



# Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

December 2009/  
January 2010

A publication  
provided for residents by  
the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

## West Covina City Council Approves \$5 Million for Street Improvements

**T**he West Covina City Council has approved \$5 million in street rehabilitation projects that will be totally paid with restricted funding.

Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant funds.

The work will provide improvements to major streets as well as residential streets throughout the city.

The City's Pavement Management System selected the streets involved in the projects. This computerized system tracks street conditions and reports the type and urgency of street repair needed.

A portion of the improvements will include left-turn traffic signal installations at Sunset Avenue at Puente Avenue, Lark Ellen Avenue at Puente Avenue, and Nogales Street at Amanda Avenue.

For specific locations of work to be performed and other information, visit the Public Works Projects page on the City of West Covina's Web site at [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org).



There will be no General Fund monies used to finance these improvements. A significant portion of the projects will be funded by Federal American

## Don't Forget to 'Treecycle!'

### City Offers Free Christmas Tree Recycling

**T**he City of West Covina and Athens Services will again present the annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program. Trees will be collected curbside as part of the normally scheduled green waste collection service December 28 through January 8. Christmas trees collected will be recycled into mulch, compost or landfill cover.

Residents are requested to remove all tree

stands, lights, ornaments and other decorations from trees before placing them at the curb. Flocked trees coated with fire retardant will be accepted. Artificial Christmas trees will not be recycled and should be disposed into your regular black trash container.

For more recycling information, call the Maintenance Division, Environmental Services Section at (626) 939-8458.



# CITY OF WEST COVINA WINS 'DOUBLEHEADER'

## for West Covina Commercial Center and Sportsplex Project

**O**n November 15, the City of West Covina won a "doubleheader" by earning both the 2009 Phoenix Award for Region 9 and the 2009 Grand Prize National Phoenix Award for the West Covina Commercial Center and Sportsplex Project.

The City received the highest honor by receiving the 2009 Grand Prize National Phoenix Award.

"The Phoenix Awards Institute conveyed to us that the project shows that, even

with the challenge of a hazardous site, successful Brownfield redevelopment can be achieved through strong public/private collaboration, coordination with regulatory agencies, open



L-r: Mike Lee, City Manager Andrew Pasmant, CDC Director Christopher Chung and Ben Kim.



Today, the former landfill is home to a Big League Dreams Sports Park.

communication and community support," City Manager Andrew Pasmant said.

Once again, West Covina has been put on the map for a very successful project!

Due to the leadership of the City Council, dedication of city staff, partnerships with local, regional, state and federal agencies, and community involvement, the

City has converted one of the largest landfills into a nationally recognized, thriving attraction and opened the project to more grant funding.

Future plans include a 5.8-acre corporate office development, an 18-hole championship golf course and multipurpose recreational trails.



The 43-acre West Covina Commercial Center is anchored by Home Depot and Target.

*In earning these two awards, the City received its 13th prestigious award for the West Covina Commercial Center and Big League Dreams Sportsplex project.*

## Senior Center Earns Site Award

The West Covina Senior Center, located at 2501 E. Cortez St., has been honored with the "Distinguished Site Award" from the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging.

This award is based on several criteria, including hospitality, ambience, quality, service and enhancement. The County Nutrition Committee visited sites throughout Los Angeles County and evaluated each facility. West Covina was recently selected as one of only five centers, out of 185 senior centers, to receive this award for the year 2009.

The West Covina Senior Center's Senior Meals Program serves lunch at 11:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday. The senior meals are given out on a first-come, first-served basis.



The West Covina Senior Center serves more than 35,000 meals a year.

## West Covina Residents Write to Discover

This resident wrote in to ask if we would run an article on barking dogs.

*"I read all the newsletters ... Thank you for this consideration."*

*-- Sandy Quintana*

### WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THAT BARKING DOG?

1. Send a letter, with the address of the animal owner and a brief description of the complaint, to: County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control

Center, 4275 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706.

2. Animal Control will send a formal "Notice of Abatement" to the animal owner, who will then have seven days to correct the public nuisance.

3. If the nuisance continues, an officer is sent out to abate the nuisance.

4. Then, if the problem is not resolved, it is submitted to the Department of Consumer Affairs for mediation, as a free service to you.

5. If mediation fails, it may lead to legal action to resolve the matter.

For more information on the handling of barking dogs, call the County Department of Animal Care and Control at (626) 962-3577 or visit the Web site, [animalcare.lacounty.gov](http://animalcare.lacounty.gov).

*"I'm a new West Covina resident. I would like to read something about cultural events in our city. That could be fabulous. Thank you!"*

*-- Antonio Chavez*

The Community Services Department offers a variety of classes and programs to residents. You can view them in the Community Recreation Guide found on the City Web site at [www.westcovina.org/cityhall/rec/guide.asp](http://www.westcovina.org/cityhall/rec/guide.asp).

You will find classes in age groups from 3 years to adult, as well as seniors, ranging in topics such as sports, performing arts, exercise and special interests.

Here is a sampling of the many classes offered at Cameron Community Center:

- Salsa classes are held Saturdays from 9:35 to 10:20 p.m.

Students learn the fundamentals of salsa dancing while exercising and learning fun dance routines. This class is open to ages 13 and older. The class fee is \$39 per month.

• A Mexican Dance and Culture class is held on Fridays from 5:30 to 7 p.m., with another class on Fridays and Saturdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. In this class, which is for children ages 4 to 17, children experience Mexican culture while learning traditional dances. The class fee is \$42 per month.

For more class information, call Cameron Community Center, (626) 919-6966.



*"Thank you for such a thorough newsletter. We commend your professional work."*

*Regards,*

*Rene and Jeamilette Gallo*

Do you have any newsletter ideas or comments to share? Send us an e-mail: [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., P.O. Box 1440, West Covina, CA 91793



## Are You a West Covina Senior? We Would Like to Hear from You!

The West Covina Senior Commission is seeking input from the West Covina senior population regarding their transportation needs.

If you would like to provide some comments, write to: West Covina Community Services, 1444 W. Garvey Ave. Room 316, West Covina, CA 91793, Attn: Senior Transportation.

You are also welcome to attend the Senior Citizens Commission meeting on Thursday, February 25 at 3 p.m. at the West Covina Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St., West Covina.

For further information, call the City of West Covina Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430.

# SOUTH HILLS PLAZA:

## Unique and Exciting Places to Shop

**W**est Covina, which is known as a prominent commercial corridor, continues to surprise and offer the unexpected. Among the better-known shopping establishments in West Covina, there are shopping opportunities unique to West Covina. One of these opportunities is the Marukai market at South Hills Plaza, located at 1420 S. Azusa Ave.

With only 12 Marukai stores in California, West Covina is one of few cities to have the No. 1 Japanese specialty store in the nation. Marukai Markets began as an importer for Japanese food, household items, furniture, health foods, health and fitness items, and electronics.

In addition to the more traditional food items found at any grocery store, West Covina's Marukai offers residents a wide

variety of Japanese specialty items rarely, if at all, found at other supermarkets. Marukai has a fresh assortment of seafood and meat, a plethora of mouth-watering Japanese sweets and a wide selection of household items, including microwave ovens, rice cookers,

interior wall accents, mattresses and furniture.

Marukai's assortment of Japanese specialty items draws customers from



a regional market base. The convenience of accessibility should be even more incentive to explore and shop at Marukai.

Due to the huge price savings offered, Marukai requires customers to have memberships for purchases.

Although West Covina's Marukai is a membership supermarket, don't hesitate to stop by and explore the world of Japanese specialty items, and if you find something you want to take home, a day pass can be

purchased for \$1!

In addition to Marukai, South Hills Plaza boasts a variety of businesses. Inside Marukai is a Sushi Boy

restaurant, Video-Ya and Rutt's Hawaiian Café and Catering, known for its delectable Hawaiian cooking, large portions and savvy prices.

More recent additions include Subway, Rainbow Donuts, Taco Bell and a United States Post Office.

Medical services at South Hills Plaza include a chiropractor, a dentist and a pediatrician. The corporate offices and a People's Care facility, offering quality care for elderly, are also at the center.

For leasing opportunities, contact Matt Hammond with Coreland Companies at (714) 573-7780.

*The center also features a state-of-the-art 24-Hour Fitness Center, which was the No. 1 active club in the nation when it opened.*

## JOIN THE 'BRAG ABOUT YOUR BAG' CAMPAIGN

West Covina is hosting its first "Brag About Your Bag" reusable bag campaign, which began November 15 with "America Recycles Day" and runs through "A Day without A Bag" on December 17.

The City of West Covina Environmental Services Section is teaming up with Albertson's supermarket in West Covina to host a reusable bag giveaway and distribute more

than 1,000 reusable shopping bags to West Covina residents.

Simply visit Albertson's at 2630 E. Workman Ave., on Thursday, December 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring in five single-use plastic bags for recycling and exchange them for a free, stylish "Brag About Your Bag" reusable shopping bag.

Give the gift of a litter-free West Covina this holiday season! For more information, call (626) 939-8458 or visit [www.bragaboutyourbag.com](http://www.bragaboutyourbag.com) or [www.westcovina.org/environment](http://www.westcovina.org/environment).



**We have all heard about the environmental pitfalls of using single-use plastic bags. They become part of our waste stream, they litter our streets, take up space in our landfills and threaten marine life. It's time we all start recycling single-use shopping bags and choose reusable bags as the environmentally conscious option.**

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

# SHOP WEST COVINA ...



Westfield  
West  
Covina



## Westfield Eastland Center



## The Heights at West Covina



# INCREASED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ON THE WAY

## Thanks to Grant Funding



safer streets and increased traffic enforcement are coming to the City, as the West Covina Police Department recently started a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program. The \$45,737 in grant funds will be used for focusing on traffic safety problems and reducing the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions, specifically targeting alcohol offenders, red light runners, speeders, problematic intersections, motorcycle safety and more.

“Over the next 12 months, this program will provide West Covina additional resources to target a range of traffic issues,” West Covina Police Chief Frank Wills said.

West Covina officers will pay special attention to motorcyclists, as motorcycle fatalities have been on the rise in California, increasing 175 percent statewide in the last decade.

“Every driver and every motorcyclist must get back to the basics: drive sober, always drive or ride safely, buckle up and we will save lives. It’s just that simple,” said Christopher J. Murphy, director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. “This grant will help make West Covina just that much safer of a place to live and work.”

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information, contact Cpl. Pat Cirrito, at (626) 939-8557.

Check out the NEW  
City of West Covina Web Site  
[www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org)  
A New Look! New Information!  
New Services and more!!!

## WEST COVINA SELECTED FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM OVER 3,500 APPLICANTS!

### *Funds to Be Used for Increased Police Services*

The City of West Covina Police Department has successfully obtained a nationally competitive \$255,831 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Competitive Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to hire two civilian law enforcement support personnel, specifically a community service officer (CSO) and a dispatcher.

“The U.S. Department of Justice received 3,578 applications under eight funding categories of these grants, and they only approved 3.3 percent of them,” said Police Administrative Services Manager Alex Houston. “This was a highly competitive grant, funded by the Recovery Act to retain jobs that directly support sworn police officers. Grants like this allow the police department to meet specific safety needs without increasing costs, which is especially important in this climate of financial challenge.”

This grant, which lasts about two years, will fund the CSO to monitor streets and respond to calls for service that do not require sworn police officers, and fund the dispatcher to answer and dispatch emergency calls to patrol officers.

Additionally, the police department was recently awarded another U.S. Department of Justice grant, a \$165,998 Recovery Act Justice Assistance Grant, which funds special bulletproof vests, less-lethal weapons and accessories, computers for communications with field officers, two vehicles for detectives, radios for motorcycle officers and overtime enforcement at the City’s commercial areas.

“Grants are very important to the police department, as they provide resources needed to address significant public safety needs,” Police Chief Frank Wills said.

## CITY OF WEST COVINA NOW FILLING INTEREST LIST FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

**T**he City of West Covina currently operates a licensed Child Care Program at Palm View Center, 1340 E. Puente Ave., Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The City is exploring the possibility of starting a pre-kindergarten program at Palm View Center.



Children age 4 years and 9 months who cannot be enrolled in kindergarten will have the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills and development needed to enter the upcoming school year. The pre-k program is designed to enrich children's learning capacity and provide a stepping stone to better prepare their entry into the world of education.

The pre-k program offers a safe, nurturing environment designed to promote physical, emotional and social well-being. Children in the program will develop a positive concept of themselves as worthwhile individuals and able learners. Program content will include educational basics such as numbers, colors and the alphabet in addition to individual and group activities, arts and crafts, and snack time.

To be placed on the interest list, contact Alexis Martinez at (626) 339-4314. The program is tentatively scheduled to begin in January.

The City of West Covina strives to expand the programs offered to the youth of the community.



## Enjoy Breakfast with Santa

It's time to have breakfast with that jolly old man who brings presents once every year.

Cameron Community Center will host its annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 19 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, and all pre-registered participants are served first at 9 a.m.

Walk-ins are accepted and are served at 9:30 a.m. while supplies last. There is no charge for children under the age of 3.



## WEST COVINA 2010 ROSE FLOAT

The West Covina 2010 rose float, "Tuskegee Airmen - A Cut Above," will be on display at Eastland Shopping Center on Monday, January 4 and Tuesday, January 5.

On January 4, the West Covina Rose Float Foundation will host its Annual Family Celebration adjacent to the rose float from 5 to 8 p.m. You are invited to come enjoy light refreshments and a performance of 1940s big-band melodies by the West Covina Symphony Orchestra.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

*Ring in 2010 safely!*



The City of West Covina offers home owners two Home Improvement Loan Programs.

The first is a no-interest loan for low-income applicants who qualify.

The second is the Housing Preservation Program, which gives a 5 percent interest rate to moderate-income applicants who qualify.

For more info or to apply, call Housing Program Coordinator Barbara Banks at (626) 939-8432.

# COMPOSTING WORKSHOP



This **advanced workshop** is for anyone interested in learning more about: organic gardening techniques, the art and science of good soil, Integrated Pest Management (environmentally responsible ways to control pests), conserving water around the garden, and using native and drought-tolerant plants

Saturday, January 23rd

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

West Covina Senior Center

2501 E. Cortez St.  
West Covina, 91790

For more information contact the Environmental Services Section at (626) 939-8458

West Covina residents will be able to purchase Compost Bins at a subsidized rate with reservations. Call 626-939-8458 to reserve your bin today.

- Compost Bin: \$25.00\*
- Worm Compost Bin: \$30.00\*
- Coconut Coir Bricks: \$2.50/each

\* Must show proof of W. Covina residency and Smart Gardening Workshop attendance



Check out the NEW  
City of West Covina Web Site  
[www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org)  
A New Look! New Information!  
New Services and more!!!



## WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

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

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

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### *Offers Two New City Services*

Two new services have been added to improve the ability of community members to connect with the West Covina Police Department.

The first service allows you to use your cell phone to send an anonymous tip via text message. Simply text the word "TIPWCPD" along with your tip to TIP411 (847411).

The second new service will make it more convenient for those involved in traffic accidents. If you need to obtain a traffic accident report that occurred after September 2009, you can now visit the West Covina Police Department Web site, [www.wcpd.org](http://www.wcpd.org), or go directly to <http://westcovinaca.policereports.us/> to obtain the report. To search for an accident report, you will need either a report number and a last name, or a report date and a last name.

To download copies of reports, you need to have a computer, a printer, Internet access and a credit card to purchase the report. The fee for the service is \$2.50, which goes to the company for offering the service. This allows individuals, their attorneys and insurance companies the flexibility of getting the reports online, 24 hours a day.



*Send tips  
to police  
by text  
message!*



*Get traffic accident reports online*