



# Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

October 2008

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



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

## City of West Covina Honored with International, State, Regional and Local Awards

The City of West Covina partnered with the private development sector in revitalizing a blighted part of town, involving the transformation of a hazardous 582-acre landfill into a mixed-used development, including a natural habitat and recreational facilities. In addition to thousands of new local jobs being created and the “thorn” that once plagued the residential neighborhood, it is now an active and vibrant addition to the community and region.

The development of this site erased the stigma of the notorious BKK Landfill and, in the process, fostered community pride and transformed a “landfill to a landmark” – a true success story now being recognized nationally and statewide. Recently, the City of West Covina was honored with four awards!

• **2008 Excellence in Economic Development Award from International Economic Development Council** – This prestigious award recognizes outstanding and innovative development projects that have significantly enhanced economic revitalization of distressed communities, and for efforts in creating positive change.

• **2008 Outstanding Planning Achievement Hard-Won**

**Victories Award from American Planning Association, State of California Chapter** – This award recognizes the positive effect of hard-won victories by professional planners and citizens working together under challenging circumstances.



• **2008 Compass Blueprint Achievement Award in Sustainability from Southern California Association of Governments** – This award is presented for projects that demonstrate great planning and development work and, most

importantly, work toward improving the mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability of our region.

• **2008 City Beautification Award from San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership** – The Annual Awards Gala honors outstanding individuals and organizations in the San Gabriel Valley who are making a significant contribution to the quality of life and economic vitality of the region.

The City of West Covina earned these awards because of the commercial center and the Big League Dreams Sportsplex, a testimony of effective public-private partnership. What was once a smelly area of trash and debris has become a community focal point of pride and vitality!

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

## Improvements to ...

## BUS SHELTERS

Bus shelters throughout the city are being refurbished. A total of 80 bus shelters will be temporarily removed – for only one week, six to eight at a time – so that they can be sandblasted, powder-coated and reinstalled with their new look.

Also, new graphics will be installed where necessary, and those that have solar lighting will be checked and



serviced to ensure everything is in good working order.

Funding for this project came from Proposition A transportation funds. The project is anticipated for completion by the end of November.

For more information, call the West Covina Public Works Department, Project Supervisor Dave Nichols at (626) 939-8425.

## 2008 COMMUNITY HERO

*Sharnae Lewis*

Sharnae Lewis has been selected as West Covina's 2008 Community Hero for many reasons. She volunteered more than 150 hours in the community and dedicated more than 75 leadership hours at West Covina High School.

She helped boost the high-school spirit by hosting pep rallies, organizing carnivals and dances, as well as helping to raise funds. Additionally, she organized special programs for both students and faculty.

Besides playing an important role at West Covina High School, Lewis served as a teacher assistant at Vista Del Valle Elementary School, tutoring first-grade students with their reading, math and writing skills.

And her dedication did not stop there. She also volunteered at the Le Roy Haynes Center for Children Services, an organization for children affected by emotional challenges. She helped by doing a lot of things there, including

wrapping and delivering gifts for the children during the holidays. She has also served as an assistant to the troop leader for the Spanish Trails Girl Scout Junior & Brownie Troop.

Although Lewis was accepted to nine different colleges, she elected to attend Cal Poly, Pomona. Her major is psychology with intentions of becoming a school counselor.

Congratulations, Sharnae, you will go far in life!

**Providing service to many West Covina destinations for only 25¢...**

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**Better Routes! Better Times!  
Same Great Price!**

**GO WEST** shuttle improvements effective September 1, 2008:

- System-wide timetable updates to ensure schedule accuracy
- New service on Lark Ellen Avenue
- New service on Fairgrove Avenue

For more information, visit us online at [www.westcovina.org/transit](http://www.westcovina.org/transit) or call (800) 425-5777.

**GO WEST**

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

# Frank Scalfaro Honored as 'Citizen of the Year' and 2008 Community Hero

Congratulations to Frank Scalfaro, West Covina's Citizen of the Year and Community Hero. Since 1987, Scalfaro and his wife, Marlene, have made West Covina their home and have raised two sons, Frank and Brian.

Since 2004, Scalfaro has served as president of the West Covina Rose Float Foundation. His first action was to approach the City and make a commitment to have community donations fully fund the rose float, removing the financial burden from the City. This resulted in a savings of more than \$50,000 a year to the City of West Covina.

During Scalfaro's term as foundation

president, he has continued to raise sufficient funds to fully fund the City of West Covina's participation in the Tournament of Roses Parade, developed a scholarship program, and through community collaborations he spearheaded the complete restoration of the 1912 Craftsman-style Taylor House at Heritage Park.

Scalfaro's vision for Heritage Park is to maintain the park's retreat-like setting and to provide West Covina youth the opportunity to learn through his motto of "Community Enrichment through Collaboration and Mentoring." This beautiful part of West Covina's history is now open for all of the community to



enjoy.

Scalfaro also volunteers to assist the Chamber of Commerce with the formation of the Coordinating Council in an effort to bring all of the nonprofit organizations together to better the community.



Here is this month's question:

*What City of West Covina programs or services do you appreciate the most, and why?*

Please send us your responses by e-mail to:  
**discoverwestcovina**  
**@westcovina.org.**

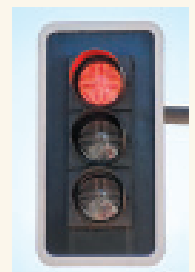
When asked what city services/programs he likes most, resident Glenn Hurtado did not hesitate with his response:

*"The City of West Covina Senior Center has the world's best staff, every one of them. They are very accomodating to the needs of the seniors, and they are easy to talk to. I go to the Senior Center almost every single day."*

## Traffic Signal Modifications

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

At the Aug. 19 meeting, the West Covina City Council authorized \$175,394 for necessary construction costs related to traffic signal improvements, utilizing Proposition 1B funds.



The project will provide for the addition of left-turn phasing on the eastbound and westbound approaches of the three existing traffic signals along Azusa Avenue at Puente Cameron and Merced avenues.

The work will consist of the installation of new overhead poles, vehicle signal head, revised striping and signs.

Work on this project will begin in January and will be completed by March.

For more information, call the West Covina Public Works Department at (626) 939-8425.

[WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG](http://WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG)

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



## WHERE TO GET CITY NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- **On the City's Web site, [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org),** you can find city council meeting agendas, minutes from city council meetings (to view actions taken at each meeting), job opportunities, recreation and community service programs for all ages, and more.
- **Discover West Covina,** your official City newsletter, is mailed out to West Covina homes every other month, and the alternating months may be viewed online at the City's Web site.

The Hurst Ranch Harvest Festival returns Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hurst Ranch Historical Center, 1227 S. Orange Ave., West Covina. The event will include hands-on farm activities, a petting zoo, a Home Depot "make and take" project, pumpkins, exhibits and more. Admission is \$5 per person, with children under 2 free. Family rates are also available. Hamburger lunches will be available for \$5 each. For more information, call (626) 339-5151.



## WEST COVINA POLICE EXPLORERS WIN COMPETITION OF MORE THAN 400 TEAMS

The City of West Covina Police Youth Explorer Post #499 recently competed very successfully at two regional events. West Covina's team competed with more than 400 Explorer teams and won two first-place trophies for the Hostage Rescue and Building Search. In a second competition, they retained their "First Place Overall" standing.

The Youth Explorers in these competitions were Lt. Andrew Avalos, Sgt. Eli Huacuja, Sgt. Keith Dwyer, Cpl. Michelle Ochoa, Senior Explorer Arlene Chavez, Michael



Frank, Alejandro Martinez, Juan Huerta, Anthony Quijada, Christopher Sandoval, Leticia Mendez and Humberto Lozano.

In addition to their regular public safety duties, West Covina police

officers volunteer their time to teach and facilitate the Explorer program. The Explorer advisers include officers Josh Neiheisel, Brandon Karmman, Misty Velasco, Danny Armas and Neomi Wiley and Crime Analyst Erica Taylor.

West Covina's Explorer program is open to youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who are interested in law enforcement. For further information about the Police Explorer Program, contact Sgt. Richard Bell at (626) 939-8557.

*Recently, West Covina's Explorer program received a private grant from the Kaiser Permanente Foundation.*

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

### WEST COVINA

# Symphony

Did you know that there used to be a symphony here in West Covina? Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann, a longtime West Covina resident, knew about it because she played in that symphony in the 1960s.

Mann, a graduate of West Covina High School, is a composer, conductor and virtuoso performer, appearing regularly as a violist and guest conductor with several orchestras throughout the Southern California area.

Mann currently serves as director of music for a church in Studio City and as the assistant conductor of the Bellflower Symphony Orchestra.

She is a performer with the Chamber Orchestra of the South Bay, the Rio Hondo Symphony Orchestra and the La Mirada Symphony, and she is principal violist of the Golden State Pops Symphony Orchestra, the Culver City Symphony and the Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra.



Mann is currently composing, conducting and recording the music for an upcoming independent film. She is also a signed artist for various companies that program music for major cable television shows and music channels.

With all her wealth of experience, Mann says she would like to give back to her hometown community and “bring a symphony back to West Covina.” But she cannot do it alone; she will need a board of directors, fund raisers, volunteers and, of course, talented individuals who play an array of musical instruments.

If you would like to help and be a part of organizing a West Covina symphony, call the City of West Covina Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430.



## CITY COUNCIL APPROVES IMPROVEMENTS TO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The City of West Covina’s current land-mobile radio system, which serves the Police, Fire and Public Works departments, is more than 20 years old. Because of age, many spare parts are no longer available, and the Public Safety Radio Network has become unreliable. Therefore, it became critical that the City replace the aged network.

The new communications system will enable Police, Fire and Public Works to communicate with each other and with other city departments in the event of an emergency or situations requiring coordination between the respective departments.

As the system is phased in, capabilities will continue to improve to the point of allowing West Covina radio communication with all agencies across Los Angeles County.

The estimated project cost is \$3.5 million, funded in part by a U.S. Department of Justice COPS Technology grant.

“In preparing for this radio system upgrade, the police department aggressively sought multiple grant funding sources, successfully obtaining \$517,500 in State Homeland Security Grant funding for handheld police radios and \$197,895 in federal technology grant funding for police vehicle-mounted radios,” said Alex Houston, police administrative service manager. “These radios, already in place, will meet the interoperable requirements of the new system. More recently, the City was successful in obtaining a \$514,415 technology grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to purchase network infrastructure equipment for the actual upgrade.”

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

### City Of West Covina Urges Residents to

# 'PREVENT HOME FIRES'

A pot holder too close to a lit burner or a space heater left on overnight could be all it takes to start a home fire. In fact, cooking and heating are among the leading causes of home fires in the United States.

The West Covina Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association to urge residents to

"Prevent Home Fires" during Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5 to 11.

"Most home fires are easily preventable when residents take simple steps to increase their safety from fire," said West Covina Fire Chief Paul Segalla. "Whether it's smoking outside the home, keeping space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, or staying in the kitchen when you

are using the stovetop, there are easy things you can do to keep your home and family safe from fire."

Here are some simple steps you can



take to help prevent home fires during Fire Prevention Week and year round:

- **Cooking** – Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

- **Heating** – Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.

- **Electrical** – Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords (use extension cords for temporary wiring only). Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.

- **Smoking** – Smoke outdoors, and use deep sturdy ashtrays.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years, fire departments

have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest-running public health and safety observance on record.

Do your part to keep your family and the City of West Covina community safe. For more information, call the West Covina Fire Department at (626) 338-8800, or visit the Web site, [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

## *L.A. County Makes Urgent Upgrades to Overloaded Sewer Line on Lark Ellen Avenue*

The Los Angeles County Sanitation District is currently installing a new 24-inch trunk sewer line in an effort to relieve an overloaded system on Lark Ellen Avenue. The project includes an 8,000-foot-long sewer line replacement from Rowland Avenue in West Covina to the Big Dalton wash in the unincorporated county area bordering the city of Azusa.

This county-owned line "was identified by the District as requiring hydraulic relief due to ever-increasing wastewater flow" and is being replaced

"in order to protect the public health from any potential sewer overflows," said Stan Pegadiotes, project engineer for the district.

The County must satisfy Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements to provide the "hydraulic relief" by November 2009. If the line were not installed, the back-up overflow of sewage would cause an unsafe and unsanitary condition.

"Unfortunately, this street was recently paved, but the City had no choice but to allow the emergency sewer

project to proceed," said West Covina Public Works Director Shannon Yauchzee. "The City and the county generally coordinate construction work; however, in this case it could not happen due to the urgent nature of repairs. Fortunately, the county has agreed to repave the affected section of displaced street surface at their cost. This will eliminate any 'patchwork' repair."

The work is anticipated for completion by February. For more information, call the West Covina Public Works Department at (626) 939-8425.

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

### Council Priority ...

The City Council has established Neighborhood Parking Protection Zones for areas around schools. These areas continue to be plagued with parking violations despite the continual warnings and citations issued by police officers and parking control officers.

The purpose of the zones is to aid in

# SAFETY

providing a safe environment for school children and other pedestrians. In order to deter violators of parking restrictions, fines will be doubled in these zones.

Signs have been installed adjacent to

NEIGHBORHOOD  
PARKING  
PROTECTION ZONE  
ALL PARKING FINES  
DOUBLED

all schools, and enforcement has begun. Help keep our West Covina children safe.

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

### SENIOR SOFTBALL

Are you at least 55 or older and enjoy making friends and having fun playing softball? Then come on down to Cameron Park, 1305 E. Cameron Ave., on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to noon. It's FREE! For more information, call Jack Kelly at (626) 339-8093.

The following activities take place at the West Covina Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St., (626) 331-5366:

- **HEART & SOUL LINE DANCING** - Mondays and Fridays from 1 to 2 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. \$5 per class.
- **THURSDAY EVENING DANCES** - Every first and fourth Thursday of the month, 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$6 including light refreshments.
- **SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM** - Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A suggested donation of \$2 for those 60 and older. Persons under 60 pay \$4, and disabled persons pay \$3.

### Retirees and Disabled Veterans:

## CLAIM YOUR ECONOMIC STIMULUS

There are many retirees and disabled veterans who qualify for the economic stimulus payment but have not filed to claim it. Eligible individuals are receiving up to \$600 (\$1,200 for married couples filing joint returns) plus \$300 for eligible children younger than 17.

Local taxpayer assistance centers can help retirees and veterans trying to receive these payments. A list of addresses



and office hours can be found at the IRS Web site. Simply visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click "Contact my local office" or call (800) 829-1040.

## West Covina Native Named Player of the Week by Collegiate Athletic Conference

Football player Daniel Robles, who grew up in West Covina and is the son of resident Gregg A. Robles, was named Player of the Week in the Collegiate Athletic Conference held in Kansas.

Robles led the University of Saint Mary Spires in Leavenworth, Kansas during a rain-soaked, muddy game Sept. 13.

Congratulations, Daniel – you make West Covina proud!





You can do it. We can help.™

# GREAT NEWS!

*This CFL Bulb Recycling Program will be at all Home Depot locations.*



The Home Depot Launches National CFL Bulb Recycling Program!

How to recycle CFL bulbs:

1. Take any expired CFL bulbs to any Home Depot store.
2. CFL bulbs should be unbroken.
3. Hand them to the Home Depot store associate at the Returns Desk.
4. For more information, visit [http://www6.homedepot.com/ecoptions/stage/pdf/cfl\\_recycle.pdf](http://www6.homedepot.com/ecoptions/stage/pdf/cfl_recycle.pdf)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

**10/24 - Middle School Dance**, 6 to 9 p.m., Cameron Park Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave. For information, call (626) 919-6966.

**10/25 - Red Ribbon Rally**, 7 a.m. to noon, West Covina High School, 1609 E. Cameron Ave. For information, call (626) 939-8554.

**10/25 - Taste of West Covina**, 5 to 10 p.m., Westfield West Covina, 112 Plaza Drive. \$35 at door. Presale tickets are \$30 each or \$100 for four. For tickets or more information, call the West Covina Chamber of Commerce at (626) 338-8496.



### NOVEMBER

**11/11 - Veterans Day Ceremony**, noon to 1 p.m., West Covina Civic Center, 1444 W. Garvey Ave. For information, call (626) 939-8430.

**11/22 - Youth and Teen Talent Show**, 5 to 8 p.m., Cameron Park Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave. For information, call (626) 919-6966.



### DECEMBER

**12/6 - Winterfest**, 1 to 6 p.m., West Covina Civic Center, 1444 W. Garvey Ave. For information, call (626) 939-8430.

**12/10 - Tree Lighting Ceremony**, 6 to 8 p.m., Lakes Entertainment Center, 1200 Lakes Drive. For information, call (626) 939-8430.

**12/20 - Breakfast with Santa**, 9 to 11 a.m., Cameron Park Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave. For information, call (626) 919-6966.



## WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

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

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