

June 2008

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



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Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA



YOU ARE INVITED:

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION!



Come on down for a free fireworks show to celebrate Independence Day. The celebration will take place over three days, from July 3rd to July 5th at

Edgewood Middle School, located at 1625 W. Durness St. in West Covina, the site of last year's celebration.

The event, presented by the West Covina Elks to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, will include a carnival with rides, games, food and entertainment.

Festivities on July 4 include a 5k walk/run and a pancake breakfast. Then, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on the evening of July 4, entertainment will include live music and skydivers who will perform aerial stunts, followed by the free fireworks show.

A variety of food and beverages will be available for sale from local nonprofit/local organizations and high

school booster clubs. Residents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy this outdoor show.

For more information, call the City of West Covina Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430. To donate prizes, call John Hughes at (626) 338-9516.



'WALK OF FAME' AT BIG LEAGUE DREAMS

The West Covina City Council in April approved the creation of a Walk of Fame inside the Big League Dreams Sportsplex to honor West Covina athletes, coaches and sports group volunteers who have made significant contributions to make West Covina a better place to live, work and play.

The Walk of Fame will include bronze plaques that will be inserted into the concrete walkways that transverse the

Big League Dreams facility.

Nominations will be considered for individuals who are currently in, or have previously participated in, any athletic program – such as baseball, softball, golf, football, track and field, etc. – as an athlete, coach or volunteer. Nominees must have represented West Covina in local, collegiate, national and/or international competition, as well as volunteered their time to better the

sports community for fans and players of all ages to enjoy.

The Walk of Fame Committee will evaluate the nomination applications and select the top candidates to be honored at a dedication ceremony this summer.

For a Walk of Fame application or more information, visit the City's Web site at www.westcovina.org or call (626) 939-8401.

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

POOL SAFETY TIPS FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Too often, firefighters hear people say, "It was just a few seconds." Unfortunately, just a few seconds is all it takes for a child to drown. Drowning is the leading cause of death in California for children under the age of 5.

Most of these children drown in their own backyard swimming pools, but others drown in buckets, bathtubs, toilets, dog water bowls, canals and ponds. Small children are top-heavy, and they don't have the upper body strength to lift themselves out of one of these dangerous situations. Even if children survive these incidents, they are often left with permanent brain damage.

Drownings and near-drownings can be prevented, and you can help! Any-

one involved with the supervision of children needs to be aware of the dangers associated with any body of water. Here are some useful tips to prevent these needless tragedies:

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Use an approved barrier to separate the pool from the house.
- Never allow children to be alone near a pool or any water source.
- Have life-saving devices near the pool, such as a pole/hook or a flotation device.
- Keep large objects such as tables, chairs, toys and ladders away from pool fences.
- Post the 9-1-1 number on the phone.

• Do not allow children to play around the pool, and store all toys outside the pool area.

• If you leave the pool area, take the children with you.

• Always have a "designated child watcher."

• Learn to swim.

• Never swim alone or while under the influence of alcohol or medications.

• Never swim when thunder or lightning is present.

• Never dive into unfamiliar or shallow bodies of water.

For more information, call the West Covina Fire Department at (626) 338-8800.

Be a Responsible Pool Owner

With summer just around the corner, the City of West Covina Public Works Department would like to remind pool owners how to take proper steps for preparing residential swimming pools.



DRAINING A POOL

In order to remain in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations and other City and County requirements, remember not to allow any swimming pool drainage onto the street or the storm drain system nor into a sewer manhole.

VACATED POOLS

There are specific requirements for filling in, or covering over a swimming pool the owner no longer wants:

- 1) A permit is required.
- 2) Break open six evenly spaced,

one-foot squares of concrete at the bottom of the pool to show dirt. This will allow for water seepage.

3) Remove the first two feet of plaster from the top of the pool.

4) Call (626) 814-8415 for an inspection to ensure everything

was done properly.

5) Fill the pool. (If any future addition is going to be placed in this area, it is strongly advised that the dirt be compacted.)

FENCING AND PROPER ENCLOSURE

Pool owners should be aware of regulations concerning fencing and proper enclosure. A substantial, permanent fence is required to completely surround any and every pool or spa over 18 inches deep.

The State Swimming Pool Safety Act further requires that "Any pool for a single-family dwelling shall be equipped with at least one of the following safety features: a pool enclosure, an approved safety pool cover, exit alarms on doors leading to pool, or self-closing and latching doors leading to the pool." (Health and Safety Code Art. 2.5, Section 115920).

2007 STATE LAW

State law that went into effect in 2007 requires the installation of an anti-entrapment cover on the suction outlet of all pools and spas (Health and Safety Code Art. 2.5, Section 115928). To view the full text of this new law, visit the State of California Web site at www.leginfo.ca.gov.

For a detailed diagram and more information, call the West Covina Public Works Department, (626) 939-8425.

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

WEST COVINA CELEBRATES PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

The City of West Covina last month honored the men and women of the City's Public Works Department who strive to keep city roads, parks and neighborhoods clean and safe.

During National Public Works Week held May 18 to 24, the City took extra effort to increase public awareness about the duties, practices and goals of public works professionals.

Public works professionals include those individuals who work in the building, engineering and maintenance divisions. These are the people who provide community enhancement, development services and infrastructure maintenance that are vital to the community's health, safety and comfort.



Above: A public works maintenance crew installs a handicap ramp.



EARTH DAY 2008 EVENT

The City of West Covina celebrated Earth Day 2008 on April 19. The annual event included displays and demonstrations showing how we can all make a difference in protecting and preserving our natural resources.

More than 13 vendors from different environmental and conservation agencies participated in the annual event. Participants included the West Covina Home Depot, Athens Services, KCJ Racing, Opossum Society and the Galster Park Nature Center.

Left: Two young Earth Day attendees examine some skulls at the City of West Covina's Earth Day event held April 19.



NOGALES HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

Wins First Place!

The Nogales High School basketball team, led by coach Richard Roper, won the San Antonio League Championships and was the 2008 CIF quarterfinalist for the region.

The team was recognized recently at a West Covina City Council meeting.

"Everyone in our program, from the coaches to the players, dedicated an unbelievable amount of time and effort," Roper said. "We accomplished some great things on a very special journey. We are a close-knit family, and being a part of this family is something we will all cherish the rest of our lives."

Congratulations to the entire basketball team!



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

ENJOY FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK

Are you looking for something fun for all ages to do with the entire family? If so, bring your blankets and enjoy a summer evening outdoors under the stars with your family and friends as you enjoy a free movie.

The Community Services Department shows "Movies in the Park" every Tuesday evening from July 15 through Aug. 19, from dusk (8:00 p.m.) to 10:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Courtyard, 1444 W. Garvey Ave. Snacks will be available for purchase, provided by the West Covina Youth Council.

The following films will be shown:

- 🎬 **July 15 – "Shrek the Third"**
- 🎬 **July 22 – "Surf's Up"**
- 🎬 **July 29 – "The Little Rascals"**
- 🎬 **Aug. 5 – "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"**
- 🎬 **Aug. 12 – "Charlotte's Web"**



- 🎬 **Aug. 19 – "Bee Movie"**

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

PARK & FACILITY RENTALS • (626) 939-8430

Planning a family gathering this summer and need somewhere to hold it?

The City of West Covina Community Services Department has several parks and three community centers available for private use. Each location has a different capacity, ensuring your ability to find the right size at the right price.

Cameron Community Center boasts beautiful room accommodations, including a large kitchen and a gymna-

sium with two full courts.

Guests have successfully hosted wedding receptions, birthday parties, bridal showers, anniversaries and special events at all of the City's rental facilities.

Call for availability. Reservation applications can be submitted up to one year in advance.

For details on Shadow Oak or Cameron community centers, call (626) 919-6966. For details on the

Senior Citizen's Center, call (626) 331-5366. For details on park rentals, call (626) 939-8430.

- **Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave.** - Capacity: 110. Hours of use: Up to 10:00 p.m.
- **Shadow Oak Center, 2121 E. Shadow Oak Drive** - Capacity: 220. Hours of use: Up to midnight.
- **Senior Citizens Center, 2501 E. Cortez St.** - Capacity: 225. Hours of use: Up to midnight.



Free Lunch!

The City of West Covina Community Services Department presents its 2008 Summer Lunch Program at Orangewood Park, 1615 W. Merced Ave. This year's program will run Monday through Friday from June 23 to Aug. 22, with lunch served from noon to 1:00 p.m. (or until food runs out). Any child 18 or younger is eligible to receive a free lunch. For more information or to volunteer, call Community Services at (626) 939-8430 or visit the city's Web site at www.westcovina.org.

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



BUSINESS RECOGNITION DINNER *Celebrates Contributions Toward Thriving Business Climate*

The City of West Covina's Sixth Annual Business Recognition Dinner, held at Hurst Ranch on April 10, celebrated a number of local businesses recognized for their contributions to the outstanding business climate in West Covina.

The event included dinner, musical entertainment and several guest speakers. The highlight was the presenta-

tion of awards recognizing some of the City's most successful providers of commercial, retail and professional services.

The "Mayor's Award" was presented to **The Crazy Horse**, with the "Excellence in Business Award" given to the following companies: **Albertson's, Best Buy, BJ's Restaurant & Brewery, Citrus Valley Health Partners, Norm Reeves Honda Superstore West Covina, Northgate Gonzalez Mar-**



ket, Penske Motorcars Mercedes-Benz, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, South Hills Plaza, Stater Bros., T.G.I. Friday's, Target, The Olson Company, West Covina Nissan and Westfield Corporation, Inc.

The West Covina Chamber of Commerce also presented three awards. The Chamber's "President's Award" went to **South Hills Academy**, the Small Business Award went to **Team Chacon** and the Community Service Award

went to the **Tennant Foundation**.

The guest list featured two speakers who have made their presence known among West Covina's communities and businesses. John H. Semcken III is the vice president of Majestic Realty and co-owner of the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry. Maury Wills is a former major league base-

ball player and currently a youth advocate. Both guests spoke of their personal experiences and expressed their support and admiration of West Covina and its business community.

The purpose of the Annual West Covina Business Recognition Dinner event is to help bridge the gap and develop better relationships among the City, the Chamber of Commerce, legislative representatives and, most importantly, local businesses.

CITY OF WEST COVINA OFFERS VARIETY OF SUMMER PROGRAMS

Looking for something to do in your free time this summer? The City of West Covina offers a wide variety of summer camps and programs throughout the summer.

There are camps and classes for all types of interests, including basketball, baseball, soccer, drawing, academics, science and much more.

For more information on these programs and everything else that is offered throughout the city, log onto www.westcovina.org/events or call the City of West Covina Community Services Department at (626) 939-8430.



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

“WILD WEDNESDAYS” RETURN TO GALSTER PARK NATURE CENTER

West Covina’s popular “Wild Wednesdays” program, an event for the entire family, returns this summer on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at Galster Park, 1620 Aroma Drive, east of Azusa Avenue.

🌸 **June 25 – “Slithering Snakes of the San Jose Hills.”** Learn about our native snakes, meet some live snakes (big ones and little ones), learn about rattlesnake safety, and participate in some cool activities and crafts.

🌸 **July 9 – “Galster Rocks!”** Learn about rocks, minerals and fossils of Galster Park at this geology-themed Wild Wednesday.

🌸 **July 23 – “Creatures of the Night.”** Meet interesting live nocturnal



animals, go for a walk in the walnut woodland, and visit the nature center for fun activities, crafts and more.

🌸 **Aug. 6 – “Tovanger: The World of the Tongva.”** The Tongva, the indigenous people of the Greater Los Angeles area, return to tell their stories

about Tovanger (the world), social organization, technology, religion, language and their ancient villages.

🌸 **Aug. 20 – “West Covina’s Deep Blue Sea.”** Hunt and prepare fossils in Galster Park, learn about prehistoric marine life and participate in activities that reveal the natural history of our community.

🌸 **Sept. 3 – “Poisonous Plants, Injurious Insects, and Venomous Vertebrates.”** Learn to identify potentially dangerous plants, learn about snake behavior and discover the complex social structure of other insects.

All events are free! Register online at www.sgmrc.org/galster or call (626) 335-1771.



Wah-Hoo Swim School

City of West Covina
Municipal Pool
Recreational Swim:
Mon-Thur, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
Swimming Lessons:
See Below
Pool Rentals \$75/hr & up
Call (626) 919-6966
Pool Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
1720 W. Merced Ave.
(626) 960-7266
Recreational Swim Fees:
Adults \$2.30 • Children 17
and Under \$1.50

Wah-Hoo Swim School

brought to you by the
City of West Covina

Wah-Hoo swim instructors teach lessons to ages 6 months to adult. Registration is taken at the West Covina Municipal Pool. Call (626) 960-7266. Wah-Hoo questions? Call Cameron Community Center at (626) 919-6966.

Sessions	Class Dates	Residents Register	Non-Residents Register
Session 1	6/09 - 6/19	6/04	6/05
Session 2	6/23 - 7/03	6/18	6/19
Session 3	7/07 - 7/17	7/02	7/03
Session 4	7/21 - 7/31	7/16	7/17
Session 5	8/04 - 8/14	7/30	7/31
Session 6	8/18 - 8/28	8/13	8/14
Session 7	9/02 - 9/11	8/27	8/28

Sessions 2-6 are offered every half hour from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sessions 1 and 7 are night classes only; call (626) 919-6966 for times.



Private and Semi-Private Lessons Available!

Lesson Fees

Group Lesson: \$31.50

*Private Lesson: \$80

*Semi-Private: \$60

* Based on instructor availability.

Lessons are offered Monday-Thursday for 25 minutes per session.

Fees are subject to change.

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

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS = FREE SUMMER FUN!

Looking for a fun-filled evening outdoors with the entire family during the summer months? Then come on down to the Lakes Entertainment Center on Thursday evenings this summer from July 10 through Aug. 28. Free concerts will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 1200 Lakes Drive in West Covina.

The City of West Covina Community Services Department will host the 2008 Summer Concert Series with a wide variety of music for all ages. The schedule is as follows:

- ♪ **July 10 – Sangria Band (top 40)**
- ♪ **July 17 – Proud Mary (tribute to Tina Turner)**
- ♪ **July 24 – Opa Opa (Latin rock)**
- ♪ **July 31 – The Answer (classic rock)**
- ♪ **Aug. 7 – Chico (top 40)**
- ♪ **Aug. 14 – Cold Duck (classic rock)**
- ♪ **Aug. 21 – Mariachi Divas (mariachi)**



♪ **Aug. 28 – Soul Sacrifice (tribute to Santana)**

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

ATTEND FREE COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Interested in learning about composting? Attend this free workshop and purchase a compost bin at a reduced-cost.

The City of West Covina will host the Los Angeles County Smart Gardening Program's composting workshop on Saturday, June 14, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the West Covina Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St.

Compost bins will be available to attendees for a reduced-cost while supplies last.

To register, call the Environmental Management Department at (626) 939-8411.



WEST COVINA RESIDENT HONORED BY INTERNATIONAL FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL

The International Family Film Festival was recently held in Hollywood, with entries from 17 countries.

West Covina resident Bala Rajasekharuni, an Indian-American filmmaker, produced and directed a film titled, "Blind Ambition." The film's world premiere was shown at the International Family Film Festival.

The film won the International Family Film Festival Spirit Award for being an outstanding family film with a heart. It is currently being negotiated with distributors for a worldwide release.



GRAFFITI HOTLINE
(626) 939-8800

Help keep West Covina beautiful!



WEST COVINA ROSE FLOAT FOUNDATION HOSTS 'EVENING OF WINE AND ROSES'

The West Covina Rose Float Foundation presents the Fourth Annual "Evening of Wine and Roses" on Saturday, June 21 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The event will take place at the Taylor House and Gardens, 3510 Cameron Ave. The cost is \$75.

The event includes a fine Italian din-

ner with entertainment provided by Cold Duck, a silent auction, a live auction, the announcement of scholarship winners and the unveiling of West Covina's 2009 Rose Parade float.

Parking is limited, so park at South Hills High School at the corner of Baranca Street and Cameron Avenue.



Free shuttle service will be provided. To RSVP, contact Frank Scalfaro at (626) 893-4690.

MY TOWN





LOOKING FOR A JOB?

The City of West Covina encourages West Covina residents to apply for employment opportunities by contacting the City of West Covina's Human Resources Department.

Current full-time and part-time positions that are opened, as well as city job applications, may be found on the City of West Covina Web site at www.westcovina.org. The 24-hour Job Hotline number is (626) 939-8452.



Senior Citizens Center

2501 E. CORTEZ ST. • (626) 331-5366

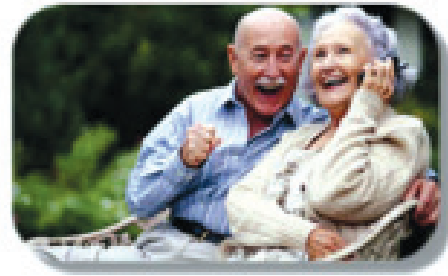
UPCOMING SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Father's Day Lunch with entertainment

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Fourth of July Lunch with entertainment



HAVE ANY NEW IDEAS FOR "DISCOVER WEST COVINA?"

E-MAIL US YOUR RESPONSES:

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.



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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