



Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

September 2008

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



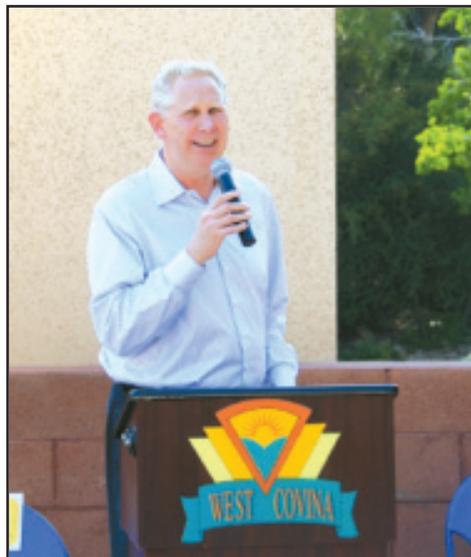
WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

NEW SHOPPING CENTER TAKES WEST COVINA TO NEW 'HEIGHTS'

Preceded by months of anticipation, The Heights at West Covina recently held its official grand opening ceremony on July 16. The Heights development is a new 330,000-square-foot shopping center located just south of the new Big League Dreams Sports Park.

The center is anchored by Target and Home Depot stores and boasts many other amenities, such as Staples and PetSmart, that add to this thriving community.

Customers gather at the food court for delectable smoothies from Jamba Juice, Verizon "Go Wireless" for their wireless needs, gourmet Chinese food from Panda Express, warm pizza from Round Table and tasty sandwiches from Quiznos. In addition, the center



Douglas Gray, president of West Covina Heights LLC, at the grand opening of The Heights at West Covina on July 16.

offers El Pollo Loco, Wendy's, a drive-thru Starbucks, Chronic Taco and Wells Fargo Bank.

The center anticipates the October opening of one of Southern California's first Ruby Tuesday restaurants. An American casual sit-down restaurant, Ruby Tuesday is committed to quality and freshness featuring 100 percent USDA choice or prime ground beef for the restaurant's signature handcrafted burgers and seasonally ripe vegetables for its bountiful fresh garden bar. The friendly staff at Ruby Tuesday and the five-star ambiance are sure to make any dining experience a delightful one.

This center has brought numerous shopping and employment opportunities to enrich the lives of those in this community.

Cameron Community Center Programs

1305 E. Cameron Ave., West Covina • (626) 919-6966

Teen Pool Tournament: Friday, Sept. 19 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. This fun-filled event is for teens ages 13 to 17. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of first and second place. Space is limited to the first 16 participants, so sign up now. A \$2 participation fee is required.

Teen Thrill & Chill: Every third Friday of the month beginning Sept. 19, the Cameron Community Center will be open exclusively to teens 13 to 17 years old from 6 to 9 p.m. 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.



JOIN IN GRAND OPENING OF CITRUS GROVE CENTER

One of West Covina's newest commercial retail centers, The Citrus Grove, located at 2500 E. Workman Ave., will host its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, Sept 8 at 1 p.m.

This new first-class retail center is a result of the West Covina City Council's vision to remove the formerly blighted strip mall that had become an eyesore to the community.

In the City's efforts to redevelop the site, the Community Development Commission approved a Disposition and Development Agreement with The McIntyre Company in 2004 for a two-phased development: Phase I consisted of the Nissan dealership, which has been open since January 2007, and Phase II is the recently completed 35,346-square-foot commercial retail center.

Construction for The Citrus Grove Phase II commenced July 2007 and over the past year, the McIntyre Company and the City have been working diligently toward its opening.

The center features a contemporary architectural style with El Dorado stone veneer, cornice moldings and a semicircular tower that serves as an aesthetic focal point.

Additionally, the center has received attention for its

outstanding artwork for the "Art in Public Places" program. The bronze sculpture piece titled "Celebrating Old Glory" can be seen along Citrus Street and depicts children playing on a rock while a boy prepares to plant the American flag.

Tenants open for business have already started to draw customers. The first to open was West Covina's very first Vitamin Shoppe, offering health-conscious customers a wide selection of vitamin, nutrition and alternative health supplements. T-Mobile, adjacent to the Vitamin Shoppe, has opened its third location in the city.

Most recently, Dalia's has started baking gourmet pizzas out of its first West Covina location, which will also cater to those with a sweet tooth by offering gelato ice creams.

Additional tenants at the center will include Blendz, a smoothie and salad shop; Cherry Blossom Nail Spa; 1st Financial Credit Union; and Jug and Jigger II.

The private/public partnership efforts between the City of West Covina and the McIntyre Company have turned a former eyesore into a first-class development. The City of West Covina is excited to open this new development to the City and improve the lives of many of its residents.

'WEST COVINA DAY' AT L.A. COUNTY FAIR

Where does West Covina find its fun? On Thursday, Sept. 25, the Fair is where!

With a community parade, a "Community Hero" presentation and evening entertainment featuring The Skinny Little Twits, we're sure you'll find the fun that's right for you.

Save up to \$24 on L.A. County Fair admission with the "2 for 1" discount card printed below (they are also available at the West Covina Chamber of Commerce and West Covina City Hall).

We'll see you at the Fair! Visit lacountyfair.com for your fun guide.



**Save up to \$24
on Fair Admission**

**West Covina Day at the Fair
Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008**

**Exclusive Offer for
West Covina Residents,
Families and Friends**

**Buy One Fair Adult Admission,
Get One FREE!**

**West Covina
Day**

Present this discount card on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008 and receive one FREE Fair admission when you buy one Fair adult admission at the regular price. Limit two free admissions per card.

**L.A. COUNTY
FAIR**
Sept. 5 - 28, 2008

GALSTER PARK NATURE CENTER

1620 Aroma Drive, West Covina • (626) 919-0715

“Poisonous Plants, Injurious Insects and Venomous Vertebrates”

Sept. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. Is Galster Wilderness dangerous for humans? Dispel myths about rattlesnakes, poison oak, stinging nettle, poodledog bush, scorpions, spiders, bees, and ants. Learn to identify potentially dangerous plants, learn about snake behavior, and discover the complex social structure of other insects! FREE



“Keep Your Hometown Green” - Thursday mornings by appointment; call (626) 919-0715 or e-mail zooetta@yahoo.com. A free program for youth, teen, family and senior groups. Perfect for a class field trip! Includes a tour of the Galster Nature Center, a slide show, a hike through the black walnut woodland, and a short lecture on local plants, animals, conservation and the Tongva tribe people. Bring a picnic lunch.

YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE

Running a little short on funds to pay for recreation classes, programs or sports? The City of West Covina Community Services Department can help provide financial assistance for West Covina resident youth to participate in recreation programs. Call Monika Wilson at (626) 939-8496, Monday through Thursday, for additional information.

CAMERON COMMUNITY CENTER

FALL 2008 Co-ED YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Brought to you by the City of West Covina

Program Information:

This Co-Ed volleyball league is designed for players from beginning to advanced and will provide everyone an opportunity to have fun while learning to play volleyball. Participants will practice once weekly and play games on Friday evenings. All games and practices will be held at Cameron Community Center.

Program goals:

1. Emphasize skill development of passing, setting, and serving.
2. Teach the rules and fundamentals of offensive and defensive play.
3. Each week participants will experience instructional skill development through organized practices and actual match play.
4. Teach each participant the skills necessary to become more prepared for team play.
5. Teach each participant the values of sportsmanship.

Dates: September 2nd - October 24th 2008

Ages: 10 - 14 Years Old

Fee: \$60 per participant (fee includes a team shirt)

Registration: July 28th - August 27th

All registration is taken at the Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave.
For more information please contact Mike Cresap (626)919-6966 or (626)917-7053

PROTECT YOURSELF AND LOVED ONES DURING EXTREME HEAT

During extremely hot weather, take advantage of the air-conditioned Westfield Shoppingtown. You can also stay cool by visiting the County Library, 1601 West Covina Parkway, or the West Covina Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

The West Covina Fire Department offers these tips on how to deal with the extreme heat of the summer.

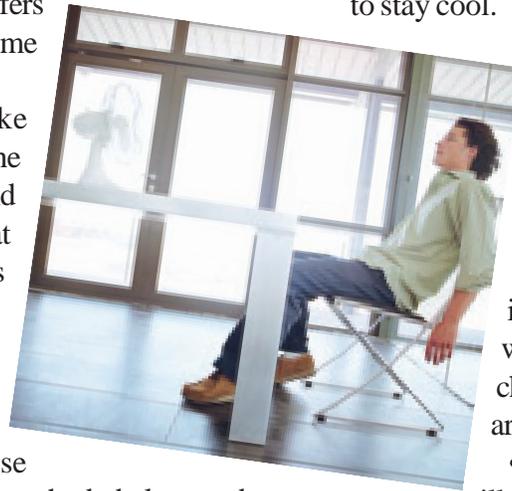
If you plan to go outdoors, take precautions to protect yourself from the heat. Insufficient water or salt intake and a deficiency in the production of sweat cause heat exhaustion. Symptoms include dizziness, fatigue, faintness, headaches, pale and clammy skin, rapid and weak pulse, fast and shallow breathing, muscle cramps and increased thirst. Individuals with these symptoms should be moved to a cooler, shaded place and given water or sport drinks.

More severe symptoms - such as disorientation, pale and clammy skin, a rapid and weak pulse, and fast and shallow breathing - may indicate heat exhaustion or impending heat stroke and require immediate medical attention by dialing 911.

Health department officials recommend several ways to manage the heat:

- Wear light, loose-fitting clothing.

- Drink water often; don't wait until you are thirsty.
- Offer assistance to shut-ins in your neighborhood; check on them frequently during hot weather.
- During peak heat hours, stay in an air-conditioned area. If you don't have access to air conditioning in your home, visit public facilities such as shopping malls, parks and libraries to stay cool.



- Avoid unnecessary exertion if you are outside or in a building with no air conditioning.

- Avoid unnecessary sun exposure. When in the sun, wear a hat, preferably with a wide brim.

- If you know seniors or people whose immune and respiratory systems are not working properly or who live alone, check on them regularly to make sure they are staying cool.

- An early warning sign of heat-related illnesses is diminished judgment. The use

of the buddy system is important in all situations. Check on seniors frequently.

- Never leave children, elderly people or pets unattended in closed cars or other vehicles, since temperatures can quickly rise to life-threatening levels.

The County of Los Angeles has several cooling centers available for seniors or those looking for a place to beat the heat. A list of these centers can be found online at <http://www.ladcss.org/>.

Need a Passport?

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

Passport application acceptance hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and closed Friday through Sunday.

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 passport application information, go to the City Clerk's Office, call the City of West Covina passport information line at (626) 939-8744, visit the City of West Covina Web site at www.westcovina.org or visit the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs Web site at www.travel.state.gov.

The West Covina City Clerk's Office has been designated by the U.S. Department of State as a Passport Application Acceptance Facility since 2003.



EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

With the recent events of the Chino Hills 5.4-magnitude earthquake fresh in our minds, it might be beneficial to review some of the protective actions we should all be taking during and immediately after the shaking.

STEPS 1, 2 AND 3

Remember these three steps, “DUCK, COVER AND HOLD!” Despite what you may have read in some e-mails circulated recently, for California, this is your best protective measure. Make sure you are away from glass that may break or unsupported tall furniture, then:

DUCK

DUCK or DROP down on the floor. Get your head lower than the surrounding furniture.

COVER

Take COVER under a sturdy desk,

table or other furniture. If that is not possible, seek cover against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. Avoid danger spots near windows, hanging objects, mirrors or tall furniture.

HOLD

If you take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, HOLD onto it, and be prepared to move with it. Hold the position until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to move.

The whole idea behind DUCK, COVER and HOLD is to get down low so that furnishings in the room take the brunt of the impact from anything that is falling. Make yourself as small a target as possible. And don’t let that piece of furniture that is protecting your noggin scoot away from you during the shaking.

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

Other than being a great lyric from the rock band The Clash, this is probably the first thought in your head. During the shaking, stay put in your “DUCK, COVER and HOLD” position. But after the shaking, check to see that it is clear to come out of your secure spot. Then, move to the outside.

DIDN'T DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME?

The one thing about earthquakes, we’re always guaranteed more, and we will always have aftershocks. So if you didn’t do the “DUCK, COVER and HOLD” correct the first time, you will get an opportunity to practice.

Share these tips with your family, and get your household earthquake-ready. More information is available from the City’s Web site, www.westcovina.org, and the links provided there.

Well-Groomed Yards Add Value to Neighborhood

Improper maintenance of yards detracts from the appearance of our neighborhoods. Keeping your property in good condition helps to maintain the value and integrity of your home as well as the other properties in the neighborhood.

Lawns should be mowed regularly and kept in good condition. Dead, decayed or diseased trees should be removed, and trees, hedges and shrubs should be trimmed as needed.

Remove or discard unwanted items on residential properties. Do not store trash, vegetation, building materials or other unwanted materials in



the front or side yard for more than 24 hours. The City does allow the storage of some material for up to 10 days if it is screened from public view.

If all residents do their part to properly maintaining their lawns and other vegetation and disposing unsightly trash and other unwanted materials, we can continue to preserve the beauty of the community and enhance the value of our properties.

If you have any questions or concerns about this issue or other unsightly or potentially hazardous conditions, call the City’s Community Enhancement section at (626) 939-8426.



Kick-off event Aug. 3 at Target at The Heights



Sunset Gardens Apartments manager
Patty Fors and Erica Taylor of WCPD



Cpl. Dan Nalian and Lt. Ron Mitchell
visit with some new friends.



West Covina Police Explorers at National Night Out



Dan Nalian, Roberta
Azpetia and Donna
Leonard of the
West Covina Police
Department.

West Nile Virus Alert

We are approaching a season when West Nile Virus is of highest concern. In 2004, when there was a West Nile problem here, 80 percent of the cases took place after July. The highest incidents occurred in August, September and October.

Following the 2004 outbreak, the virus moved to Northern California, but it has now returned to this area.

In Los Angeles County, 12 WNV human cases have been reported, 99 dead birds have been reported, along with three dead sentinel chickens and 132 mosquito samples.

The culprits are wild birds, which do not have any protected immunity from the disease, so their lower immunity results in an increased outbreak of the virus.

An epidemic can be anticipated based on the increase in dead birds because the virus is first detected in the birds, before it is later found in humans.

Approximately 20 percent of human cases carry symptoms, such as fever, headache, fatigue, rash, and symptoms can last up to a month.

About one in every 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. Severe symptoms include high fever, disorientation, coma, convulsions, vision loss, paralysis, and these severe symptoms can last for weeks.

Make sure all of your windows have screens on them, and if you go outside at night, wear protective clothing, such as long-sleeved shirts and pants. Apply mosquito repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

If you learn of standing water in swimming pools that are not properly maintained, ask for assistance from the Fire Department, Police and Public Works. It is crucial that residents report any neglected pools – the culprits for attracting mosquitoes – to the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District at (626) 814-9466.



WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

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