

City of El Cajon (619) 441-1776

El Cajon City Hall 200 Civic Center Way El Cajon, CA 92020 www.cityofelcajon.us

City Council (619) 441-1788

Mayor Bill Wells
Deputy Mayor Steve Goble
Councilmember Ben Kalasho
Councilmember Gary Kendrick
Councilmember W.E. "Bob" McClellan

City Departments

City Attorney	(619) 441-1798
City Clerk	(619) 441-1763
Passport Services	(619) 441-1763
City Manager's Office	(619) 441-1716
Community Development	(619) 441-1741
Finance	(619) 441-1668
Fire Administration	(619) 441-1601
Human Resources	(619) 441-1736
Information Technology	(619) 441-1535
Police Administration	(619) 579-3351
Public Works	(619) 441-1653
Recreation	(619) 441-1754

Emergency 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 when there is a medical emergency, fire, crime in progress, or a life threatening situation.

Non-Emergency

Police (619) 579-3311 Fire (619) 441-1721

Pages

- **3** Special Events Calendar
- **4-5** Magnolia Performing Arts Center
- **6** City News
- **7** City Updates





Pages

8-9	Spotlight on the Community Development Department
10	Public Safety

- 11 Public Safety
 Understanding
 Your Sewer Bill
- 12-13 Storm Water

Pages

- 14 Community Events
- **15** Guide to Recreation
- Thanks to Our Community Sponsors
- Enjoy El Cajon -Community Events





Daylight Saving Time Begins

Daylight saving time begins on March 10th. Adjust your clocks by springing forward one-hour. It is also an excellent time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



MAR 3

ST. PATRICK'S DAY HALF MARATHONStarts at the El Cajon Arch 6 a.m.

ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CEREMONY

Hillside Park – 840 Buena Terrace 8 a.m.

MAR 16





17

CAJON CLASSIC CRUISE CAR SHOW

Downtown El Cajon Every Wednesday through October 30 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

DINNER & A CONCERT

Prescott Promenade 201 E. Main Street Every Friday through September 27 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. MAY 3





18

AMERICA ON MAIN STREET

Downtown El Cajon Saturday, May 18 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.



Magnolia Performing Arts Center Update

Formerly the East County Performing Arts Center

The City continues making strides in preparing for the Magnolia Performing Art Center's grand re-opening for concerts and more. A significant interior make-over of the venue, along with new exterior signage, is well underway with an expected opening date of September 2019.

Live Nation (the management company for the venue) has already started its marketing efforts for shows and preparing for the grand re-opening.

Significant projects at the Magnolia Performing Arts Center include the creation of a new enhanced entryway, addition of a VIP lounge and experiences, installation of an elevator, and replacement of the heating and air system. The photos show some of the work taking place and the venue's new look.

Stay tuned for more updates and the formal announcement of the Magnolia Performing Arts Center's grand re-opening.













City Now Accepting Passport Applications

The City of El Cajon now accepts passport applications on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. U.S. citizens planning international travel may apply for their passports at the City Clerk's Office by appointment. Appointment times are available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and alternate Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please call (619) 441-1763. The City Clerk's Office is located at 200 Civic Center Way in El Cajon.

To download forms or for more information about required documents, photos, fees, and international travel, please visit www.travel.state.gov.





Heartland Fire Appoints Steve Swaney as Fire Chief

This past October, Steve Swaney was selected as Heartland Fire & Rescue's Fire Chief. Heartland Fire serves the communities of El Cajon, La Mesa, and Lemon Grove by providing shared management of the agencies' fire protection and prevention, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness.

Chief Swaney, 55, began working for the City of El Cajon, and later Heartland Fire & Rescue, in 1985. Chief Swaney most recently served as a Division Chief responsible for daily fire station operations. Chief Swaney said "It is an honor to have been chosen as the new Fire Chief and I am excited for the opportunity to lead such a great organization!"

Chief Swaney previously served as the Fire Chief for the Julian Cuyamaca Fire Protection District. He has been heavily involved with canine search and rescue throughout his career, is a certified FEMA Canine evaluator, and a lead instructor for the FEMA Canine Search Specialist School. Swaney has frequently served as a commander in response to both regional and statewide fire events.

New at Parkway Plaza

El Cajon's Parkway Plaza mall has recently added several new stores, including Carter's, OshKosh B'Gosh, Miniso (a Japan-based designer brand), and Stubborn Poke.

Customers can expect to see a new look for the former Sear's location. This large space will be broken up into multiple new retailers including Burlington, Bob's Discount Furniture, and Ashley HomeStore, with room to add additional retailers and restaurants in the future.

Parkway Plaza now offers a new Live 360 program, offering local groups rental space and meeting rooms at the mall. Current partners



include American Red Cross, Cajon Valley School District, Dogs Fur Days and the City of El Cajon Recreation Department. If your business or organization would like to share your talents and passion with the community through Parkway Plaza, please contact their Director of Marketing, Kelly Corbet at kcorbet@starwoodretail.com.



Benefits of Locking Dumpsters

There are several benefits to locking your dumpster. First, it prevents illegal dumpster scavenging by people looking for scrap metal, cans, bottles and other items that can be recycled. It also helps to deter illegal dumping by people looking for a quick, easy, and free way to throw away bulky trash. Locking and securing your trash is a great way to keep your property and the community clean from trash and debris.



Construction of the Hampton Inn by Hilton, the City's second major hotel, is progressing quickly! The 96-room hotel is expected to be completed this winter. The Excel Hotel Group, who successfully built the Courtyard Marriott in El Cajon, is also building the new Hampton Inn.

On the same site, construction of Brixton Capital Group's Fletcher Marketplace is expected to be completed this summer. The Marketplace will feature both retail and restaurant spaces. New restaurants will include California Fish Grill, Blaze Pizza, Urbane Cafe, and an In-N-Out drive-thru.

The hotel and new commercial buildings are both located on the corner of Magnolia Avenue and Fletcher Parkway across from the Parkway Plaza mall.

Cornerstone - New Mixed-Use Housing Units in Downtown El Cajon

Construction of Cornerstone Place—a 70-unit mixed-use housing project in downtown El Cajon—is well underway. The development provides veterans and families with one-and three-bedroom affordable apartment options.

The development also includes outdoor spaces, a community room, and ground floor office and commercial spaces. The project is expected to be completed in 2020.



Cornerstone Place is located at 230 South Sunshine Avenue in El Cajon. For more information or to be placed on an interest list, please call Domus Development at 1-866-666-0350 or email domusmgmtco@domusmc.com.

Welcome to the Community Development Department



"The City of El Cajon's Community Development Department is dedicated to working every day for a better El Cajon," according to the City's Community Development Director, Tony Shute. The Department provides for the orderly growth, development, and redevelopment of the City through the application and implementation of the General Plan, zoning and building codes, and housing programs.

Ultimately, the Community Development Department's objectives are to promote growth, enhance and protect neighborhoods, ensure safe housing, encourage economic development, and to create a vibrant and safe community.

To accomplish this, a team of professional staff works together to make El Cajon a better city!

A Day in the life of a Building Inspector

The Building and Fire Safety team in the Community Development Department implements state and city codes and standards related to building construction, fire and life safety, and property maintenance. To understand what these employees do on a day-to-day basis, we interviewed L.C. Wright, the City's Housing Inspector.

As the Housing Inspector, what are your job duties? I am responsible for inspecting apartments for maintenance of appliances, electrical and plumbing hazards, fire protection, heat sources, infestations, illegal dwelling units, as well as exterior conditions. This is to ensure El Cajon residents live in a residence that meets the minimum housing codes established by the State and the City.

Why is your job important to the City? El Cajon has a large number of multi-family housing (apartments and duplexes). As an inspector, I ensure that the living conditions are safe for residents.

What accomplishments are you most proud of in your work? I am most proud of my work when a housing development is in need of work, and the property owner makes the repairs needed to bring the property into compliance. I enjoy working with the apartment owners and managers to focus attention on making housing safe for all.

As an Inspector, do you have any advice for tenants? Prospective tenants should not take possession of a rental unit that is not complete, until all corrections from your walk-thru are considered satisfied. Many apartment managers require renter's insurance. If not, it is recommended that tenants purchase a policy.

Because of your work, do you have any advice for apartment managers or property owners? Property management companies and owners should keep their properties current with housing code updates and requirements. I can help them know what the codes are —just ask!

How should someone report a problem they are having with their

apartment? Issues should be reported to Management first. It is also important to always put your concerns in writing.

To learn more about the City's building and fire safety programs, please call (619) 441-1726.

A Day in the Life of a City Planner

A planner's day may start with a staff meeting to discuss the management of a new development proposal, or might include a team meeting with engineers, architects, and landscape architects to review the specifics of a plan. A planner's role is to provide the "big



picture" and to relate the project to various goals and guidelines, such as ordinances or design review, in order to achieve a final project that meets the expectations of the community and City Council. This might include quality design, environmental considerations, support for the local economy, or equitable access.

To better understand the work, we interviewed Lorena Cordova about what a day in the life of an Associate Planner looks like.

What are your job duties? I work in the City's Project Assistance Center (PAC) in the Community Development Department. As a member of the PAC team, I primarily assist the public by providing development information, reviewing building permits, processing planning permits and working with property owners and developers on development projects. As a member of Planning, I also update the City's Municipal Code (the City's rules and standards), provide technical support for community projects, and manage planning grant projects. Ultimately, my goal is to assist

residents and business owners navigate the planning process.

Why is your job important to the City? As a Department, we provide information and guidance to business and property owners, residents, developers and industry-professionals about the City's land use and development standards. My job is also important because I ensure that the City's vision for a better city, is implemented in a consistent and transparent manner.

What accomplishments are you most proud of in your work? I am most proud of being able to help people on a daily basis. I help people open new businesses and process permits to build new residential, commercial and industrial projects. I also get to work with community groups and present information on various topics. In addition, I enjoy working with grants that benefit the community atlarge. These grants often provide funding to improve safety and walkability throughout the City.

As an Associate Planner, do you have any advice for home owners? Yes, please don't hesitate to email, call, or walk-in to City Hall for general zoning information. We are here to help! People will often spend time, money and energy trying to correct a zoning issue without first clarifying what the City's regulations are. We are here to help, and in many cases, we can help save someone money in the long run if they reach out early in the planning or building process.

City's Housing Programs - Helping First Time Homebuyers



If you dream of owning a home in El Cajon and have not owned a home or property anywhere in the last three years, the City of El Cajon may be able help you fulfill that dream. The City administers a First Time Homebuyer Program that provides loans for qualified low-income households for down-payment assistance to help purchase a new or existing home within

the City limits. Loans of up to \$100,000 for a single-family home or up to \$50,000 for a condominium may be available.

To learn whether you might qualify for this program, visit the City's website at www.cityofelcajon.us/homebuyers-assistance, and download the American Dream Program flier.

City housing programs have income and qualification restrictions that may not be the same for all programs. Funding is limited and loan terms are subject to change without notice. To obtain more information, please visit the City's website, or call (619) 441-1710.

Housing Rehabilitation Loans

Did you know that the City of El Cajon also administers a Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program? The program provides loans for qualified low-income homeowners to rehabilitate their single-family residences and mobile homes. Homes must be located within city limits, and mobile homes must be located

in one of eight eligible mobile home parks in the City. Loans are deferred and zero interest, as long as the household is in compliance with the loan terms. The loan amount can be up to \$50,000 for a single-family residence and up to \$20,000 for mobile homes.



In addition to income and maximum property value restrictions, the homeowner must have owned the property for at least one year. Other restrictions apply. To learn if you qualify, visit the City's website at www.cityofelcajon.us/housing-rehabilitation-loan and download the HRLP Program flier, or call (619) 441-1710.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



As seen in the news, damage caused by natural disasters, such as earthquakes and wildfires, can be devastating. Being prepared for disaster is key to survival, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is an ideal program to help you prepare. Training topics include fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, and terrorism. Following a significant disaster, emergency personnel may not be immediately available. In this situation, members of the community may be on their own for several days or longer. CERT volunteers respond in the period immediately after a disaster when response resources are overwhelmed or delayed. To learn more about future CERT training opportunities, please visit www.heartlandfire.org and look under Emergency Prep.

Calling 9-1-1



Many communities, including El Cajon, have experienced significant increases in 9-1-1 calls. False 9-1-1 calls threatens public safety for other callers with who may have urgent or life threatening emergencies.

When should you call 9-1-1?

- MEDICAL EMERGENCY such as chest pains, seizures or bleeding
- CRIME in-progress including robbery, burglary, prowler or bleeding
- FIRE including structure, vehicle or brush fires
- LIFE THREATENING situation such traffic collisions

What to say when 9-1-1 answers

- STAY CALM and SPEAK CLEARLY
- LOCATION Tell the dispatcher where is the emergency
- EMERGENCY Tell the dispatcher what is the emergency
- YOUR INFORMATION Provide your name, phone number, and address
- STAY ON THE LINE to answer questions until the dispatcher tells you to hang up

Police Department Citizen's Academy

Get to know your local police department by enrolling in the El Cajon Police Department's Citizen's Academy! The eight-week program allows participants to learn how the City's police department functions from the inside-out. Students learn about topics including the history of law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and crime scene investigation during weekly class meetings. Students also participate in hands-on exercises such as conducting traffic stops, dusting for fingerprints, and firearms simulation. This annual academy is often held in May or June and concludes with a graduation ceremony. Classes are from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the El Cajon Police Department, 100 Civic Center Way. The dates for the 2019 Academy will soon be announced on the Police Department's website at www.elcajonpolice.org. For more information, please call (619) 579-4227.

El Cajon Police Teen Academy



The El Cajon Police Department's Teen Police Academy is a specialized program designed to engage teens in a variety of interactive law enforcement training. This 80-hour class gives teens the opportunity to see how their local police department operates on a daily basis through a variety of presentations and activities, such as a ride-a-long in a patrol car and a sit-a-long in the 9-1-1 Communications Center. Students learn about Law enforcement related careers such as being a police officer, police dispatcher, forensic lab technician, as well as careers working with police records and evidence. Students also see demonstrations by the SWAT team, K-9 Unit, and crime scene investigators.

Teen academy attendees also participate in a group community project and receive credit for community service hours. Overall, this program allows students to work closely with officers and other police department personnel to help foster relationships, trust, and understanding between local teens and police officers. For more information, call (619) 579-3340.

Sewer Invoices Get a Makeover

The back of your sewer bill now displays information about how your sewer bill is calculated. Each July your sewer bill is recalculated based on your water usage from November through March. Don't forget to look at the back of your sewer bill for more information!

How to Read Your Fixed Water Average (FWA) Sewer Bill



ı	Read Date	Consumption Period	Previous Read	Current Read	Consumption
	9/20/2018	07/19/2018 - 09/20/2018	0	0	40 CCFX
	7/19/2018	05/17/2018 - 07/19/2018	0	0	33 CCFX
	5/17/2018	03/20/2018 - 05/17/2018	0	0	23 CCFX
	3/20/2018	01/19/2018 - 03/20/2018	0	0	17 COFX
3	1/19/2018	11/20/2017 - 01/19/2018	0	0	16 CCFX
	11/20/2017	09/21/2017 - 11/20/2017	0	0	27 CCFX
	9/21/2017	07/21/2017 - 09/21/2017	٥	0	31 CCFX

What is a Fixed Winter Rate?

Every year, the City takes the Winter Rate Average use of water, typically from November through March.

What is my Account Type?

Look here to see if you have Fixed Winter Average or have a Consumption Account Type.

Example: Winter Rate Average Calculation

The average use of water used from November through March is 16.5 units. To find the average, you add 17 + 16 = 33.

33 + 2 = 16.5.

(Water usage can be found on your water bill).

Winter Rate Average Calculation

The City charges \$4.49 per consumption unit. Using the invoice above:

16.5 Units (Water User) x \$4.49 (Consumption Rate)= \$74.09 (Sewer Charge) + \$11.30 (Base Charge)=\$85.39.

Due Date Penalty

Bills not paid by the due date will be assessed a 10% penalty.

> The new consumption rate goes into effect every July and is used for 12 months.

If you have consumed less water than your set rate for two consecutive cycles (four months), please contact us and we can lower your consumption rate.

For sewer-related inquiries, please contact customer service at (619) 873-1660 or call toll free at (855) 518-4018. Inquires can also be emailed to sewerbilling@cityofelcajon.us. For additional information, visit www.cityofelcajon.us/sewer or visit the Public Works Department at 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, CA 92020.



Every year, thousands of pounds of trash and debris ends up in local creeks and rivers. In El Cajon, this trash flows into the Forrester Creek, the San Diego River, and ultimately to our beaches and ocean. Most of the trash that washes into local creeks and rivers flows into storm drains.

One way to protect our waterways is to always place garbage in a trash can. If you are not by a trash can, hold onto your trash until you are. Throwing away your trash properly can significantly reduce the amount of pollution that enters creeks and rivers.

Another way to reduce water pollution is to throw away cigarette butts safely in a trash can. Research shows that cigarette butts account for one in five items collected during beach cleanups. Cigarette butts thrown onto streets, parking lots, and sidewalks get washed into storm drains. Once submerged in water, toxic chemicals from cigarette butts leach from the cigarette filter, threatening water quality and e life

Only Rain in the Drain

You can help reduce the amount of trash entering our local creeks, rivers, beaches and ocean. To learn more about storm water and ways to protect our waterways, call (619) 441-1653 or visit www.cityofelcajon.us.



marine life.



Prevent Pollution Caused by Irrigation Runoff

Over watering your landscaping may result in excess irrigation water and pollutants washing into storm drains. The excess irrigation water that flows off your property and over curbs and into gutters can pick up pollutants, including sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, trash, and bacteria. Fertilizers and pesticides that wash into waterways can poison fish and contaminate the waterways. Grass clippings rich in nutrients such as phosphorus or nitrogen decomposing leaves, can cause algae blooms and bacteria growth that can degrade water quality.

Simple Water Saving Tips:

- Water your lawn 2-days per week and 5-8-minutes per day or less.
- Water during late-night to early morning hours (6 p.m. -10 a.m.).
- Do not water lawn for 48-hours after measurable rainfall.
- Adjust watering times and schedules to ensure that the appropriate amount of water is being used for your landscaping and avoid watering on windy days.
- Fertilize and reseed your lawn in the middle or late spring.
- Remove weeds from your lawn as they rob your lawn of water.
- Maintain sprinkler heads and nozzles in good working condition.
- Adjust your sprinklers to avoid spraying sidewalks or driveway.
- Mix mulch into the soil to help retain moisture and help reduce the need for frequent watering.
- Use an automatic timer to program each water zone for only the amount of water needed.

Landscaping generally places the highest demand on water resources. Irrigation is often needlessly wasted due to runoff and evaporation. The amount of water required to maintain landscaping depends on the types (i.e., lawn, flowers, trees and shrubs) and locations of the plants. The length of time spent watering your landscaping should reflect the plant's needs.

Taking a few simple steps can significantly reduce our impact on local creeks, rivers, beaches and oceans while saving you money.

If you notice over watering, please let us know at www.cityofelcajon.us/i-want-to/report. For more information, contact the City's Storm Water Division at (619) 441-1653 or visit www.citofelcajon.us. You can also call your water supplier: Helix Water District at (619) 466-0585 or Padre Dam Municipal Water District at (619) 448-3111.



6th Annual America on Main Street

Join the City of El Cajon for its free, family-friendly community festival, America on Main Street!" This event is Saturday, May 18, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Downtown El Cajon. This year's theme is "Out of this World" and will coincide with the nationally recognized 50th Anniversary of the 1969 lunar landing. America on Main Street fosters respect of the many diverse, ethnic, and historical groups in the community.

Event highlights include a tribute to Armed Forces Day, over 150 booths, a Space & Science area, First Responder Safety Zone, Military displays, and the Statue of Liberty. There will also be food booths featuring food from around the world, free carnival rides, arts and crafts, and a petting zoo. In addition, three stages will feature over 30 bands, community groups, and street performers.

This popular event promises to be a day of fun and appreciation celebrating community! Festivities and street closures are located on East Main Street and Rea Avenue, between Magnolia Avenue and Ballantyne Street/ Avocado Avenue. To learn more, please call (619) 441-1754 or visit www.americaonmainstreet.org.

Arbor Day Celebration to be Held at Hillside Park

Join the City of El Cajon to celebrate the 30th annual Arbor Day at Hillside Park on Saturday, March 16 at 8 a.m. During the ceremony, the City will receive its 22nd Tree City USA award presented by CAL-Fire.

If you want to get your hands dirty, join members of the community, including the Lion's Club and Key Club, to plant trees. Arborists with SDG&E will be on hand to train volunteers on proper tree planting techniques before heading out to plant over 20 trees in the park.

In addition to planting trees, representatives from SDG&E, Waste Management, the Helix Water District, and the San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council will have displays providing conservation tips.

Trees can reduce the erosion of topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate temperature, clean the air, produce lifegiving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife. Hillside Park is located at 840 Buena Terrace, near Fletcher Parkway. For more information, call (619) 441-6203.



Fun Programs Offered at the El Cajon Library



The Downtown El Cajon Library offers a variety of fun, free services offered every month! The youngest Library Lovers are invited to Storytime every weekday morning at 10:30 a.m. Whether your little ones are babes-in-arms or ready to learn the ABCs, the library has just the right Storytime for them! The library also has some great programs for adults! There are Creative Crafters, for crafters of all skill levels, the first Thursday of every month at 12:30 p.m. If you're looking for a bit of calm, the library offers free Yoga classes every Monday at 1:00 p.m., and Color Me Calm every Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

Take a moment to stop by the El Cajon Library where you'll find a great book, a program that suits your needs, and a friendly smile from your local library staff. The library is located at 201 E. Douglas Avenue. To see a full schedule of the classes and programs offered, please visit at www.sdcl.org.



City of El Cajon 200 Civic Center Way El Cajon, CA 92020

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ELCAJON CA
PERMIT NO 170
ECRWSSEDDM

POSTAL CUSTOMER

ENJOY EL CAJON!

Below are some upcoming events in El Cajon.
For more information and to stay up-to-date, visit our website at
www.cityofelcajon.us/events.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY HALF MARATHON Sunday, March 3

7:00 - 11:00 a.m. (Registration at 6 a.m.)
Starts at the El Cajon Arch
www.stpatricksdayhalf.com

RECREATION DANCE RECITAL Saturday & Sunday, March 16 - 17

Greenfield Middle School 1495 Greenfield Dr. (619) 441-1534

ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CEREMONY Saturday, March 16

8:00 a.m.

Hillside Park - 840 Buena Terrace

www.cityofelcajon.us/events

AMERICA ON MAIN STREET Saturday, May 18

2:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Downtown El Cajon

www.americaonmainstreet.org

CAJON CLASSIC CAR SHOW Wednesdays, April 17-October 30

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.Downtown on Main St.

www.downtownelcajon.com

BIKE TO WORK DAY Thursday, May 16

6:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Pit Stop at E. Main St. & Sulzfeld Way
www.cityofelcajon.us/events

DINNER & A CONCERT Fridays, May 3 - September 27

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.Prescott Promenade - 201 E. Main St.

www.downtownelcajon.com