



Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

December 2010/
January 2011

A publication
provided for residents by
the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

New Developments are Progressing in West Covina

Westfield West Covina Expansion: Renovations have been taking place at Westfield West Covina.

Phase I included the addition of 180,000 square feet to Macy's. Phase II included adding Best Buy and Forever XXI stores.

Phase III, which is currently under way, will feature a Nordstrom Rack and a Gold's Gym. The former Tower Records & Clifton's were demolished to allow for additional parking for shoppers. The most recent store to join the mall is "G" by Guess.

The Citrus Grove: A 30,400-square-foot commercial retail center has been developed at the corner of Citrus Street and Workman Avenue.

McIntyre Square: New retail and restaurant space consists of 60,470 square feet on 6.37 acres. Negotiations are under way with potential tenants.

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, located on Garvey Avenue, is nearly completed.

Looking for a job? Most of these new establishments are in the process of hiring!

These are just a few of the recent developments taking place in West Covina.

For information about additional projects, visit the City's Web site at www.westcovina.org.



**SHOP LOCALLY, ESPECIALLY
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

Tax dollars support your City services!

West Covina Police Remind Everyone to Buckle Up and Drive Safely

In an effort to save lives and prevent injuries on city streets, West Covina traffic officers will be conducting additional enforcement operations.

This program is being funded by a competitive grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The City of West Covina police officers remain committed to helping to keep city roads safe through these types of enforcement efforts. Remember to buckle up and drive safely!

The West Covina City Council wishes everyone a happy new year for 2011!

SCAQMD TREE PARTNERSHIP GRANT WILL HELP PROMOTE **CLEANER AIR**

The City of West Covina has received a grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management District to plant 202 trees.

"Trees can provide significant air quality benefits through their ability to capture pollutants from the air," said William Burke, Ed.D., governing board chairman of the South Coast Air Quality Management District. "Projects such as the city's tree planting initiative bring people together and can help make a difference in the region's air quality efforts."

The grant will fund the planting of trees at two locations in West Covina. At one location, the Lorraine slope south of the BKK landfill, 117 15-gallon trees will be planted to provide a buffer to the adjoining neighborhood.

The second location is at Valley Boulevard and Morganfield Avenue, where 85 15-gallon trees will be planted to provide a natural screen for the neighborhood from the adjacent railway and help minimize pollution from the railway and from vehicles on the busy Valley Boulevard.

The City of West Covina Public Works Department has collaborated with local landscape architect Jim Evans of Claremont Environmental Design Group to utilize local students for the tree planting project.

Two student groups, the Geo Club from South Hills High



SCAQMD grant liaisons Rainbow Yeung and Dr. Aaron Katzenstein, project manager Jim Evans of Claremont Environmental Design Group, City of West Covina representatives Shannon Yauchzee and Barbara Briley, and student workers from South Hills High School Geo Club and Cal Poly University Student Chapter of the Southern California American Society of Landscape Architects.

School in West Covina and the Student Chapter of the Southern California American Society of Landscape Architects (SCASLA) at Cal Poly Pomona, help put the trees in the ground.

"Employing students was a significant factor in qualifying for these grant funds," said Public Works Director Shannon Yauchzee. "Partnering with the Claremont Environmental Design Group, who employed the youth for this project, allows the City to complete the project entirely utilizing grant funds only and no City general fund."

Have Breakfast with Santa Dec. 18

It's time to have breakfast with that jolly old man who brings presents once every year. Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave., will host its annual "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 9 a.m.



Bring the kids for a pancake breakfast, crafts and pictures 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.

TAKE A SKI TRIP TO MOUNTAIN HIGH!

Looking to get away for the weekend? Join us as we head up to Mountain High for a fun-filled day of skiing and tubing.

This trip is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will depart from the West Covina Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St.

Lift tickets are \$47 for adults and \$22 for children 12 years old and younger. Skis, boots and poles will be available for rental. Call (626) 331-5366.





REDEVELOPMENT:

An Economic Engine for the City

West Covina residents depend on them daily, some call them home, visitors flock to them, commuters can't miss them on the I-10 freeway and consumers travel specifically to shop at them. What are they? Redevelopment projects.

Throughout West Covina, there are neighborhood shopping centers, office buildings, entertainment centers, recreational facilities and housing that without redevelopment would not exist.

Although redevelopment is the driving force behind revitalizing and shaping a community, it is often misunderstood what exactly redevelopment is and how it benefits residents.

As the California Redevelopment Association defines it, redevelopment is not simply the removal of blight – it is a locally driven activity that assists local governments in revitalizing communities by creating new jobs, increasing housing stock, providing infrastructure, supporting city general services and generating tax revenues in areas that otherwise would not generate such revenues without government assistance.

Here in West Covina, the City's redevelopment activities are led by the Community Development Commission ("CDC"), an entity that is also responsible for the City's economic development efforts – business attraction, retention and

expansion – as well as developing affordable housing projects.

Since West Covina established its Redevelopment Agency – now known as the West Covina Community Development Commission – in 1971, its efforts have produced many first-class projects and successful shopping centers, businesses and housing programs that make West Covina what it is today.

Some of the results include Westfield West Covina, Eastland Center, The Lakes Office Towers, The Lakes Entertainment Center, West Covina Auto Plaza, The Citrus Grove, The Curve, Sage Nissan Dealership, Nogales Plaza (professional/medical condos), Penske (Audi and Mercedes), Samantha Court Yard, Hong Kong Plaza, Restaurant Row, South Hills Plaza, Sunset/Francisquito, West Covina Senior Villas, home improvement loan programs (HILP and HPP) and the award-winning sportsplex project (Big League Dreams and

The Heights at West Covina).

While the physical contributions of redevelopment are more evident, the less observable contributions of redevelopment most often go unseen. The City's budget and residents' quality of life directly benefit from redevelopment efforts.

Redevelopment increases tax revenues to the City through its own investment and encourages private investment in declining or underutilized areas. These tax revenues are in turn used to pay for vital services needed by the community, such as fire, police, recreation and infrastructure. These services – safety, health and recreation – directly promote a better quality of life for West Covina residents.

West Covina's quality of life is further promoted by redevelopment efforts, which generate new job opportunities, preserve open space, create housing opportunities and can reduce crime rates through the elimination of blight.

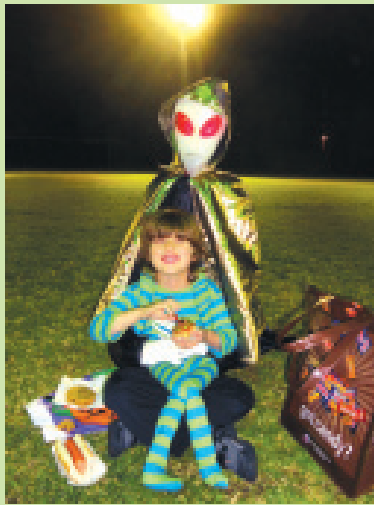
The West Covina City Council looks forward to additional residential and commercial developments in the coming decade, continuing to keep West Covina one of the most progressive cities in the San Gabriel Valley. For more information and updates on city projects, visit www.westcovina.org.



Do You Know What's Been Happening in the City of West Covina



West Covina resident Laura Sandoval, who is leader of WC Girl Scout Troop 4814, sent this photo: Cheli, Alyssa, Amber, Bianca, Jasmine and Jordan at the 2010 Bridging Ceremony as they bridge to senior Girl Scouts and receive their silver awards.



Colleen Riemer took this photo of West Covina resident and reigning costume contest winner Nathan Riemer, age 8, as he enjoys the Harvest Festival at Bethany Church on Oct. 31 in his unique alien abduction costume.



Hollingsworth Elementary students wave college banners during the West Covina school's "No Excuses" university rally promoting college attendance.



Left: West Covina resident Juana Luy shares this photo of her male chihuahua, Chacho Hollywood, who won first place in the "Howl-O-Ween" Costume Contest at PetSmart in West Covina. Chacho Hollywood is a certified service dog, an animal actor and a model.



Chantal Delahoussaye shopping at Ross in the Eastland shopping center.

ALL HALLOWS EVE 2010 AT 'GHOSTER' PARK



Above: costumes and pumpkin carving



Right: scarecrow building



Right: "Spider-Man" having fun



Left: family crafts



Above: Halloween werewolf

Live, Work & Play in West Covina

We've been asking residents to send us photos showing people as they "Live, Work & Play in West Covina."

Here are some of the photos we received. E-mail your photos to Sue Williams at discoverwestcovina@westcovina.org.

Please e-mail photos as JPEG digital photo attachments only. No photos taken from cell phone cameras due to unsatisfactory image quality. No hard copies please; we need originals sent via e-mail.



Proud parents Joe and Angela Esquivel sent this photo of the current World Series champions, the West Covina 4-U All Star Red Team. Congratulations to the players and coaches, and an extra high-five for the Esquivels' own little slugger on the team, #12!



Araceli Sigala shares this photo of Kayla and Marcus Sigala shopping at Home Depot at The Heights in West Covina.



Henry Wong's daughter, Fiona, got straight A's on her report card. This photo was taken at Cortez Park.



West Covina resident Eloisa Reantaso sent these two photos (above) of her kids making their spare time worthwhile by joining activities at Cameron Park. In the first photo, 4-year-old Christiana Reantaso, who wants to be an artist someday, takes an art class. In the second photo, 7-year-old Samuel Reantaso enjoys a game of table tennis against his dad, who is not shown because he was picking up the ball that Samuel scored!



Mac Cabrera Jr. sent these two photos (left and above) of his children. Photo left: Mackie Cabrera III, age 6, plays goalie during a West Covina Youth Soccer League game at the Edgewood field. Photo above: Cassandra Cabrera, age 3, with the LA Galaxy's starting defender, Leonardo (#22). A few players from the LA Galaxy came to West Covina to practice soccer drills with the West Covina Youth Soccer League. The Cabrera family further wrote, "West Covina, thanks for the [Discover] newsletter. The family really appreciates all the hard work you put into it."





Dispose of Electronic Waste in a Safe and Easy Way

The City of West Covina is hosting a free Electronic Waste Roundup on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Take your e-waste to the City of West Covina Maintenance Yard, 825 S. Sunset Ave., on round-up day only.

If you are unsure whether a particular item is e-waste or for more information on the roundup, call the Maintenance Department at (626) 939-8458.

MLK Birthday Celebration Returns to West Covina on Jan. 17

The San Gabriel Valley NAACP and the City of West Covina Community Services Department will host the 12th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration on Monday, Jan. 17 at 11 a.m.

The event will be held at the



West Covina Civic Center, 1444 W. Garvey Ave., and will include a formal program, entertainment, a community resource expo and youth activities.

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

Public Safety and Community Partners Hold 2010 Red Ribbon Rally

West Covina High School was recently home to the 2010 Red Ribbon Rally, a full day of safe and healthy events. Named in honor of slain DEA agent Enrique Camarena, the Red Ribbon Rally brings together community members to help youths have fun and “say NO to drugs and alcohol.”

Events at the rally included demonstrations and displays by the West Covina Police Department and the West Covina Fire Department and included rides, live performances and more.

With support from the City of West Covina, the Rotary Clubs of West Covina, the West Covina Unified School District, Mothers Against Drunk

Driving, the U.S. Armed Forces, the Elks Club and other dedicated community members, this all-day family event was a tremendous success.

Mark your calendar for October 2011!



City of West Covina Receives Grant Funds for School Crosswalk Improvements

The City of West Covina Engineering Division recently received grant funding from the Highway Safety Improvement Program. The funding will be used to enhance the school crosswalk on Workman Avenue at Phillips Avenue.

The project will include the installation of in-roadway flashing lights along the school crosswalk on Workman Avenue, construction

of a 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk and handicap access ramps along the east side of Phillips Avenue from Workman Avenue to Idahome Avenue, with both striping and signs.

It is anticipated that the major portion of the construction will be performed during the school's winter recess, Dec. 20 to 31.

New Water Lines Will Help Save Money by Providing Reclaimed Water

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District is working on a project to provide reclaimed water for major irrigation users in West Covina.

The first phase, which has been completed, consisted of the installation of pipelines on Nogales Street (Puente to Amar), Amar Road (Nogales to Azusa), Temple Avenue (Amar to Azusa) and Azusa Avenue (Amar to Nogales).

The second phase of the project is currently under way. This phase consists of the construction of a water tank that will be located

next to an existing water tank owned by Suburban Water Systems at the end of Myra Court (just off Nogales, north of Amar). This work will not have any impact on traffic and is scheduled to be completed in June 2011.

The third phase of the project will consist of the installation of pipeline on Azusa Avenue (Giambi to Vine) and on Vine (Azusa to the South Hills Country Club). This work will take place in the spring and summer of 2011.

West Covina Senior Center Needs Your Input!

The West Covina Senior Center is seeking input in regards to the types of programs and services it should offer to the community. The Senior Center staff has put together a comprehensive survey to seek community input.



If you are interested in completing the survey, call (626) 339-6057 or visit the Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St.

SMOKE DETECTORS

KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND BEYOND

The West Covina Fire Department reminds everyone that this time of year is a good time to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors. Changing the batteries every six months ensures a proper power source for detectors to operate.



Install smoke detectors on every level of your home. If you have ceilings that are pitched, install the detector near the ceiling's highest point. Detectors should be located on the ceiling at least 4" from the wall, or on the wall 4" to 12" from the

ceiling to the top of the smoke detector. Do not install smoke detectors near doors, windows or air ducts, where drafts might influence their operation.

Proper installation and maintenance of smoke detectors along with a good fire escape plan will dramatically increase your family's chances of surviving a fire.

For more information concerning fire safety and smoke detectors, call the West Covina Fire Department at (626) 338-8800.

City of West Covina to Bring Street Improvements to Plaza Drive

Needed improvements are soon coming to Plaza Drive, between Vincent and California avenues. Construction work will involve the addition of an exclusive eastbound right-turn lane.

The addition of this right-turn lane will require the widening of Plaza Drive by 10 feet.

The work will consist of removal and installation of curbs and gutters, placement and rehabilitation of the asphalt pavement, modification of irrigation and landscaping, modification of the traffic signal at Vincent Avenue, the relocation of street lights and the relocation of a fire hydrant.

In addition, a new traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of Plaza Drive and California Avenue.

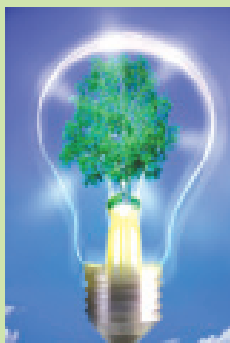
This project will get under way in late January or February 2011.

CITY OF WEST COVINA RECEIVES HONOR

The City of West Covina was recently selected as the recipient of the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership's Energy Savings Impact Award.

"This award is for recognition of West Covina's outstanding commitment to improving its energy efficiency and the environment," said Nicholas T. Conway, executive director for the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.

West Covina was selected for this award because of its energy-saving projects totaling 158,119 kilowatt-hours' savings this year. West Covina's completion of various retrofit projects, including traffic signal and window film upgrades, has contributed greatly to the partnership's goals.



Need help with your children while you're out doing your holiday shopping?

Call (626) 919-6966 to ask about the City's "Operation Drop Off" program!

Save the Date!

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST COVINA



5K RACE

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2011

8 a.m. adult race / 8:15 a.m. kids mile
Westfield West Covina, by the Farmer's Market

Hosted by the Rotary Club of West Covina,
the City of West Covina and Westfield West Covina
\$25 per person for early-bird registrants / \$5 per child entry
For more information, call (626) 692-8467.



WEST COVINA
CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Shelley Sanderson
Mayor Pro Tem: Steve Herfert
Councilmember: Roger Hernández
Councilmember: Sherri Lane
Councilmember: Mike Touhey

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

City of West Covina
1444 W. Garvey Ave.
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Add a little more
GREEN
to your holiday
season!

RECYCLE YOUR LIVE
CHRISTMAS TREE

WHO: Single-family residences in West Covina
WHEN: Dec. 27 to Jan. 7 on your regularly scheduled trash day
WHERE: Curbside, next to your trash cans
REMEMBER: Natural trees only. Please remove all lights, tinsel, ornaments, bags, stands, etc.

For more information, call (626) 939-8458
or visit www.westcovina.org/environment.



LISTEN TO CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
LIVE ON CITY'S WEB SITE

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.
2. Under our list of "Most Popular" items, click on "LIVE City Council Meetings."
3. Click on the "Meetings" tab on our new Agenda page.
4. You 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 Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. You can also listen to past meetings – from November 2010 forward – by following the same steps. Audio recordings of past City Council meetings will be posted no later than two days following the meeting.

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.,
P.O. Box 1440, West Covina, CA 91793