



Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

December 2011

A publication
provided for residents by
the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

West Covina Awarded 'Most Business-Friendly' City

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) recently announced this year's winners of its Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County competition live at the 16th annual Eddy Awards® at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, naming West Covina winner in the population 60,000 and over category, and Monrovia in the population 60,000 and under category.

Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy Awards® have become one of the most important economic development award programs in California and is attended by more than 600 of the region's business, government and education leaders.

In 2006, the LAEDC created the Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County award category to recognize cities in the county that proactively promote business-friendly programs and services in the interest of attracting and retaining good quality jobs for their residents.

"We are delighted to recognize the cities of Monrovia and West Covina with this year's Eddy Award®," said LAEDC President and CEO Bill Allen. "Both cities stand out as model communities in Los Angeles County by proactively engaging and working with businesses and the private sector to create jobs for their residents.

"Each year, this competition reveals that more and more cities in the county are proactively implementing strategies that are in alignment with

L.A. County's first-ever Strategic Plan for Economic Development that will ensure a strong, diverse and sustainable economy for L.A. County."

The winners were selected based on the following criteria: 1) Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority; 2) Excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate

business entry, expansion and retention; 3) Economic development activity over the past three years; 4) Competitive business tax rates and fee structures; 5) Availability of economic incentives; and 6) Effective communication with and about business clients.

Located in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley, West Covina is a vibrant business-friendly community that takes pride in developing first-class projects. West Covina exerts a powerful retail pull with a 10-mile radius population that exceeds 2.5 million with

excellent freeway access. West Covina embodies the elements of a successful city, including a pro-business climate, great location and distinctive quality of life.

The City's General Plan Economic Development Element includes business-friendly processes, such as streamlining the entitlement process, over-the-counter approvals for select permits, expedited plan checks and permits for a fee, staff available to discuss plan/permit applications, design review committee and an ombudsman program.

West Covina was a finalist for this award in 2010.



West Covina embodies the elements of a successful city, including a pro-business climate, great location and distinctive quality of life.

WEST COVINA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Holiday Safety Reminders

Holiday Decorating

* Use caution with holiday decorations, and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.

* Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and do not use candles to decorate Christmas trees.

* Purchase only lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.

* Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings, and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Do not overload extension cords.

* Check your strands of lights to determine the number of strands that may be connected. Connect no more

than three strands of push-in bulbs and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.

* Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.

* Don't mount lights in any way that can damage the cord's wire insulation. For example, it is safer to use clips, not nails.

* Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations.

* Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Holiday Entertaining

* Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.

* If you smoke, smoke outside.

* Wherever you smoke, provide plenty of large, deep, sturdy ashtrays, and check them frequently. Cigarette butts can smolder in the trash and cause a fire, so completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding.

* After a party, always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions and inside trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.

* Keep matches and lighters up high, out of sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet. When smokers visit your home, ask them to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.

* Test your smoke alarms, and let guests know what your fire escape plan is.

Get Ready for Holiday Home Lighting & Decorating Contest

The Castucci Foundation and the City of West Covina will sponsor the Second Annual Holiday Home Lighting and Decorating contest.

To enter your front yard in the competition, complete an application by December 1. Call (626) 939-8430 to receive an application by e-mail or you can pick one up at Cameron Community Center. The application fee is \$5.

Participating homes must be located in West Covina. All lighting and decorations must be in place by December 13.

Judging will take place during the evening of December 14.

If you are interested in taking the tour of homes, call (626) 939-8430 to reserve a spot on the bus. There is no charge to participate in the tour.



RECREATION CLASS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

The City of West Covina offers a variety of classes and programs for all types of interests and age groups, including aerobics, zumba, gymnastics, performing art dances, music, salsa, art, karate, tennis, sports, Tiny Tots, Parent & Me, crafts, academics and much more.

For more information, call Cameron Community Center at (626) 919-6966 or Shadow Oak Community Center at (626) 965-0328. All programs are listed in the recreation guide online at www.westcovina.org/cityhall/rec/guide.asp.



Add a Little More Green to Your Holiday Season
Recycle Your Live Christmas Tree

Live Christmas trees will be collected curbside from all single-family residences in West Covina from December 26 through January 13. The trees will be collected on your regular trash collection day.

Only natural trees will be picked up. Please remove all lights, tinsel, ornaments, bags, stands, etc. and place your tree at the curb beside your trash cans.

For more information, call (626) 939-8458 or visit the City's Web site, www.westcovina.org/environment.

City of West Covina Presents Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 8

The City of West Covina and Westfield West Covina will host the 2011 Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 8 at 6 p.m. The ceremony will be held at Westfield West Covina, 112 Plaza Drive, outside next to Best Buy.

Join us in welcoming the holiday season. For more information, call the Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430 or visit www.westcovina.org.

The City of West Covina
- and -
Westfield West Covina
Host
Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thursday, December 8, 2011 **6:00 p.m.**

Westfield West Covina
112 Plaza Drive
West Covina

Happy Holidays!

Westfield West Covina
West Covina

For more information, call Community Services at (626) 939-8430.

NEW RESTAURANTS COME TO WEST COVINA!

Recently, the buzz around West Covina has been the excitement of the many new restaurants opening in our community. The Habit Burger, Chronic Taco, Pacific Fish Grill, Lee's Sandwiches and Jersey Mike's Subs are some of the recently opened restaurants. The excitement isn't over nor does it look like there's an end, with more restaurants slated to open in the next few months.

Westfield West Covina has already welcomed **Chronic Tacos**, **Lee's Sandwiches**, **Lazy Dog Café** and **Gatten Sushi** and soon will welcome **Five Guys Burgers** and **Dillon's Irish Pub**.



The opening of Lee's Sandwiches created 50 new jobs.

Lazy Dog Café recently opened its doors and started serving its delectable menu of diverse cuisine. The family-friendly restaurant and sports bar has brought its signature rustic wood look and dog-themed decor to West Covina and features a patio complete with a fire pit. Lazy Dog's menu offers a wide selection of food options, ranging from burgers to kung pao chicken, brick-oven pizzas to cast-iron Idaho trout and a brunch menu. Whether for a family gathering, a night out with friends or brunch, Lazy Dog Café offers a warm and inviting restaurant for

all ages and all occasions. (1440 Plaza Drive)



The opening of Lazy Dog Café created 60 new jobs.

Catch that sushi, **Gatten Sushi**, a sushi restaurant with a revolving sushi bar. The revolving sushi bar offers customers a unique dining experience; the fresh fish and reasonable prices (plates starting at \$2) make Gatten Sushi worth checking out. The opening of Gatten Sushi created 45 new jobs. (1042 Plaza Drive)

If you don't already have a favorite burger joint in West Covina, be prepared to stop by **Five Guys Burgers**. The popular burger restaurant will open its first West Covina location in January. With 250,000 possible ways to order a burger, Five Guys is sure to satisfy any burger craving. Serving fresh ground beef and using no frozen ingredients, it's no wonder Five Guys Burgers has become so popular and well-known for its tasty burgers. (1455 Plaza Drive)

Dillon's Irish Pub, an Irish-themed bar, will bring its quality "comfort food" and wide selection of draft beers to West Covina in the spring. Dillon's Irish Pub will be located in the space adjacent to Lazy Dog Café at the Westfield West Covina mall.



At the Westfield Eastland Center, recently opened restaurants include **The Habit Burger**, **Pacific Fish Grill** and **Qdoba Mexican Grill**, with two new restaurants

– **Menchie's** and **WaBa Teriyaki House** – on the way.



Qdoba Mexican Grill, the fast-causal brand known for its fresh and innovative Mexican cuisine, opened its first West Covina location in October. Qdoba Mexican Grill is a Mexican kitchen where fresh, handcrafted meals are prepared right in front of you. Each Qdoba restaurant showcases food that celebrates its passion for high-quality ingredients, a menu full of innovative flavors, handcrafted preparation and inviting service. With a wide variety of unique menu items like Qdoba's signature 3-Cheese Queso and Ancho Chile BBQ sauce, and an extensive selection of entrees from tacos and burritos to quesadillas, nachos and more, every guest can find a culinary creation to satisfy their taste and dietary preferences. The West Covina location offers a full catering line featuring Qdoba's favorite items. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/QdobaSoCal](https://www.facebook.com/QdobaSoCal) or follow @QdobaSoCal on Twitter. (245 Barranca St., Unit 10)



The opening of Qdoba Mexican Grill created 25 to 30 new jobs.

Menchie's, the fastest-growing self-serve frozen yogurt store, is now open in West Covina. Guests can help themselves to an unlimited mix of yogurt and toppings at a unique self-

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

serve store with more than 100 rotating yogurt flavors from cake batter and pomegranate tart to chocolate silk and vanilla snow, and more than 70 rotating toppings including fresh fruits, granola, nuts, an assortment of candies and hot fudge. Menchie's uses the highest quality frozen yogurt at all of its locations globally, made exclusively through its own private label. Menchie's frozen yogurt contains live and active cultures and has received the Live and Active Culture seal indicating its endorsement by the National Yogurt Association. Menchie's will host a Community Weekend Celebration December 10 and 11, beginning with a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 10 at 10:30 a.m. with free gift bags for the first 30 guests in line. The two-day weekend celebration will include free frozen yogurt from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., fund raising, face painting, color-in t-shirts, balloons, the opportunity to meet Menchie himself and much more! Visit Menchie's on Facebook at www.facebook.com/menchieeastland. (245 Barranca St., #14)



WaBa Grill Teriyaki House offers a healthy choice in teriyaki cuisine in a fast-casual environment. WaBa Grill uses 100 percent all-natural ingredients, no artificial additives like MSG, no oil used in the cooking, no skins, no frying, and high-quality steak, ribs and salmon. WaBa Grill opened its first location in Los Angeles in 2004 and now has more than 31 restaurants in Southern California. (245 Barranca St., Unit 4)

Another exciting new restaurant opened in Hong Kong Plaza, **Rich's Shrimp Shack**. Rich's Shrimp Shack serves

Hawaiian-style shrimp and cuisine. The West Covina location will be the first brick-and-mortar restaurant for the chef who got his start as the chef of The Shrimp Guys food truck. Rich's Shrimp Shack will also be teaming up with a tropical shaved ice vendor to bring its customers a true island experience. (1001 S. Glendora Ave.)



The opening of Rich's Shrimp Shack & Tropical Shave Ice created 13 new jobs.

Rich's Shrimp Shack will join another new and exciting restaurant in Hong Kong Plaza, **Fujin Ramen**. Fujin Ramen's chef partner, Elmer Komagata, is a Japanese-born French-trained chef who previously worked at two French restaurants that both received two Michelin stars. He also opened a successful ramen house in Cancun, Mexico. Fujin Ramen has two distinct types of broth: tonkotsu "milky white" and shang tang "crystal clear." Fujin also has three different types of noodles, which are then paired with three distinct types of ramen: Hokkaido, Nagasaki and Taiwanese. (1017 S. Glendora Ave.)



Rounding out the list of new restaurants in Hong Kong Plaza is **Jasmin Garden**. Jasmin Garden serves traditional northern Chinese cuisine, which infuses extra spices into dishes. The food at Jasmin Garden is

always prepared with the freshest ingredients and is always cooked to order. (987 S. Glendora Ave.)



Oto Oto Izakaya, an upscale Japanese restaurant, will be one of the first new tenants at the newly remodeled McIntyre Square shopping center. Oto Oto strives to bring modern Japanese cuisine to America, offering a wide assortment of sushi and yakitori dishes. Oto Oto has 154 restaurant locations in Tokyo, Japan, one in Paris and one in Shanghai. There is currently a restaurant in Monrovia, and West Covina will be the second U.S. location, which is anticipated to open in January. (2686 E. Garvey Ave. South)



As a result of redevelopment and economic development efforts by the City of West Covina and the West Covina Community Development Commission, residents can enjoy these new restaurants opening up in our community.

Whether you are an adventurous or conservative eater, the new restaurants offer diverse new dining options that will tantalize residents' taste buds from burgers to sushi, from pastas to ramen and much more.



West Covina Chess Club players participate in a tournament at the West Covina Senior Center. The center, located at 2501 E. Cortez St., hosts a wide variety of senior activities, classes, programs and special events. For information, call (626) 331-5366. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Take your electronic waste to a free E-Waste Roundup on Saturday, December 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the West Covina Maintenance Yard, 825 S. Sunset Ave.

Types of e-waste accepted: computers, phones, scanners, VCRs, keyboards, servers, cell phones, PDAs, laptops, fax machines, printers, cassette players, stereos, monitors, shredders, flat-screen TVs, tape drivers, copiers and docking stations.

E-waste will be accepted on round-up day only. If you are unsure whether a particular item is e-waste, call the Maintenance Department at (626) 939-8458. For more information, visit www.westcovina.org/environmental

This program is provided through restricted AB939 waste reduction funding.

Santa's Coming to West Covina!

Santa will be coming to West Covina again this year. So if your family would like to see Santa, stop by Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave., for the annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 17 at 9 a.m.



Bring the kids for a pancake breakfast, crafts and photos with Kris Kringle himself. All ages are welcome.

The cost is \$8 per person; no charge for children younger than 3 years old.

All pre-registered participants are served first at 9 a.m.; walk-ins are accepted and served at 9:30 a.m. while supplies last.

For more information, call (626) 919-6966.



West Covina Installs Solar-Powered Trash Bins

Pilot Program Will Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

While trying to promote conservation, communities everywhere face an ever-increasing challenge of managing litter abatement and trash collection in high-public-use areas. To help combat West Covina's litter problems, the City has begun a pilot program of installing "Big Belly" solar trash compactors at high-pedestrian-traffic locations.

With the assistance of Athens Services, the City's trash hauler, a list was compiled of locations with the greatest number of complaints of trash overflow. The top locations were along West Covina Parkway between Sunset and Vincent avenues, at bus stops on

Barranca Avenue at The Curve, and the vicinity of Amar Road and Azusa Avenue. These locations require Athens Services to empty the trash containers every day and sometimes twice a day.

The Big Belly solar unit will compress up to 200 gallons of trash in one 40-50 pound bag, which is five times greater than the current trash container capacity. It will reduce overflowing trash issues and will decrease the number of collection trips as well as related fuel use, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent.

The unit is graffiti-resistant and has side panels that are fitted for advertisements of City events and public awareness about the City's environmental programs.



The Big Belly solar unit will compress up to 200 gallons of trash in one 40-50 pound bag, which is five times greater than the current trash container capacity.

Energy Efficiency Improvements Coming to WEST COVINA SENIOR CENTER

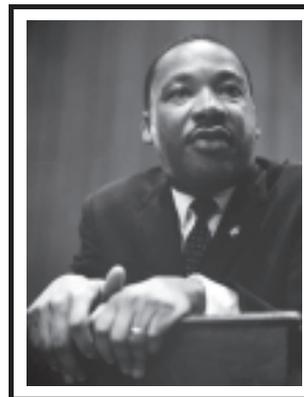
The West Covina City Council recently awarded a bid to Allison Mechanical, Inc. in the amount of \$166,125 to complete energy efficiency improvements at the West Covina Senior Center.

The City used a \$20,000 technical assistance grant provided by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to survey and recommend "Whole Building" efficiency improvements for the largest city-owned buildings. As recommended by the CEC's Energy Efficiency Study, the approved project will replace inefficient heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) equipment at the Senior Center with new high-efficiency units.

The estimated annual energy savings to be gained from the improvements is 303,821 kWh, accompanied by greenhouse gas emission reductions of approximately 209 tons. Annual cost savings are estimated to be \$40,000. The project is expected to be completed by March 2012.

CITY OF WEST COVINA, NAACP TO HOST MLK BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The San Gabriel Valley NAACP and the City of West Covina Community Services Department will host the 13th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration on Monday, January 16 at 11 a.m.



This free event will be held at the West Covina Civic Center, 1444 W. Garvey Ave. The festivities will include a formal program, entertainment, food, arts and crafts, multicultural dance groups, choral and jazz music, and children's games and activities. For more information, call the Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430.

Police K-9 Teams Competed for 'Top Dog' Honors in West Covina

*Courtesy of Brian Day, Staff Writer
Whittier Daily News*

The West Covina Police Department recently hosted certification trials for the National Police Canine Association at Galster Park. Being a member of the association indicates the dog and handler have demonstrated the highest levels of proficiency.

The trials included tests in general obedience, suspect apprehension and suspect searches, West Covina police Sgt. Pat Benschop explained.

"The whole thing is control," said Benschop, himself a former police dog handler. "Teamwork between the handler and the dog is paramount."

Eleven dogs and officers from West Covina, Baldwin Park, El Monte,

Irwindale, Riverside and Rialto participated.

The course focused on patrol duties and SWAT-style tactics, though some of the dogs were also cross-trained to detect drugs.

During the obedience course, handlers walked and maneuvered with their animals using only verbal commands. A nearby officer fired a blank from a handgun during the test to try and distract the animals, which did not flinch at the sound of the gunfire.

Next, the dogs were tested with the help of two West Covina police officers, who donned padded suits and played the roles of suspects.

Dogs were tested not only on their ability to aggressively take down a suspect, but also their ability to obey commands while in hot pursuit.

Finally, the dogs were each given six minutes to find a hiding "suspect" in a 22,500-square foot area of the park.

"I enjoy the challenges," said El Monte police Officer Ron Danison, after running his 7-year-old dog "Arno" through one of the courses.

"(The dog) is such an awesome tool," Danison added. "I wouldn't want to work any other assignment but K-9."

West Covina police Officer Bryan Rodriguez, who took turns with Officer Jesse Miller donning the padded suit and taking bites from the dogs, has been working with police dogs for more than three years.

"It's intimidating, that's for sure," he said of staring down the muzzle of a charging police K-9.

Rodriguez added that he hopes to one day be assigned a canine partner of his own.

"I don't think there's any other bond that's stronger," he said.



Prepare Hillside Homes for Rainy Weather

With winter and the accompanying rains 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. Ensure that water from your property drains to the street or to an appropriate v-ditch or yard drain, thus helping to minimize excess water from flooding and eroding your property and that of your neighbors.

Keep on hand sandbags, shovels and plastic sheets 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 further information, call the Engineering Division at (626) 939-8425 or visit the City's Web site at www.westcovina.org.

Do you have any new ideas for "Discover West Covina?" E-mail us: 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 91793



WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Steve Herfert
Mayor Pro Tem: Mike Touhey
Councilmember: Karin Armbrust
Councilmember: Sherri Lane
Councilmember: Shelley Sanderson

At the time of this newsletter printing, the new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem had not been appointed.

West Covina Fire Department Encourages Residents to Sign Up for Disaster Registry

Disaster can strike at any time and without warning. To better prepare residents for these and other types of disasters, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) announced the launch of the Specific Needs Awareness Planning (S.N.A.P.) voluntary disaster registry.

The S.N.A.P. registry is an Internet-based system that will allow residents to provide information, which will be kept confidential, to public safety officials about their access or functional



needs. It will assist emergency response officials in planning and responding to the requirements of people with access and functional needs during a disaster by integrating database and mapping technology.

S.N.A.P. was developed by the University of California Los Angeles School of Public Affairs in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, Chief Executive Office, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, Community and Senior Services, Fire, Health Services, Internal Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Public Social Services, Public Works and Sheriff, cities of Beverly Hills and Los Angeles, and nonprofit organizations such as American Red Cross and Emergency Network Los Angeles.

To register for S.N.A.P., go to the Web site at <http://snap.lacounty.gov> and click on "Register Now." Registration can be made on an individual basis or as a group.

For more information, dial 2-1-1 LA County.

City of West Covina
1444 W. Garvey Ave.
West Covina, CA 91793

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WEST COVINA, CA
PERMIT #625

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

CAR-RT SORT