



Discover West Covina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

January 2009

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



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

City Manager's Office

The West Covina Rose Float Foundation invites you to

“HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD” FAMILY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, JAN. 4 • 1 TO 4 P.M.



- Admission:** Free
Where: Eastland Shopping Center
 2753 Eastland Center Drive
 (off the 10 Fwy, between Citrus and Barranca)
- Festivities include:**
- A visit from Tournament of Roses queen and her royal court
 - A performance by the West Covina Symphony Orchestra
 - The City of West Covina 2009 rose float, “Hooray for Hollywood,” will be on display (It will also be on display Monday, Jan. 5.).
 - Light refreshments

Critical Water Supply Shortage: West Covina Residents Asked to Help Conserve Water

The Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster has alerted cities of a current water supply shortage. The Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster is the agency charged with administering adjudicated water rights and managing ground water resources within the watershed and ground water basin known as the Main San Gabriel Basin.

Even with the recent rainstorms in Southern California, the Los Angeles area has experienced below-normal rainfall for eight of the past 10 years, resulting in decreased storm water capture and runoff available. Therefore, residents are being encouraged to conserve water.

The Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster cited several reasons for water conservation measures in a resolution. Here are the reasons:

- Court-mandated cutbacks on water deliveries from the State Water Project have greatly reduced the amount of imported water available to Southern California.
- The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has subsequently suspended replenishment water deliveries indefinitely and projects that replenishment water may be available as little as 35 percent of the time in the future.
- The water elevation at the Baldwin Park Key Well is currently nearing the 200-foot level, and without significant precipitation, the Key Well is expected to reach a historic low in fiscal year 2008-09.

With the projection of extremely limited opportunities for ground water recharge in the coming year, alternatives must be sought for sustaining adequate ground water supplies. Reducing water consumption through conservation is an effective method of reducing overall water demands on the basin, thereby helping to sustain water levels and minimize overdraft.

Therefore, the foregoing reasons have resulted in an alert that there is a critical water supply shortage in Southern California, in particular the Main San Gabriel Basin.

For more information or if you have questions, call the Main San Gabriel Watermaster at (626) 815-1300.

City Clerk's Office

City Council Action Summary - Dec. 2, 2008

<http://www.westcovina.org/council/agenda/081202.html>

- Received and filed the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Fiscal Years Budget Update.
- Approved an agreement with Mission Recycling to collect and receive electronic waste.
- Approved the preparation of a Request for Proposals for towing services.
- Approved a list of projects to seek potential grant funding through the Water Working Group of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.
- Approved an ordinance to change the frequency of Community Services, Human Resources and Senior Citizens Commissions meetings.
- Approved to introduce an ordinance amending graffiti violations and adopted a resolution establishing administrative fines for graffiti violations.

Community Development Commission

Nogales Plaza Grand Opening

The City of West Covina and the West Covina Community Development Commission (CDC) welcome Nogales Plaza, 2707 E. Valley Blvd., which recently opened.

Nogales Plaza was a result of the collaborative efforts of the City of West Covina, the CDC, Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority ("ACE") and C.G.M. Development, Inc. ("CGM"). The site, formerly a blighted retail center, was purchased by ACE to use during the Nogales Street grade separation. The City facilitated the sale of the property from ACE to CGM for the development of the 45-unit, 73,000-square-foot, first-class medical/professional office condominium.

The three-story medical/professional plaza features a pharmacy; a state-of-the-art oncology center; and a variety of dentists, family physicians and specialists, including ophthalmology and dermatology. The third floor of the building is reserved for professional offices.

CGM projects this estimated \$35 million project will create approximately 168 new full- and part-time jobs and will generate approximately \$3,331 in annual sales tax and approximately \$105,000 in annual tax increment revenues.

"The City of West Covina is one of the best cities that I've ever worked with," President Peichin Cheng said. "Their staff is professional and efficient. I'm looking forward to doing more projects here. This is definitely the city I would love to bring new developments in."

This project is another example of a public/private partnership working together to complete a development designed to meet the needs of the community.

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Norms Restaurant Grand Opening

Norms Restaurant, the City of West Covina and the West Covina Community Development Commission ("CDC") welcome the first Norms Restaurant in West Covina. Norms Restaurant is located at 501 N. Azusa Ave. on the corner of Azusa Avenue and Rowland Street.

Norms began its construction of the restaurant this past June and opened its doors for business to the public this past October.

Norms Restaurant is approximately 5,600 square feet in size and occupies the former Steak Corral site.

With a welcoming and knowledgeable staff, Norms serves its customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with its motto being "We Never Close."

Still family owned and operated since 1949, next year Norms will celebrate its 60th anniversary, serving Southern California with 17 shining examples of Norms' original idea: good food at a reasonable price served by friendly people.

Norms Restaurant created approximately 70 new jobs for the community.

"We have been looking for many years for a location for a Norms Restaurant in West Covina," said Philip Singerman, president of Norms Restaurants. "With the help of West Covina's city council along with the Community Development Commission, we have now found our place in the city. We are looking forward to many successful years and a strong future in West Covina."

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Ruby Tuesday Grand Opening at The Heights Commercial/Retail Center

Ruby Tuesday, the City of West Covina and the West Covina Community Development Commission ("CDC") welcome the first Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Los Angeles and Orange counties and only the second in Southern California. Ruby Tuesday is located at 2200 S. Azusa Ave. in The Heights Shopping Center.

Ruby Tuesday began its construction of the restaurant this past May and opened its doors for business in the fall.

Ruby Tuesday at The Heights is approximately 6,000 square feet and includes a friendly and knowledgeable staff as well as a beautiful outdoor dining patio.

The American casual sit-down restaurant is committed to quality and freshness featuring 100 percent USDA Choice or Prime ground beef for its signature handcrafted burgers and seasonally ripe vegetables for its bountiful fresh garden bar. The friendly staff at Ruby Tuesday and the five-star ambiance is sure to make any dining experience a delightful one.

Ruby Tuesday created approximately 50 new jobs for the community.

"We feel very excited to have the first Ruby Tuesday in Los Angeles County in West Covina," said Steve Smith, representative of Ruby Tuesday. "The quality of work force we have found has been exceptional. We look forward to great success."

The development of Ruby Tuesday at The Heights is another example of a public/private collaboration working together to complete a project designed to meet the needs of the community.

Community Services Department

San Gabriel Valley Branch of the NAACP and the City of West Covina present the

**10TH ANNUAL WEST COVINA
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**



MONDAY, JAN. 19

**11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – formal program
12:30 to 3:30 p.m. – afternoon activities**

Entertainment • Food • Arts and Crafts
Multicultural Dance Groups • Choral and Jazz Music
Children's Games and Activities
FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE!

Lakes Entertainment Center
1200 Lakes Dr., West Covina

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

West Covina Winter Recreational Guide is Now Available Online!



The City of West Covina Community Services Department quarterly recreation guide is now available for Winter/Spring 2009! Schedules for all of the City's recreation classes are now posted for January through April and can be viewed at <http://www.westcovina.org/events/RecGuide13.pdf>.

The Community Services Department continues to offer a wide variety of classes to suite your needs. Classes are offered at facilities throughout the city.

Whether you are trying to get a jump on your new year's resolution with one of our fitness classes or give your child a head start in one of our educational tiny tot classes, chances are we have something for you. If there is a program you would like to see us offer, or if you're interested in teaching a specialized class, call Recreation Supervisor Mike Cresap at (626) 917-7053. For more information on classes or for general facility information, call Cameron Park Community Center, (626) 919-6966.



Cameron Community Center Programs/Events

- *Kids in the Kitchen:* Participants will create their own tasty treats and sample them at the end of class! Pre-registration is required. The club meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 3 to 3:45 p.m. A \$1 participation fee is required
- *Teen Night:* Every third Friday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m., the Cameron Community Center is exclusively for teens 13 to 17 years old. Come join us as we show movies, shoot hoops, have snacks, lounge and play games on our new Wii gaming system. All participants must have a waiver on file to participate.
- *Middle School Dance:* Middle-school students are invited to attend this event on Friday, Feb. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants must have a signed parent permission slip, a school I.D. and a \$3 participant fee. A snack bar will be available.

Cameron Community Center is located at 1305 E. Cameron Ave. For more information on these activities, call (626) 919-6966.

Public Works Department

Residents Vote Down 3 Percent Tax Increase That Would Maintain Greenbelts

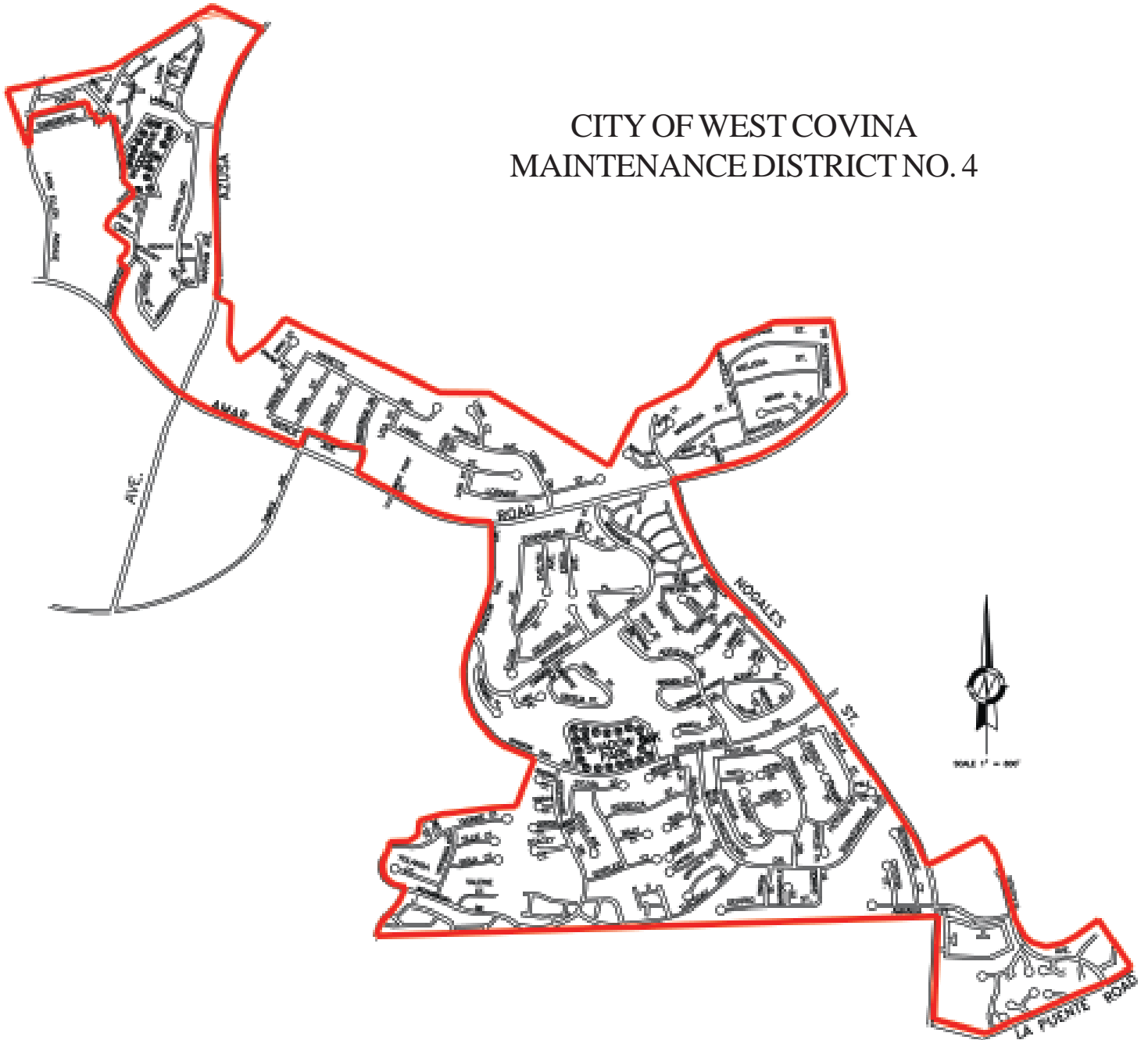
The original developer of the housing tracts established the area (see accompanying map) known as Maintenance District No. 4 to preserve the ridgelines in the San Jose Hills by developing parklike "greenbelt" areas containing walkways, landscaping and lighting instead of forming a homeowners' association (The maintenance district was formed in lieu of a homeowners' association.).

A tax assessment from each parcel in the district is used by the City to fund the maintenance of the greenbelt areas and improvements, such as landscaping, tree trimming, sidewalk repair, lighting repairs, graffiti removal and utilities. The City cannot use the funds for any other purpose.

This assessment district has not had any increase in four years, while the cost of living and subsequent maintenance costs have increased by more than 13 percent. A 3 percent increase to the assessment rate was needed in order to maintain this district at the current level and provide some needed improvements, such as sidewalk, irrigation, and lighting and landscape repairs.

A 3 percent increase would have meant a maximum increase of 87 cents per month per property. Under Proposition 218, the assessment cannot be increased further without a vote of the affected property owners.

The City will continue to do its best to maintain this district as well as possible. However, with the state of the economy and necessary budget cutbacks, some improvements will have to be deferred to future years, including rehabilitation of aged sidewalks, irrigation and paseo lighting. Additional impacts may include postponing the removal and replanting of deteriorating landscaping and special trimming of trees obstructing views.



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Amar Road Median Landscaping

This is a joint city-county project and is currently under construction. The project consists of constructing a raised median with irrigation and landscaping. A section of the project – Brentwood Drive to Valinda Avenue – is in the jurisdiction of the City of West Covina and Los Angeles County, and the remaining section – westerly to Aileron Avenue – is in the county area.

Major Street Rehabilitation – All American Asphalt completed paving on Francisquito Avenue, Merced Avenue, West Garvey Avenue South, Puente Avenue, East Garvey Avenue South and Badillo Street. The cost for this project is approximately \$1.8 million, and it is funded from Proposition 1B.



Francisquito Avenue - Grinding old pavement



Francisquito Avenue - Placing new asphalt

Glendora Avenue Improvements - New street lights have been installed and turned on. Trellises have been painted. New benches and trash cans have been installed. New irrigation and landscaping is also part of the improvement project. The cost for this project is \$447,661.50.



Glendora Avenue - New lighting



Glendora Avenue - Trellises painted



 **WEST COVINA
CITY COUNCIL**

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

**DRUNK DRIVING KILLS
REPORT DRUNK DRIVING
CALL 911**