



# Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

A publication provided for residents by the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

Join West Covina and Take Part in

## COMMUNITY UNITY!

**O**n Saturday, April 16, starting at 7 a.m., the City of West Covina invites all residents to the 2011 Community Unity event at City Hall. This event provides numerous opportunities for residents to participate, all in one day.

### 7 A.M. TO NOON DONATE AND REUSE

Clean out your kids' rooms and make more space in that garage! The city will accept "gently used" donations of the following items: children's toys, children's games, and adult and youth sports equipment.

In addition to donating, everyone is also welcome to repurpose any of the donated items for their own use – free of charge! Not only will families benefit from the free exchange of goods, but the city benefits as well. By repurposing items, it helps diminish waste collection and reduces impact to landfills.

West Covina is partnering with the International Alliance for Youth



Sports (IAYS). This partnership will ensure that any donated sports equipment not repurposed into the West Covina community will be shipped to Kampala, Uganda as part of the Global Gear Drive by IAYS.

The only key to participating in the donate and reuse program is that everyone must give to receive. Bring at least one donated item in order to engage in free repurposing.

Donations will be accepted and distributed in the lower parking lot of the West Covina Civic Center. To provide a "rolling dropoff," enter the lower parking lot from west Garvey Avenue. For more information, call (626) 939-8430.

### 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. E-WASTE ROUND-UP

Properly dispose of your electronic waste in a safe and easy way. In partnership with Community Unity, an E-Waste Roundup will be held at the city's Maintenance Yard, 825 S. Sunset Ave. For more round-up information, see Page 2 or call (626) 939-8458.

### 10 A.M. TO NOON EGG-CITING EGG HUNT

Join your neighbors for a festive egg hunt that will delight youths of all ages. See Page 6 for more details.



### NOON TO 3 P.M. COMMUNITY UNITY AFTER-PARTY

Once the donation site closes and the egg hunt has concluded, residents are welcome to join the

after-party in the Civic Center Courtyard. Families can enjoy activities for kids and a barbecue meal for only \$2 per person.

Mark your calendars and bring the family out for this fun-filled, daylong event.

*"Community Unity is an opportunity for the entire city to engage in reducing waste, repurposing materials and enjoying an afternoon of family activities."  
- Mayor of West Covina*

Reusing materials saves money, energy and natural resources. Community partners for this event include Athens Services, Castucci Foundation, Cory Lidle Foundation, Home Depot, ITT Technical Institute, Northgate Markets, Superior Communications and Westfield West Covina.

## Join 'Friends of the Taylor House'

The group of volunteers at the Taylor House, a historical Craftsman house owned by the City of West Covina, is now an official community organization known as the "Friends of the Taylor House."

The organization serves as an auxiliary to the West Covina Rose Float Foundation, with the mission of supporting the Foundation with educational and cultural events at the Taylor House.

The Taylor House has been described as a "jewel in the San Gabriel Valley."

The house was built in West Covina in 1912 and moved to its present location in Heritage Park at 3510 Cameron Ave.

The West Covina Rose Float Foundation managed the restoration and furnishing of the house in 2006 and 2007. The restoration has been done with historically correct materials, colors and furnishings. **It is open for public viewing the second Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m.**

The organization is looking for volunteers who would like to join the



Friends of the Taylor House and be active participants in presenting this house to the community. People with a variety of talents from maintaining roses to organizing events are needed. Men, women and committed youths are encouraged to join. Call (626) 796-3214 for more information on joining.

## S.H.O.P. Police Volunteer Program Seeks Recruits

West Covina's SHOP program (Seniors Helping Our Police) allows senior citizens to channel their energy back into the community by performing nonhazardous public safety duties on a volunteer basis, providing support to police officers.

Since the program's inception in 1993, SHOP personnel together volunteered more than 180,000 hours, saving the City more than \$4 million! The program has received awards from the Foundation for Improvement of Justice and the American Society for Public Administration.

SHOP volunteers work two-person field teams each

day, seven days a week, handling traffic control at collision sites, writing parking citations, delivering legal documents, conducting vacation house checks, locating abandoned vehicles and more.

Instead of sworn officers doing the training, veteran SHOP personnel teach the new volunteers, making the training largely self-sufficient. The SHOP program is a vital part of the public safety effort in West Covina.

So if you're 55 or older, in good physical condition, have a valid California driver's license and are willing to volunteer at least four hours per week, call Lt. Ron Mitchell at (626) 939-8500.



Want to be informed of the latest senior classes, events, programs, trips and lunch menus? The Senior Center's bimonthly "Voice" newsletter is available for free at the Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St., or call (626) 331-5366 to get it by mail for two years for \$10.

**TOO TOXIC TO TRASH**

Household Hazardous and E-Waste Round-Up

Saturday  
May 21, 2011  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

City Maintenance Yard  
825 So. Sunset Avenue  
West Covina

**DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS & E-WASTE THE RIGHT WAY ON SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011**

**BUSINESS WASTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

What you **CAN** bring to an event (examples):

- Brake fluid, paint, paint thinner, cleaners with acid or lye, pesticides or herbicides, household batteries and car batteries, pool chemicals, motor oil, oil filters, expired pharmaceuticals, anti-freeze, home-generated sharps and fluorescent light bulbs.
- Household electronic waste which includes: Computer monitors, televisions, computer CPUs, keyboards, printers, cellular phones, etc.

What you **CAN'T** bring to an event:

- Hazardous waste and electronic waste from businesses.
- Explosives, ammunition and radioactive materials.
- Trash and tires.
- White goods such as refrigerators, stoves and washing machines, etc.

Brought to you by the City of West Covina and Los Angeles Co.

For more information : (888) 253-2652 • www.888CleanLA.com ■ (800) 238-0172 • www.lacsd.org ■ (626) 939-8458 • www.westcovina.org/environment

# OFFICER NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL AWARD

West Covina detective and SWAT team member Travis Tibbetts is among the nominees for the America's Most Wanted All-Star Award.

The award is given to first responders in honor of their heroism and dedication to saving lives. The award is presented by the Fox television show "America's Most Wanted" and sponsored by Sprint.

Tibbetts graduated the police academy in 2000 and made his mark in West Covina history by becoming the city's first second-generation police officer. His initial assignment was to the patrol division from 2000 to 2003, and in late 2003 to 2004 he transferred to the traffic division.



Tibbetts

As his career advanced, he was assigned to narcotics and gang enforcement and joined the SWAT team. Nearly six years later, on Feb. 13, 2010, Tibbetts' team was involved in a hostage situation. During the crisis, negotiations were cut off and the suspect became enraged, and it became obvious the crazed suspect was going to shoot the hostage. Tibbetts only took one shot, more than 50 yards through a double-paned glass window into a small target area, and incapacitated the suspect immediately, saving the hostage's life.

Later, the hostage said he felt the suspect was going to kill him at that moment.

Because of Tibbetts' calm and focused reaction in a hostage rescue and his pinpoint accuracy, he earned the department's Meritorious Unit Citation.

This is the second incident in which Tibbetts reacted quickly during a stressful and difficult circumstance to save a hostage's life. For his life-saving actions in a 2003 hostage situation, Tibbetts received the department's Bronze Star.

Tibbetts is currently assigned to investigate sexual assaults and crimes against children and is a member of the department's SWAT team.

To vote for West Covina's hometown "all-star," visit [www.amw.com/allstar](http://www.amw.com/allstar). Voting ends April 10 at midnight.

## 6 Weeks of



**REDUCE . REUSE . RECYCLE**

6 Weeks of Activities to create awareness and educate residents about the environment.

### APRIL

16<sup>TH</sup>

**Clean-Up Saturday - Week 1** (Monday Trash Pick-up) This is an annual spring-cleaning event for West Covina single-family residents Only. Accepted items eligible for pick-up include: household furniture, household appliances and bundled residential wood waste.

**FREE Electronic Waste Collection** at West Covina Maintenance Yard 9-1 p.m. Accepted items include: Cell phones, computers, copiers, printers, scanners/ tax machines telephones and TV's

23<sup>RD</sup>

**Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration** 9-1pm @Orangerwood Park. Join the festivities to renew your pledge to reusing, reducing and recycling.

**Clean-Up Saturday - Week 2** (Tuesday Pick-up) Unlimited disposal of household trash



30<sup>TH</sup>

**U-Haul Free Compost and Mulch** 8-11am. First come, first serve at the City Maintenance Yard. Improve and beautify your garden with organic compost and mulch.

**Clean-Up Saturday - Week 3** (Wednesday Pick-up) Unlimited disposal of household trash

7<sup>TH</sup>

**Clean-Up Saturday - Week 4** (Thursday Pick-up) Unlimited disposal of household trash

**Gardening Workshop** Sponsored by Suburban Water Systems 1:30-4:30. Call 626-543-2514 to RSVP. Learn about water-efficient, irrigation, home gardening & low water use plants.

14<sup>TH</sup>

**Clean-Up Saturday - Week 5** (Friday Pick-up) Unlimited disposal of household trash

**Southern California Edison Refrigerator/Freezer Pick-up** Call 1-800-234-9722 for more information and to arrange a collection time. Get \$50 for your old working refrigerator or freezer.

21<sup>ST</sup>

**Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up** at West Covina Maintenance Yard 9-3 p.m. Bring unused paint, medicines, household cleaners, household & car batteries, used oil, filters, computers etc.



### MAY



For information on any of the events please call 626.939.8458 or visit us at [www.westcovina.org/environment](http://www.westcovina.org/environment)

# Support Redevelopment

In 1971, the City of West Covina formed the Community Development Commission (CDC) to provide responsible redevelopment, economic development and affordable housing for our community.

For 40 years, the CDC has utilized redevelopment tools to create thousands of jobs, contributed to the diverse shopping venues we enjoy, developed new recreational facilities, provided funding for public safety services, rehabilitated old shopping centers and residential homes, funded new affordable-housing units including senior housing, attracted new businesses and is one of the reasons West Covina is such a wonderful place to live, work and play.

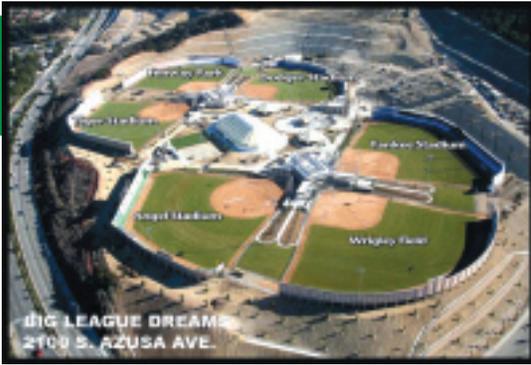
Redevelopment is a process authorized under California law that enables local government to partner with the private sector to revitalize deteriorated and blighted areas in the community. In doing so, redevelopment encourages and attracts private-sector investment that otherwise wouldn't occur. These tools allow businesses to expand, provide housing for families most in need, help reduce crime and improve the City's infrastructure.

Hundreds of communities throughout California have neighborhoods and business districts that are struggling economically and socially. The private sector is often reluctant to invest in such areas because the risk and costs associated with doing so outweigh the benefits.

Redevelopment serves as a catalyst to encourage private investment to breathe new life into areas in need of economic assistance to create new opportunities. In essence, redevelopment agencies make these projects more attractive and economically feasible for the private sector to undertake.

In the last 10 years, the CDC has utilized redevelopment tools to develop more than 7.6 million square feet of new building area with a more than \$450 million investment in West Covina; creation of more than 5,300 new jobs; and more than \$8 million in new revenues – sales and property tax – to the City of West Covina that funds the City's police and fire departments, recreational programs and parks in the community, repaves streets in the City and provides for many other services. The CDC is the economic engine that drives and protects the City's economic tax base, encourages new development in the community, and protects and enhances property values.

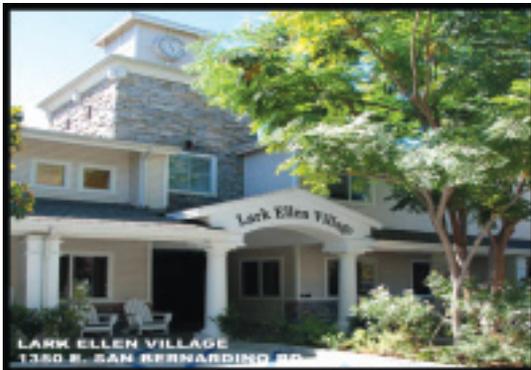
Part of the importance of redevelopment is its critical role to provide affordable housing in communities. For the last 40 years, West Covina has been a leader in developing affordable housing for seniors and lower-income residents, has rehabilitated more than 2,100 affordable-housing units through its home improvement programs; assisted more than



BIG LEAGUE DREAMS  
2100 S. AZUSA AVE.



THE LAKES OFFICE BUILDINGS  
1000 LAKES DR.



LARK ELLEN VILLAGE  
1380 E. SAN BERNARDINO RD.



NOGALES MEDICAL PLAZA  
2707 E. VALEY BLVD.



NORM REEVES HONDA  
1840 E. GARVEY AVE. SOUTH



PENSKE AUDI  
2010 E. GARVEY AVE. SOUTH

# in the City of West Covina

140 first-time buyers realize their dream of home ownership through the previous First Time Homebuyer Program; and has developed 705 new affordable-housing units with an additional 65 units currently in development.

The State of California, like cities across the United States, is currently facing tough economic challenges. Legislators in Sacramento are looking to eliminate all redevelopment agencies in the State to shift the City's revenues to Sacramento in an effort to balance the State of California's budget.

The City of West Covina and cities across California believe this plan makes no sense, as the elimination of redevelopment will create higher unemployment, discourage new businesses from investing in our community, negatively impact the services our City provides to residents, and will forever cripple the economic engine that has fed and driven the California and West Covina economies for so many years.

In the last couple of months, legislators in Sacramento have been focusing on a few communities that have abused redevelopment as their justification to eliminate it altogether, while punishing cities like West Covina that follow the rules and make the investment to better our homes and businesses.

If it wasn't for redevelopment, projects

in West Covina such as the Auto Plaza, Westfield West Covina and Eastland malls, Restaurant Row, The Curve restaurants, Senior Villas I & II, Heritage Park Apartments, McIntyre Square, Lakes Office Towers, Citrus Grove Shopping Center, Barranca Towers, South Hills Plaza and many other businesses and housing projects might not be part of West Covina.

By utilizing redevelopment, West Covina was able to convert a portion of the former BKK Landfill into the Big League Dreams Sportsplex and The Heights Shopping Center. This development prevented the site from becoming an environmental Superfund site and has served as a model redevelopment project that has received 13 local, State and international awards.

Cities across the State have stories similar to that of West Covina. The bottom line is that the elimination of redevelopment agencies would cripple cities and force the State of California deeper into economic turmoil. West Covina residents and business owners are encouraged to contact their local legislators and tell them to protect our jobs, our businesses and, most importantly, our community.



**Single-family home for sale. 1420 S. Willow Ave., West Covina. Listed at \$410,000. For more information, visit [www.westcovina.org/willowhouse](http://www.westcovina.org/willowhouse) or call the CDC at (626) 939-8417.**

# YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO HUNT FOR AN EASTER EGG!

Join a geocache adventure and search West Covina for the "Mayor's Easter Egg." A total of 50 very special eggs will be hidden at one secret location somewhere in West Covina.

If you're looking for a clue, you'll have to check the April 23 Saturday edition of the San Gabriel Valley Tribune "Classified" section. There you will find the secret geocache coordinates to place you on your search for the "Mayor's Easter Egg."

The first 50 people to find a secret egg will

win a \$20 certificate to a local West Covina restaurant or shop.

Geocaching is a technologically savvy treasure-hunting game played by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. Participants receive the longitude and latitude coordinates for a secret location and use their GPS-enabled devices to locate the treasure.

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

## Congratulations to Photo Contest Winners

### OCTOBER

Adult Winning Entry:  
Craig Hoffmann  
Theme: Nature



Youth Winning Entry:  
Rebecca Lisberg  
Theme: Nature



### NOVEMBER

Adult Winning Entry:  
Colleen Riemer  
Theme: Small Things



Youth Winning Entry:  
Allison Lisberg  
Theme: Small Things



### DECEMBER

Adult Winning Entry:  
Wes Hamachi  
Theme: Circles



Castucci Foundation -and- City of West Covina  
present

# 2011 egg-citing hunt

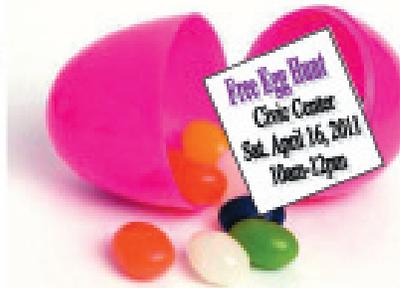
WHEN: Saturday, April 16, 2011

WHERE: Civic Center - 1444 W. Garvey Ave.  
West Covina, CA 91793

TIME: 10:00am - 12:00pm (noon)

#### EGG HUNT SCHEDULE

10:30am: 2 to 3 year olds  
11:00am: 4 to 5 year olds  
11:30am: 6 to 7 year olds  
12:00 (noon): 8 years +



The "egg-citing hunt" is part of the 2011 Community Unity Event. For more details visit [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org) or call the Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430

## Apply for Ambulance Subscription Program

The West Covina Fire Department continues to provide transport services through the Ambulance Subscription Program. Residents will continue to receive exceptional service with paramedics stationed throughout the city.

In addition to five paramedic assessment engines and a paramedic assessment truck company, three paramedic ambulances allow the West Covina Fire Department to offer innovative, flexible and quality service to the community.

These paramedic ambulances are assigned to stations 1, 2 and 4 and respond with the six paramedic assessment fire companies stationed throughout the city.

"It's just another example of how the West Covina Fire Department is striving to improve

the level of service available to the community," Fire Chief Paul Segalla said.

This program increases the number of paramedics on duty every day by one and helps to improve the quality of care, response times and overall service to the community.

Emergency medical care, paramedic service and efficient

transportation have always been priorities for the West Covina Fire Department. The program's goal is to continually anticipate, evaluate and meet the changing needs of the community and provide the best possible service.

For more information or to apply for the program, call West Covina Fire Department Administration at (626) 338-8800 or visit [www.westcovina.org/cityhall/fire](http://www.westcovina.org/cityhall/fire).



## LISTEN TO COUNCIL MEETINGS LIVE ONLINE

You can now listen to West Covina City Council meetings live online. To listen to a meeting live in progress, follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the City of West Covina's Web site at [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org).
2. Under our list of "Most Popular" items, click on "LIVE City Council Meetings."
3. Click on the "Meetings" tab on our new Agendas page.
4. Then click on the "agenda" for the specific meeting date to listen to the meeting live.

Regular city council meetings are held the first and the third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. You can also listen to past meetings by following the same steps. Audio recordings of past city council meetings will be posted no later than two days after the meeting.

## SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

In February, a West Covina resident died in a house fire in the southern area of the city, unable to escape the smoke-filled home, which had no working smoke alarms installed.

Smoke alarms save lives. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Smoke spreads fast during a fire, and smoke alarms give you time to get out. The West Covina Fire Department encourages all residents to follow these safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home, so when one sounds, they all do.
- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For

the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) should be installed in homes.

- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save the manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.

- If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a "hush" button. A "hush" button will reduce the alarm's sensitivity for a short period of time.
- An ionization alarm with a hush button or a photoelectric alarm should be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance.
- Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement, in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.
- Special smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. These devices use strobe lights. Vibration devices can be added to these alarms.
- Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.

For more information, call (626) 338-8800.



# City of West Covina 2011 CLEAN-UP SATURDAYS



**SAVE THIS NOTICE**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Clean-Up Saturday
Your Trash Day					April 16th
	Your Trash Day				April 23rd
		Your Trash Day			April 30th
			Your Trash Day		May 7th
				Your Trash Day	May 14th

This annual program provides once a year, unlimited pick-up of household trash. This program is available to City of West Covina residential customers only. It does not include LA County unincorporated areas.

All items must be placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on your designated Saturday. Vegetation and tree branches must be cut and bundled to no longer than 4 ft. in length. Please see below for a list of items that do not qualify for pick-up.

*If you miss your Saturday*, please call Athens Services at (626) 336-6100 to arrange for a regular bulky-item pick-up (24 hr advance notice required).

**ITEMS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PICK-UP:**

- Any Hazardous materials (see reverse)
- Rocks, dirt, sand, gravel, sod, asphalt, concrete, etc.
- Unbound vegetation & branches
- Electronic Waste, TV's, monitors, batteries
- Automobile parts, tires, oil
- Any items placed after the area has been serviced.



For more information, call Environmental Services at 626-939-8458

## Landmark Research on Children's Health Under Way in West Covina

The National Children's Study (NCS) is the largest, long-term study of environmental influences on children's health and development from pre-birth to age 21 ever conducted in the United States.

The goal of NCS is to follow 100,000 children from approximately 105 counties across the country, including 5,000 children in randomly selected neighborhoods of Los Angeles County. This study is designed to provide new information on a variety of

health conditions, including birth defects and pregnancy-related outcomes, injuries, autism, asthma, obesity, diabetes, and behavioral and mental health disorders.

Findings from the study will be made available as the research progresses, making potential benefits known to the public as soon as possible. Recently, the West Covina City Council adopted a proclamation encouraging residents to participate in this landmark program.

In December, the NCS officially began recruiting, by mail in randomly selected West Covina neighborhoods, randomly selected women ages 18 to 49 who are pregnant or likely to become pregnant. Eligible participants will complete a confidential survey. The NCS is an observational study and involves no medications or treatments.

The study is led by the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities, with investigators from a variety of hospitals, research facilities and public health departments that assist the UCLA researchers.

"We urge the public to watch out for the National Children's Study and opportunities to enroll children from Los Angeles County," said co-principal investigator Dr. Calvin Hobel of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. "This is a historic and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will advance our understanding of the causes and prevention of some of the common and rare disorders of childhood."

For more information, visit [www.NationalChildrensStudy.gov](http://www.NationalChildrensStudy.gov) or call (877) 834-7064.



### WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

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

City of West Covina  
 1444 W. Garvey Ave.  
 P.O. Box 1440  
 West Covina, CA 91793

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Have any new 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: Discover West Covina, 1444 W. Garvey Ave., P.O. Box 1440, West Covina, CA 91793