

# El Mirage

## Monthly Newsletter

City of El Mirage  
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El Mirage, AZ 85335

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Vol. 7, No. 07

623-876-2978

### Mayor's Messages:

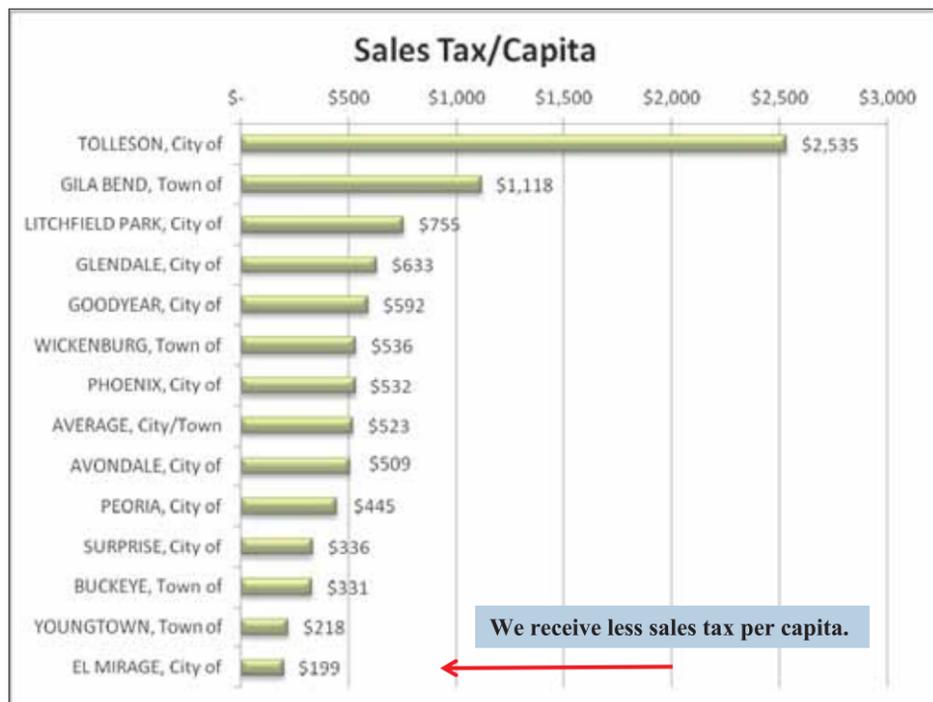
## Where Your Taxes Go

The City of El Mirage continues to maximize the value of its tax dollars by delivering improved police and fire services, upgrading streets, and providing state of the art public facilities (YMCA's recreation and aquatic facility; public safety buildings for police and fire; and a new City Hall) while keeping the primary tax levy flat.

While other cities and towns are still struggling to afford new capital projects and maintain staffing levels, the City of El Mirage has addressed such matters by concentrating on needs-based decision-making, cost consciousness, and a desire to make El Mirage a destination.

The City has a fully funded capital improvements plan and continues to maintain a minimum \$6 million rainy day fund. Utility rates are stable and are anticipated to remain unchanged through June 2019.

Below is a graph depicting the sales tax per capita of several West Valley cities. As the graph illustrates, El Mirage has the lowest per capita sales tax among all cities noted. El Mirage relies on property taxes more than other cities; which is a direct correlation to our limited business portfolio. Without local business sales tax the City does not generate adequate revenue. One of the reasons that the City is currently involved in several road projects is to attract those businesses. Developers have indicated that improved roadways, an attractive cityscape, and good amenities are key components for attracting the businesses we need.



In response to the questions I receive most frequently about property taxes and their uses, the following Q & A is provided for your information:

**Q: Where do my property taxes go?**

A: The largest share of your property taxes, **60%**, is not City related but is collected for schools and education, which include the Dysart Unified School District, Dysart Unified Bonds, Dysart Unified Override, the Community College District, Community College District Bonds, the State Equalization Tax, and West-Mec.

**MORE TAXES ON 2**

## Road Construction Update Thank You for Your Patience

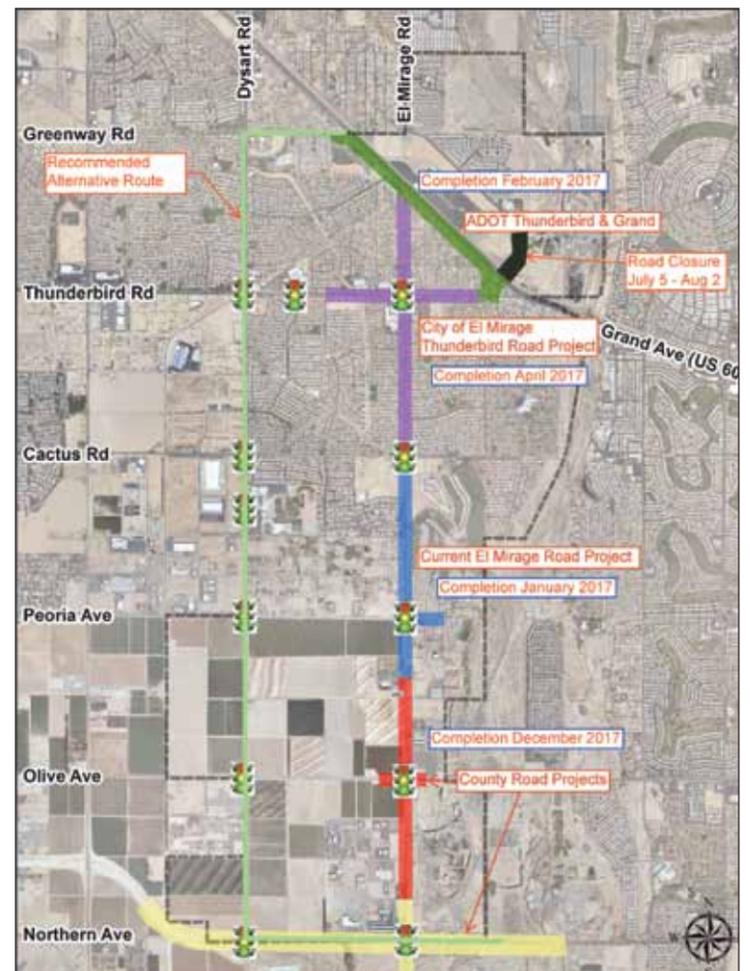
Road construction is a frustrating byproduct of improving our City. Like all challenges, the City and our citizens will persevere and reap the rewards. City staff is indebted to the residents and business owners for their cooperation, patience, and understanding in dealing with the issues that arise from construction.

Although attempting so much construction at the same time is not necessarily ideal, the City wanted to take advantage of regional funding. El Mirage initially planned to stagger the projects with certain segments completed at a later date, but regional funding became available sooner than expected. The fortunate byproduct of accelerating each segment has been competitive bid prices that are lower than anticipated. City staff takes their fiducial responsibility to protect public funds very seriously.

As the section of El Mirage Road between Peoria and Cactus nears completion, anticipated January 2017, Maricopa County will begin construction south to Northern Avenue, anticipated completion December 2017. ADOT continues their project on Thunderbird and Thompson Ranch Road, anticipated completion February 2017, connecting to the east of the City's

project. The City will continue to manage construction on El Mirage Road from Cactus to Grand Avenue and Thunderbird Road from 127th to El Frio, anticipated completion April 2017.

By the end of 2017, the residents and business owners will be rewarded with an improved roadway with multimodal and safety enhancements that will make El Mirage the envy of the West Valley.



## El Mirage Celebrates Dysart High School Athletes for the Month of May

Congratulations Mariah Fleming and Charles Proby Jr!

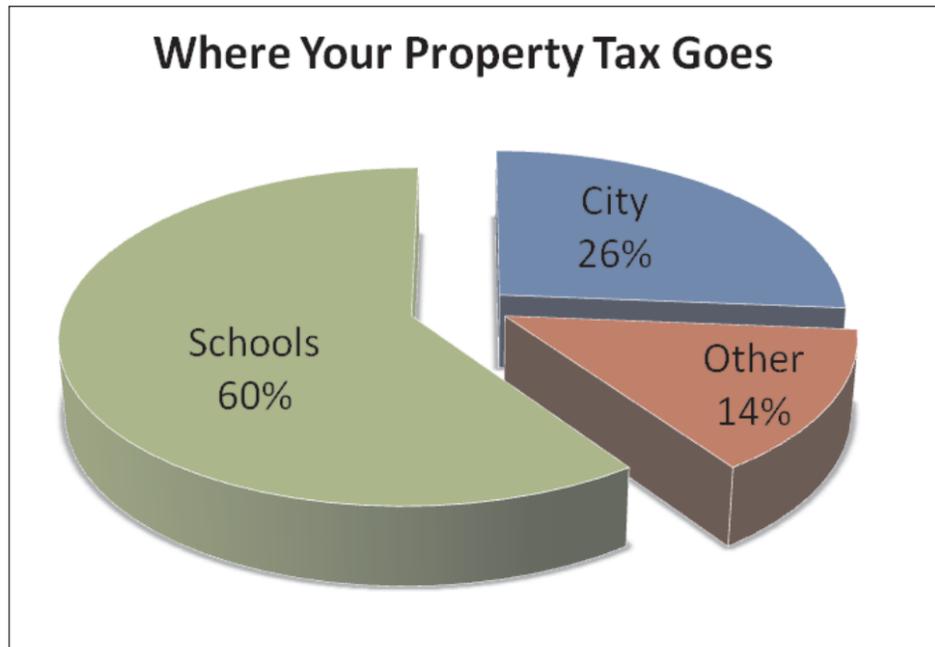
Back row from left to right: Dysart High School Athletic Director Ty Timbrooks, Vice Mayor Joe Ramirez, Councilmember Roy Delgado, Councilmember David Shapera, Mayor Lana Mook, Councilmember Bob Jones, Councilmember Jack Palladino, Councilmember Lynn Selby, father of Charles Proby Jr.: Charles Proby, and City Manager Dr. Spencer A. Isom  
Front row from left to right: Father of Mariah Fleming: Kelly Fleming, mother of Mariah Fleming: Genna Fleming, Dysart Athlete of the Month of May Mariah Fleming, Dysart Athlete of the Month of May Charles Proby Jr., and sister of Charles Proby Jr.: Hannah Proby

## TAXES: Breakdown of usage, From 1

Another 14% of your property taxes are allocated to the County for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Election District, Fire District Assistance Tax, Flood Control of Maricopa County, Library District, Maricopa Special Health District, and McMicken Irrigation District.

The needs of our own City account for only 26% of your tax bill. This 26% can only be used to pay for police and fire services to keep residents safe per Council Resolution and for voter approved debt.

The chart below is a summary of the property tax allocations presented above.



State, County, and Education make up 74% of El Mirage Property Taxes.

**Q: How much of the City budget do my property taxes represent?**

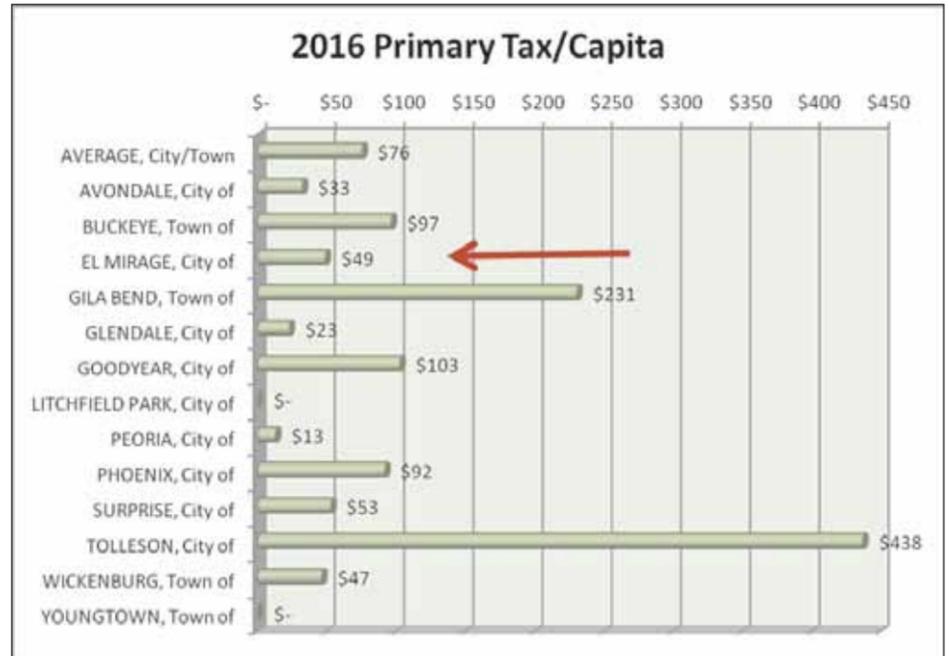
A: The majority of the City’s budgeted revenue comes from local grants, fees, and revenues shared with the City by the State of Arizona. An individual’s property taxes are less than five percent of the City budget.

**Q: How does the City use my primary property tax dollars?**

A: About ten years ago the voters authorized a primary property tax to support the operating costs of the City of El Mirage. About four years ago this Council by Resolution restricted the use of these funds for Public Safety purposes only. At that same time the Council began to collect less than the maximum allowed by law, which was a first for the City. Since then the Council has maintained the levy even though

they could collect about 20% more as is depicted in the next chart.

The benefit of this Council’s action is a per capita tax of \$49; well below the average of \$76. If the Council continues to maintain the levy at this amount the per capita amount collected will reduce with every resident who moves into the City.



**Q: Why does the City of El Mirage have a secondary property tax and other cities don't? What is the secondary property tax used for?**

A: If a municipality has no outstanding bonds, it will not levy a secondary property tax since this is the purpose for which secondary property tax revenues can be used.

El Mirage levies a secondary property tax to pay for voter-approved bonds, which include funding for the fire station, police station, recreation facility with pool, and El Mirage Road improvements.

**Under Arizona Revised Statute §35-458, El Mirage is required to levy a secondary property tax in an amount sufficient to pay our bond principal and interest.**

The City has worked hard to keep the secondary property tax to a minimum. The Mayor, City Manager, and staff presented in person to the bond rating agencies of Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s in order to get the best bond rating possible at the time the bonds were sold. The resulting A1 and AA- ratings we received saved the City approximately \$1.3 million in interest on bonds. Additionally, El Mirage was able to take advantage of lower interest rates to refund some higher rated bonds, thereby reducing the bond payments.

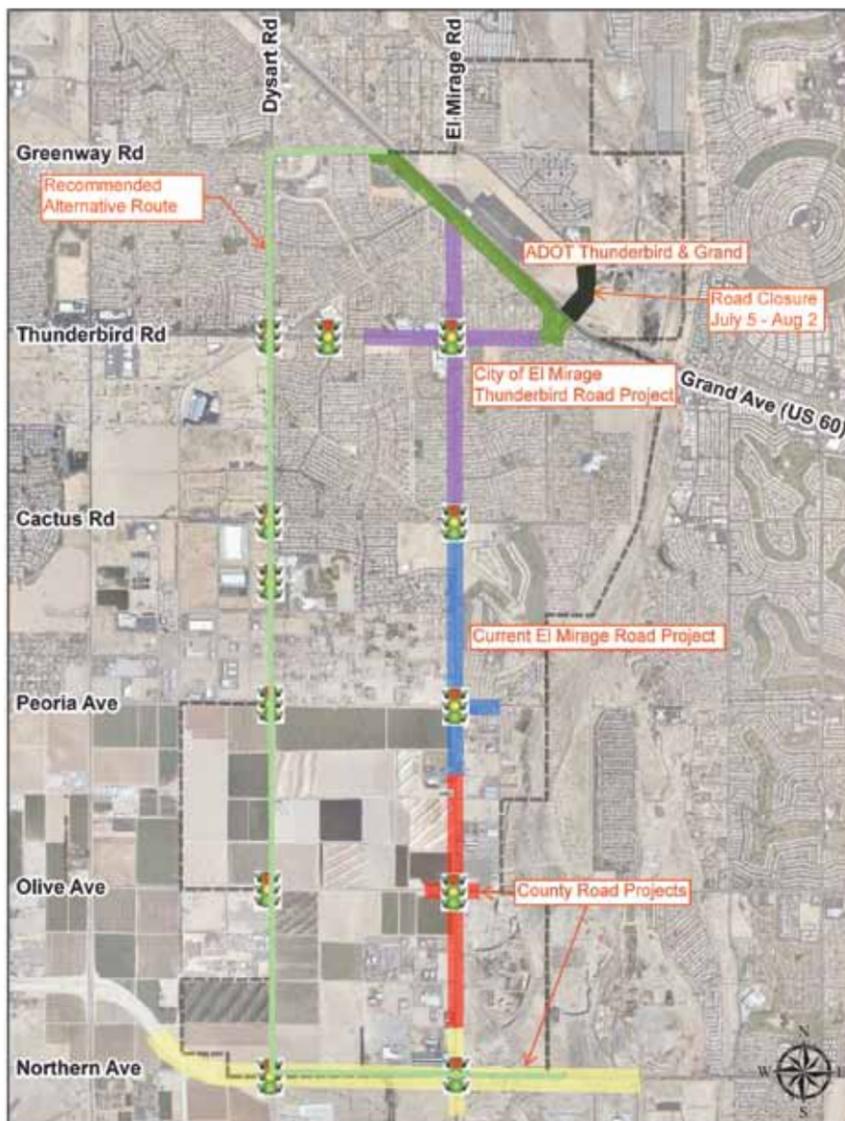
**MORE TAXES ON 4**

## El Mirage Construction Update

Thunderbird Road is under construction from 127th Avenue to Grand Avenue. The project is focused on installing underground utilities and preparing to convert power and telecommunications lines from overhead to underground. Once the conversion is complete, crews will pave the south half and concentrate their efforts on the north half. The completed roadway will consist of two through lanes in each direction, center median with landscaping, bicycle lane, wide sidewalks, and many other multimodal and safety enhancements.

El Mirage Road is under construction from Cinnabar Avenue to Grand Avenue. The work on the east side of El Mirage Road between Peoria Avenue and Cactus Road indicates the type of enhancements the project will install.

The ADOT Thunderbird and Grand project started June 6, 2016. In addition to the connection with Grand Avenue, this project will widen a portion of Thompson Ranch Road. To safely complete this work, Thompson Ranch Road will be closed from Grand Avenue to the elementary



school from July 5 to August 2. Specific information about the project, along with renderings of the proposed

improvements, can be found at [www.azdot.gov/tbird](http://www.azdot.gov/tbird). Maricopa County completed the design for El

Mirage Road from Northern Avenue to Gateway Park. Utility companies are relocating in advance of

construction. The county is preparing to solicit bids for construction of this portion.

ADOT and the City of Surprise have begun the much anticipated Bell Road and Grand Ave/US 60 interchange project.

This project will have a major impact on regional traffic flow. Further project information is available at: <http://azdot.gov/bellandgrand> and [www.surpriseaz.gov/bellandgrand](http://www.surpriseaz.gov/bellandgrand)

For more information, visit [www.cityofelmirage.org/ConstructionUpdate](http://www.cityofelmirage.org/ConstructionUpdate) or contact: Chris Hauser, P.E. – Assistant City Engineer  
12145 NW Grand Ave., El Mirage, AZ 85335  
P: 623-876-2971 | E: [chauser@cityofelmirage.org](mailto:chauser@cityofelmirage.org)

**Valley Metro**

**El Mirage Transit Enhancement**

Beginning July 1, 2016, you may travel beyond the area served by your local Dial-a-Ride provider without making a transfer. Simply contact Valley Metro's Regional ADA Paratransit at 602.716.2200 daily between 6:00 AM - 7:30 PM to schedule trips. For more information call 602.716.2100 or visit [http://www.valleymetro.org/dial\\_a\\_ride](http://www.valleymetro.org/dial_a_ride).

**What is Dial-a-Ride (DAR)?** DAR service is a door-to-door shared-ride transportation service for qualified residents of El Mirage. Service is provided by Northwest Valley DAR the cities of El Mirage, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise and Youngtown and adjacent unincorporated areas of Maricopa County. You can reach Northwest Valley DAR by calling 602.266.8723.

**Who is eligible for Dial-a-Ride?** Any El Mirage resident who is 65 years of age or more and verified by Valley Metro ADA paratransit certified by Valley Metro.

**Days and Hours of Service:** Services are available on non-holiday weekdays between 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM and on Saturdays between 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM for life sustaining medical trips only.

**Dial-a-Ride Fares (One Way)** Within El Mirage and the Northwest Valley DAR service area: \$2.00. Beyond the Northwest Valley \$4.00.



*Clerk's Corner... Every Vote Counts!*

**2016 ELECTION INFORMATION**

Primary Election: Tuesday, Aug. 30



**Attention Voters on the Permanent Early Voting List:**

All voters registered on the Permanent Early Voters List (PEVL) should by now have received an Official Election Notice from Maricopa County. PLEASE BE AWARE TWO TYPES OF NOTICES WERE SENT OUT and appear very similar.

The first notice was directed at voters registered with a recognized party in the State of Arizona, i.e., Republican, Democrat, Green, etc. and provides the opportunity to do several things: "1) request that no ballots for your upcoming elections be sent to you, 2) change your mailing or residence address, or 3) request removal from the Permanent Early Voting List." If you have no changes, you do not need to return the card; simply wait for your ballot to be mailed to you automatically in early August.

The second notice, however, is directed at voters

registered as INDEPENDENT. This notice provides the same opportunities for changes as noted above, but as an Independent registered voter, you MUST "select a party or city/town-only ballot for the PRIMARY" election and failure to do so will result in you not receiving your ballot in the mail automatically. If you received this notice and you wish to receive an early ballot by mail, please advise Maricopa County of which type of ballot you want to receive AND RETURN THE COMPLETED AND SIGNED FORM TO THEM BY JULY 16, 2016.

Last day to register to vote in the August 30th Primary is Monday, August 1, 2016.

You can register to vote by contacting Maricopa County Elections Department at 602-506-1511, going to their website at <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/>, or picking up a registration form at the front counter of City Hall.

Early voting starts August 3, 2016: El Mirage City Hall will be an early voting site.

You can either vote in person or drop off your voted ballot between Wednesday, August 3, 2016 and Friday, August 26, 2016. On Election Day, August 30, you may NOT vote at City Hall but you can drop off a voted ballot.

Election Day voting will be at four precinct-polling locations to be determined.

The FOUR polling location precincts in El Mirage will be determined prior to August 30th; polls will be open from 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

For More Information - contact either City Clerk Sharon Antes at 623-876-2943, [santes@cityofelmirage.org](mailto:santes@cityofelmirage.org), or Maricopa County Elections Department at 602-506-1511, <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/>.

**YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE BE COUNTED**

**Economic Development Insights: Local Highlights**



**Tom Doyle, Economic Development Specialist**  
[tdoyle@cityofelmirage.org](mailto:tdoyle@cityofelmirage.org)

The City has large construction projects on Thunderbird and El Mirage Roads. Construction can impact local businesses and some are already feeling the pinch of reduced customer flow.

El Mirage supports all businesses in the community and to honor local businesses, will continue to highlight businesses in construction areas in the El Mirage Newsletter. Every business has a story to tell and I hope this article will give you a better feel for what they offer and how you can help them.

**Star Mini-Mart**

Star Mini-Mart is more than a convenience store. Yes, they offer a variety of products at competitive prices but what is most notable is the family-like feel when you enter the

door.

Star Mini-Mart owner Chin will greet you with a smile and courteous service that makes you want to come back. Watching Chin greet customers is like seeing old friends. She has some repeat customers traveling from Surprise because of the fantastic customer service and neighborhood feel.

The Mini-Mart is family owned and has been in operation for over three years. Stop in and say hi to Chin and you will be back.

Address: 11817 W. Thunderbird Road  
Phone: 623-583-3455

Hours: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

**Mustard Seed Herbary**

Want to know more about nutrition or get to the root of your health problems? Mustard Seed Herbary provides one-on-one service for each customer.

Ellen and Wendy are experts in natural health, teaching customers how to improve their health the natural way. Mustard Seed has been working with people for over 20 years. Their specialty herbs are the most potent and purest varieties offering the best result for their customer.

Mustard Seed attracts customers from all over the valley looking for natural

ways to improve their health. Talk to Ellen or Wendy to see how they can help you lead a healthier life.

Address: 13713 N. A St.  
Phone: 623-583-2286  
Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday

**Jimmy's Mattress**

If you want to find an expert and save a lot of money for a mattress talk to Jimmy. Jimmy's is a family owned business with over 30 years' experience.

The store is best known for their low prices compared to other retail mattress places. Jimmy's savings on name brand mattresses are 80% lower in some cases.

Also, Jimmy's is offering an additional discount

savings between 20-60% off during construction. Price and service make Jimmy's Mattress a great choice.

Address: 12420 W Thunderbird Road  
Phone: 602-487-1066  
Hours: 7 days, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



**Jimmy Arellano**

Next month we will feature more businesses and we hope you join us by shopping local.

**Councilmember Lynn Selby Named Recipient of Operation Lifesaver 2016 National Safety Award**

Railroad safety nonprofit Operation Lifesaver presented a national safety award highlighting individual achievements in preventing deaths and injuries around tracks and trains to El Mirage Councilmember Lynn Selby on May 13, 2016.

Councilmember Selby received the F. Tom Roberts Memorial Volunteer Award for his rail safety education outreach efforts in Arizona. The award was presented at a banquet during the Operation Lifesaver Leadership Conference, which carried the theme "Rail Safety – A Mission For Life."

"We are proud to present this award to Lynn Selby honoring him for his dedication to saving lives on behalf of Operation Lifesaver," said Bonnie Murphy, president & CEO of Operation Lifesaver, Inc. "Mr. Selby exemplifies the



**Councilmember Lynn Selby**

passion and creativity of our volunteers and partners, who are making a difference every day in their communities."

Councilmember Selby has been an Operation Lifesaver volunteer since 2011, when his concerns about the number of crossing incidents in his area brought the nonprofit organization to his attention. In 2015,

Selby conducted presentations to professional drivers, school groups, driver education classes and school bus drivers, reaching nearly 1,200 people in the greater Phoenix area. In his time as an Operation Lifesaver volunteer, he has reached 40,000 people in the state of Arizona.

Selby's interest in educating the recreational vehicle community about railroad crossing safety led to his development of materials specifically for RV drivers.

**El Mirage Proud Supporter of Luke AFB**

On June 16, 2016, El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook, Governor Doug Ducey, Air Force Secretary Deborah James, Luke Air Force Base Brigadier General

Scott Pleus, and other West Valley community leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding identifying the structure of the Luke Community Partnership

program. The Luke Community Partnership program is part of the Air Force's Public-Public, Public-Private initiative known as P4.



Back row, left to right: Litchfield Park Mayor Thomas Schoaf, Avondale Councilmember Jim McDonald, Peoria Councilmember Bill Patena, Phoenix Councilmember Thelda Williams, El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook, and Town of Wickenburg Mayor John Cook  
Front row, left to right: Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, Air Force Secretary Deborah James, Luke AFB Brigadier General Scott Pleus, Governor Doug Ducey, Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott, Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck, and Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault

# THE BLUE BYLINE



## News from the El Mirage Police Department

12401 W. Cinnabar Ave. • 623-933-1341 • [www.cityofelmirage.org/police](http://www.cityofelmirage.org/police)

Follow us on Facebook. Sign up for emergency notifications at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)

### El Mirage Explorer Academy Graduation

On Tuesday May 31, 2016, the El Mirage Police Department started the third west valley Explorer Academy with five West Valley agencies represented. On June 8, the cadets went through high-risk stop training at the El Mirage Police Department, which included great video footage. This training was held from noon to 2:30 p.m. and graduation took place at the Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center on June 10. El Mirage Police Department is proud to announce the graduation of seven students.



Back row: Lt. Randy Stewart, Officer Joe Johnston, Explorer (RTO) Michael Rodriguez and Explorer (RTO) Tyler Johnston  
 Middle row: Sergeant Chris Culp, Chief Terry McDonald, Explorer Haleigh Wheat, Explorer Zach Johnston, Explorer Christine McMullen and Assistant Chief Laura Liuzzo  
 Front row: Explorer (RTO) Ashley Quintana and Explorer (RTO) Clayton Haigh

### El Mirage's Noise Complaint Process

The primary law that pertains to noise is governed by state law: Disorderly Conduct (ARS § 13-2904). This statute provides: A person commits disorderly conduct if, with intent to disturb the peace or quiet of a neighborhood, family or person, or with knowledge of doing so, such person makes unreasonable noise.

The secondary law that governs noise is El Mirage City Code § 154.107 which states, "It shall be prohibited to disturb the peace or quiet of a neighborhood, family or person by making or emitting unreasonable noise. Noise that exceeds 55 decibels, measured at the property line of the source, between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. is presumed unreasonable."

Noise complaints stemming from animals, such as barking dogs, may also be addressed by Surprise Animal Control Officers who provide animal control services in the City of El Mirage. El Mirage City Code §91.04 covers noise complaints stemming from animals and states, "It shall be unlawful to harbor or keep any animals that disturb the peace at any time of the day or night which results in an unreasonable interference with a citizen's right to quiet enjoyment of his or her own premises." Citations may also be written for animal related noise complaints if a citizen is willing to be a victim and assist with prosecution.

The El Mirage Police Department takes noise complaints very seriously. However, statistics show that informal resolutions are usually successful. Most

neighbors are not aware that there is an issue and when they are made aware of the problem they are willing to adjust the noise level. You can use the opportunity to introduce yourself and get to know your neighbor better by calling or knocking on the door and nicely asking them to lower the volume.

If informal resolution is not successful, or if you are uncomfortable speaking to your neighbor, then contact the police department. If the unreasonable noise is taking place at the time your call is placed, try to provide a physical address or source of the noise. This will help the police locate educate the residents of the laws pertaining to noise. The goal of the police department during a first contact is education and compliance. If the noise continues after the police have spoken with your neighbor, contact the police department again and request a follow up call. To make a non-emergency noise complaint, call 623-933-1341.

Citizens may contact police regarding loud noise complaints any time of the day. In most cases, however, without complete contact information, police are unable to issue a citation. Therefore, it is extremely important to provide your name, address, and telephone number. This enables officers to conduct follow-up and write a citation for noise. The El Mirage Police Department will not provide your name to the offender, although it will be listed in the report and forwarded to the prosecutor.



Celebrate responsibly - DON'T DRINK and DRIVE!!!  
 Designate a sober driver and save lives.

It is illegal to fire guns within the city limits of El Mirage. Random gunfire kills and injures innocent citizens. Help keep our community safe by not firing guns in celebration of Independence Day.



The use of all consumer fireworks is prohibited in the City of El Mirage. Fireworks can cause injuries and start fires. Emergency responses due to fireworks may result in criminal charges. (Novelty items are permissible.)



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY  
 FROM EL MIRAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### El Mirage Police Department Property and Evidence Division UNCLAIMED PROPERTY NOTICE TO CLAIM PROPERTY

E16051199	US Currency	Trevino, Severo
E16051378	Miscellaneous Items	Ciufi, Danielle
E16051462	Clothing	Tovar, Francisco
E16051555	ID (Drivers Lic, Passport, etc)	Cothran, Charlie
E16051698	Backpack w/ Misc Items	Coles, Devon
E16051719	Chevy Key Fob	Coles, Devon
E16051785	Purse with Misc. Items	Vargas, Mary
E16051934	Shoulder Bag with Misc. Items	Johnson, Christopher
E16052053	US Currency	Kimes, James
E16052258	Misc. Clothing	Navarette, Jaquelyn
E16052287	Foreign Currency	Taran, Tim
E16052353	Misc. Personal Items	Morin, Alfonso
E16052422	Cell Phone / Jewelry	Cain, Rodney
E16052440	Purse with Misc. Items	Ybarra, Taylor
E16052504	Backpack w/ Misc Items	Gaucin, Marlena
E16060136	Computer Tablet	Pasquale, Anthony
E16060353	Cell Phone	Bailon, Donald
E16060379	Purse with Misc. Items	Tanner, Candice
E16060536	Misc. Clothing	Cervantez, Juan
E16060757	Cell Phone	Campos, Carlos
E16060870	Bracelet	Avendano, Francisco

Photo ID is required.  
 Call 623-500-3038 for an appointment  
 to claim your property.  
 Property not claimed by 06/30/16 will be  
 disposed of in accordance with the law.

#### TAXES: From 2

**Q: What is the difference between the Tax Levy and the Tax Rate?**

**A: Tax LEVY:** Total amount of taxes that need to be collected to operate the City. The City approves the tax levy, not the tax rate. The Council has

maintained the tax levy for FY 2017 at the same amount as FY 2014, FY 2015, and FY 2016.

**Tax RATE:** Individual dollar rate per hundred dollars of assessed value of a given property that is used to calculate a yearly tax bill. The rate

is set by the County Assessor based on the tax levy and limited property values.

**Q: Why can't the City just keep my taxes exactly the same as they were last year?**

**A:** Property taxes cannot remain the same each year, primarily because property tax rates are based on property values, which are affected by market conditions. Currently, property values are on an upward trend. The City has issued voter-approved bonds for facilities and infrastructure, which must be repaid on schedule, much like a homeowner's mortgage, so the secondary rate will vary based on how much property values have changed. The Council also reviews the revenue needs for operations and adjusts the primary rate to help

meet those needs, while keeping the primary property tax levy within the legal limit.

In any given year, any of these numbers could go up, go down, or stay the same. It is not legally possible to assign a flat tax to every property in El Mirage in order for the City portion of your property taxes to remain exactly the same each year.

I hope this information has helped clarify what property taxes are and how they are used to benefit the citizens of El Mirage.

Through good management, this Council has not increased the primary property tax levy while delivering our promise to build a police station, build a recreation facility with pool, upgrade city streets, and build a new City Hall. This Council has significantly increased services for our residents while controlling expenses.



# Speeding Incidents Increase 250% on Grand Avenue in El Mirage

Following the passage of legislation by the Arizona State Legislature that banned automated photo enforcement on state highways, the City of El Mirage is experiencing a surge in speeding incidents along Grand Avenue (US 60) within the City limits.

El Mirage opted to begin a traffic safety camera program in 2009 due to a history of speed-related violations and crashes involving drivers passing through the City. Two camera systems monitoring eastbound and westbound speeding incidents along Grand Avenue were turned off March 16, 2016 following restrictions on photo enforcement imposed by the State of Arizona.

While the enforcement systems have

not captured or stored any photographic data since then, the sensors have continued to monitor the speed and number of vehicles traveling along that section of the roadway. Officials are using this information to assess program effectiveness and potential roadway dangers.

In May 2016, just over a full month after the cameras went dark, 7,361 westbound speeding incidents were recorded, a 179 - percent increase from May 2015. Eastbound, 13,675 speeding incidents were recorded – a 319-percent increase from the same time last year. Speeding is defined in this instance as cars travelling 11 miles per hour over the state-mandated speed limit of 45 mph.

	May 2015	May 2016	Increase
Grand & Primrose-Westbound	2,634	7,361	179%
Grand & Primrose-Eastbound	3,256	13,675	319%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,890</b>	<b>21,036</b>	<b>257%</b>

“The data is clear. Without the camera deterrent, we are seeing more and more unsafe driving along Grand. This is an extremely serious matter, as lives are at stake,” said El Mirage Police Chief Terry McDonald.

The City of El Mirage has also experienced more collisions since the cameras were turned off. From March 16, 2016 to June 15, 2016, there were six collisions (three injury and three non-injury), versus two

non-injury collisions for the same time period last year.

Chief McDonald noted such crashes cause traffic delays, require police, fire and EMS resources, cause property damage, and worst of all, can lead to injuries and untimely deaths. “Many people think speeding is a victimless crime. That is, until they become the victim, or someone they love does.”

According to the most recent data from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, speeding contributed to 30 percent of all fatal crashes in 2012, and the annual economic cost of all speeding-related crashes in the United States exceeded \$40 billion.

El Mirage officials are currently evaluating methods and tools available to better patrol speeding along the US 60. Chief McDonald stated automated photo enforcement was an ideal solution in this area because an officer cannot safely pull over drivers along a divided highway separated by a median, and without a shoulder.

To learn more about traffic safety initiatives in El Mirage, visit El Mirage Police Department at [www.cityofelmirage.org/police](http://www.cityofelmirage.org/police).

## May 2016 Home Sales

Address	Price \$	Date Sold	Total SF
11825 W Corrine Dr	125,000	5/25	1,068
12547 W Saint Mortiz Ln	175,000	5/24	2,178
12838 W Via Camille	173,000	5/24	2,179
12801 W Charter Oak Rd	183,500	5/24	1,901
12530 W Cameron Dr	245,000	5/20	2,653
13027 W Mandalay Ln	159,000	5/20	1,534
13020 W Saint Moritz Ln	180,000	5/20	2,178
12846 W Laurel Ln	147,000	5/20	1,238
11709 W Maui Ln	198,000	5/19	1,407
11801 N Pablo St	120,000	5/18	953
11709 W Laurel Ln	155,000	5/18	1,383
13001 W Mauna Loa Ln	160,100	5/17	1,534
11925 W Maui Ln	164,900	5/17	1,642
11850 W Lupine Ave	138,000	5/17	1,383
12142 W Corrine Dr	133,000	5/17	1,090
12309 W Pershing St	163,000	5/17	1,776
12605 W Columbine Dr	145,400	5/16	2,002
13125 N El Frio St	165,000	5/16	1,832
13010 W Pershing St	169,000	5/16	1,531
13102 N 126 <sup>th</sup> Ave	137,000	5/13	1,430
12305 N 121 <sup>st</sup> Ave	143,000	5/13	1,238
12202 N 128 <sup>th</sup> Dr	211,000	5/12	2,232
12562 W Lisbon Ln	165,000	5/11	1,518
12111 W Columbine Dr	149,990	5/10	1,238
12605 W Cherry Hills Dr	145,000	5/10	1,238
12487 N Tonya St	51,000	5/10	1,068
15204 N Tonya St	170,000	5/10	1,978
12134 W Bloomfield Rd	135,000	5/10	1,615
12649 W Ash St	152,500	5/10	1,615
11756 W Dahlia Dr	165,000	5/9	2,191
11812 W Dahlia Dr	153,000	5/6	1,756
12028 W Bloomfield Rd	157,500	5/6	1,832
11530 W Flores Dr	160,000	5/6	1,756
13309 N B St	50,000	5/6	1,373
12314 W Aster Dr	143,000	5/5	1,229
12813 N 127 <sup>th</sup> Ln	153,000	5/4	1,308
12537 W Mandalay Ln	147,000	5/4	1,756
13322 N Alto St	169,900	5/4	1,515
12559 W Saint Moritz Ln	154,000	5/3	1,308
14218 N Alto St	166,000	5/3	2,061
12555 W Saint Moritz Ln	159,900	5/2	1,534
14201 N Primrose St	40,000	5/2	1,447
11509 W Columbine Dr	165,000	5/2	1,662
<b>Avg Price Sold</b>	<b>152,132</b>		

## May 2016 Business Licenses

Type	Business Name	City	ZIP	Phone
Retail	Alex Landscaping LLC	Youngtown	85363	480-749-4834
Contractor	Can-Ez Construction	Phoenix	85009	623-328-8323
Retail	ExerPlay	Cedar Crest	87008	505-281-0151
Home Occup	JRS Clothing	El Mirage	85335	623-806-4483
Home Occup	Koontz Enterprises	El mirage	85335	623-670-2077
General	Willdan Financial SVS	Temecula	92590	951-587-3500

# AMPLIFY YOUR SUMMER!



**NORTHWEST VALLEY FAMILY YMCA**  
 ADDRESS: 12450 W. CINNABAR AVE.  
 EL MIRAGE, AZ 85335  
 PHONE: 602.688.5335  
 WEBSITE: [www.valleyYMCA.org](http://www.valleyYMCA.org)

- Fitness Center !
- Basketball Gymnasium!
- Group Fitness Classes!
- FREE Child Watch! (while you workout)
- Swimming Pool!
- Youth Sports!
- Recreational Programs!
- Camps and more!

**FREE GUEST PASS**



\*For El Mirage Residents. Expires on April 30, 2016. Coupon must be presented. Good for single or family.



**City of EL MIRAGE**  
 GRAND HERITAGE. BRIGHT FUTURE!

**CITY OF EL MIRAGE**  
 VETERANS' MEMORIAL PLAZA

**ESSAY COMPETITION - 2016 SCHOLARSHIP**  
 DUE: September 9, 2016 by 3:00 pm  
 For more information visit  
<http://www.cityofelmirage.org/>

Many Thanks to:  
 Tohono O'odham Nation for Program Funding Support  
 Supporting Partners of Read on Arizona – Greater Surprise



# CHILL OUT POOLSIDE AT THE YMCA

Poolside at the Y is returning on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and we can't wait to have some fun in the sun!

This year, there will be more than just activities at the pool. Gear up for Family Fun contests and relaxing inside the pool.

Our priority is safety, so please review our pool rules online prior to our events.

DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 TIME: 11:00AM - 3:00PM  
 PLACE: NORTHWEST VALLEY FAMILY YMCA  
 12450 W. CINNABAR AVENUE  
 EL MIRAGE, AZ 85335  
 FEE: FREE TO THE COMMUNITY  
 CALL: 602.688.5335  
 CLICK: [www.valleyYMCA.org](http://www.valleyYMCA.org)



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
 FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
 FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**POOLSIDE AT THE Y! – FUN IN THE SUN!**  
 Northwest Valley Family YMCA

# FOCUS ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



## News from the El Mirage Fire Department

13601 N. El Mirage Road • 623-583-7968 • [www.cityofelmirage.org/fire](http://www.cityofelmirage.org/fire)

Operations and Administration open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday



## The Dangers of Leaving Children and Pets Unattended in a Vehicle

With summer temperatures already upon us, the City of El Mirage wants to remind residents never to leave children or pets unattended inside vehicles, even for a few minutes. Temperatures inside vehicles can climb quickly, especially on hot days, and even with the windows partially down.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), heatstroke is one of the leading causes of death among children. A child's temperature heats up 3 to 5 times faster than that of an adult's, and when a child's body temperature reaches 107 degrees, they die.

The NHTSA says to keep in mind that even at an outside temperature of 60 degrees, the temperature inside your car can reach 110 degrees, and in just 10 minutes, a car's temperature can rise over 20 degrees.

These safety rules can help prevent heat-related

injuries and other vehicle dangers:

- Never leave a child, pet or vulnerable person (such as an elderly or medically frail person) alone in or around a vehicle.
- Check to make sure all children leave the vehicle when you reach your destination, particularly when loading and unloading. Do not overlook sleeping infants.
- Place a reminder of your child or pet's presence where you would be sure to see it before leaving the vehicle.
- Never leave a child in a vehicle with the motor running or the key in the ignition.
- Always lock your car, even at home, and remind your friends and neighbors to do the same. Children die every year when they get into unlocked cars on their own and cannot get out.
- Remove your pet from your vehicle when returning home.

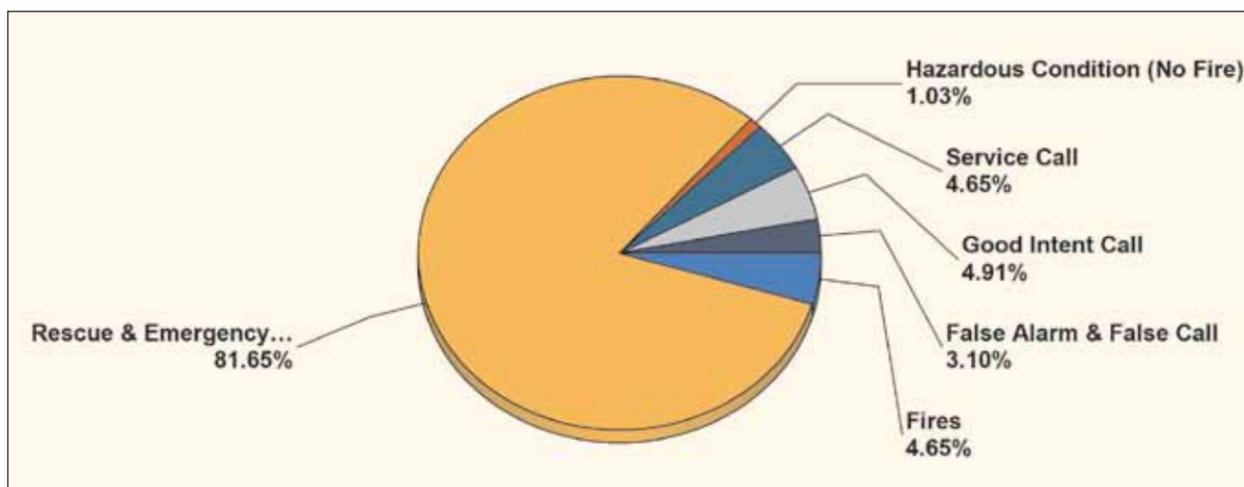
• Do not transport an animal in a trunk of a vehicle nor in the bed of a pick-up truck in hot weather. Animal's paws can burn on an extremely hot day.

• Call 911 if you observe a child, vulnerable person, or pet in distress in an unattended vehicle.

## City of El Mirage Fire Department Operations Report May 2016

Total Calls for Service = 387

Average Response Time for All Aid Types: 00:07:08



### Community Involvement

- 05/03/2016: El Mirage Fire Department participated in training at the Glendale Fire Academy, Modern Principals in Fire Attack.
- 05/04/2016: El Mirage Fire Department participated with Luke Air Force Base in live fire training exercise.
- 05/06/2016: El Mirage Fire Department supported the annual Field Day Water Day event hosted by Thompson Ranch Elementary School.
- 05/14/2016: El Mirage Fire Department crews provided valuable information to the residents of the Montecito Estates regarding pool safety and pamphlets were disseminated.
- 05/21/2016: El Mirage Fire Department participated in Walgreen's Red Nose Day, this meet and greet event included a static display and stickers for the kids.

### Significant Incidents

- None reported

### Training Activities

- 1,459 total training hours, combined Fire/EMS

### FIRE, BUILDING, AND LIFE SAFETY DIVISION REPORT (FBLs)

#### For Period Ending: May 2016

- May was Building Safety Month. A display was set up in City Hall and information went out to all employees and to the citizens via El Mirage Newsletter, Facebook and Twitter.
- An annual audit was conducted by the Office of Manufactured Housing with whom the City has an IGA for permits, reviews, and inspections. The audit looked at our processes and procedures, documentation and inspection quality. The formal audit has yet to be received but the Director stated the City was superior in following the rules and regulations of the OMH.

#### Statistics for period of May 2016

- Permits issued: 47
- Plan reviews:
  - 4 Commercial
  - 41 Residential
  - 2 Fire
- Inspections - 232 at 28 stops (11 daily average)
- Annual Business Inspections - 32
- Revenue from permits - \$20,385

## EMFD Community Connections

### June 1, 2016

The City of El Mirage Fire Department has started our annual Hydration Station. The water bottles will be in the ice chest located at the entrance of the Fire Administration Building, we ask that you limit yourself to what is needed so everyone has a chance to hydrate.

### June 2, 2016

Summer is upon us and as we move further in to June and July the temperatures and humidity will continue to rise. As the temperatures get higher so do the incidents of heat related illnesses such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. In 2009 there were 74 heat related deaths in Maricopa County alone.

People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to compensate and properly cool themselves. The body normally cools itself by sweating, but under some conditions, sweating just isn't enough. In such cases, a person's body temperature rises rapidly. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain or other vital organs.

Several factors affect the body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather. When the humidity is high, sweat will not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly. Other conditions related to risk include age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, and prescription drug and alcohol use.

Heat-related deaths are preventable, people need to be aware of who is at greatest risk and what actions can be taken to prevent a heat-related illness or death.

Summertime activity, whether on the playing field or the construction site, must be balanced with measures that aid the body's cooling mechanisms and prevent heat-related illness.

## El Mirage Fire Department Calendar of Events

### Community CPR Training CPR + First Aid

September 24, 2016  
December 10, 2016  
9:00am - Noon

### Fire Extinguisher Class Call for more information

El Mirage Fire Department  
623-583-7968

Watch your kids around water!



## Hazardous Waste Disposal Information

For help on how to identify and properly dispose of hazardous material, visit [www.cityofelmirage.org/recycling](http://www.cityofelmirage.org/recycling) or contact the City's Public Works Department at 623-935-6405.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS - JULY 2016**

SENIOR CENTER	EL MIRAGE FY16-17 EVENT SCHEDULE	ONGOING ACTIVITIES
<p><b>El Mirage Senior Center</b>                      1441 North El Mirage Road                      El Mirage, Arizona 85335</p> <p>Come visit the Senior Center and socialize with other seniors from the City of El Mirage.</p> <p><b>Senior Center Activities Include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hot lunches for \$2.50 (Call 623.876.4232 for meals)</li> <li>Prize BINGO</li> <li>Arts &amp; Crafts</li> <li>Exercise Classes</li> <li>Health &amp; Wellness Speakers</li> <li>Monthly Birthday &amp; Holiday Parties</li> <li>Board Games &amp; Card Games</li> </ul> <p>For more information:                      Call: 623-876-4243 or                      Email: <a href="mailto:rarvizu@cityofelmirage.org">rarvizu@cityofelmirage.org</a>                      Visit: <a href="http://www.cityofelmirage.org">www.cityofelmirage.org</a></p> 	 <p><b>Special Events Calendar</b>                      FALL 2016 – SPRING 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Halloween Harvest Festival</b>                              • Friday, Oct. 21, 2016                              • 5-9pm @ Gentry Park</li> <li><b>El Mirage Salute to Veterans</b>                              • Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016                              • 10am-9pm @ Gateway Park</li> <li><b>Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony</b>                              • Friday, Dec. 9, 2016                              • 5-9pm @ Gentry Park</li> <li><b>El Mirage Public Safety Day</b>                              • Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017                              • 10am-2pm @ Gateway Park</li> <li><b>El Mirage Car Show</b>                              • Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017                              • 9am-1pm @ Gentry Park</li> <li><b>Easter Eggstravaganza Celebration</b>                              • Saturday, April 8, 2017                              • 9am-1pm @ Gentry Park</li> <li><b>Cinco de Mayo Fiesta</b>                              • Friday, May 5, 2017                              • 6-10pm @ Gentry Park</li> </ul> <p>For more information contact:                      Jeffrey Anderson                      623.876.2942  <a href="mailto:janderson@cityofelmirage.org">janderson@cityofelmirage.org</a>  <a href="http://www.cityofelmirage.org">www.cityofelmirage.org</a></p>	<p><b>Co-ed Adult Soccer</b>                      Games played at Gateway Park. For information, go to <a href="http://www.azcoedsoccer.com">www.azcoedsoccer.com</a> or call 1-800-BSA- 0886</p> <p><b>Benfica Youth Soccer</b>                      Mon –Thurs., 6 pm – 8 pm year round                      For information, go to <a href="http://www.azbenfica.org">www.azbenfica.org</a> or call 1-800-BSA-0886</p> <p><b>White Tanks Little League</b>                      Baseball and Softball                      Ages 4 to 16  <a href="mailto:Whitetanksl1@msn.com">Whitetanksl1@msn.com</a> or call (623) 241-4602</p> <p><b>West Valley Youth Football</b>                      Ages 5 – 15 learn flag, tackle, cheer, dance, and step.                      For information, go to <a href="http://www.wvyfaz.com">www.wvyfaz.com</a> or email <a href="mailto:wvyouthfootball11@gmail.com">wvyouthfootball11@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>El Mirage Martial Arts Academy</b>                      Ages 6–12 learn traditional martial arts and life skills including “stranger danger.” \$45/month, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 6 pm – 7 pm.                      Ages 13+ train at their own speed in weaponless defense. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 7 pm – 8 pm.                      For information, contact Richard Gutkosky (623) 628-6725.</p>



**EL MIRAGE LIBRARY**

14011 North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, El Mirage Arizona 85335 | 602-652-3000 | <http://mcladaz.org/events/elmirage>  
*please see the online calendar for full program description*



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**YOUTH**

**On Your Mark, Get Set, READ! – June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>.** All ages. The Maricopa County 2016 Summer Reading Program is here! Sign up online or at the El Mirage Library. Read at least 20 minutes each day, log your minutes and earn points and digital badges. 20 minutes = 20 points. Earn prizes! 500 points = Chipotle Free Meal Coupon. 100 points = Free Book. More information at [www.maricopacountyreads.org](http://www.maricopacountyreads.org) or #read20az.

**Ready, Set, Read and Feed - June 1 (Wed.) through July 29 (Fri.)** 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm at the El Mirage Senior Center. **Kids 1-18 years are eligible for free lunch, Mon.-Fri.** Sign up for our Summer Reading program, read books, earn badges, attend fun programs, qualify for prizes and have a free lunch! Funded by Kikstart, Inc. in partnership with Summer Food Service Program USDA, the Library and the City of El Mirage. Contact information: Gail at 602-652-3000.

**On Your Mark, Get Set, Read and Solve the Puzzle at the YMCA! – July 1-July 29.** As part of the Summer Reading Program Community Experience, the YMCA has partnered with the Library. Go to the Y’s Welcome Center; solve the puzzle on the table to reveal the secret code. Log into your reading account, enter the secret code to get 25 points and a YMCA digital badge! The Y’s address: 12450 W Cinnabar Ave, El Mirage.

**On Your Mark, Get Set, Read and Hula – July 7 (Thursday) 11:00 am.** Get your hoop-on with Jessica, a professional Hula Hooper! She will give a short overview of the hula hoop; demonstrate using the hoop and then give lessons. A limited number of hoops will be provided. Pick up the secret code for this program to get a virtual badge. Program is at the Dysart Community Center and is open to the public.

**On Your Mark, Get Set, Read and Score – July 13 (Wednesday) 1:00 pm.** Meet a player from Arizona’s only professional men’s soccer team, the Arizona United Soccer Club! A player will read a story to the audience then talk about what it takes to become a professional soccer player, the drills they work on to be successful and their favorite books to read. Players will take audience questions, followed by photos and autographs, as time permits. Registration is not required but seating is limited. This program will be held at the Dysart Community Center and is open to the public. Appropriate for ages 5 and up.

**Ready, Set, Read and Tour the Fire Station – July 19 (Tuesday) 2:00 pm.** If you missed your chance in June to take the tour, this is another opportunity! Kids of all ages will enjoy a tour of the Fire Station as part of the Summer Reading Program Community Experience. Take the tour and receive a secret code, enter it in your reading log and receive a special Fire Fighter digital badge and earn points! This program is brought to you by the Maricopa County Summer Reading program, in partnership with the El Mirage Fire Department and the El Mirage Library.

**On Your Mark, Get Set, Read and Didgeridoo – July 27 (Wednesday) 10:00 am.** Do you know what a didgeridoo is? Rob and Tanya will show you! Kids young and old will enjoy a concert that will take you on a musical journey to the Australian Outback, coastal rainforests, Great Barrier Reef and beyond. Attend the program and receive a secret code to earn a digital badge. This program is at the El Mirage Senior Center. Contact information: Gail, 602-652-3000.

**ADULT**

**On Your Mark, Get Set, Read & Drum! July 13 (Wednesday) 10:30 am.** The word rhythm in Greek means 'to flow.' Drum circles are a positive community experience designed to enhance sense of community and support and self-realization, reduce tension, anxiety and stress, result in a positive medical impact, and release emotions. Join Franklin Thompson of AZ Rhythm Connection as he takes us through the moves. With all instruments provided and NO MUSICAL OR DRUMMING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY, this is a great program for all. Seats and instruments are limited, so seats will be made available to walk-ins on a first-come, first served basis the day of the event. Program is at the Senior Center and is open to adults 18 years and older.

**DYSART COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 14414 North El Mirage Road, El Mirage, AZ 85335 | 623-974-4156 | [www.dysartcommunitycenter.org](http://www.dysartcommunitycenter.org)

<p><b>YOUTH SUMMER CAMP</b>                      623-583-2137                      May 31<sup>st</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>                      Monday – Thursday 8 AM to 3 PM.                      \$20/week or \$100/8 weeks &amp;                      Extended Care Hours \$25/week or                      \$140/8 weeks 8 AM to 5:30 PM</p> <p>Includes educational activities, sports, field days, guest presentations, games, arts &amp; crafts, breakfast, lunch and more! Registration Now! Space is limited, please bring payment (check or cash) Call ahead with questions.</p>	<p><b>ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES</b>                      623-974-4156</p> <p><b>Clases de Ingles (ESL)</b> – Clases individuales y en grupo disponibles incluyendo los libros de estudio y el programa Rosetta Stone, \$60</p> <p><b>GED</b> Twice per week with professional instructors, classes available Money - Thursday 10 AM – 12 PM and 6 – 8 PM, \$30</p> <p><b>Citizenship</b> – Full instruction for passing US citizenship test, \$25</p>	<p><b>LOCAL TEENS MAKING AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY</b></p> <p>DCC is helping local teens make a positive impact in our community through the arts. Please visit Youtube.com and search “Dysart Community Center Voices of Local Youth” to view their most recent short film that is grabbing attention around the Valley.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thank you for your support!</b></p>	<p><b>MOBILE FOOD PANTRY</b>  <b>DYSART COMMUNITY CENTER</b>                      623- 974-4156                      July 2nd at 1:00 pm                      Movil Distribucion de Despensa en  <b>Dysart Community Center</b>                      Primer Sabado de cada mes a la 1 PM.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1st Saturday of the month @ 1PM</i></p>
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# TRIBUTE

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# TOURNAMENTS

**FREE ENTRY WITH YOUR TRIBUTE CARD.**

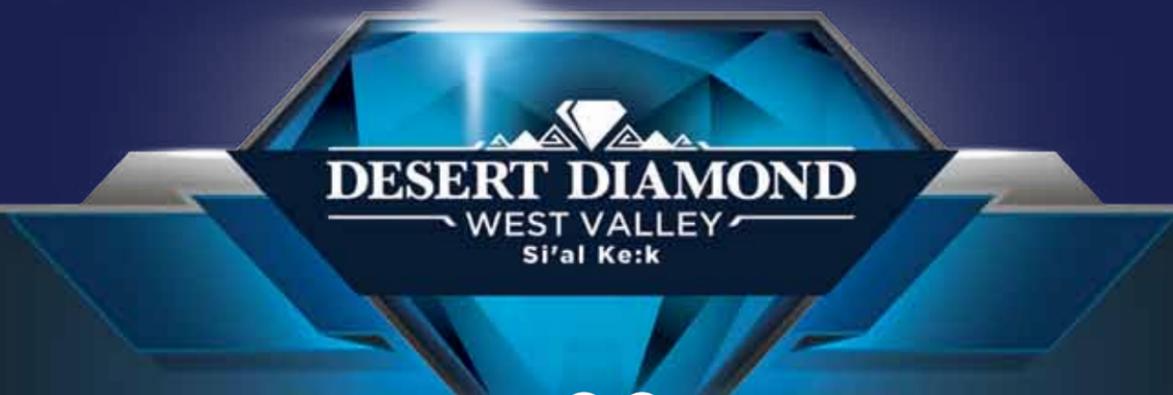
**WIN UP TO \$2,000 CASH OR \$100 GIFT CARD!**

**2PM - 4PM**

**4TH OF JULY**

**LABOR DAY**

This is just our way of saying thank you for serving our country with pride and honor.  
Experience the possibilities.



**866.DDC.WINS |   | DDCAZ.COM**

Classic Rewards Members must earn 25 points between Saturday and Monday to participate. See the Rewards Center for details. Must be 21. Desert Diamond West Valley Rewards Card necessary to participate. Management has the right to alter/cancel without notice. Please play responsibly. An Enterprise of the Tohono O'odham Nation.