



Discover West Covina

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST COVINA

December 2015/
January 2016

A publication
provided for residents by
the City of West Covina



WWW.WESTCOVINA.ORG

Cameron Park's New Playground to Provide Inclusive Play for All

Cameron Park's playground will be undergoing changes that will convert it to an inclusive playground. As such, the new playground will serve the physical, social, sensory, cognitive and emotional needs of children of all abilities in our community.

The City of West Covina obtained grant funds for the playground through the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) and Playcore for the CPRS Healthy Play Grant. City staff members are very excited about obtaining this grant, as it was highly competitive among agencies throughout California.

CPRS is partnering with Playcore and Gametime to promote play and health across California through statewide training and an action grant.

West Covina does not currently have an inclusive playground that allows typical children to play alongside children with special needs.



The new playground at Cameron Park will include a pirate-themed playground complete with wheelchair ramps and an adaptive swingset.

The Community Services Department anticipates holding a ground-breaking

ceremony in early 2016, with the goal of finishing the project by March.

The City of West Covina continues to strive for full inclusion with its recreation programs, and this is another positive step forward.

WEST COVINA TO HOST MLK EVENT JAN. 18

The City of West Covina and the San Gabriel Valley NAACP #1066 invite everyone to West Covina's 17th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event on Monday, Jan. 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event will take place at the West Covina Civic Center

courtyard, 1444 W. Garvey Ave. South, West Covina. Join us as we pay tribute to King with a celebration that will include singers, dancers, poetry, vendors and food.



If you wish to be an event sponsor or a vendor, contact Carter Spruill at sgvyc@hotmail.com or (323) 309-3954. For event information, call (626) 939-8489 or visit the NAACP chapter online at www.sgvnaacp.org.

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Make Sure to Pick Up After Your Dog

Animal waste contains disease-causing bacteria that, when left on the ground, washes down the storm drains and contaminates beaches. It can increase the risk of viral infections.

When you take your dog for a walk, take along a bag or other container. Picking up dog waste is a county ordinance, and dog owners disregarding this law may be fined. Specific complaints should be reported to Los Angeles County Animal Control at (626) 962-3577.

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Lucille's
 Smokehouse BBQ

Gen Korean
 BBQ House

The Big Catch
 Seafood

FIRE DEPARTMENT SHARES HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

1. Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

2. Do not overload electrical outlets. Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are common causes of holiday fires.

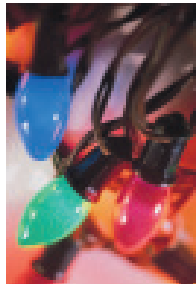
Avoid overloading outlets, and plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.

3. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights. More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.

4. Keep your tree fresh by watering daily. Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.

5. Use battery-operated candles. Candles start almost half of home decoration fires.

6. Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources. A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in



half of home fires that began with decorations.

7. Protect cords from damage. To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should not be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors or windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.

8. Check decorations for a certification label.

Decorations not bearing a label from an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL), have not been tested

for safety and could be hazardous.

9. Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking. Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

10. Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.

For more information, call the West Covina Fire Department, (626) 939-8824.

Volunteers Needed for Homeless Count in West Covina

Calling all volunteers! On the evening of Jan. 26, the City of West Covina will participate in the 2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.

An accurate count of the region's homeless population and where they live is a critical tool to help secure and direct resources where they're needed most.

Volunteers will meet at and deploy from Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave. The time is to be determined. If you are interested in volunteering, call the West Covina Community Services Department (626) 939-8489.

This annual count is led by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, with the cooperation and assistance of local volunteers and trained staff. For more information, visit the Web site at www.theycountwillyou.org.

NEW BUSINESSES COME TO WEST COVINA

Check out these new businesses in West Covina and shop locally!

GRAND CREEK PLAZA (100-150 N. Grand Ave.)

- Golden Tea House – Fall 2015

HONG KONG PLAZA (989 S. Glendora Ave.)

- Rakuya 123 Retailer – Fall 2015
- Broiling Pit Restaurant – November 2015

ISLAND PLAZA (2500 S. Azusa Ave.)

- Giant Dollar – November 2015

PLAZA WEST COVINA (112 Plaza Drive)

- Gen Korean BBQ – Now Open
- El Pescador Family Restaurant – Now Open
- Cotton On Kids – Winter 2015/2016

QUAIL RIDGE SHOPPING CENTER

(3620-3670 Nogales St.)

- Delicious Ramen Restaurant – November 2015
- Collection Baby Restaurant – December 2015

SEAFOOD CITY PLAZA (1525 Amar Road)

- Cali Noodle & Grill Restaurant (second location) – December 2015

WEST COVINA PARKWAY PLAZA

(1000 West Covina Parkway Plaza)

- Nothing Bundt Cakes – Now Open

THE CURVE (147 Barranca St.)

- Galbi Korean BBQ Restaurant – Now Open

OTHERS:

- King Torta Restaurant (956 S. Glendora Ave.) – November 2015
- Nogales/Valley Shopping Center (4141 S. Nogales St.) – February 2016
- Crestview Cadillac (new used-car office) (2700 E. Garvey Ave. S.) – Spring 2016
- The Colony at the Lakes – Lennar mixed-use project (450-unit w/20,000 SF retail) – Fall 2016



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250 S. Grand Ave., Glendora, CA 91741
(626) 963-8411

ENJOY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT NEW LOCATION

The holiday season is upon us, and it is that time of year again when the City of West Covina is visited by the jolly big man himself. The Community Services staff members have been hard at work preparing for his visit.



The City of West Covina's Annual Breakfast with Santa this year will take place at a new location, the Shadow Oak Community Center, 2121 Shadow Oak Drive, on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 9 a.m.

Join us for a pancake breakfast, holiday cheer, entertainment, games and raffles. Don't miss out on having your picture taken with Santa himself before he returns to the North Pole.

Tickets for the pancake breakfast will be available for purchase for \$8 each at the Cameron Community Center and the Shadow Oak Community Center until the day of the event. The event is free for kids ages 3 and younger.

This is a very popular event and will surely sell out, so get your tickets early. For more information, call the Community Services Department at (626) 919-6966.

PARENTS, GET SOME TIME WITH HOLIDAY DROP OFF!

Need a night to yourself? Want to go on a date? Or maybe you need to do some last-minute holiday shopping. Whatever the reason, we have the solution for you!

Holiday Drop Off will allow parents to drop off their children and have a night to themselves. The holiday season is a very busy and hectic time to be a parent. The City of West Covina knows parents deserve some time without the kids, and we are more than happy to provide child care for a night.

This year's Holiday Drop Off will be on Friday, Dec. 18 from 6 to 11 p.m. at Cameron Community Center, 1305 E. Cameron Ave. This event is for children ages 4 and older, at \$5 per child.

While parents have fun on their own, children will enjoy a night of crafts, games and cookie decorating, followed by writing letters to Santa Claus. Staff will provide snacks for the kids to munch on while watching Buddy the elf on his journey from the North Pole to New York City in the 2003 film, "Elf."

Be sure to register early, as space is limited! For registration, call (626) 919-6966.

SCORE Services Available to West Covina Businesses

West Covina has partnered with SCORE, a nonprofit association that provides free and confidential business advice for entrepreneurs and small-business owners, to bring its services to West Covina.

SCORE started serving the San Gabriel Valley from an office at West Covina City Hall. Services are available by appointment for private consultations every other Monday (first and third Mondays of the month) between 9 a.m. and noon. To schedule a one-hour consultation, visit the Web site at www.eastsangabrielvalley.score.org or call (626) 593-1120.

In addition, SCORE will host free workshops/seminars for business



owners and entrepreneurs at City Hall. The first workshop will deal with "Marketing for Small Businesses" on Thursday, Dec. 10 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the city council chambers. This workshop will be presented by John Pietro.

Pietro has more than 40 years in the marketing and advertising industry, which includes corporate experience at Wendy's and

Denny's. He worked on the famous "Where's The Beef?" campaign. His agency experience includes Coca-Cola, Burger King, Baja Fresh and Cinnabon.

Pietro owned and operated his own agency for 12 years before retiring. He has coached and taught people how to be effective marketers for years. He will show you how to bring big-league marketing to the small-business world. He has helped hundreds of small businesses grow and prosper in his six years at SCORE, and he will share this experience with you.

For more information, visit SCORE's Web site or the City's Web site at www.westcovina.org.



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December 5 & 19 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
January 9 & 16, 16 & 17 10:00am - 2:00 pm

2016 Season Dates

Players clinic: January 16, 2016
Tryouts: January 23, 2016
Opening Day: February 6, 2016

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Returning Manager Applications are
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All Manager Applications are
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Any Division

*Fees include uniform (jersey,
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PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR EL NIÑO WEATHER CONDITIONS

Since the predicted “El Niño” weather conditions are expected this winter, the City of West Covina has begun preparations for heavy rains. Infrastructures have been assessed, and emergency procedures are in place should they be required. The City has paid close attention to the hot spots that typically cause problems during winter rains.

Despite these preparations, problems may still occur. If you see a drain backing up, a fallen tree, traffic lights that are out, or any other condition that may cause a hazardous situation, call (626) 939-8425.

Check your property for any problems that may arise from high winds or heavy rain. It's never too late to prepare for the next storm. Here are some ways to prepare:

- Check your gutters, v-ditches and yard drains for debris and to assess their condition.
- Keep a close eye on the condition of your roof. Identify leaks and problems, and call a professional roofing contractor as soon as possible.
- Check the condition of windows and doors, making sure they seal correctly. Air or light coming through a window or door is a fairly good indicator that the seal may need to be replaced.
- Have your home's chimney checked for soot blockages. A blocked chimney is a fire hazard and may cause dangerous carbon monoxide to build up in the house.
- Tree limbs that hang over or are close to your house should be checked and trimmed if necessary. It is also a good idea to have your trees inspected. Even the hardiest-looking tree may have a few flaws that can compromise its strength. Call a professional arborist or landscaper to check your trees.
- Check your retaining walls for instability. Look for new cracks or cracks that are increasing in size.



- Make sure your walkways are free of debris and are not slip hazards. Look for algae deposits on walkways, and ensure the hand rails on stairs are secure.

- Talk with your neighbors about any precautions you are taking, as what you do could cause a different problem to your neighbor's property.

- Check your emergency procedures, and stock up on any materials you may need for a flood or other emergency, such as sandbags or plastic for roofs or slopes. Review emergency plans with your household.

After storms, check your property for any damage or potentially dangerous situations. Stay away from any downed power lines and call 9-1-1 and Southern California Edison at (800) 684-8123.

Check slopes for erosion, cracking or substantial mudflow. Additional information is available on the “Care and Protection of Hillside Homes” pamphlet from the Public Works Department and online at www.westcovina.org

If you have questions, call the Building and Engineering Divisions at (626) 939-8425 or the Maintenance Division at (626) 939-8458.

EMERGENCY REPAIRS

If you need to make emergency repairs to a slope, building or other structure, keep in mind that a permit may be required. **If repairs are necessary during non-business hours, you must go to the Building and**

Engineering Division in person to obtain a permit the next business day.

The Building and Engineering Divisions are located in Room 215 on the second floor of City Hall and open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If you are unsure whether a permit is required for your repairs, call (626) 939-8425 to verify.

PREPARE FOR FLOODING

- Move furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Make sure your car's gas tank is full in case an evacuation notice is issued.
- Listen to local radio and TV stations for information. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible. You may have only a short time to get to safety. Act quickly.
- Listen to warnings about flooded roadways that may present a hazard. Do not drive around barricades; they are there for your safety.
- Do not try to drive through flooded intersections or other flooded road conditions. If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.
- Use common sense at all times.

THE DANGER OF FAST-MOVING WATER

Many accidental drownings occur from fast-moving water, particularly during heavy downpours. Six inches of fast-moving water is enough to knock adults off their feet.

It is important to stay away from any area that contains water, particularly fast-moving water. Children should be reminded to stay away from drainage areas, where water can be faster and deeper than anticipated.

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POWER OUTAGES

In the event of a power outage during a storm, turn off all lights and electrical equipment. Keep a flashlight handy.

Avoid lighting your home with candles, and never heat your home with barbecue grills or any other hazardous instruments. Both candles and barbecue grills are fire hazards, and using a barbecue grill for heat can result in the buildup of deadly carbon monoxide in the home.

If you experience an emergency during a power outage, call 9-1-1.

SANDBAGS

Free sandbags and sand are available at the following West Covina fire stations:

- Fire Station 1/City Yard, 819 S. Sunset Ave.
- Fire Station 2, 2441 E. Cortez St.
- Fire Station 4, 1815 S. Azusa Ave.
- Fire Station 5, 2650 E. Shadow Oak Drive

The fire stations are open 24 hours a day. The bags are **not** prefilled with sand. Residents will have to fill the sandbags with the available sand. Take your own shovel because one might not be available.

There is a 10-bag limit per household for free sandbags. During emergency periods, City staff will review individual



situations and furnish engineering advice. Extreme situations may require the homeowner to consult a civil engineer, engineering geologist or geotechnical engineer.

The pamphlet, "Homeowner's Guide to Erosion Control," is available on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Web site at www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/HomeOwners/enter.cfm

Residents may purchase additional sandbags at these stores:

- Home Depot, 2220 S. Azusa Ave., West Covina
- Home Depot, 963 W. Badillo St., Covina
- Home Depot, 3200 Puente Ave., Baldwin Park
- Merritt's Hardware, 1302 N. Hacienda Blvd., La Puente
- Nichols Lumber, 13470 Dalewood, Baldwin Park

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency: 9-1-1
- City of West Covina: (626) 939-8400
- Building/Engineering Divisions: (626) 939-8425
- Maintenance Division: (626) 939-8458
- Police Department, Non-Emergency: (626) 939-8500
- Fire Department, Non-Emergency: (626) 939-8584
- Southern California Edison: (800) 684-8123
- Southern California Gas Company - Residential: (800) 427-2200
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CITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Brings New Businesses, Projects, Revenues

The City of West Covina's economic development efforts for 2015 have resulted in a year full of new and exciting businesses and projects. The City of West Covina promotes West Covina as the ideal location for business and cultivates a business-friendly environment to attract and facilitate new businesses.

As a result of the City's efforts, West Covina residents can enjoy new businesses such as The Big Catch, Tokyo Central, El Pescador, Gen Korean BBQ, and Galbi Korean BBQ. As of November, the City welcomed 330 new businesses to the community, creating more than 1,138 new jobs in 2015 alone.

With all the new businesses, West Covina's shopping center vacancy rates

continue to fall. Centers throughout the city are reaching 100-percent occupancy, including Covina Palms Center, The Citrus Grove, Sunset Francisquito Center, McIntyre Square, and Plaza West Covina.

As a result, the City's retail vacancy rate has dropped to 3.2 percent, a substantial decline from last year's 4.7 percent. West Covina's economic development efforts have been so successful in attracting business that West Covina's retail center vacancy rate is significantly lower than Los Angeles County (4.5 percent) and San Gabriel Valley (4.5 percent).

The new businesses make investments in West Covina, as reflected in the increase in property taxes. The City's overall property tax revenues, from residential and commercial properties, continue to

increase, currently up by 5.9 percent since last year.

West Covina's median price for a single-family house has risen to \$450,000, a 4.65-percent increase from last year. In addition, the new housing developments throughout the City have contributed to the rise in property taxes to the City.

The additional revenues generated by West Covina's economic development efforts go toward the City's general fund, which pays for City services such as public safety (police and fire), city parks and facilities, youth and senior programs, community events, and public works (maintenance of streets, sewers, etc.). City officials and staff hope residents enjoy the new businesses and patronize them to keep our sales tax local.



WEST COVINA COUPLE CELEBRATES 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Longtime West Covina residents Bill and Gay Adams celebrated 65 years of marriage this past October. The couple has lived in the same West Covina house for the past 55 years, and they've been members of the same West Covina Church – Bethany Church – for 63 years. Bill retired in 1991 as assistant deputy for the State of California Banking Department, and Gay retired in 1994 as the chief's secretary for the El Monte Fire Department. They have four children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Their daughter, Jane Rich, sent these photos of the couple from their wedding day and their 65th anniversary celebration. Happy anniversary to Bill and Gay!



CITY OF WEST COVINA PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Ages 3-5 years

\$20 annual registration fee

Part time (less than 20 hours) \$110/week or \$26/day

Full time (more than 20 hours) \$125/week or \$36/day

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\$86 per week per child or \$24 per day per child

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Public Safety and Community Partners Hold Red Ribbon Rally

On Saturday, Oct. 31, West Covina High School was home to the 2015 Red Ribbon Rally, a full day of safe and healthy events that began with a free pancake breakfast.

Held in honor of slain DEA agent Enrique Camarena, the Red Ribbon Rally brings together community members to help youths have fun and "say NO to drugs and alcohol."

Events at the rally included demonstrations and displays by the West Covina Police Department and West Covina Fire Department, rides, an obstacle course and more. With support from the City of West Covina, the Rotary Clubs of West Covina, the West Covina Unified School District, the California Highway Patrol, and many other dedicated community partners, this all-day family event was a tremendous success.



L-r: Detective David Sifling, a community participant and Police Chief Dave Faulkner at this year's event.



The above photo shows West Covina Fire Department members at a recent badge-pinning ceremony. The West Covina Fire Department promoted eight firefighters and hired three new ones.



West Covina High School's award-winning robotics team, named Team 968 RAWC, is seeking donations from local businesses for the upcoming 2015-2016 build season. For more information or to make a donation, visit the team's Web site at www.team968.com.



Add A Little More
Green
To Your Holiday Season

**LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE
RECYCLING**

- WHO:** Single-family residences in the City of West Covina
WHEN: Dec. 26, 2015- Jan. 8, 2016
 On your scheduled trash collection day
WHERE: Curbside, next to your trash cans
REMEMBER: Natural Trees Only
 Please remove all lights, tinsel, ornaments, bags, stands, etc.



For more information call: (626) 939-8458 or visit www.westcovina.org/environment

City of West Covina
1444 W. Garvey Ave.
West Covina, CA 91790

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**WEST COVINA
CITY
COUNCIL**

Mayor: Fred Sykes
Mayor Pro Tem: James Toma
Councilman: Mike Spence
Councilmember: Corey Warshaw
Councilmember: Ben Wong

twitter



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on Twitter!

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Have ideas for "Discover West Covina?" E-mail: Discoverwestcovina@westcovina.org or mail to:
West Covina City Hall, Community Services Dept., Attn: Heather Sayers, 1444 W. Garvey Ave., West Covina, CA 91790

THE CITY OF WEST COVINA DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY OF THE PAID ADVERTISERS.



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2015-2016 K-12 Full-Time Program

- Enrolling K-12 Full-time student
招收K-12 全日制學生
- Provide home stay for international students
國際學生提供寄宿家庭



INTENSIVE SAT/PSAT/ACT WORKSHOPS

- SAT/PSAT/ACT 強化輔導班
- With Excellent Teachers, Free Trials, Free Diagnostic Test
- 10 HOURS
(6 Hours Instruction + 4 Hours Testing, Saturday, \$160/Week)
- AP English/History/Biology/Chemistry/Physics

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- \$1200/week (Courses, Tours and Home Stay)
每周\$1200 (包括上課、旅遊和家庭寄宿)

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED 尋找寄宿家庭合作
Contact us now and become a host family that accommodate K-12 foreign students in Summer.
接受夏令營、遊學學生的寄宿家庭請與我們聯繫

2015 SUMMER SCHOOL

2015 暑期班 (6/4/2015-8/5/2015)

- Full Day \$130/week
全天上課 \$130 / 周
- Provide Lunch
提供午餐
- Provide Transportation
提供接送

AFTER SCHOOL

- \$75/week
- Coach in English, Math, Chinese
- Provide Transportation

Intensive English/Math Afterschool Program

- \$110/week
- Perfect for 4th Grader to 10th Grader
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WEST COVINA CAMPUS ENROLLMENT
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