



Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

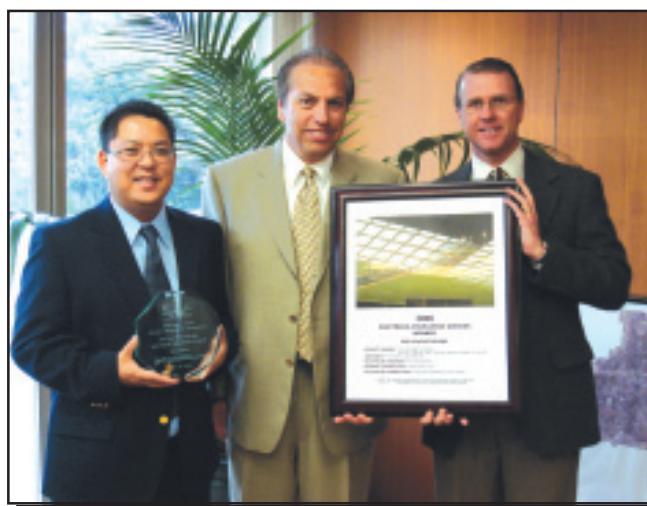
BIG LEAGUE DREAMS & THE HEIGHTS AT WEST COVINA HONORED WITH AWARD

On May 21, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) presented the City of West Covina with the “2008 Compass Blueprint Achievement Award.”

“Southern California Association of Governments is proud to present to the City of West Covina the 2008 Compass Blueprint Achievement Award in Sustainability for the West Covina Commercial Center and BLD Sportsplex Project,” SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhrata said. “The Compass Blueprint Awards are presented for projects that demonstrate excellence in planning, design and, most importantly, work toward improving the mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability of our region.”

“The West Covina Commercial Center (The Heights) and BLD Sportsplex Project has demonstrated all aspects by

transforming a former landfill site into a landmark project with open space, recreational activities, retail shops and pro-



L-r: Community Development Commission Director Chris Chung; City Manager Andrew Pasmant; and Public Works Director/City Engineer Shannon Yauchzee.

fessional offices. SCAG recognizes West Covina’s achievement with this award,” Ikhrata added.

West Covina City Manager Andrew G. Pasmant commented on the city’s

achievement.

“The City of West Covina is honored to receive this award,” Pasmant said.

“The transformation of the landfill into a landmark development was a tremendous undertaking by the City, as it involved a 583-acre contaminated property with a multitude of barriers that needed to be overcome.”

“But with the City Council’s vision and foresight of what the City can achieve for the greater good for the community, the landfill has evolved into an exciting new development that offers commercial and recreational opportunities for the residents and the Southern California region,” he added. “The

City of West Covina very much appreciates SCAG’s recognition of our achievements to transform the former BKK landfill, which has been a long-term eyesore, into a landmark development.”

SECOND AWARD FOR BLD

The Big League Dreams project has received an award for “Outdoor Lighting over \$500K in Value.” This award was given by the Los Angeles chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association.

The awards committee took into account these factors: design, complexity, aesthetics, functionality and community impact. This year, West Covina’s Big League Dreams facility came out on top!

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

NOGALES STUDENT'S ARTWORK ON DISPLAY IN NATION'S CAPITOL



Nogales High School senior Nika Banzeula won first place in the Congressional Art Competition with her artwork titled, "Unbound."

She received a \$1,500 scholarship from Congresswoman Hilda Solis and a \$3,000 scholarship from Savannah College of Art & Design.

"This year's art competition broke an all-time record with more than 250 entries from 18 high schools from across East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley," Solis said. "As a member of Congress, I support the artistic talents of our local youth, and I thank them for sharing their gifts with everyone."

Nika and two guardians will be flown to Washington, D.C. for a national reception and to view her artwork on display in the nation's Capitol, which 3 million to 5 million people visit each year. The artwork will be displayed there for a full year.

South Hills Wins World Championship

This spring, the South Hills High School Percussion Ensemble traveled to Dayton, Ohio to participate in the WGI Percussion World Championships for the first time.

More than 40 groups from across the country competed in the Scholastic A division. South Hills was the only high school from California competing in this division.

The ensemble performed its show titled, "Crush" and received a score of 97.20, which was the highest score ever awarded to a group in this division

in WGI Percussion World Championship history. South Hills succeeded in outscoring last year's gold medal winner, Greenfield Central High School from Greenfield, Ind.



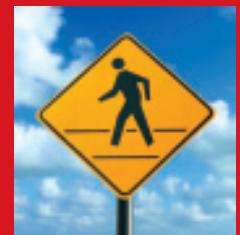
The ensemble

also competed in the Southern California Percussion Alliance Championships and won the gold in its division for the second year in a row. The South Hills Percussion Ensemble has only been in existence for two years, so these were tremendous accomplishments.

Way to go, percussion ensemble – you make West Covina proud!

NEW CROSSWALK TO BE INSTALLED NEAR HERITAGE PARK SENIOR APARTMENTS

The West Covina City Council has awarded a contract to install a lighted crosswalk on Badillo



Street west of Orange Avenue adjacent to the Heritage Park Senior Apartment complex.

Republic ITS, Incorporated will be performing the work that will consist of installing new overhead poles with flashing beacons, in-roadway flashing lights, pedestrian push buttons with audio message and signs.

For more information, call the City of West Covina Public Works Department at (626) 939-8458.

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

City's Graffiti Team Makes 500th Arrest

In less than three years, the West Covina Police Department's Graffiti Abatement Team (GAT) has made more than 500 arrests for graffiti crimes – a notable enforcement increase and successful milestone.

These arrests include well-organized felony graffiti crimes, in which several suspects had cased locations beforehand and used "lookouts" to try to avoid detection. Each arrest results in the prevention of further vandalism and graffiti.

The West Covina Police Department created GAT in 2005, using no additional resources, but, rather, assigning police officers internally to save costs.



Unlike some other cities, having a team of officers dedicated exclusively to graffiti enforcement gives West Covina an edge. The four veteran officers selected to work on the GAT team have experi-

ence in undercover work, gang enforcement and high-profile investigations – it is that experience, coupled with the officers' enthusiasm and dedication to their mission, that makes this team a success.

The City of West Covina has a "zero tolerance" policy, as all graffiti vandals are prosecuted under the full extent of the law. In its efforts to combat graffiti, the City currently utilizes technology including automated enforcement cameras, and the police department is exploring new options, including computerized graffiti-tracking software.

CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING:

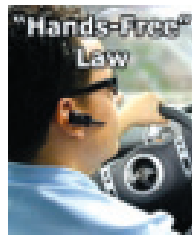
What You Need to Know About New Laws

New laws concerning the use of cell phones while driving go into effect July 1. The California Highway Patrol offers these answers to some of the most frequently asked questions:

What is the difference between the two laws?

The first law prohibits all drivers from using a handheld wireless phone while operating a motor vehicle. Motorists 18 and over may use a hands-free device.

The second law prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless phone or a hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle.



What are the fines if I'm convicted?

The base fine is \$20 for the first offense and \$50 for subsequent convictions.

Will the conviction appear on my driving record?

Yes, but the violation point will not be added.

You are cordially invited!

SISTER CITIES WEST COVINA,
CALIFORNIA AND OHTAWARA, JAPAN
AND THE EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.
PRESENT

Kakehashi Gala:

BUILDING BRIDGES OF
UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008

BIG LEAGUE DREAMS

2100 S. AZUSA AVE.

WEST COVINA, CA 91792

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

5:30 P.M. RECEPTION AND SILENT AUCTION

6:30 P.M. DINNER AND PROGRAM

Call (626) 960-2566 or

e-mail Gala2008@esgvjcc.org

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

DIGITAL TV ON ITS WAY:

PREPARE FOR THE SWITCH TO GET THE PICTURE

Big changes are currently taking place in television broadcasting. All full-power television stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog and continue broadcasting in digital only. This is known as the DTV transition.

Some consumers are asking why they need to switch. First, all-digital broadcasting will give needed communications channels to police, fire and emergency rescue personnel. It will also allow for new wireless services for consumers.

In addition, since

digital is more efficient than analog, it allows stations to broadcast several programs at the same time, instead of just one program with analog. This means broadcasters can offer consumers more choices. Digital also allows broadcasters to offer improved



picture and sound quality, including high-definition (HDTV) programming.

If you currently receive over-the-air programming on an analog television using a broadcast antenna, either through "rabbit ears" on your set or an antenna on

your roof, you will only need a digital-to-analog converter box to continue watching broadcast television.

To help defray the cost of digital-to-analog converter boxes, each U.S. household

It is important to know that the end of analog broadcasting does not mean that consumers must purchase new TVs

can request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of eligible boxes. For more information on the coupon program and additional information on these changes, call the FCC at (888) 225-5322, TTY: (888) 835-5322, or visit the DTV Web site at www.dtv.gov.

PASSPORT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL

U.S. passport application services are available through the City Clerk's Office at West Covina City Hall. West Covina offers one-stop service and assistance in filing applications by personnel trained in passport application procedures. Passport photos are also available at just \$10 per set.

All citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda are now required to present a valid passport when entering the United States at any airport as of Jan. 23, 2007.

New regulations for passports for travel by sea and land

border crossings are expected this summer, so demand for passports will be increasing.

The City Clerk's Office is open for passport application service Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office is located at 1444 W. Garvey Ave. No appointments are necessary; the City Clerk's Office offers walk-in service.

For the most up-to-date and accurate information, visit the Department of State's Web site at www.travel.state.gov, or call the City of West Covina's passport hotline, (626) 939-8744, for a recorded message.



NOGALES WINS NATIONAL SOLAR CUP BOAT COMPETITION

Congratulations are in order to the Nogales High School team of students led by physics teacher Ezekiel Chavez for sailing to first place in the nation's largest solar boat competition.

Nogales' Boat #16 scored 928 points out of a possible 1,000. The Nogales team received perfect scores for its technical reports, visual display and endurance competition.



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

NOGALES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MAKE IT TO FINALS COMPETING WITH STUDENTS FROM 15 COUNTRIES!



Dressed as a colorful cast of characters, the Nogales team conducted a scientific investigation of the curse of the Egyptian pharaoh, Amun-Ra.

Imagine 200,000 students from around the globe competing in the world's largest critical-thinking and creative problem-solving competition.

More than 7,000 students from 15 countries attended "Destination ImagiNation," held at the University of Tennessee.

This event involves student teams working together to show how innovative and creative they can be solving fun-filled physical and mental challenges.

Categories included dramatic skills; technical elements, such as art and design; science and engineering concepts; and presentation skills.

The Nogales team, "Pharaoh-Mones," earned the distinction of being the first Noble team to compete in the Global Finals!

Wheelchair Ramps To Be Installed at 36 Locations

The West Covina City Council approved the award of a contract with International Pavement Solutions, Inc. of Mentone to install wheelchair ramps at 36 locations throughout West Covina based on accessibility needs.



The project will also consist of the removal of existing concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk at 28 locations.

The city repairs damaged curb, gutter and driveway aprons in an effort to maintain its infrastructure at locations that have been damaged by extensive wear, subgrade settlement or tree roots.

The project work has begun and should take approximately nine weeks to complete. For a complete list of the locations, visit the city's Web site at www.westcovina.org.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STREET SWEEPING

Sweeping city streets is an important part of keeping them clean from debris and preventing pollutants from entering the storm drain and eventually ending up in the river basin that washes out to the ocean.

The City of West Covina contracts with Nationwide Environmental Sweeping Company to sweep its 420 miles of streets. Residential streets are swept twice a month, major arterial streets are swept twice a week and alleys are swept once a month.

Street sweeping is coordinated with the city's trash collection. Streets are swept the day following trash day, and if the trash collection day is Friday, the streets are swept on Monday. If there is a holiday during the week, both the trash collection and the street sweeping are pushed back a day.

Residents are encouraged to keep the curb area in front of their homes free from obstacles and parked cars during the days of scheduled street sweeping. For more information or if you have concerns regarding street sweeping, call the City of West Covina Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department at (626) 939-8458.



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

SHOP Volunteers Receive Awards

The City of West Covina SHOP program ("Seniors Helping Our Police") allows senior citizens to channel their energy back into the community by performing non-hazardous public safety duties on a volunteer basis, providing support to police officers.



The program is a recipient of awards from the Foundation for Improvement of Justice and the American Society for Public Administration. At a recent regional awards luncheon, many veteran SHOP volunteers received Presidential Volunteer Service Awards for their demonstrated commitment to volunteer service and pins representing different levels of hours committed.

Volunteers Ed Bacon, Floyd Crowell, Gene Huber and Willie Vogel received gold pins. Volunteers Ray Bulthuis, Michael Francis, Joan Gaudreau, Howard Leech, Bob Munoz and Julie Shepherd received silver pins. Finally, volunteers Bill Watson, Ron Ray, Nick Ramirez, Betty Parnell, Billy Menegel, Paul Doucette, Lucille Brink and Ruth Weir received bronze pins.

West Covina remains a leader in senior police volunteer service in the San Gabriel Valley.

Presently, the 30 SHOP volunteers work two-person field teams each day, seven days

a week, handling traffic control at collision sites, writing parking citations, delivering legal documents, conducting vacation house checks, locating abandoned vehicles and other tasks. Instead of being trained by sworn officers, veteran SHOP personnel teach the new volunteers, making the training largely self-sufficient.

The SHOP program is a vital part of the public safety effort in West Covina. So if you're over age 55, in good physical condition, possess a valid

California driver's license and are willing to put in a minimum of four hours of volunteer service per week, contact Lt.

Marcos Plebani at (626) 939-8500 for more

information on the SHOP program.

Since the program's inception in 1993, SHOP personnel volunteered a total of more than 180,000 hours, saving the city more than \$4 million!

West Covina Resident on Brochures Nationwide

Have you walked into a Bank of America recently, picked up a brochure and thought to yourself, "That face looks familiar?"

Well, you were right. That familiar face happens to be Tyra Mason, a longtime West Covina resident.

Most known, and regularly seen, for her involvement with the West Covina Farmer's Market, Mason is an active member of the Lions Club and serves on the West Covina Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Mason's professional goal is to serve as a spokesperson, with hopes

to gain roles in the film industry, doing commercials and voice-overs. To that end, Mason had an audition for a modeling job when professional photographer Rob Lewine saw more than just a pretty face. Knowing the amount of time he would be spending on his photo shoot, he was looking for models with a vibrant personality whom he could work best with. So, to no surprise, Mason was selected.

When Bank of America saw the

photo, they requested it for use as part of their national marketing campaign. So, a local West Covina resident is now being seen across the United States, from California to the East Coast!

When asked how she felt about having her photograph on brochures across America, Mason said, "I was absolutely elated when I learned that my photo was selected out of hundreds of people, and someone liked my face!"

Congratulations, Tyra! The West Covina community is proud of you!



SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

West Covina Fire Chief Paul Segalla would like to remind you to protect yourself, your family and your home from a potential fire during or after a summer storm.

Every year, Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries caused by fireworks and outdoor grills.

Annually, more than 8,000 Americans are injured by fireworks and grill fires. More than half these injuries occur during the first week of July.

Outdoor grills cause more than 6,000 fires, more than five fatalities, more than 170 injuries and \$35 million in property loss. Gas grills alone cause more than 2,700 fires, 80 injuries and \$11 million dollars in damage. Most of the gas grill fires and explosions were caused by gas leaks, blocked tubes and overfilled propane tanks.

In addition to outdoor cooking, improper use of fireworks causes more than 6,000 fires and more than \$8 million in damage.

Families who enjoy camping in the summer should remember to follow the park's rules for use and extinguishing of campfires.

Summertime should be a time for fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

FIREWORKS SAFETY

- The best way to enjoy fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays put on by professionals who know how to safely handle fireworks.
- If you plan to use fireworks, make

sure they are legal in your area.

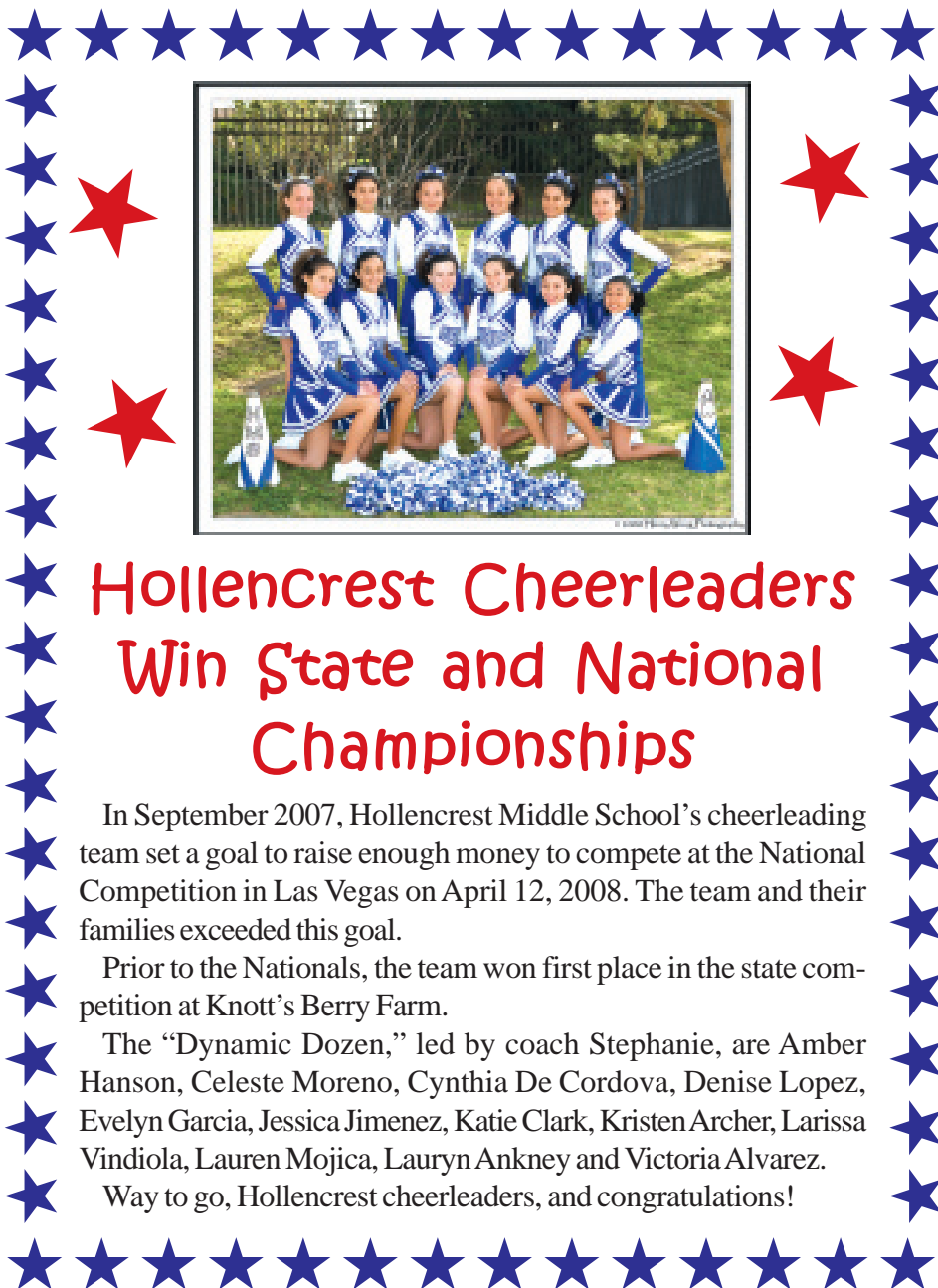
- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Always have a bucket of water or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.
- Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
- Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do

not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.

- Always read the directions and warning labels on fireworks. If a device is not marked with the contents, directions and a warning label, do not light it.

- Supervise children around fireworks at all times.

Look for Part 2 of this article in next month's issue of Discover, when we address barbecue and campfire safety.



Hollencrest Cheerleaders Win State and National Championships

In September 2007, Hollencrest Middle School's cheerleading team set a goal to raise enough money to compete at the National Competition in Las Vegas on April 12, 2008. The team and their families exceeded this goal.

Prior to the Nationals, the team won first place in the state competition at Knott's Berry Farm.

The "Dynamic Dozen," led by coach Stephanie, are Amber Hanson, Celeste Moreno, Cynthia De Cordova, Denise Lopez, Evelyn Garcia, Jessica Jimenez, Katie Clark, Kristen Archer, Larissa Vindiola, Lauren Mojica, Lauryn Ankney and Victoria Alvarez.

Way to go, Hollencrest cheerleaders, and congratulations!

STREET LIGHTS: WHOM SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

Street lights are owned and maintained by Southern California Edison (SCE). You may contact SCE by phone at (800) 611-1911 or online at www.sce.com/forms/ReportStreetLightOutage.aspx. Reporting the pole number often expedites the repair.

SCE thanks you for your concern about the well-being and safety of the West Covina community.



A GOOD NIGHT TO GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 25TH ANNIVERSARY
 Sunday, Aug. 3, 2008
 Target is proud to support National Night Out. It's just one of the ways we are helping to build stronger, safer communities.

For more information, visit nationalnightout.org

Kick-Off Party:
 Sunday, Aug. 3, 2008
 Target at
 2370 S. Azusa Ave.
 West Covina, CA 91792

SPONSORED BY




Note: In Texas, NNO will be held on October 7.
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SOUTH HILLS BASEBALL LOOKING GOOD

The South Hills High School baseball team is the 2008 CIF Division III Runner-Up.



The team also won the San Antonio League for the sixth consecutive time – a league record. In league play, the team had 10 wins and two losses and an overall record of 23 wins and six losses.

JUNE 23 THROUGH AUG. 22 –
 Summer Lunch Program at Orangewood Park, 1615 W. Merced Ave., Monday to Friday, noon to 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 3 TO SATURDAY, JULY 5 –
 Independence Day Celebration at Edgewood Middle School, 1625 W. Durness St. .



JULY 10 TO AUG. 28 –
 Summer Concerts at The Lakes Entertainment Center, 1200 Lakes Drive, every Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m.

JULY 15 TO AUG. 19 –
 Movies in the Park at West Covina Civic Center, 1444 W. Garvey Ave., every Tuesday, 8 to 10 p.m.

For more information on these events, call (626) 939-8430 or visit the City's Web site, www.westcovina.org, and select "Community Events" for the latest "Community Recreation Guide."



WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

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

City of West Covina
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