



# Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

OCTOBER/  
NOVEMBER 2009

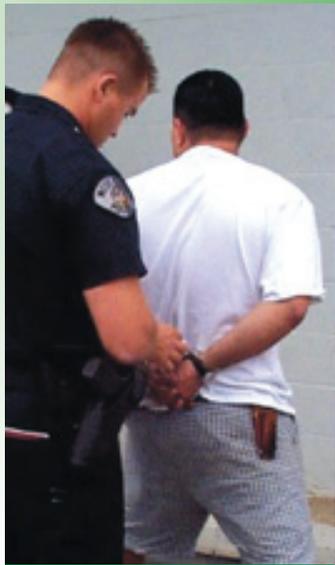
A publication  
provided for residents by  
the City of West Covina



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## WEST COVINA EXPERIENCING

## SIGNIFICANT DROP IN CRIME



**C**rime statistics reported by the West Covina Police Department to state and federal authorities reveal a very significant decrease during the first seven months of 2009.

Total “Part 1” crimes – the most serious crimes tracked at the federal level – show a reduction of 19 percent from January to July. Furthermore, violent crimes were down 31 percent during that same period.

“Despite recent budget cuts, West Covina’s emphasis on front-line law enforcement



has paid dividends,” Police Chief Frank Wills said.

West Covina police officers rank among the busiest in Los Angeles County, as the department handles an average of more than 200 calls for police service every day.

The West Covina Police Department remains committed to combining street-level law enforcement with responsive customer service in order to reduce crime and address the changing safety needs of this city.

**“Despite recent budget cuts, West Covina’s emphasis on front-line law enforcement has paid dividends.”**

## CITY OF WEST COVINA CELEBRATES HALLOWEEN

## SPEND ALL HALLOWS’ EVE AT ‘GHOSTER’ PARK

Galster Park Nature Center, located at 1620 Aroma Drive, presents a night of ghosts, goblins, tricks and treats, costumes and carvings. Come dressed to scare and go on a “spooky hike.”

Prizes will be awarded to children and adults for the best costume and pumpkin carving. Bring your own precarved pumpkin to enter the contest.

This event will be held Friday, Oct. 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and is free. Don’t miss out on this fright night.

For more information, call the Galster Park Nature Center at (626) 919-0715 or Shadow Oak Community Center at (626) 965-0328.



## TONY SALDANA AND GLENN KENNEDY HONORED AS 'COMMUNITY HEROES'

Tony Saldana is an Explorer with the West Covina Fire Department. Tony plays an important role in assisting the fire department on medical responses, traffic collisions and fire alarm calls. He volunteers his time with many of the West Covina city functions, including Martin Luther King Day, the Cherry Blossom Festival, Fourth of July and the National Night Out event. And, Saldana helped raise more than \$13,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the city's annual "Fill the Boot" fundraiser.



Photo at right, l-r: Explorer adviser Engineer Hardy Mosely, Explorer Tony Saldana, Fire Chief Paul Segalla and Explorer adviser Engineer Jason Robles.



Glenn Kennedy was selected as a West Covina Community Hero because he "gives more of his time to our city than anyone I know and asks nothing in return." On many holidays, Kennedy is seen busy removing graffiti throughout West Covina, rather than spending time with his family. Helping keep West Covina a beautiful community is that important to him. Additionally, he volunteers for the West Covina National Little League, the Veteran's Commission, as a City commissioner, and other groups and activities.

Photo at left: Glenn Kennedy with daughter Dana

*A huge "congratulations" to Tony and Glenn - you make West Covina proud!*

## WEST COVINA ADDS MORE HYBRID VEHICLES AND EARNS AWARD FOR 'GREEN' FLEET

**W**est Covina is adding five new hybrid vehicles to its fleet, making a total of 39 "green" vehicles. The vehicles include propane, compressed natural gas, electric and hybrid. The majority of these vehicles are used in the City's public transportation fleet of shuttle buses.

Public Works Director Shannon Yauchzee announced that Government Fleet magazine has selected West Covina for a 2009 Environmental Leadership Award for having one of the top 20 fleets in the nation.

"Our staff continues to look at replacing high-emission vehicles with energy-efficient vehicles whenever possible," Yauchzee said. "This is just one of the many 'green' efforts West Covina is doing to preserve our environment and natural resources."

Government Fleet Editor Mike Antich offers praise to the City of West Covina.

"Many fleets were considered for this prestigious award," Antich said. "[West Covina's] fleet shined among the best, and we know this cannot be done without strong leadership."



### West Covina Does Its Part to Help with Local Fires

*West Covina firefighters helped crews with the Morris Fire and Station Fire in our local mountains. Shown here is the West Covina Mutual Aid Engine Company manned by Capt. Todd Smith, Engineer Paul Gormican, and firefighter/paramedics Bryan Hauser and Ronnie Lujan. Engine 204 responded to the Station Fire. Captain Cory Cisneros, who responded as a Line EMT, has worked both the Morris Fire and the Station Fire but is still assigned at this time to the Station Fire.*

## WEST COVINA RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

### West Covina City Council Publicly Acknowledges and Thanks John Hughes

The West Covina City Council recently gave special thanks to John Hughes, a longtime devoted resident and volunteer in West Covina. Thanks to Hughes' dedication and hard work, nearly \$70,000 was raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Jerry Lewis Telethon held Labor Day weekend.

But that is only one event in a long list of fundraisers that Hughes oversees throughout the year. Serving as chairman for the past 19 years, Hughes has helped raise a total of \$1,315,550.00.

When asked why he has dedicated so much time, Hughes' response includes the fact that his own granddaughter was inflicted with muscular dystrophy from the age of 3 years old.

"My motivation is that we all have the power to make a difference," Hughes said. "All we have to do is care to help those less fortunate than we are. When you volunteer, you get back more than you give."

West Covina firefighters supported Hughes in his cause, with their "Fill the Boot" campaign generating \$13,225 this year.

If you would like to donate or volunteer to help with this cause, call Hughes at (626) 338-9516. You, too, can make a difference!



*In 19 years serving as chairman, John Hughes has raised more than \$1 million!*

## RAINY WINTER PREDICTED

### How to Prepare for Return of 'El Nino'

Since "El Nino" conditions are expected this winter, the City of West Covina has begun preparations for heavy rains. Infrastructures are being assessed, and emergency procedures are in place should they be required.

Precautions are our best defense against the weather. Residents should also check their property and make any necessary repairs or improvements. A permit may be required for repairs. Call (626) 939-8425 to verify if a permit is required. You can obtain a permit from the Building Division, Room 215 at City Hall, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Some ways to prepare for the weather:

- Check condition of gutters and drains and remove debris.
  - Check roof to identify leaks and problems; repair as soon as possible to avoid flooding.
  - Check that windows and doors seal correctly.
  - Check chimney for soot blockages that may be a fire hazard and may cause dangerous carbon monoxide to build up in the house.
  - Trim tree limbs that hang over or are too close to your house.
  - Check retaining walls for instability; look for new cracks or cracks that are growing.
  - Check for slip hazards on walkways; remove debris and/or algae deposits and make sure hand rails on stairs are secure.
  - Stock up on materials such as plastic for roofs or slopes and sandbags.
  - Review emergency plans with your family. Sandbags and sand are available at:
    - Fire Station 1, 819 S. Sunset Ave.
    - Fire Station 4, 1815 S. Azusa Ave.
    - Fire Station 5, 2650 E. Shadow Oak Drive
- The bags are not prefilled, so bring a shovel to fill them with the sand provided. Call the Engineering Division at (626) 939-8425 if your property needs more than 25 sandbags, as this may indicate a more serious drainage problem.

For more information, visit <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/HomeOwners/enter.cfm>.

## City of West Covina Announces New Program 'Operation Drop Off'

Kids just want to have fun! Parents just want a night out on the town or a shopping trip to the mall. The whole family wins on Dec. 4 and 18 when the City of West Covina's Cameron Community Center hosts "Operation Drop Off" from 5 to 10 p.m.!

Cameron Community Center, located at 1305 E. Cameron Ave., is a safe, welcoming environment staffed with caring, well-trained professionals who are City of West Covina employees. The staff will be busy preparing exciting games, arts and crafts, snacks and fun-filled scavenger hunts for children 5 to 12 years old to enjoy while you take the night off.

The fee is \$20 per child. To register or for inquiries, contact a Cameron Community Center team member at (626) 919-6966.



# City of West Covina Public Works



Handicap Ramps Being Installed Throughout City



New Monument Sign Installed on Amar Avenue



Installation of Stamped Concrete at Merlinda Elementary School



Street Paving Projects



New Trellis and Landscaping at Glendora Avenue Business District

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



Resurfaced Parking Lot and  
New Handicap Parking Spaces at  
Glendora Avenue Business District



Night Street Paving



New Curb and Gutter and Ribbon Gutters  
at Various Intersections



New Curb and Gutter  
Installed Throughout City



Emergency Sewer Repairs  
on Greenville Avenue



90 Bus Shelters Have Been Refurbished

## ... Working for You!



## Free Giveaways, Demonstrations and More! You Are Invited Nov. 14

“America Recycles Day” is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and purchase recycled products. Celebrating its 12th year, it has grown to include millions of Americans pledging to increase their recycling habits at both home and work.

The City of West Covina Environmental Services will host an “America Recycles Day” event on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the West Covina Farmers Market, 1035 West Covina Parkway.

City staff will be on hand with giveaways, green demonstrations and consumer awareness information to promote recycling and to encourage the purchase of products made from recycled materials.

For more information, call the City of West Covina Environmental Services at (626) 939-8458.

## CITY OF WEST COVINA PARKS AND RECREATION: Safe, Affordable Places to Play

Since the economic climate took a downward turn, parks and recreation departments across the state are seeing a rise in the number of people visiting local parks and recreation facilities in search of a place to play and connect with one another without traveling far or draining personal savings.

The City of West Covina Recreation Division is responding to residents with affordable programs and services that provide safe and secure places for families and individuals to enjoy.

Cameron Community Center is open seven days a week offering free drop-in programs for youth and teens. Various affordable fitness, performing arts and specialty classes for all age groups are offered as well as new after-school programs. Also, indoor and outdoor facilities are available for rent.

The Recreation Division offers a Youth Assistance Program that provides financial assistance to qualifying families for youth recreation program registration fees.

For more information on recreation programs and services, visit [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org), or call Cameron Community Center, (626) 919-6966, or Shadow Oak Community Center, (626) 965-0328.



## SENIOR PROM 2009

*A re-creation of a high-school senior prom recently took place at the West Covina Senior Center. When asked why this event was held, an enthusiastic response was, “Because some events in life are worth repeating.” Judging by the success of the event, many others felt the same way!*

## CITY OF WEST COVINA SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINS GRANTS

### FUNDING WILL HELP IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

The West Covina Police and Fire departments have successfully obtained direct grant awards totaling \$171,345 under the 2008 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP).

This homeland security grant is of federal origin but passes through the State Department of Homeland Security and then through the Los Angeles County Operational Area. The two projects approved under this particular grant were a police department digital mapping project spearheaded by the West Covina Service Group and a regional CBRNE Self Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment project for the Fire Department.

Also, the police department recently received a \$2,000 private grant from Target for equipment to aid in the investigation of computer crimes. Specially trained detectives will utilize this equipment in their computer forensics investigations. Computer-based crimes affect businesses such as Target, which has two retail locations in West Covina. The West Covina Police Department greatly values its civic partners such as Target that are committed to working cooperatively to improve public safety.

These grants illustrate the City’s efforts to obtain external funding to improve public safety in West Covina.

## **WEST COVINA POLICE EXPLORERS TAKE HOME FIRST-PLACE TROPHY**

In late August, West Covina Police Youth Explorers competed in the Explorer X Games hosted by the Pasadena Police Department, taking home eight trophies including the first-place trophy for the third straight year.



*L-r: Explorers Keith Dwyer, Nofoaiga Iosua, Daniel Gonzalez, Christopher Sandoval, Jazmin Garcia, Christopher Hernandez, Alejandro Martinez and Eli Huacuja.*

In competitions with Explorers from 23 other police departments, West Covina finished in first place for the “CSI,” “Suspicious Subject” and “Domestic Violence Response” events, finished second in the “Drill and Ceremony” and “Team Obstacle Course” events, and finished third in the “Active Shooter” and “Garden Raid” events.

West Covina’s Police Explorer program is open to youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who are interested in law enforcement. The Explorers attend a 13-week academy focusing on law, discipline and self-control and then meet weekly at the police department for continued training. This low-cost program engages the participants’ minds and bodies, provides mentoring, and exposes them to the police profession as an avenue of future employment.

In addition to their regular public safety duties, West Covina police officers volunteer their time to teach and facilitate the Explorer program. If you are interested in the West Covina Explorer program, call (626) 939-8557.

## **NEW RESTAURANTS COMING TO WEST COVINA IN 2010**



Along with new retailers such as Best Buy, Yogen Fruz and Intimate Basics joining the Westfield expansion, 30,000 square feet of restaurants are expected by the fall of 2010.

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## **K-MART IN WEST COVINA GETS FACE LIFT AND IMPROVEMENTS**



Kmart, located at 730 S. Orange Ave., has been undergoing reconstruction of its façade as well as exterior improvements, including landscaping and parking lot, while remaining open to customers. The building has been painted, the parking lot has been redone, the garden center’s new roof has been installed and the new store entrances have been completed.

## **LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS**

**West Covina resident Irma Martinez wrote:**

*“This is the most wonderful city newsletter, it is well done and shows all of the extra care West Covina city workers put forth for our community. Especially during these tough economic times, when I read the newsletter about all of the positive accomplishments, it makes me feel proud to be a resident of West Covina!”*





The West Covina Senior Center received a generous donation from Wells Fargo Bank last month. The monies will be used to help pay for needed supplies for the Senior Center's computer lab. Thanks to Wells Fargo for being so good to our West Covina seniors!

**WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL OFFERS FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER OPPORTUNITY**

A 1,626-square-foot house located at 1420 S. Willow Ave. features three bedrooms and two baths; hardwood floors throughout kitchen, dining and living rooms; professional landscaping; a spacious two-car garage; and energy-efficient fixtures. If you are a first-time home buyer and would like more information, call the Community Development Commission, Paulina Morales, (626) 939-8417.



City of West Covina E-Waste Round-Up  
Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
West Covina Maintenance Yard,  
825 S. Sunset Ave., (626) 939-8458  
Bring your electronics items that are no longer usable.

Hurst Ranch Harvest Festival  
Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Hurst Ranch Historical Center,  
1227 S. Orange Ave., West Covina,  
(626) 339-5151  
The event will include exhibits of working farm equipment, a farm animal petting zoo and various hands-on farm activities. Admission is \$5 per person, with children under 2 free.

Evening of Wine and Roses  
Saturday, Nov. 7 from 6 to 10 p.m.  
at Charisma Floats  
Call (626) 939-8402 or (626) 893-4690  
Join us for a Fabulous Forties USO evening of dinner and dancing, a silent auction and a 50/50 cash prize. Get a sneak preview of West Covina's 2010 rose float, "The Tuskegee Airmen, A Cut Above," and meet some of the airmen in person. Military attire or fabulous 1940s-inspired styles are welcome. \$75 per person or \$750 for a premium table for eight persons, including two bottles of wine and a program ad.

**Do you have your U.S. Passport?**

**APPLY TODAY!**



Apply at:

City Clerk's Office, Room 317 at City Hall  
(626) 939-8744 • [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org)  
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The question is:  
**"WHAT TYPE OF ARTICLES DO YOU ENJOY MOST IN DISCOVER WEST COVINA?"**

E-mail your comments:  
[discoverwestcovina@westcovina.org](mailto: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

**Fall 2009 Community Events**



**WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL**

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

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