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM.**

## Visit Farmers Market at New Spot

The West Covina Farmers Market, presented by "Your Town Markets," is held every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Glendora Avenue near The Lakes and Edwards Theatre.

The Farmers Market is an open-air street market with vendors who sell their own fresh fruit and veggies, crafters, jewelry, specialty food, music, fun and much more. It is a direct-to-consumer marketplace, with all produce and other products from local California vendors and growers.

Join the fun every Saturday, rain or shine. For information, visit [www.westcovinafarmersmarket.org](http://www.westcovinafarmersmarket.org) or call Roger Evans at (626) 488-0054.



## Free Summer Lunch Program Returns to Orangewood Park

The City of West Covina Community Services Department is holding its Summer Lunch Program Monday through Friday (except July 4) from noon to 1:30 p.m., beginning June 11 and continuing through Aug. 10 at Orangewood Park, 1615 W. Merced Ave., across the street from the municipal pool.

Any child younger than 18 is eligible for a free lunch. Lunches are pre-ordered and limited to first come, first served.

The program also offers volunteer opportunities. For program information, call the Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430 or visit [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org).

## ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN DISCOVER!

The City of West Covina is now accepting paid advertising in the city's newsletter, Discover West Covina. This newsletter, which has a distinctive brand in the community, is mailed to every home in West Covina. Not only does every residence receive this newsletter, but copies are placed on the front counters of city departments and it is posted on the city's Web site.

Give your business a boost while helping the City fund a very important communication tool with the community. For information, call Gary Lawson at (818) 489-0041 or Monica Cabrera at (626) 939-3350 or e-mail: [advertising4discover@westcovina.org](mailto:advertising4discover@westcovina.org).



### Loads of Summer Fun at Palmview Park Preschool

Your little ones can make tons of new friends at Palmview Park Preschool this summer. The teachers and staff are actively planning a summer of fun, arts and crafts, games, outdoor activities and more.

The state-licensed program, created for children ages 3 to 5, is conducted by well-trained teachers and staff. Palmview Park is located at 1340 E. Puente Ave.

For more information, call Palmview Park at (626) 339-4314, Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., or visit [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org).

## City Seeking Applications for Walk of Fame Nominations

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



Nominations are being accepted for individuals who are current or past participants 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 and/or international competition as well as volunteered their time to better the sports community for fans and players of all ages to enjoy.

To obtain a copy of the Walk of Fame application, visit [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org). Applications are due by June 25, 2012.

## City Pole Banners Available for Businesses

The City of West Covina was awarded the title of "2012 Most Business Friendly City." For a fee of \$400 each, your business may sponsor a city pole banner, which will include your company's logo at the bottom. For more information, call the GWC at (626) 939-3350.

twitter



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Have ideas for "Discover West Covina?" E-mail us: [Discoverwestcovina@westcovina.org](mailto:Discoverwestcovina@westcovina.org) or mail to: West Covina City Hall, City Manager's Office, Attn: PIO Sue Williams, 1444 W. Garvey Ave., West Covina, CA 91790



**WEST COVINA  
CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor: Mike Touhey  
Mayor Pro Tem: Shelley Sanderson  
Councilmember: Steve Herfert  
Councilmember: Rob Sotelo  
Councilmember: Fred Sykes

City of West Covina  
1444 W. Garvey Ave.  
West Covina, CA 91790

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