



Discover WestCovina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

April/May
2010

A publication
provided for residents by
the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

WESTFIELD WEST COVINA: *A Transformation!*

Westfield West Covina is revolutionizing shopping in West Covina. With new developments currently under way and those proposed, the mall will be a mecca for shopping and dining.

Construction for the new restaurant/retail space and the new XXI store are near completion. The new XXI store will offer a wider selection of apparel, including men's

clothing, and is expected to open in April.

The following retailers have recently opened for business: Best Buy; Crazy 8, a new concept from children's retailer Gymboree; Yogen Fruz; FuzziWigs Candy Factory; Intimate Basics; So Relax; Sephora; and Best Buy Mobile. And, Sephora, the unique and highly popular beauty retailer, has opened a branch inside J.C. Penney.

New retailers that will join Westfield West Covina include Lee's Sandwiches, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, For Love, Michelle D and G by Guess.

And, there are still more coming! Westfield isn't quite done with the center; it plans to continue



renovating the remaining portion of the center's northern façade, adjacent to Sears. The renovation will include a 32,363-square-foot addition of retail and restaurant space to the mall and will continue the architectural style of the current restaurant/retail addition adjacent to Best Buy. The renovation is expected to be completed in the spring of 2011 and will bring a new assortment of shops and restaurants to West Covina.

Photos of two new shops are shown here on this page, while Page 2 has additional Westfield photos. Continue to read future issues of Discover West Covina as we keep you abreast of the progress and new store openings.



MAKE SURE YOU GET COUNTED!

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun taking count of every person residing in the United States. There have been some changes this year to make it easier and quicker for residents to respond. There are only 10 questions, which can be answered in about 10 minutes. West Covina residents can play an important role by responding and mailing back the form. The responses tabulated from the questionnaires provide accurate updates about the West Covina population and our evolving profile.

Census statistics determine our fair share of federal funding, including resources for everything from health care services to education to roads.



First-time Home Buyer Program

FOR WEST COVINA HOME BUYERS

The Southern California Home Financing Authority and the County of Los Angeles are offering a program that includes homes in West Covina. It is called the Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bond Program.

This program is available for first-time home buyers with low and moderate incomes. The program provides a 30-year, fixed-interest loan of 4.7 percent with no down payment needed and a gift of 3 percent toward the down payment and closing costs.

For more information, visit www.lacdc.org/schfa.

Volunteer at Taylor House

The Taylor House, a historical West Covina Arts and Crafts museum house, seeks volunteers, both men and women, young and senior, to help form a "Friends of the Taylor House" committee.

The Taylor House is a "jewel" in the City of West Covina and functions entirely with volunteers. That small band of volunteers is looking to expand with additional people who are interested in helping maintain this cultural attraction for the City.

Join them on Saturday, April 17 at 10 a.m. at the Taylor House. The group is looking for people who would like to help their community with a couple of hours of time each month. There are a variety of tasks that volunteer could fit to their schedules and abilities, such as serving as a docent for open houses, helping maintain the garden and even tasks such as helping create a braided rug for the house. If you have an interest and a talent, they can use you!

The Taylor House is located at Heritage Park, 3510 Cameron Ave. For more information, call Karlene Morris at (626)796-3214.



Would You Like to Volunteer?

Galster Park Nature Center has Openings

Have you always wanted to be a park volunteer and share your love of nature with others?

The San Gabriel Valley Mountains Regional Conservancy provides training to help interested persons become volunteers at the Galster Park Nature Center.

The nature education program depends on volunteers to serve as docents, trail guides, office personnel, program presenters and assistants.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, call the Galster Park Nature Center at (626) 919-0715.



FuzziWigs Candy Factory

FuzziWigs Candy Factory, shown at the left, is among several new shops that have recently opened for business at Westfield West Covina.



Westfield West Covina

The artist's rendering to the right shows part of Westfield's plans for renovation and expansion of the mall.

WEST COVINA RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Bruce Shepherd to be Honored with Tree Planted in His Memory

An Arbor Day observance will be held Saturday, April 24 at 10 a.m. at Galster Park in West Covina. This event is presented by West Covina Beautiful and the City of West Covina in conjunction with Earth Day activities.

Each year during the Arbor Day observance, West Covina Beautiful pays tribute by planting a tree to honor a deceased person who, while living, contributed significantly to the community. This year, Bruce Shepherd is being honored.

Shepherd was a 25-year member of the Lions Club. He participated in the White Cane Vision Program, Flag Day

for elementary school students, the Lions Club movie premieres and the November "Night on the Town" event.

Shepherd was also a volunteer for the West Covina Police Department's SHOP (Seniors Helping Our Police) program, and he served the West Covina Unified School District for many years as principal of both Cortez and Vine elementary schools.

The National Arbor Day Foundation will recognize the City of West Covina as

a "Tree City USA" for the 28th consecutive year. West Covina can be justly proud of this honor, as only a few other cities have received that designation for more years than West Covina.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 433, whose scoutmaster is Dan Clewley, will present and retire the colors. A talented musical group from a West Covina school will entertain the audience with musical selections.

The public is invited to attend this free event.



Help West Covina Firefighters 'Fill The Boot' for MDA

The Sixth Annual West Covina Fire Department "Fill the Boot" drive to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association will take place on Friday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Eastland Shopping Center and Westfield West Covina. Firefighters will ask motorists and passersby to drop donations into their boots.

Over the last five years, West Covina firefighters, with your help, have raised more than \$37,000 for the MDA. These funds provide health care and support services to children and adults living with neuromuscular diseases in West Covina and surrounding areas.

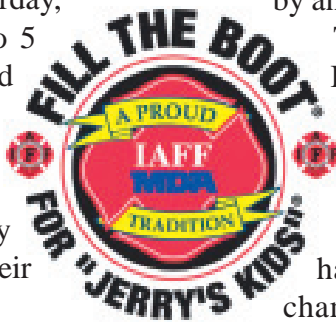
Additionally, MDA uses Fill the Boot dollars to fund scientific research

toward finding treatments and cures for the 43 diseases under the MDA umbrella. MDA programs are funded almost entirely by individual private contributions, such as those who drive by and "Fill the Boot."

The partnership between International Association of Fire Fighters and the Muscular Dystrophy Association began in 1954, and the fire service has remained the biggest champion of the MDA and "Jerry's kids." Since its inception, Fill the Boot has raised more than \$350 million nationwide.

Everyone is encouraged to support West Covina's heroes as they "Fill the Boot" for "Jerry's kids!"

For more information about the Muscular Dystrophy Association, contact Courtney McEleney at (562) 498-4923 or visit www.mda.org.



Help Us Improve Your C³ Experience

The Cameron Community Center ("C³") needs your help. The Community Services Department is conducting an online survey in order to better serve the West Covina community.

Is there any way that we can improve your experience at C³? Want to learn about activities and programs offered at C³ on Facebook or Twitter? Let us know.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the survey and let their voices be heard.

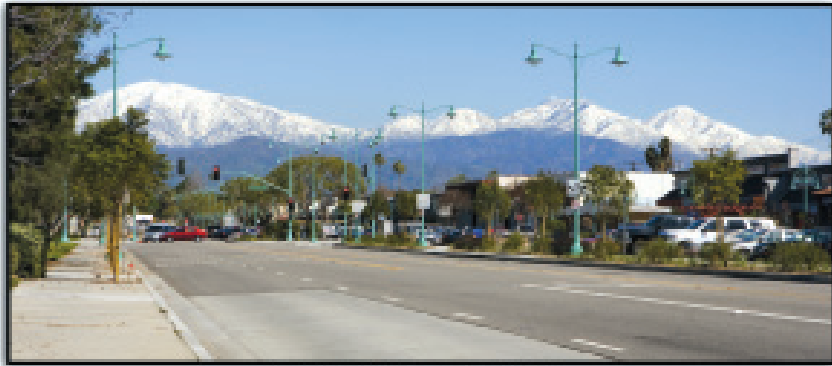
Those interested can find the link to the survey on the City of West Covina's Web site at www.westcovina.org.

For more information, call the Cameron Community Center at (626) 919-6966.



Live, Work & Play in West Covina

In the last issue of Discover West Covina, we asked residents to send us photos showing people as they "Live, Work & Play in West Covina." Here are some of the photos we received. We will include more photos in future issues, so keep them coming!



West Covina, California

Henry Wong Photography



Henry Wong sent these two photos. Photo on the left: A view of the San Gabriel Mountains from Glendora Avenue. Photo on the right: Cortez Park



Left: West Covina residents Ed Bacon and Betty Parnell discuss home safety tips with West Covina police officer Rudy Lopez.



Left: Colleen Casey and her mother, Patricia, at Starbucks inside Target. Above: Colleen Casey and her cousins at El Torito for lunch.



Photos above and to the right: Dean Garkow and his family enjoy their West Covina neighborhood.



Donna Cotter sent this photo of her children enjoying a ride through a West Covina neighborhood.

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



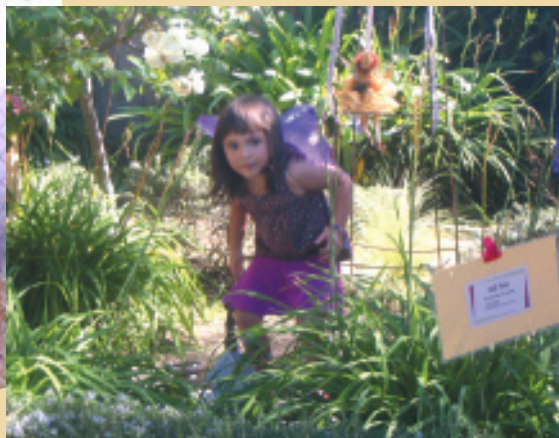
Ma. Ivy F. Isberto-Mabasa sent these photos of her son, Jacob Mabasa, on an imaginary mission with the Sabre Jet at Palm View Park and also enjoying time at the West Covina Library.



Jeff Cook sent these two photos of residents playing pool at the West Covina Senior Center and people playing basketball at Cameron Community Center.



Susan Estrada sent these photos of her 4-year-old daughter, Emily, enjoying the petting zoo and the fairy garden at the Harvest Festival at Hurst Ranch.



City staff in the Public Works & Engineering Department review the permit and inspection process with a West Covina resident at City Hall.

SHOW US HOW YOU 'LIVE, WORK & PLAY' IN WEST COVINA!

The City of West Covina is looking for photos of people doing the typical things you do as you "Live, Work & Play" in West Covina. Send us photos of you enjoying a city park, taking a city class, gardening in the yard of your West Covina residence, working at a local West Covina business, purchasing an automobile at a West Covina car dealer, shopping at one of the shopping centers, visiting West Covina City Hall, buying goodies at a bakery, shopping at a local grocery store, having lunch at a local restaurant, etc. Please note that all photos must be taken in West Covina, at a West Covina location.

Send us your photos and we will include some of them, as space permits, in future editions of Discover West Covina. E-mail your photos to discoverwestcovina@westcovina.org or mail them to West Covina City Hall, City Manager's Office, PIO Sue Williams, 1444 W. Garvey Ave., P.O. Box 1444, West Covina, CA 91793.



'5 Weeks of Green' Activities in West Covina



CLEAN-UP SATURDAYS

An Opportunity for Residents to Dispose of Unlimited Trash

Clean-Up Saturdays is an annual spring-cleaning event for residents and allows for unlimited disposal of household trash.

Clean-Up Saturdays operates on five consecutive Saturdays beginning April 17 for West Covina single-family residences serviced by Athens Services.

Residents of Los Angeles County unincorporated areas,

apartments, mobile home parks and businesses are not eligible to participate.

Items eligible for pickup include household furniture, household appliances and bundled residential wood waste.

Items that will not be picked up include loose and broken glass, rocks, sod, broken

asphalt/concrete, unbound vegetation, tires, auto parts, auto bodies, household hazardous waste and electronic waste items.

If you have questions about Clean-Up Saturdays, call the City of West Covina Maintenance Division at (626) 939-8458.

Refer to the schedule below for your Clean-Up Saturday date:

City of West Covina 2010 CLEAN-UP SATURDAYS

→ **SAVE THIS NOTICE** ←

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Clean-Up Saturday
					April 17th
	Your Trash Day				April 24th
		Your Trash Day			May 1st
			Your Trash Day		May 8th
				Your Trash Day	May 15th

For more information, call Environmental Services at 626-939-8458

This annual program provides once a year, unlimited pick-up of household trash. This program is available to City of West Covina residential customers only. It does not include L.A. County unincorporated areas.

All items must be placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on your designated Saturday. Vegetation and tree branches must be cut and bundled to no longer than 4 ft. in length. Please see below for a list of items that do not qualify for pick-up.

If you miss your Saturday, please call Athens Services at (626) 336-6100 to arrange for a regular bulky-item pick-up (24 hr advance notice required).

ITEMS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PICK-UP:

- Any Hazardous materials (see reverse)
- Rocks, dirt, sand, gravel, sod, asphalt, concrete, etc.
- Unbound vegetation & branches
- Electronic Waste, TV's, monitors, batteries
- Automobile parts, tires, oil
- Any items placed after the area has been serviced.

ELECTRONIC WASTE ROUNDUP

Are Old Electronics Cluttering Up Your Home or Garage?

As part of our "5 Weeks of Green" series, the City of West Covina is hosting a free Electronic Waste Collection event on April 17.

Residents can recycle old VCRs, video recorders, cell phones, cameras, computers and other electronic waste for free!

Take advantage of the collection event on Saturday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the West Covina Maintenance Yard, 825 S. Sunset Ave.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

A Free Event for All Ages with Free Giveaways!

Join the City of West Covina from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 24 at Galster Wilderness Park, 1620 Aroma Drive, in celebration of Earth Day. Don't miss the special Arbor Day commemorative tree planting ceremony at 10 a.m.

There will be activities for all ages, including the YMCA Healthy Kids Zone with crafts, entertainment, workshops and archery demonstrations. Suburban Water Systems will provide free conservation kits to the first 500 water customers. The kit contains a low-flow showerhead, sink aerators and several other water-saving items.

Take a guided hike through Galster Park and experience some of nature's beauty up close. Learn about environmental programs in West Covina and receive free Earth Day prizes and giveaways.



Earth Day 2010
Saturday April 24th
9:00 am—1:00 pm
Galster Wilderness Park
1620 Aroma Drive

celebrate Arbor Day.
With a special Presentation honoring a West Covina resident and tree planting at West Covina with refreshments to follow

- Nature Hikes
- Crafts using re-usable items
- Fun Earth Day Prizes and Giveaways
- Free Entertainment
- Free Healthy Kids Workshops
- Learn about Environmental Programs offered in your city
- See real Fossils found in Galster park

Suburban Water Systems will be providing free conservation kits to the first 500 water customers

Learn about archery, nutrition and staying fit at the YMCA Healthy Kids Day Zone

Meet Community Favorites like "Dad" from Bob's Big Boy and "Red" from Red Robin

GARDEN WALK

Join Friends and Neighbors for a Relaxing Afternoon!

On Sunday, May 2 from 2 to 5 p.m., West Covina Beautiful will host a relaxing afternoon touring four local gardens. A fee of only \$5 includes refreshments and transportation from the West Covina Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St. Buses will begin boarding at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (626) 918-2783.

GARDENING WORKSHOP

Learn About Home Gardening and Receive a Free Kit!

You are invited to attend a free Gardening Workshop sponsored by Suburban Water Systems Saturday, May 8 at Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave., from 2 to 4 p.m. Learn about home gardening and the use of low water-use plants and efficient irrigation. Participants will each receive a free water conservation kit, a free water-efficient plant and other items through a series of raffles. Refreshments will be served. Class size is limited, so call (626) 939-8458 to reserve your spot!

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUP

Time to Dispose of Those Hazardous Waste Items

Some things are too toxic to throw into the regular trash! On Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the West Covina Maintenance Yard, 825 Sunset Ave., you can dispose of household hazardous waste and electronic waste, or "e-waste," the safe and right way.

Household hazardous waste includes paints, glues, pesticides, oils, solvents, cleansers, old medicine and dry-cell batteries, including those from vehicles.

E-waste includes such items as computer monitors, televisions, VCRs, stereos, fax machines,

computer keyboards and cellular telephones.

Improper disposal of these items can pollute the environment and endanger children and pets. Do your part to keep West Covina clean and green.

Sometimes all it takes is a great idea and a garage to make it a reality. Certain companies that have revolutionized the Internet and computer industries, including Google, Apple and Hewlett Parkard, started with an idea and a garage.

Similarly, Mark Cater had an idea and his parents' garage in West Covina. At 20 years old, Cater's frustration for the lack of a portable and instant shelter while under the blazing sun inspired him to design and build the easy-to-use pop-up tents known as E-Z UP Instant Shelters.

Cater started experimenting in his



parents' garage with a mechanical scissor truss system he had learned in high school. Initially producing one fold-up tent a day – while still going to college – Cater earned \$87,000 in revenue. Working out of his parents' garage, he had minimal operating expenditures and was able to build his company with no working capital from the ground up.

The E-Z UP shelters became instantly popular among different markets, including motor sports, movie studios, rental industry, parks and recreation, police, fire, high-end corporate events, beachgoers, backyard entertainers and practically

any outdoor activity.

Over the years, E-Z UP has grown to an international multimillion-dollar business, leading in its industry. From its humble beginnings in Cater's parents' garage, E-Z UP has located its corporate headquarters in Riverside, has a distribution facility in the Netherlands, and facilities in Canada, China and Mexico.

E-Z UP is still revolutionizing the tent industry and expanding its product line. The company continues to develop products for other niches from higher-end outdoor furnishings – Bungalow product line – to environmental containment units used to control contamination in hospitals.

Congratulations, Mark Cater – you have made West Covina proud!

The City's new Web site has proven very successful. For the first three months since it went live to the public, the site received nearly 9 million hits! For the same period last year, the old site had fewer than 700,000 hits.

www.westcovina.org

Here are some recent graduates of the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program, a free, five-day, hands-on program that teaches disaster preparedness and related skills to residents 18 and older.

A new session begins in April. For more information or to register, call the West Covina Fire Department at (626) 338-8800.



WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

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

City of West Covina
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West Covina Library Has New Director

The West Covina Library, part of the County of Los Angeles Public Library system, got a new director in November.

Wen Wen Zhang began working in the County of Los Angeles Public Library system in 2002 after obtaining her master's degree in library and information science from San Jose State University.

Prior to coming to West Covina, she held positions as children's librarian, reference librarian, Asian

Pacific Resource Center librarian and community library manager at the San Gabriel Library and the Hacienda Heights Library.

Here in West Covina, Zhang is focusing on ways to expand the seating, study space and WiFi areas in the library. She said she looks forward to becoming more acquainted with the West Covina community. Residents are encouraged to visit Zhang at the West Covina Library, 1601 West Covina Parkway, in the Civic Center.



Zhang