



Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

September/
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A publication
provided for residents by
the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

You are Invited to Grand Opening of *New Stores at Westfield West Covina*

On Thursday, September 1, Westfield West Covina will host a grand opening ceremony that will commemorate the completion of the mall's Phase III development, which includes Nordstrom Rack, Gold's Gym, a new state-of-the-art Playspace and a new mall entrance.

Nordstrom Rack will also host its own grand opening festivities that same day, with the store opening at 9 a.m.

Nordstrom Rack and Gold's Gym will join a litany of new tenants at the mall, including XXI Forever, H&M, Foreign Exchange, Chronic Taco and Lee's Sandwiches.

As part of the mall's grand opening, Westfield will host various festivities throughout the weekend. On September 1, Westfield will run a special: Spend \$100 at Nordstrom Rack and get a \$10 gift card for one of the mall restaurants.

The Family Fun Zone will include entertainment by Radio Disney, face painting, a balloon artist and a Wii gaming station featuring the "Gold's Gym" Wii video game.



Westfield is also partnering with the Chivas USA soccer team and hosting appearances by the players and soccer clinics. Also, when you spend \$250 at two or more stores, you will receive a family four-pack of tickets to an upcoming Chivas game. In addition, the Chivas girls will be teaching cheerleading techniques.

The West Covina Community Development Commission provided business assistance to Westfield and its tenants in streamlining the process of procuring the necessary entitlements to complete the project. This project is a prime example of a public/private collaboration toward completing a development project designed to meet the needs of the community.

Would You Like to Help West Covina Children?

Each year, the West Covina Police Department and community partners hold the "Shop with a Cop" event. This volunteer event provides donated funds to children in need and their families before Christmas.

Last year, 11 children and their families received assistance, which enabled them to purchase items including clothing, shoes, other necessities and even some toys to give them some holiday cheer.

After the shopping event, the children dine with police officers, allowing the parents more time to shop in private.

To make a donation to this worthy cause, call the West Covina Police Department at (626) 939-8500 or visit www.wcpd.org.



Get Ready for Your '3 Minutes of Fame' at Talent Show

The City of West Covina will host the "3 Minutes of Fame" talent show for everyone 5 to 18 years old at Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave.

All participants are required to attend a pre-show meeting on Thursday, September 22 at 5 p.m. All acts will perform on Friday, October 21.

For more information, call (626) 919-6966.



DON'T MISS FREE ALL HALLOWS' EVE SPECIAL EVENT

Galster Park Nature Center will present a night of ghosts and goblins, tricks and treats, costumes and carvings on Saturday, October 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Galster Park, 1620 Aroma Drive.

Come dressed to scare and go on the popular "spooky hike." Also enjoy a scarecrow costume activity, and don't forget that prizes will be awarded for the best pumpkin carving. Bring your own pre-carved pumpkin to enter the contest.

This event is free. For more information, call (626) 919-0715.

Register for 'King of the Court' 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

The Castucci Foundation, the City of West Covina and Cameron Community Center will host the First Annual "King of the Court" 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. The tournament is open to males and females of all ages.

The registration deadline is September 30 for a fee of \$10 per individual or \$40 per team. The tournament will take place Saturday, October 15 at Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave. in West Covina.

For more information, call (626) 919-6966.





West Covina Hosts Visitors from Sister City
Representatives from the City of West Covina and the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center welcomed a delegation from our sister city of Ohtawara, Japan in August. Students from Ohtawara spent eight days with host families learning about American customs and visiting various sites in Southern California, including West Covina City Hall.

YOU ARE INVITED TO 9/11 CEREMONY

On Sunday, September 11, it will be 10 years since the tragedy of 9/11. The Castucci Foundation and the City of West Covina will hold a special commemorative ceremony to remember and pay tribute to those who lost their lives and the heroes who responded during the tragic events of that day.

The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. in the courtyard at the West Covina Civic Center, 1444 W. Garvey Ave.
For more information, call (626) 939-8430.

City of West Covina Announces 2011 WALK OF FAME HONOREES

The City of West Covina announces the 2011 class of the West Covina Walk of Fame honorees to be inducted during a ceremony at the Big League Dreams Sportsplex, 2100 Azusa Ave., on Saturday, November 19 at 10 a.m.

In 2008, the West Covina City Council approved the creation of a Walk of Fame at the Big League Dreams Sportsplex to honor athletes, coaches and sports group volunteers from West Covina who have made significant contributions to make West Covina a better place to live, work and play. Honorees were selected based on nominations received from the public and evaluated by the Walk of Fame Committee.



The Walk of Fame includes bronze plaques inserted into the concrete walkways that transverse the Big League Dreams facility.

The 2011 Walk of Fame honorees are as follows:

- **Richard Bletcher** (Little League volunteer)
- **Alex Chavez** (Little League volunteer)
- **John Cheatle** (Pony Baseball volunteer)
- **Sandy Durko** (football)
- **Greg Gano** (sports league volunteer)
- **Jeremy Giambi** (baseball)
- **Cory Lidle** (baseball)
- **Kevin Lidle** (baseball)
- **Tracy McCluskey-Rose** (swimming)
- **Jim Merritt** (baseball)
- **Shawn Wooten** (baseball)

'Latina Sole Sisters' Give Shoes, School Supplies and Inspiration



Making a difference one pair of shoes at a time, "sole sister" shoe designers Ann Marie Smith and Monica Gonzales hosted the Aldabella Scarpa Giveback Event in August, giving away new pairs of shoes, backpacks, school supplies and other items for West Covina youths at Giano Intermediate School in West Covina.



This Year's 'National Night Out' Event is Another Huge Success

The City of West Covina participated in the annual "National Night Out" event in August, promoting public safety at the neighborhood level.

Spearheaded by the West Covina Police Department and coordinated with the National Town Watch Association, this event included social gatherings, barbecues, potlucks and regional parties, with entertainment and more.

Patrol officers, firefighter/paramedics and City leaders visited with participating groups throughout West Covina during the event.

By increasing neighborhood awareness and unity, National Night Out ultimately serves to prevent crime locally and nationwide.

"This was very successful, due in large part to the cooperation and organization of West Covina's Neighborhood Watch captains," said CSO Jan Poirier, who coordinated the event.

For more information, visit www.wcpd.org or call (626) 939-8596.



Visit West Covina Farmers Market

The Farmers Market is an open-air street market with vendors who sell their own fresh fruit and vegetables, crafts, jewelry and specialty food, along with music, fun and much, much more.



It is a direct-to-consumer marketplace with all produce and other products from local California vendors and growers.

Join the fun every Saturday, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 1035 West Covina Parkway. The market is located between Firestone and Margarita Jones.

For more information, call Roger Evans at (626) 488-0054.

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Two Harvest Festivals Coming in October

The **Hurst Ranch Harvest Festival** will take place Saturday, October 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hurst Ranch Historical Center, located at 1227 S. Orange Ave., West Covina.

The event will include hands-on farm activities, a petting zoo, a "make and take"

project, pumpkins, "Cowboy Larry," exhibits and more.

Admission is \$5 per person, with children under 2 free. A hamburger lunch will be available for \$5.

For more information, call (626) 339-5151 or visit www.hurstranch.com.



You are invited to the historical-themed **Fall Harvest Festival** at Heritage Park and Gardens on Saturday, October 22. The Friends of the Taylor House, a volunteer organization committed to maintaining and supporting the Taylor House, is sponsoring the event.

The Taylor House, a historical 1912

Craftsman-style house museum, is located at Heritage Park and Gardens, 3510 Cameron Ave., West Covina. The house is open free to the public each second Sunday of the month, 1 to 4 p.m. (with the exception of Oct. 9 during the Harvest Festival).

The Fall Harvest Festival will offer fun-filled activities and games for the entire family. Cal Poly, Pomona will provide a mini farm store with many gourmet items and pumpkins.

The event will emphasize old-fashioned fun with pumpkin decorating booths, bean bag tosses, ping-pong tosses, gunny sack races, glittering temporary tattoos for children, a pie-eating contest, face

painting, food and much more. Local crafts people will have booths with their crafts for sale.

Also during the Fall Harvest Festival, the Taylor House will be open for free tours.

The activities will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. Parking will only be available at the parking lot of South Hills High School on the corner of Barranca and Cameron avenues. A free shuttle will provide transportation to and from the park continuously during the hours of the event.



CITY OF WEST COVINA HIGHLIGHTED AS PART OF 'STRONG CITIES | STRONG STATE' CAMPAIGN

The City of West Covina was profiled as part of the ongoing "Strong Cities | Strong State" campaign highlighting local government success stories across California. "Strong Cities | Strong State" is a project of the League of California Cities and the California City Management Foundation.

West Covina prides itself on creating projects that will better the community as a whole. The City has always worked to bring the best amenities to serve its residents. Although we have been going through a tough economic time, West Covina has still managed to attract high-profile, quality businesses.

Here are some highlights of the City of West Covina's profile:

• West Covina Sportsplex: The former BKK Landfill is today home to the Big League

Dreams Sports Park, a 340,000-square-foot commercial retail center and 47-acre open-space natural habitat.

• The Promenade Apartments: Together with the Community Development Commission, the City turned what was once a blighted, crime-infested motel into a beautiful affordable-housing project.

• Westfield West Covina: This once-outdated shopping center is now thriving, and mall expansions have created 400 permanent jobs and 876 construction jobs.

"The West Covina City Council and I have made it our mission to be business-friendly and make great improvements within our

community," West Covina City Manager Andrew Pasmant said. "I think that the types of projects going on in the City today and the feedback we have received from the community speak volumes about what we've accomplished. We have persistently pursued



projects that have eliminated blighted areas and have created a safer and more vibrant environment for our residents to live, work and play. We look forward to continuing to work hard to improve our community."

Visit "Strong Cities | Strong State" at www.strongcitiesstrongstate.com to read more about West Covina's profile.

Did You Know ...

In Southern California, it costs more to produce electricity in the summer, when energy demand is at its peak, and less to produce electricity in the winter, during periods of lower demand. When you use energy wisely, you'll be saving money and the environment.

That's why the City of West Covina and Southern California Edison (SCE) are partnering to encourage

energy efficiency and conservation.

Using energy wisely in our everyday lives is a smart way to ensure our planet and its natural resources are protected. Simple changes to your daily routine on how and when you use electricity can make a difference.

For example, switch off unnecessary lights, and at the end of the day turn off office equipment. Even using your washing machine, dryer or dishwasher

before noon or after 6 p.m. can help conserve energy when demand is at its highest.

Energy management is the first and best way to manage your energy use not only at home, but at work, too. It can help create a brighter future for us all. By becoming more energy-conscious, you'll help California conserve valuable energy resources now and well into the future.



City of West Covina Earns Energy Efficiency Award

The City of West Covina is proud to lead by example in saving energy and money as a member of the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership, an innovative partnership among 29 cities in the San Gabriel Valley, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and Southern California Edison (SCE).

Through this partnership, the City of West Covina is one of only four cities in SCE's service territory to reach the "Gold Level" tier in SCE's Energy Leader Partnership Model. This noteworthy distinction is awarded only to select partner cities that meet ambitious energy-savings goals achieved through implementation of energy efficiency and demand response measures in both municipal and community facilities.

Through its active participation in SCE's Demand Response programs, the City of West Covina encourages community residents and local businesses to conserve during periods of peak energy use, which reduces demand for electricity and helps to

protect California's energy supply. In the City of West Covina, three facilities – a fire station, Cameron Park Community Center, and the City's maintenance offices – are enrolled in the Summer Discount Plan.

By enrolling in this program, which operates from June 1 to October 1, customers allow SCE to install a small, remote-controlled cycling device on their central air conditioner unit. If peak energy demand puts too much pressure on SCE's electricity system, such as on high-heat days, SCE will remotely cycle off the air conditioner's compressor. In exchange, the customer receives a credit on their electrical bill.

Participating customers have the ability to choose from a variety of options, which could include capping the length of time that the compressor is cycled off or the number of events that their facility participates in per summer. The amount of the credit varies by the enrollment selection.

Currently, the City's facilities are enrolled in the enhanced good value option, meaning that during events, the

City's air conditioners are cycled off for 15 minutes out of every 30 minutes (50 percent), and there is not a limit on the number of events that may occur. Just by enrolling in this program, the City has saved an estimated \$175 through July of this year.

"This program was simple to enroll in and had minimal impact on our operations," said Director of Public Works Shannon Yauchzee. "The various enrollment options allow you to customize the program to meet the needs of your facility."

SCE's Summer Discount Program is open to both business and residential customers. Business customers can save up to \$12 per ton of air conditioning per month, and residents can receive up to \$200 for enrollment during the summer.

To learn more about the business program, visit www.sce.com/drps or call (800) 990-7788. To learn more about the residential program, visit www.sce.com/sdp or call (800) 655-4555.



Pacific Fish Grill Opens in West Covina

The City of West Covina and the West Covina Community Development Commission participated in the grand opening of Pacific Fish Grill in July at the Westfield Eastland Shopping Center, 2851 Eastland Center Drive.

Pacific Fish Grill serves a menu inspired by the Pacific Rim, from fresh salmon to fish tacos. The menu is full of quality ingredients, such as fresh seafood, 100-percent hormone-free chicken and 100-percent premium choice and filet mignon steak. All sauces, salsas and salad dressings are homemade, and no food is prepared until ordered.

Pacific Fish Grill is one of four tenants to occupy the former Circuit City building at Eastland. Other tenants include The Habit Burger, PetSmart and Dollar Tree. The opening of this new restaurant has created nearly 30 jobs.

"We have been moved by the large amount of support that we have received from the City and community so far," Vice President Niko Albanis said. "In our wildest dreams we never expected to see the turnout in our restaurant that we have so far. It is very touching to have such a great relationship with our customers."



New Restaurant The Crawfish Spot Joins Hong Kong Plaza

The Crawfish Spot restaurant has opened its first West Covina location at 1011 S. Glendora Ave. in Hong Kong Plaza.

The Crawfish Spot offers a Southern Cajun seafood selection of crawfish, clams, mussels, shrimp and crab served by the pound or in a combo and cooked with the restaurant's own recipes and special blend of spices that will have diners coming back for more.

The Crawfish Spot was opened with the help of the West Covina Community Development Commission providing business assistance to Golden EDA, the property owner of Hong Kong Plaza, and the Crawfish Spot in streamlining the procurement of necessary entitlements to open this new restaurant.



NEW HOTEL COMES TO WEST COVINA

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott opened this past spring at 3211 E. Garvey Ave. North in West Covina. The five-story, 110-room hotel features an outdoor swimming pool with whirlpool spa, a fitness room open 24 hours, a meeting room, valet laundry service, free high-speed Internet and a business center.

DON'T MISS WEST COVINA DAY AT THE FAIR!

Get Free Admission with One New or Slightly Used Book

Each year, the L.A. County Fair honors community heroes from 17 local cities. Thursday, September 22 is "West Covina Day at the Fair."

The day's festivities include a community reception at the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at 4 p.m., followed by a community parade at 5 p.m. A "Salute to Heroes" presentation will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the Building 4 stage.

This year's West Covina community heroes are Lloyd Johnson and the dedicated members of the West Covina Youth Council.

Recipients of the Young Hero Award for West Covina are the members of the West Covina Youth Council. These dedicated youths are steadfast community volunteers who strive to enhance the quality of programs and services offered to children in the area.

In 2010, members of this group volunteered their time to many City events, resulting in significant budget savings for

the City. These events included the "Movies in the Park" program, where they led games and provided refreshments, and the Summer Lunch Program, assisting staff with setup and cleanup and serving more than 150 meals a day.

Members also assisted the Rose Float Foundation with decorating and assisting in fund-raising efforts, and they have been active in many community activities such as the City's Halloween activities at Westfield West Covina and the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting.

The Senior Hero award for West Covina is being presented to Lloyd Johnson. Johnson has been a dedicated member of several organizations, including the West Covina Veterans, the American Cancer Society, the Automobile Club for Chevy's and the West Covina Anti-Graffiti Team, and

he is an avid city council meeting participant and animal rights activist.

His support of veterans is at the forefront of his work with the community, participating in car shows to aid Vietnam vets and raising awareness in general. A war veteran, cancer survivor and active



participant in civic affairs, Johnson is a respected role model in West Covina.

To celebrate the accomplishments of these community heroes, West Covina residents are invited to enjoy the fair for free on September 22 from noon to 6 p.m. by bringing one new or slightly used book for donation to the fair's book drive. Proceeds will benefit local communities.

For more information, visit the fair's Web site at www.lacountyfair.com.

Visit the City online!
www.westcovina.org

Do you have any new ideas for "Discover West Covina?" E-mail us: 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 Tweets!

What's Twitter Got to Offer Me? According to Wikipedia, Twitter is an online social networking and microblogging service that enables its users to send and read text-based posts of up to 140 characters, informally known as "tweets."

Currently, the City Manager sends out tweets on a regular basis, helping residents stay abreast of programs, events and hip happenings throughout the City. Get connected and start following West Covina today!



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