

Covina TODAY



Police
Dispatcher
Crystal Goins
monitors
Cougar Park.

EXTRA SET OF EYES

CAMERA PROGRAM HELPS POLICE
PROTECT PUBLIC
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New park coming soon
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Tree trimming in full swing
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Enhancing the Covina way of life

Dear Neighbor,

The beginning of a new year is a time for both reflection and promise. It is a time to reflect on what we have accomplished, the journey we have taken to get to where we are and the plans for an exciting, bright future.



Late last year, the City Council held a series of strategic planning sessions to identify and prioritize our strategies and align the organization and our limited resources to address them. Through this process, the City Council and executive team united around a common-sense plan for a more prosperous future.

Much of the foundation-laying work accomplished in 2015 is already yielding exciting, tangible results, and we have made excellent

CORE STRATEGIES

- Provide a safe and secure community.
- Enhance the quality of life.
- Promote a strong, diverse local economy.
- Develop a responsive, inclusive, participatory and transparent City government focused on customer service.
- Secure a sound, sustainable financial strategy for the future.
- Maintain and improve Covina's infrastructure.

progress in our six core strategies. Over the next year, we will continue to build upon our recent accomplishments as we continue to provide a safe community, maintain the high quality of life, make major investments in the City's parks and recreation facilities, repair local streets and roads, and promote a strong, diverse local economy by attracting new businesses and development to Covina.

We never forget that this is your

city government, and it is here to serve you. We are making City Hall more responsive, results-driven and accountable to the public while establishing clear performance standards so you know how taxpayer money is being spent. Everything rises and falls on leadership. Long-term planning is one of the most important functions of leaders. We will continue to look deeper with an eye on the longer-term opportunities, include more of the public in the process, and make decisions that are in the best interest of our entire city and its future generations, focusing on the long-term investment rather than short-term thinking. This is the culture we are creating in Covina City Hall.

Covina is going from good to great! Covina has turned opportunity into action in 2015; and we will continue that momentum in the year to come.

Andrea Miller
City Manager
amiller@covinaca.gov

City of Covina

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor	John C. King
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Council Member	Peggy A. Delach
Council Member	Jorge A. Marquez
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CITY OF COVINA EXECUTIVE TEAM

City Manager	Andrea M. Miller
Police	Kim Raney
Community Development	Brian K. Lee
Human Resources	Danielle Tellez
Parks & Recreation/Library	Amy Hall-McGrade
Public Works	Siobhan Foster
Finance	Dennis Swink

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We continue to make changes to the newsletter to make it interesting to the community. If you have any suggestions please contact us.

PLEASE FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



www.covinaca.gov





The One Charter Oak community will feature two-story homes in the Spanish, California Ranch and Craftsman architectural styles.

City gets new park and homes

City officials have given the green light to transform the long-vacant Banna School site into a new park and Covina's first new neighborhood of single-family homes in years.

A massive clean up is slated to start by mid-summer to make way for One Charter Oak, a community of 63 two-story homes bordered by a 2-acre park, which will be open to the public.

Security fencing will go up this spring before demolition of the old Banna Elementary School buildings begins. Signs will be posted with phone numbers for residents to call in case of construction-related issues.

Vacant for 15 years, the 8-acre site is overrun with weeds, which will be replaced with a drought-tolerant landscaping theme. Construction is expected to begin by spring 2017.

One Charter Oak originally wanted to build 120 homes on the property, which it purchased from the Charter Oak Unified School District. After months of meetings and workshops to listen to citizen



The old Banna Elementary School will be razed.

concerns, the city gave approval for 63 detached houses.

All the houses will be two-stories and each will have a yard with native plants and drought tolerant turf. They will be in the Spanish, California Ranch and Craftsman styles.

One Charter Oak also gave the city some land to develop a public park bordering the north end of the new neighborhood. The vision is to create a neighborhood park.

Workshops will be held in the community to obtain input and ideas on the park design.

The One Charter Oak project

will generate about \$138,000 in property taxes annually, which will go into city coffers to support parks and recreation, libraries, fire protection and law enforcement.

"This project will create multiple benefits for the community," Planning Director Brian Lee says. "Not only will the park provide needed open space for the neighborhood, but because it will be a highly visible community resource, the park will have the added benefit of continuing to raise the public perception of Covina as a desirable place to invest, live and work."



Seniors



Chair volleyball is one of the many activities offered for seniors in Covina.

Planning underway for new senior and community center

The Joslyn Center closed its doors at Kelby Park on February 29, and through a cooperative agreement with Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation, the city's senior programs have taken up temporary residence at Valleydale Park Community Center in the City of Azusa while a new center is planned and constructed.

Workshops have already begun to engage the community in a

CITY OFFICIALS WELCOME INPUT

March 21, 7 p.m.
Covina Park Recreation Hall,
340 N. Valencia Place

April 11, 7 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers,
125 E. College St.

collaborative effort to create a new Covina Senior & Community Center.

At meetings held on February 22 and March 1, citizens shared their views about siting the new center.

Questions were raised about parking issues and maintaining green space and trees.

City Council and staff were pleased to see so many community members engaged and willing



to participate in the public discussion.

The community's clear voice will assist in guiding the decision-making process.

City officials and staff are continuing to research multiple locations within the city for an appropriate site for the new Covina Senior & Community Center.

These options include city property, city parks, and a few privately-owned properties. No decisions have been made.

Gonzalez Goodale Architects and city staff are conducting two upcoming Community Participation Workshops.

Citizens are invited to attend to hear more about possible sites, potential financial options, and next steps as we collectively continue through the process of siting and creating a wonderful new space for our seniors and community members.

We are confident that the finished product will be a new, attractive, innovative and highly functional center that will serve our citizens for many years.

The public is invited to attend the upcoming meetings and are encouraged to submit feedback and comments via email to srproject@covinaca.gov.



Covina seniors enjoying chair volleyball.

Kiwanis Club provides scholarships, dental screenings and more

The Covina-South Hills Kiwanis Club was chartered 62 years ago and has been serving the community since.

The club is currently providing dental screenings for kindergartners and first graders at the Charter Oak and Covina Valley school districts.

Members also deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound residents. They also occasionally fix up houses for seniors who physically or financially can't do it themselves.

"Our motto is ...changing the world, one child and one community at a time," said the club's President-Elect, Anita White. "Our focus is mainly on kids, though, because that's our future."

The club awards scholarships of at least \$750 each year to a few high school seniors.

It also gives money to the Builders Club at Sierra Vista Middle School, as well as the Key Clubs at Covina High, Charter Oak High, South Hills High and Northview High.

The club raises money for various city programs, like the library, Parks and Recreation summer entertainment programs and the Covina Concert Band.

The club's biggest fundraiser of the year, its annual pancake breakfast, is set for April 30 at Heritage Park. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the event. Local High School bands have been invited to perform.

To bolster their budget, club members are also getting ready to launch a new program to recruit sponsors for the Key Clubs they support.

Sponsors will be recognized with things like their names on banners.

To join the club, call White at 626-688-5765.

"We'd love to have you come check us out," she says. "It's just a good feeling at the end of the day to know that you've done something that someone needed to have done."





Cameras in the downtown area and nearby alleyways and parking lots act as another set of eyes for police.

Police and schools deploy cameras for safety

In the early morning hours on a recent day, there were no witnesses downtown to call police and report that two men were vandalizing the Covina Playhouse. Luckily, a police dispatcher was watching the crime occur on one of the city’s new surveillance cameras.

Officers were sent to the scene, the vandals were arrested and the video is being used in court to assist in attaining restoration for the business owner.

“The extra set of eyes the Citywide Camera System provides is intended to protect life and property,” says Police Captain Dave Povero. “It has been a

welcome addition to the public safety program.”

The Citywide Camera System went live in Covina last fall. City leaders, the community and business owners were involved in the development phases to ensure that privacy concerns were considered. The system is video based, and does not capture audio from public places.

Business owners worked with police to place cameras in the downtown area along Citrus Avenue and in alleyways and parking lots.

There are also cameras at the downtown parking structure, City

Hall, Cougar Park, Heritage Park Plaza and the area in and around the Police Department.

Now the program is expanding to schools.

Representatives of Charter Oak Unified have been meeting with police to identify ways to further enhance safety and security on campuses. The first step is to deploy cameras at Charter Oak High School, Royal Oak Intermediate and Cedargrove Elementary.

The concept is to place the cameras on perimeter locations of the campuses to cover ingress/ egress points and allow police



personnel to capture the adjacent roadways near the campuses.

Installation is anticipated sometime this calendar year.

Police would also like to eventually see cameras in every park, initially City Park, Hollenbeck Park and Khaler Park.

The cameras may also be placed at City Park, Hollenbeck Park and Khaler Russell Park. Some of the smaller pocket parks may come later.

No dates are set. But one place expected to see cameras in 2016 is the commuter Metrolink parking structure.

This project is in its planning and funding stage. Cameras will be integrated into the Citywide System to provide better safety and security to Metrolink commuters.

Covina's CCS uses the latest technology. Most surveillance systems employ static cameras that point at one fixed location and record events for viewing at



A camera's view of Downtown.

a later time.

The power of Covina's Citywide Camera System is the human element of live monitoring. The new system includes several viewing stations inside the police station where dispatchers monitor the cameras in real time.

The cameras are also capable of panning, tilting and zooming at the operator's discretion. At Cougar

Park, a thermal imaging camera can detect body heat and notify police if someone is there after closing time. An outgoing audio speaker allows police to make an audible announcement into the park if necessary.

Interim Police Chief Kim Raney says the cameras will keep our citizens safer and help solve crime.

K-9 DEMONSTRATION DELIGHTS STUDENTS



Covina's newest police officer, K-9 Jarno, and his partner, Ryan Rasmussen, received dozens of thank you notes, cards and letters from Cedargrove Elementary School 2nd-graders after a recent visit.

Rasmussen shared Jarno's important role as his partner – and educated them about the role of police dogs in public safety. "Tell Jarno I adore him," wrote a student named Madeline.



Police officer, Ryan Rasmussen, with his new partner, K-9 Jarno, at Cedargrove Elementary School.



Public Works

Arborists began pruning city trees in January. Public Works officials have established a schedule so that every tree on city property gets a trim every five years. To find out when trimmers will be on your street, visit the city's website.



Regular tree trimming implemented

For the first time in a long time, city trees in parks and on streets are slated to get a much needed pruning.

All city trees have been put on a schedule so they are trimmed every five years. The first round began in January and will be completed in 2020. That's because there are 10,197 trees on city property.

West Coast Arborists has been hired to do the job. They will trim 2,000 trees a year at a cost of about \$100,000.

"For several years, the City has trimmed public street and park trees on a reactive basis," said Public Works Director Siobhan Foster. A regular schedule will "maximize the benefits of Covina's urban forest and promote the health, safety, and vitality of city trees."

Trimming regularly is essential to remove dead and damaged wood and clear public right-of-ways for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Trimming also spruces up street scapes and parks, bringing pride to the city and perhaps even getting more people outdoors.

To find out when trimmers are scheduled to be on your street, go to the city's website and click on <http://covinaca.gov/services-a-programs/urbanforest>. There you will see a grid of the trimming schedule, neighborhood by neighborhood, for the next five years.

Trimming has begun in the area between the westerly city limits at Grand Avenue, Arrow Highway and Cypress Street and will wrap up by May.

PLANT A TREE, CLEAN THE AIR

Trees enhance property values and absorb traffic sounds. They also improve air quality by removing dust and chemicals from the atmosphere.

Those are just some of the reasons city officials are preparing to bolster Covina's urban forest.

"The need for an aggressive tree planting program became evident based on the number of vacant tree sites throughout the city," said Public Works Director Siobhan Foster.

The Public Works Department is inviting volunteers to join them. Residents who sign up will work with West Coast Arborists. The plan is to start planting trees this spring. Foster said she is pursuing tree planting grants to help with the cost.

Dates for the tree planting events will be posted at <http://covinaca.gov/services-a-programs/urbanforest>.





Historical photo: Downtown Covina 1886



Pictured from left to right are Frances Cook, Italia Richmond Cook, and Benjamin Franklin Cook standing in their 40-acre orange grove, presently downtown Covina. In 1886, Italia arrived to visit her father, a shopkeeper on Badillo Street. She had left negative 20-degree weather in Iowa, and the climate here and the little village so impressed her that Italia persuaded her husband, Benjamin, to move to Covina.



Longtime Covina resident Mimi Worku snapped this sunset photo at the corner of Citrus and Rowland streets. Worku moved to Covina in 1996 from Ethiopia. Today she has a 4-year-old son and a job in the health care industry. "I love this city," she says. "It's safe, beautiful — a great place to raise my kids. I wouldn't have it any other way."

GOT A PHOTO OF THE CITY YOU WANT TO SHARE?

Or a story you would like to see about a resident, business or organization that Covina is fortunate to have? If so, please email mvargas@covinaca.gov. Photos and story ideas will be considered for future editions of Covina Today.

JOBS OPEN, JOIN TEAM COVINA

If you are at least 16 years old and looking for a great part-time summer job, now's the time to get your application in to the City.

Positions include a Community Resources Aide, Community Resources Assistant I, and Community Resources Assistant II.

The jobs begin June 1 and go through August 26.

You can work in a variety of areas, including youth sports, summer day camp, special events, facility rentals or the library.

Applications are now being accepted. To apply online go to covinaca.gov, or call 626-384-5550.

CITY HALL TO GET A NEW RECEPTION AREA

The City Council has approved the construction of a new reception area at City Hall as part of an effort to enhance customer and community service.

The new space will be located just inside the main entrance. The council also approved the hiring of a receptionist. They plan to open the new area in late Spring.





TEA PARTY FUN

About 25 children dressed in their favorite princess dresses, sipped tea and enjoyed story telling with “Queen Elsa” at the Covina Public Library. Elsa and her Disney-movie “Frozen” cast mate Olaf delighted the children and family members.



LOW COST PET VACCINATION CLINIC

A low-cost clinic for a variety of pet vaccinations will be held May 19.

Sponsored by the Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control, the clinic is set for 6-7:30 p.m. at the hockey rink at Covina Park at 301 N. Fourth Ave.

No appointment is needed. Pets will be taken on a first-come, first-

served basis. Pet owners must be at least 18 years of age. All pets must be on leashes or in carriers. Only healthy and non-pregnant animals will be vaccinated.

Just a reminder: Rabies vaccines are needed to license your pet. For more information, including fees, go to animalcare.lacounty.gov. Or call 626-384-5603.

GET CONNECTED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Some 1,587 Covina citizens have signed up for the city’s new emergency notification system, but police would like to see more residents get on board.

Covina Police began using Nixle last March to share information about any emergency that might arise in the city, from road closures to gas leaks to suspicious activities

Messages are delivered by text or email, whichever way you request.

Signing up is easy: You can either log on to nixle.com/covina-police-department or text your Covina zip code to 888777. The service is free.

Here is a message that went out last fall during a threat that resulted in the closure of schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

“The Covina Police Department (CPD) and its staff continue to monitor the situation at The Los Angeles Unified School District. CPD patrol officers are spending time at both private and public schools and remain in constant communication with both Charter Oak and Covina Valley Unified School Districts.

The City of Covina and Covina Police Department have adopted nixle to communicate with the community, to keep them better informed during an emergency or in situations like today’s threat.”



COMMUNITY SURVEY – YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

It is the mission of the Parks & Recreation Department to enhance the quality of life for our community. The purpose of this survey is to receive input regarding Parks & Recreation programs and park maintenance, so that we may better meet the needs of our residents. The Information obtained will assist in future planning and resource allocation.

Please check all programs in which you or your family members have participated in the past year?

- Aquatics (swim) Youth Sports Day Camp Fee-based Youth Classes Adult Softball
- Senior Programs Special Events Trips/Excursions Fee-based Adult Classes None

What program times are most convenient for you and your family members? (all that apply)

During the School Year: Weekday: Mornings Afternoons Evenings

Weekend: Mornings Afternoons Evenings

During the Summer: Weekday: Mornings Afternoons Evenings

Weekend: Mornings Afternoons Evenings

How do you receive information about Parks & Recreation programs? (all that apply)

- Covina Today (Recreation Guide) Flyer from School City Website
- Flyer from City office Word of Mouth Other: _____

If you do not participate in Parks & Recreation programs, why not? (all that apply)

- Don't Know What is Offered Age (Too Young/Too Old) Don't Have Time Cost of Services
- Previous Negative Experience Location of Services Other: _____

What additional recreational programs and services would you like to see provided?

How would you rate the City's performance in caring for its parks?

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>
Maintaining park turf and plant material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping park clean of trash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining play equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping parks safe to visit during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping parks safe to visit during the evening	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining and cleaning restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining and cleaning other buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional comments or suggestions regarding park maintenance:

What is your age? 18-25 years 26-35 years 36-45 years 46-55 years Over 55 years

How many children in your household? (Indicate # of each age group) ___ 0-5 years ___ 6-12 years ___ 13-17 years

May we contact you? (Optional)

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address/City/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Please return survey by June 1, 2016.

Mail or drop off: Parks & Recreation Office, 1250 N. Hollenbeck Ave., Covina, CA 91722 or

Email: parksandrecreation@covinaca.gov or **Fax:** (626) 384-5350





COVINA CITY COUNCIL
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 Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Stapleton
 Council Member Walter Allen III
 Council Member Peggy A. Delach
 Council Member Jorge A. Marquez
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2016 AQUATIC PROGRAM

REGISTRATION DATES

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION: Begins Monday, April 11
WALK-IN/PHONE-IN REGISTRATION: Begins Monday, May 9

SESSION DATES

SATURDAY LESSONS (5 days, 40 minutes per day)

Session 1: 6/11-7/9 Session 2: 7/16-8/13 Session 3: 8/20-9/17

WEEKDAY LESSONS (8 days, 40 minutes per day)

Session 1: 6/13-6/23 Session 4: 7/25-8/4 Session 7: 9/6-9/15
Session 2: 6/27-7/7 Session 5: 8/8-8/18
Session 3: 7/11-7/21 Session 6: 8/22-9/1

FEES

WEEKDAY LESSONS

- Group \$60
- Semi-Private \$110
- Private \$160

SATURDAY LESSONS

- Group \$40
- Semi-Private \$70
- Private \$100

Complete schedule and information for the 2016 Aquatic Program is available at the Parks & Recreation office and online at www.covinaca.gov. Additional programs include Swim Team, Junior Lifeguard Course, Aquatic Fitness Classes, Recreational Swimming, Lap Swimming, Pool Rentals, and more!

For questions, please contact the Parks & Recreation office at (626) 384-5340.

