

City History



The story of Westminister is one of a cooperative spirit, purpose and determination. Westminister was founded as a temperance colony by the Presbyterian minister, Reverend Lemuel P. Webber in 1870 upon his purchase of some 6,000 acres of Stearns Rancho. Fulfilling his dream, he invited those people with like ideas in religion and morals to locate on individual 40 acre farms in his new colony. The town was named for the Westminister Assembly of 1643, which prescribed the basic tenants of the Presbyterian Church.

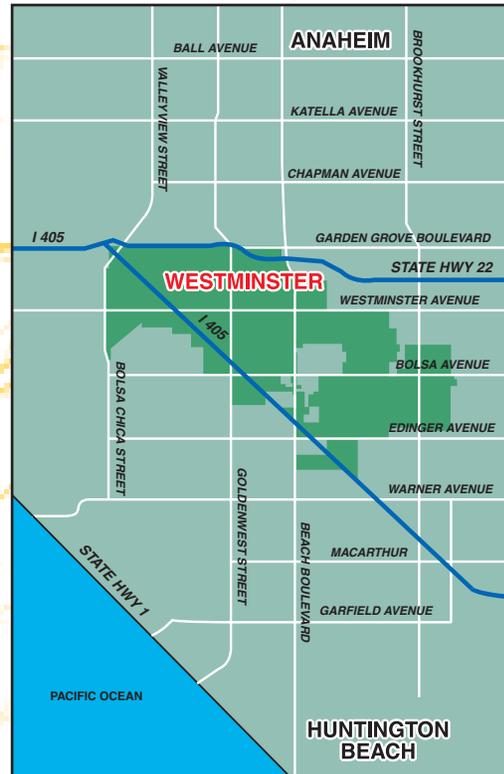
The community maintained its rural character until the housing boom that followed World War II in the 1940s and 50s. The City was incorporated in 1957, and in the beginning, served as a "bedroom community" to the aerospace, industrial and commercial centers of Los Angeles County. Residential growth brought large tracts of single-family homes, apartments and mobile home parks to Westminister. Commercial and industrial areas developed throughout the City.

In the mid 1970s, an influx of Vietnamese and other Asian groups came to Southern California. Many of them were attracted to Westminister initially because of the affordable retail spaces along Bolsa Avenue. The area, now recognized as "Little Saigon" has the largest concentration of Vietnamese in the United States.



Westminister California

A great place to



CITY OF WESTMINSTER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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Work Visit

The City of Westminister is home of the West Orange County Municipal Courthouse, the beautiful Westminister Mall, the newly formed Westminister Auto Dealers Association, and pleasant residential neighborhoods, parks, churches and schools.

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Shop *Westminster*

WESTMINSTER MALL

Westminster Mall is a modern shopping center with a unique symmetrical exterior and a beautiful and inviting interior that sits on 90 acres of land. It is anchored by JC Penny, Robinsons-May, Sears, and by the end of 2002, Macy's will join the line up. With these anchors and more than 180 specialty stores, including Ann Taylor Loft, Bath & Body Works, a flagship Charlotte Russe, The Disney Store, Gap, The Limited, and Old Navy, Westminster Mall was named by Orange County Register in 2001 as the number one "shopped-most-often" mall in Orange County.

Aside from the above stores, it also has diverse ethnic dining choices, including Mongolian Barbecue, Hawaiian, Chinese, Italian, French, and Irish dishes, and light snacks such as freshly squeezed juices, smoothie, coffee, pretzels, cookies, and cinnamon rolls.

Westminster Mall is conveniently located on the corner of Goldenwest Street and Bolsa Avenue, right off of the San Diego (405) Freeway. Come and check out our selection of stores at the mall, you will not regret it.

OTHER RETAIL EXPERIENCES

In addition to the Westminster Mall, Westminster also has more retail gems within its boundaries, such as the Westminster Gateway Center, Pavilions Place Shopping Center, and Westminster Center. These centers include big names such as Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Edwards Cinema, Albertsons, Pavilions... etc. So, come, visit and enjoy the Westminster lifestyle.

Little *Saigon*

Imagine an array of exotic architecture, enchanting music and enticing aromas overwhelming your senses. Now, place this image in an Orange County city and ...Voila! Welcome to Little Saigon in Westminster! A 1.5 mile stretch along Bolsa Avenue, Little Saigon is home to over 3,000 businesses and where approximately 15,000 Vietnamese-Americans live and work. It has the highest concentration of Vietnamese population in the United States.

If you venture out to Little Saigon, you will find a mixture of the old world with the new, working harmoniously together. You will experience everything from traditional herbal remedies to discounted designer accessories, from fantastic bargains on gold and jade jewelry to tempting cuisine at assorted Asian and French restaurants. Choose from a myriad of appetizing Asian, Chinese, and especially Vietnamese cuisine and finish up with traditional Vietnamese desserts and sweets to complete your experience.

Come! Take a journey through Little Saigon and experience a different culture and its exotic charm without traveling far.

Auto *Dealers*

The City of Westminster is home to six great auto dealerships. Elmore Toyota, Honda World, Lexus of Westminster, Showcase Chevrolet, Sunset Ford and Westminster Buick/Pontiac/GMC all call Westminster home. The majority of the dealers are prominently located on Beach Boulevard between the San Diego (405) and Garden Grove (22) Freeways. Sunset Ford and Showcase Chevrolet are located on Garden Grove Boulevard, just off the San Diego (405) Freeway.

Westminster is proud to be home to many of the automobile lines since the early 1960's. Since that time, all the auto dealers have proven themselves as large players in the auto sales world. They have been a major force both in the county as well as the city. Westminster offers the automobile shoppers a selection that is unrivaled in Orange County.

In 2001, the six dealerships formed the "Westminster Auto Dealers Association". The association allowed the six dealerships the opportunity to combine their resources for advertising, promotions and public functions, resulting in better services to the customer.

In the fall of 2002 the Westminster Auto Dealers Association will unveil a large state-of-the-art display sign off the San Diego (405) Freeway, at the Westminster Boulevard exit. The sign is a joint public/private effort between the Auto Dealership Association and the City of Westminster Redevelopment Agency.

Come on down and experience the Westminster Auto Dealers Association. You'll be glad you did!

Centrally Located, with a Variety of Shopping Experiences and Business Opportunities.