



# Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

February 2009

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



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

## *State Award* Honors West Covina's Redevelopment Successes

The prestigious California Redevelopment Association (CRA) annually recognizes projects and programs that exemplify outstanding examples of successful redevelopment projects that resulted in building better communities. Specifically, the Community Revitalization Category recognizes the long-term efforts of a redevelopment agency that has made positive changes to a community or neighborhood.

"Congratulations on winning a 2009 CRA Award of Excellence," CRA Executive Director John F. Shirey said. "This award is evidence of your (City of West Covina) contribution to Building Better Communities in California."

In order to be selected for this honor, the City of West Covina had to meet all the criteria, which included addressing blight elimination, community participation, economic vitality, fiscal stability, revitalization, regional/statewide significance, and creative solutions that were taken to address any obstacles.

The West Covina Heights commercial center and the West Covina Big League Dreams Sportsplex have transformed what had been an eyesore to what is now a point of destination, offering outdoor recreational opportunities as well as retail and professional services.

The development process began in July 2002 when the City Council authorized redevelopment of the 583-acre landfill site – a land use that was long resented by the community.

Without the foresight of the City to intervene and the Community Development Commission's proactive redevelopment efforts, the former BKK Landfill site would have ultimately become subject to Superfund, the federal government's program to clean up the nation's abandoned or uncontrolled, hazardous waste sites.

Instead, the project has been turned into a vibrant part of the community that created 1,845 new jobs and is estimated to generate millions annually in local revenues.



## CRIMES DOWN IN WEST COVINA IN 2008

The City of West Covina has good news regarding crime control. Crime statistics for 2008 have just been released.

Overall, Part I crimes – homicide, burglary, robbery, rape, vehicle theft, aggravated assault and larceny – were down 2.4 percent in calendar year 2008. While a small percentage, this is the lowest number of Part I crimes in at least 16 years. This is as far back as the department's computerized crime records go.

Violent crime was down .26 percent, and property crime was down 2.61 percent.

Arrests were up nearly 14 percent, which we view as a positive measure when combined with lower crime rates (we want to see crime down and arrests up – we never want to see crime going up with arrests going down!). This means officers are being productive and efficient and are working hard.

Graffiti arrests were at an all-time high.

While West Covina has had its budget challenges, our shared emphasis on making sure our officers are dedicated to front-line public safety has been prudent.

For more information, call WCPD at (626) 939-8500.

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

## 2009 ROSE PARADE



*"Hooray for Hollywood" is the City of West Covina's 11th entry into the annual Tournament of Roses Parade. The City thanks the residents and businesses who helped make this rose float a reality, especially the volunteers of the West Covina Rose Float Foundation.*

## NEW ORDINANCE TARGETS GRAFFITI VIOLATIONS

The West Covina City Council has adopted an ordinance that amends provisions of the city municipal code to allow administrative citations to be issued to persons who violate graffiti provisions and to the parents of those who are minors.

The City of West Covina devotes significant enforcement and financial resources toward the reduction of graffiti. The West Covina Police Department's Graffiti Abatement Team (GAT) has been highly successful, with more than 600 graffiti-related arrests since the team's 2005 inception.

The adoption of the new ordinance will now allow police and the City to hold both the parents and juveniles responsible for graffiti violations. With the adoption of the new ordinance, if a juvenile violates any of the following West Covina Municipal Code sections, the parents of that juvenile would also be liable for a \$1,000 administrative fine:

- Section 15-100 – Prohibition against causing or attempting to cause graffiti
- Section 15-101(a) – Selling or loaning implement used to cause graffiti
- Section 15-102 – Possession of graffiti implement

Private and commercial property owners who refuse to remove graffiti from their property after receiving written notice may also be subject to the same administrative fine under Section 15-103 – Removal of graffiti.

For more information, call the WCPD at (626) 939-8729.

Help Keep  
West Covina Beautiful

## Clean-Up Saturdays Are Coming!

- "Clean-Up Saturdays" operates on five consecutive Saturdays beginning April 18 for West Covina single-family residences serviced by Athens Services.
- The City will host a local Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundup at the City Maintenance Yard on Saturday May 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- For more information about Clean-up Saturdays or the upcoming HHW and E-Waste Roundup, call Public Works - Environmental Services at (626) 939-8458.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Clean-Up Saturday
Your Trash Day					April 18th
	Your Trash Day				April 25th
		Your Trash Day			May 2nd
			Your Trash Day		May 9th
				Your Trash Day	May 16th

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

*Some Things are Too Toxic to Trash!  
Dispose of Hazardous Waste  
and E-Waste the Right Way*

## Free Household Hazardous and E-Waste Roundup in West Covina

West Covina and Los Angeles County residents will have the opportunity to safely dispose of household hazardous waste and e-waste free of charge at a countywide Household Hazardous and E-Waste Roundup.

This collection event will take place in West Covina at the City Maintenance Yard, 825 Sunset Ave., on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## THE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO KEEP!

The one new year's resolution to keep this year is to shop West Covina!

During these economic times, it's important to support your West Covina by shopping locally. Every sale made in West Covina contributes to the sales tax revenues the City receives. The revenues generated help pay for essential City services, such as police, fire, recreation and infrastructure.

West Covina has numerous retail centers to meet any shopping need, desire or whim. Among the many are two outstanding regional destinations: Westfield West Covina and Westfield Eastland. These two centers offer prime quality shopping with many exciting opportunities.

Since the Westfield Eastland opened in 1957, it has undergone many changes, with the most recent renovations done this past year.

In the past several months, Westfield has upgraded several features of the center, including replacing the center's branding signage to facilitate customers' shopping experience and repainting of the entire center's façade.

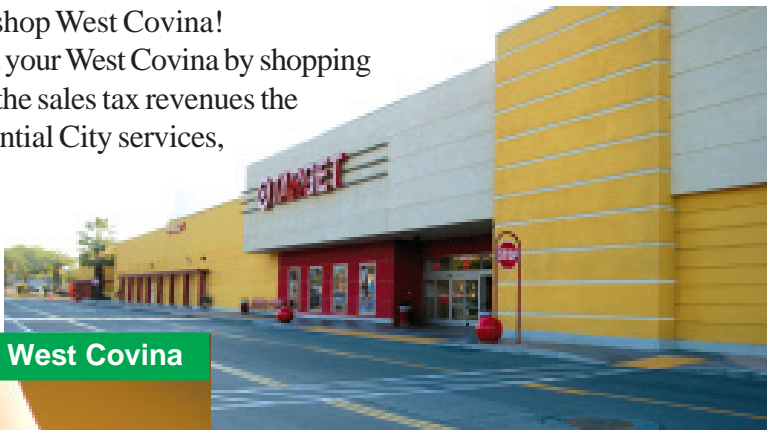
Westfield has also introduced the City to the new sign panels along the freeway to promote the center's retailers. Some of the attractions of the center include Burlington Coat Factory, Target, Albertson's, Bed Bath & Beyond, Chick's, Babies "R" Us, Ross, Marshalls, Ortho Mattress, Office Depot, Longs Drugs and Luxury Linens. Additionally the center offers exceptional restaurants, including T.G.I Friday's, Chili's and BJ's Brewery.

The Westfield mall has not only undergone a name change from Westfield Shoppingtown to Westfield West Covina but recently has had major changes with the relocation of the Macy's store and the current

**Ziba Beauty at Westfield West Covina**



**Target at Eastland Center**



construction of the new Best Buy building.

In addition, Westfield has been busy filling the mall with new retailers, including Cathy Jean, Lavish Shoes, Ziba Beauty, Café Valer and Lollicup. Westfield has also added and upgraded the mall's sitting areas for an even more comfortable break from shopping.

With the many shopping opportunities at the Westfield centers and throughout the City, remember to keep your new year's resolution and shop West Covina.



**Cathy Jean at Westfield West Covina**



Bob's Big Boy – Bob's Big Boy Restaurant is now open for business at the former Chevy's building located across from Westfield West Covina.



BOB'S BIG BOY



ROP HOUSE

Regional Occupational Program (ROP) House – Construction of a 1,657-square-foot single-family home funded by the City of West Covina Community Development Commission and built by the East San Gabriel Valley Regional Occupation Program ("ROP"). Framing of the house has recently been completed.



# Updates on Recent CITY

JV HOMES



JV Homes – Construction of a 24-unit condominium complex on a 1.07-acre site is now under way near the corner of Azusa and Workman avenues. Foundations are being completed for all four buildings.

## Westfield West Covina

Westfield expansion – Plans for Best Buy to occupy the former Macy's location and the addition of new retail and restaurant space at Westfield West Covina. The former Macy's has recently been demolished and is now undergoing grading for the upcoming Best Buy.

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

### PROSPERITY BUSINESS PARK



Prosperity Business Park – Development of a mixed-use commercial project consisting of 20,518 square feet (18 units) of office space and 135,043 square feet (40 units) of industrial condominiums located on San Bernardino Road. Interior improvements are being finalized, while work is being done on landscaping.

### QUAIL RIDGE SHOPPING CENTER



Quail Ridge Shopping Center – Quail Ridge Shopping Center is a 9.39-acre commercial retail center consisting of approximately 167,000 square feet, located on the corner of Nogales Street and La Puente Road. Food Mart International is to occupy the former Savon. Food Mart International is now framing skylights and installing drywall.

# PROJECTS

### THE GROVE



The Grove – T-Mobile, Dalia's and Cherry Blossom Nail Spa are now open for business.

### SUNSET AND FRANCISQUITO CENTER



Sunset and Francisquito Shopping Center – A façade remodel of the existing 140,000-square-foot retail center and construction of 29,000 square feet of new retail space. Concrete block walls are now being erected for the new 23,806-square-foot retail building at the center.

## APPLY FOR YOUR PASSPORT AT CITY HALL

U.S. passport application services are available at the West Covina City Clerk's Office, Third Floor, Room 317, at City Hall.

Passport applications are accepted Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Here is what you need to bring:

- Original proof of U.S. citizenship
- Valid proof of identity
- Two recent color passport-size photographs
- Passport application (DO NOT SIGN)
- Fees (payable by check or money order ONLY)

Applicants under age 16 have additional requirements.

For detailed application information, go to the City Clerk's Office, call the West Covina passport information line at (626) 939-8744, or visit the Web sites [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org) or [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).



## WINTER/SPRING RECREATION GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

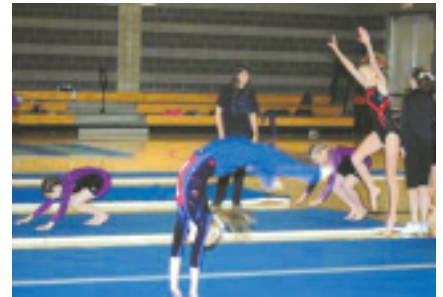


The City of West Covina Community Services Department's Winter/Spring 2009 recreation guide is now available! Schedules for all city recreation classes are posted for January through April and can be viewed online at [www.westcovina.org/events](http://www.westcovina.org/events).

The Community Services Department continues to offer a wide variety of classes to suit the community. Classes are offered at various sites throughout the city.

Whether you are trying to keep your new year's resolution with one of our fitness classes or give your child a head start in one of the educational Tiny Tot classes, chances are we have something for you.

If there are other programs you would like to see offered or if you teach a specialized class we currently don't offer, contact Mike Cresap at (626) 917-7053. For class information or general facility information, call Cameron Park Community Center at (626) 919-6966.





WEST COVINA  
CELEBRATES

# ARBOR DAY

PICTURES WITH SMOKEY BEAR

TREE PLANTING/CARE DEMONSTRATION

MULCHING DEMONSTRATION

REFRESHMENTS

Date: Saturday, March 7  
Time: 11 AM  
Place: Gingrich Park  
1935 Woodgate Drive

For more information, call (626) 939-8425.

**VISIT THE CITY ONLINE AT  
[WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG](http://WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG)**



## **NORM REEVES HONDA SUPERSTORE FIGHTS BACK AGAINST ECONOMY**

### *Expansion to Offer West Covina Customers More for Their Money*

Norm Reeves Honda Superstore of West Covina sells more than 2,000 Honda vehicles a year. But now, in an effort to match its sister store in Cerritos – the largest Honda dealer in California – they’ve decided to fly in the face of convention and go big – really big.

When completed, the new facility will be one of the largest Honda dealerships in California.

The original dealership was purchased in 1999, and though customers are extremely loyal to its location off the 10 Freeway, the dealership was showing its age, not allowing for the most comfortable shopping experience.

“Our customers deserve better,” General Manager Bill McGrath said. “That’s why we’ve invested \$11 million in building and equipment.”

The Service and Parts Department recently opened, completing Phase 1. The state-of-the-art Service Department features 30 service bays, including four Quick Service bays, which means you’ll get the service you need – fast.

The Parts Department is just as impressive, with nearly 10,000 square feet of parts, including many hard-to-find

Honda factory parts and accessories.

The sales and administrative offices are now under construction. When completed, there will be a new showroom with plenty of room to shop comfortably.

Under the guidance of McGrath and his team, Norm Reeves Honda is committed to a long-term relationship with the City of West Covina. Throughout the years, the dealership has sponsored community events and is the title sponsor of the Big League Dreams Sportsplex.

As part of West Covina’s “Art in Public Places” program, Norm Reeves Honda Superstore West Covina will dedicate an Art Park in front of the dealership. It will be filled with artwork, plenty of benches and lush shade trees to enhance both the community and the dealership experience.

At Norm Reeves Honda Superstore West Covina, true success is measured by satisfying the customer and the community – doing well by doing good. For more information, call (626) 756-3800 or visit [normreeveswc.com](http://normreeveswc.com).



## **Community Star: Laura Tovar**

Laura Tovar doesn’t go anywhere without her music stands, instruments and teaching materials.

That’s because the music teacher drives the “Music Machine,” a bus converted into a mobile music classroom. The bus travels to eight different school sites in the Rowland Unified School District where Tovar teaches.

The spunky teacher inspires students to have an ear for melodies.

“The kids are so great,” Tovar said. “If you listen to them play now, it doesn’t sound like much. They don’t know how to read notes, but by Christmas time you see a huge growth. I love seeing that change.”

The music lover calls herself a “hippie” and tells her

students that music brings people together. She loves relaying the history and meaning of music to her students.

“Music doesn’t happen in a vacuum,” Tovar said. “History brings music alive.”



Tovar, who has been with the district for 23 years, also spearheads the Summer Arts Academy that teaches students music, art, drama, photography and dance. She is also involved in the Summer Theatre Program.

Tovar encourages her mini-musicians to use their talents to entertain others at community events, such as benefits or open houses.

“It’s important to have something to give back,” she said. “We give back as much as we can.”

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FEBRUARY

**2/7 - W.C. Youth Pony Baseball opening day**, noon at Walmerado Park, 625 E. Merced Ave.

**2/12 - City of West Covina Birthday Celebration**, 6 p.m., South Hills Country Club, 2655 S. Citrus St.

**2/13 - Middle School Dance** from 6 to 9 p.m. at Cameron Park Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave. Middle-school students are welcome to attend. Each participant must have a signed parent permission slip, school I.D. and a \$3 participant fee. A snack bar will be available. Call (626) 919-6966 for more information.

**2/21 - W.C. Girls' Softball opening day**, 9:30 a.m. at Cameron Park, 1305 E. Cameron Ave.

## MARCH

**3/2 - "Where Did All That Dinosaur Poop Go?,"** 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Galster Park, 1620 Aroma Drive

**3/7 - W.C. American Little League opening day**, 10 a.m. at Cortez Park, 2441 E. Cortez St.

**3/7 - W.C. Orangewood Little League opening day**, noon at Sunset Field, 851 S. Sunset Ave.



**In a previous edition of Discover West Covina, we asked residents to let us know what city services they appreciate the most.**

*"Thank you so much for what you are doing to enforce graffiti violations. I live in ... West Covina, and it has much*

*improved. Keep up the good work! Also, thank you for the revisions to city codes, such as Section 15-85 (regulation of noise). I know a lot of people who have to deal with this problem. Thank you for helping." – Sylvia Gleber*



## WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

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

## A BIT OF TRIVIA:

**Do you know how many visits/hits the city's Web site received in 2008? Nearly 18 million! (To be exact: 17,815,622)**

## 2009 CITY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

The following commissions have new meeting days as follows:

### COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

Second Tuesday of odd-numbered months starting with March:

Jan. 13	May 12	Nov. 10
Feb. 10	July 14	
March 10	Sept. 8	

### SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

Fourth Thursday of even-numbered months starting with February:

Jan. 22	June 25	Dec. 24 (TBA)
Feb. 26	Aug. 27	
April 23	Oct. 22	

### HUMAN RESOURCES COMMISSION

Second Wednesday of the month alternating every other month starting with February:

Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.	Aug. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
April 8 at 6:30 p.m.	Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
June 10 at 6:30 p.m.	Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

**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: PIO SUE WILLIAMS, 1444 W. GARVEY AVE., P.O. BOX 1440, WEST COVINA, CA 91793**

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

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