

# El Mirage

## Monthly Newsletter

City of El Mirage  
12145 NW Grand Ave.  
El Mirage, AZ 85335

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www.cityofelmirage.org

Vol. 7, No. 05

623-876-2978

### Mayor's Messages:

## El Mirage – Keeping Water Safe

In light of the events in Flint, Michigan, I wanted to personally communicate and reassure residents about the safety of El Mirage water. El Mirage places a priority on the safety, welfare, and quality of life of its residents – especially when it comes to matters as important as the water we drink.

The issues in Flint, Michigan were a result of lead and iron that were released into the water system through a combination of factors. The water for Flint comes from surface water sources like rivers

and reservoirs and is more corrosive than groundwater. Over time, that water corroded the older pipes in the Flint water system, which released lead into the drinking water.

El Mirage's source for drinking water is groundwater and is not subject to direct pollution and contamination like a river or a reservoir. Groundwater is the safest and highest quality water available. The water used by El Mirage is at a much lower risk for corrosion.



Brisas Well Site at 12901 N. 119th Ave

WATER COMPARISON El Mirage, Arizona and Flint Michigan		
	El Mirage, AZ	Flint, MI
Source	Groundwater (Well Sites)	Surface Water (River)
Corrosivity	Medium to Low	High
Presence of Lead	Negative	Positive

Every three years, 30 homes in El Mirage are selected and tested for lead and copper. **Lead has never been detected in El Mirage water since the City began testing over**

**10 years ago.** It is also important to note that additional water sampling and testing for various other contaminants is done at 40 sites on a monthly basis to ensure the

safety of our water. The City also produces an annual Water Quality Report, which can be accessed via the City's website, www.cityofelmirage.org – type in "water quality" in the search bar.

The City Council and Administration

place the health and welfare of El Mirage citizens first on our list of priorities. The different regulations and protocols in place which govern the quality of our water system keep our residents safe and healthy on a daily basis.

## El Mirage Housing Prices Sky Rocket in First Quarter of 2016

Improving the quality of life for our residents is and will continue to be a priority for our City. Infrastructure improvement projects and the plans that Council has put forward to revitalize the City and downtown area have resulted in increased property values throughout El Mirage for all of its citizens.



El Mirage two-story home and backyard

As a result of smart decisions and planning, home values for the first quarter of 2016 in El

Mirage have increased 11% over the first quarter of 2015. The average last year in the US was 4.3%

per Zillow. The average house price went from \$138,031 to \$153,856, which is amazing growth,

and continues to make El Mirage one of the most affordable places in the West Valley. The average

price/sq ft also saw a big increase over the first quarter of 2015; it went from \$86.35 to \$98.60, which is a 14% increase. This means that if you sold a 1,500 sq ft house in May 2015, you would have likely received \$129,525 for that house. If you were to sell the same house today, you would probably list the

house at \$147,900. That is a big difference and just one of the many benefits from living in a City that is growing smarter.

We are excited to see El Mirage continue to grow and improve. This Council and Administration remain committed to make the City a better place to live, work, and play!

## El Mirage Receives CAFR Award 5 Years in a Row

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to the City of El Mirage by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and this attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the City of El Mirage. The award is a testament to the City of El



Assistant Finance Director Christy Eusebio, Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Robert Nilles, Mayor Lana Mook, and City Manager Dr. Spencer A. Isom

Mirage's excellent Council, Management, and Financial employees. This is the fifth consecutive award, all of which have been awarded under this Administration.

The City of El Mirage's comprehensive annual financial reports can be found on the city's website www.cityofelmirage.org under Departments/

Finance/Financial Reports. For more information on the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting go to www.gfoa.org/coa.

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**FREE GUEST PASS**

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

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT!  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# El Mirage Construction Update

El Mirage Road is under construction from Cinnabar Avenue to Grand Avenue and Thunderbird Road is under construction from 127th Avenue to El Frio Street. The project is managed by City staff and will add landscaped medians, enhanced street lighting, bike lanes, wide sidewalks, and many other multimodal improvements to the roadway. Drivers are encouraged to slow down and obey all posted traffic control devices.

The City recently completed a waterline project on El Mirage Road north of Thunderbird Road. The project provided a much needed upgrade to an aging section of the City's infrastructure. The next shovel-ready waterline project is a new 8" main on Varney Road that will begin construction in April.

ADOT is finalizing a design to reconfigure Thunderbird Road from El Frio Street to Grand Avenue. This project will advertise for bids this



spring and is anticipated to begin before May 30, 2016.

Maricopa County is finishing the design for El Mirage Road from Northern Avenue to Gateway Park. Utility companies will soon begin relocating their lines in that area. Relocations are expected to be completed by summer 2017.

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>

<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)

**Need to Report  
a Street Light Outage?**



*Contact Arizona Public Service at [aps.com/lights](http://aps.com/lights) or call (602) 371-6140. Make sure you have the pole number, which is located about 6 feet up on the street side of the pole. Also have the actual or nearest address or cross streets.*

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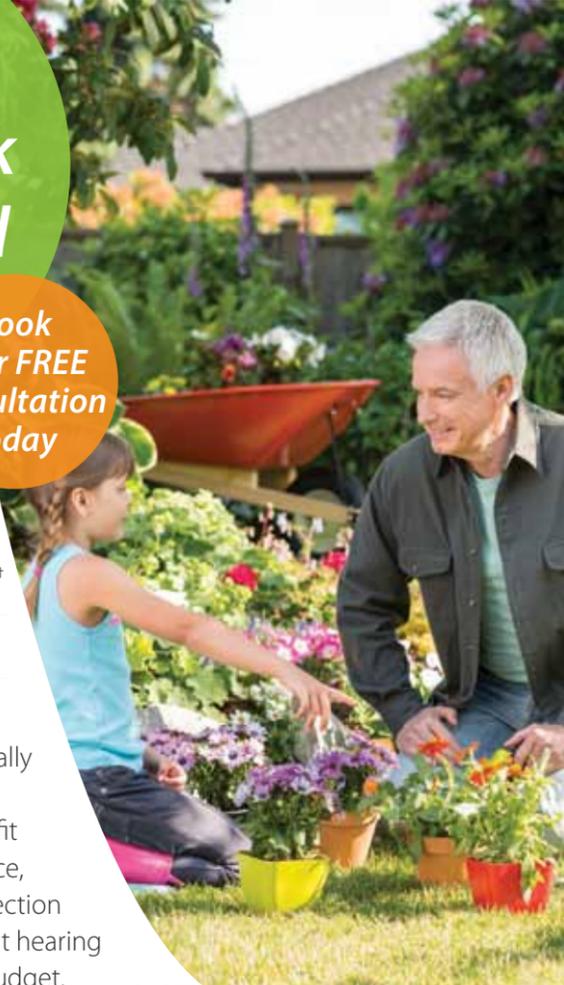
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**El Mirage News**

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# THE BLUE BYLINE



## News from the El Mirage Police Department

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# El Mirage Attends Explorer Competition

On April 1-3, 2016, seven members of El Mirage Police Explorer Post #2780 attended the 2016 North Los Angeles County Law Enforcement Explorer Competition in Castaic, California. The competition included 33 Explorer Posts with 331 Explorers and 91 Advisors from various cities, counties and states. The El Mirage Police Explorers, along with the Marana Police Explorers and U.S. Border Patrol Explorers proudly represented the State of Arizona.

in the following scenarios: Family Disturbance, Tactical Emergency Medical Support, Active Shooter, High Risk Stop, Tubular Assault, Five Man Hostage Rescue Team, Suspicious Person, High Risk Search Warrant, Bear Cat Pull, Three Mile Run, Mud Run, and Rock Climbing.

During the competition, several of the judges and advisors from other posts expressed how impressed they were with the El Mirage Explorers and highlighted how smaller agencies

with fewer resources can compete just as well as larger agencies.

The El Mirage Police Explorer Post has been active with the Police Department for just over two years. The Explorers participate in community events by actively engaging residents, youth, and older citizens. The goal of the Explorer program is to enable young adults (ages 14 to 20) to learn about law enforcement and share their experience with others. Explorers develop law enforcement skills, including leadership and

professionalism. The program fosters positive character traits such as honesty, respect, leadership, and discipline.

El Mirage's Explorer program would not be successful without the support of our Mayor and City Council, City Manager Dr. Isom, police command staff, advisors, officers, and Jimmy Farley with Coco's Towing, who provided the funding that allowed El Mirage Explorers to attend the North Los Angeles County Explorer Competition.

The El Mirage Explorers competed

## Explorer Fundraiser

On March 21, 2016, El Mirage Explorer Post #2780 hosted its first Annual Spaghetti Dinner. Over 100 community members attended and the event raised more than \$2,000. The proceeds will allow El Mirage's Explorer Post to attend competitions in and out of the state. The donations will assist with purchasing uniforms, duty gear, and training equipment.

The El Mirage Police Command Staff, City Manager Dr. Isom, City Council, El Mirage Fire Department, Glendale Police Explorer Post, and Jimmy Farley from Coco's Towing helped make the event a great success.



Explorers: Ashley Quintana, Ana Camacho, Laly Luna, Michael Rodriguez, Clayton Haigh, Haleigh Wheat, and Evan Berger

## Code Enforcement Activities

The El Mirage Police Department's Code Enforcement Unit has been busy keeping up with the beautification of El Mirage. From the first of the year until summer time, weed season is in full swing.

Code Enforcement Officers focus on educating and notifying property owners about overgrown weeds. Overgrown weeds are the primary violation encountered between January

and July. El Mirage Code Enforcement Officers make every effort to eradicate these violations through education.

Four dedicated Code Enforcement Officers have demonstrated exemplary work by inspecting over 4,259 properties, opening 1,824 new cases, and closing 1,602 cases, during the first quarter of 2016. These numbers reflect the effort and pride with which code enforcement officers execute their job duties.

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

CASE #	Description	Owner
E15121709	Cell Phone	Carlos Hernandez
E16030757	Cell Phone	Unknown Owner
E16031275	Misc. Paperwork	Christian Chardon
E16031339	Backpack	Sean Peyser
E16031815	Misc. Personal Items	Stephen Fought
E16031976	Cell phone	Charles Stack
E16032049	Jewelry	Robert Agee
E16032317	AZDL / Misc. Cards	Victor Porras
E16032370	Backpack	Joseph Vallejo
E16032424	Belt	Juan Almanza-Rodrigue
E16040250	Misc. Personal Items	Esmeralda Beltran
E16040639	Tools	Manuel Avina
E16040943	.223 Rifle US Arms LLC	Kristy Veal

Photo ID is required.  
Call 623-500-3038 for an appointment to claim your property.  
Property not claimed by 04/01/16 will be disposed of in accordance with the law.





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

# 2016 ELECTION INFORMATION

## How to Avoid Long Lines at Voting Polls



You can exercise your right to vote and save yourself frustration in a number of ways:

1. Vote early, in person – there are 20 days before an election date in which you can cast your vote early; depending on the type of election, there are various early voting sites

2. Request a one-time early ballot – if you are NOT on the Permanent Early Voting List, you can request a ballot by telephone, mail or fax.

3. Sign up to be placed on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) – you will automatically be sent an early ballot for all elections as long as you are signed up and on the list

For more details on any of these options, you can go to <https://voter.azsos.gov>.

The next election is the **May 17, 2016 State Special Election**:

• The two measures being considered in this state-wide election are:

o **Proposition 123**, which involves approving \$3.5 billion dollars over the next 10 years toward education in Arizona, and

o **Proposition 124**, which is a proposed revision to the Arizona constitution regarding Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS).

• **April 20**: Early in-person voting begins at the following three Maricopa County Recorder and Elections Department locations:

o Main Downtown Office  
111S. Third St., Phoenix, 85003

602-506-3535  
o SE Mesa Office  
222 E. Javelina, Mesa, 85210

602-506-3535  
o Elections MCTEC Office  
510 S. 3rd Ave., Phoenix, 85003

602-506-1511  
- All three locations are open 8 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday

• **May 6**: Last day to request an early ballot; requests must be made by 5 pm

• **May 13**: Safest last day to submit a voted early ballot by mail; after May 13th, you can drop off your voted ballot at any one of the 116 polling locations or at El Mirage City Hall on Election Day

• **May 17: ELECTION DAY**

There are 116 polling locations for this election which are listed on the Maricopa County website at <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/>

• **El Mirage Polling Locations:**

- o Dysart Community Center
- o Sunset View Baptist Church

• **Who can vote in this election?** – ALL registered voters (including Independents)

• **Where can voters vote?** – at any one of the 116 polling locations

• You should by now have received a Special Election Publicity pamphlet from the Secretary of State's office with information on the two propositions you are being asked to vote on at the May 17th Special Election.

**For More Information** - please 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/>.

Next month's issue will include information for the August, 2016 Primary election.

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# Economic Development Insights: Youth Development Programs Vital to Meeting Future Workforce Needs



**Tom Doyle, Economic Development Specialist**  
tdoyle@cityofelmirage.org

Several years ago the majority of non-retail businesses looking to relocate or expand to another city were interested in state and city incentives, building and location, available infrastructure, and labor costs. Today, the most important factor for large businesses is an available and

sustainable workforce. It is not uncommon for human resource directors to be part of the site selection team. The bottom line is a city or region with an inadequate workforce is the first to be eliminated from possible site selections.

The emphasis on workforce has created a need to review our labor force, current educational programs (K-12, technical schools, community colleges, and universities),

and developing the workforce of tomorrow. This is where youth development programs play a vital role within economic development.

Baby Boomers are retiring, leaving gaps in logistics, utilities, trade-industries, high-tech manufacturing, health-care, and a variety of other career fields. Cultivating a productive workforce requires several skill sets and the foundation begins with youth

development.

Mike Cassidy, Executive Director, Dysart Community Center states: "If our community is going to be successful, the youth who will comprise the workforce of tomorrow must be fluent in new technology and modern means of communication, must be able to think critically about complex issues, and must understand the value of collaborating with people from a diverse range of

cultures, backgrounds, and disciplines.

"We must also help them cultivate a deep belief in their own ability to meaningfully engage the systems and institutions around them in order to foster continuous innovation and progress.

"If we can ensure that our youth are prepared in this manner, we needn't fear what the future holds no matter what fields of work they choose to enter. That is why Dysart

Community Center is working so hard to provide programming that ensures that local youth are well-versed in these crucial areas."

Youth Development Programs enable students to observe and participate in activities that will stimulate interest and passion. It's answering the question, "What do I want to fix?" It's a complex evolving world and tomorrow's workforce needs to be flexible and adapt as technology changes.

## March 2016 Business Licenses

Type	Business Name/Address	City	Zip	Phone
Contractor	Badger Daylighting Corp	Brownsburg	46122	317-456-1050
Contractor	Desert Services International	Goodyear	85338	623-386-1254
Contractor	Angels Touch Tile and Granite Solutions	El Mirage	85335	623-261-1588
Rental	S&N Wholesale Auto Dealer	El Mirage	85335	623-313-0978



**Arizona Aviculture Society**  
**Spring 2016 Bird Mart**  
Sunday, May 15, 2016 • 9am-3pm  
Admission: Adults \$5.00 Children 12 & Under Free  
Held at the **El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium** located at 552 N. 40th Street (just south of the 202 Freeway on 40th Street), in Phoenix, Arizona.  
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Worship - 12:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible study - 7:30 p.m.  
Friday Worship - 7:30 p.m.  
Prayer 1 hour prior to each service

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Matthew 21:13

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# 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



## Warmer Weather means Busy Bees

As the temperature starts to rise, so does the number of bee encounters around the valley. The El Mirage Fire Department is ready and equipped to perform rescues and provide emergency treatment due to a bee attack. The only reason the fire department would “foam the bees” is for rescue purposes. Any other situation such as having bees in a tree is not considered a bee emergency, and may require a professional bee control company.

Bees can be encountered on a hike, or in the city. Be aware of your surroundings and use this information to keep safe:

- If bees get riled up, the most important thing to do is RUN away as fast as possible. Do not try to stand still in an attempt to fool the bees. Do not try to fight the bees. Run indoors as fast as possible.



- Grab a towel, blanket, or shirt to cover the face. The stings on the chest and abdomen are far less

serious than those to the facial area.

- Find shelter as soon as possible. Take refuge in a house, tent, or a car with the windows and doors closed.

- Although it may be tempting, DO NOT JUMP INTO WATER! Bees will wait above the water until the person comes up for air.

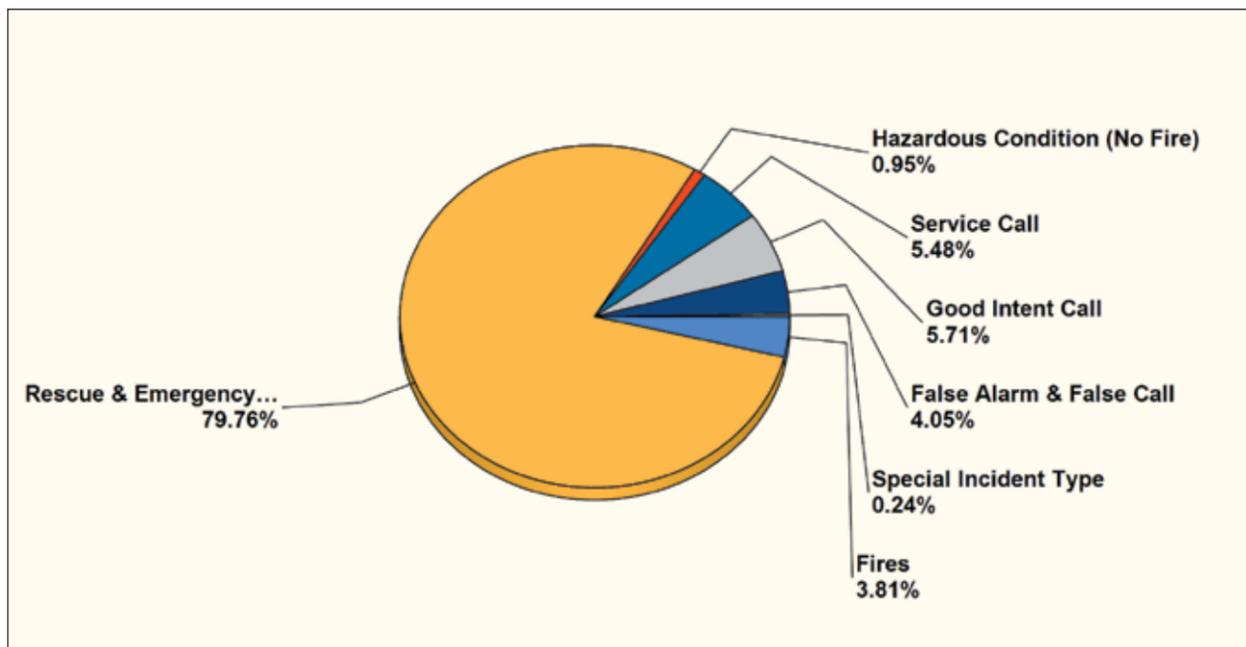
- Once away from the bees, take a second and evaluate the situation. If stung more than 15 times, or if there are any symptoms other than local pain and swelling, seek medical attention immediately. If there are other people being stung or think others are in danger, call 9-1-1 immediately.

For more information, please visit [www.cityofelmirage.org](http://www.cityofelmirage.org) or call the El Mirage Fire Department at 623-583-7968.

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

Total Calls for Service = 446

Average Response Time for All Aid Types: 00:07:01



### Community Involvement

- 03/03/2016: El Mirage Fire Department participated with the Dr. Seuss Reading Night, crews read and passed out goodies to the kids, approximately 100 people participated.

- 03/04/2016: El Mirage Fire Department participated with Read Across America, crews read books to 4th and 5th grade classrooms.

- 03/07/2016: El Mirage Fire Department participated with Read Across America, this time to 1st and 4th grades.

- 03/19/2016: El Mirage Fire Department participated with the Annual Easter Eggstravaganza, crews delivered Hoppy to his destination and provided medical standby.

- 03/28/2016: El Mirage Fire Department was invited to teach EMPD Explorers tactical first-aid. After the class crews stayed and assisted the rest of their training by performing such activities as victims and assailants.

### Significant Incidents

- 03/20/2016: Crews responded to an unknown fire in the 12000 block of West Thunderbird, upon arrival crews reported a working fire. Fire ground operations included multiple agencies including Sun City, North County, and Glendale. No injuries were reported.

### Training Activities

- 1,119 total training hours, combined Fire and EMS

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

#### For Period Ending: March 2016

- FBLS has instituted a pilot program in an effort to inspect all businesses annually; the initial trial period will be for 6 months in an attempt to accomplish this goal.

#### Statistics for period of March 2016

- Permits issued - 64
- Plan reviews - 2 Commercial  
53 Residential
- Inspections - 258 at 151 stops (11 daily average)
- Annual Business Inspections - 16
- Revenue from permits - \$17,103

### EMFD Community Connections

April 29, 2016

El Mirage Fire Department will be participating at the Cinco-De-Mayo event held at Gentry Park. Our Fire Department will have a first aid tent as well as some handouts for the kids.

### El Mirage Fire Department Calendar of Events

Community CPR Training  
CPR + First Aid

June 25, 2016  
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.



# House Prices Soar in the First Quarter

House prices are up and it's a great time to sell! Low inventory and low interest rates have created a seller's market that many West Valley residents are taking advantage of.

The Valley got hit hard when the housing bubble burst and this is the first time that many Valley homes haven't been upside down. If you owed more than your house was worth a year or two ago, you may not be in that position now. City officials in El Mirage are making great improvements to the city's infrastructure and it's already helping home values and attracting new businesses. The YMCA and other businesses that call El Mirage home are attracting new residents by creating jobs and giving residents ways to enjoy their free time without having to drive elsewhere.

Justin, an El Mirage resident, bought his house for \$150,000 and two years ago, it was worth \$110,000. He has gotten married and had kids since he bought his house, so he needed more space, but couldn't sell his house.

When asked about his recent decision to sell, he said, "I felt like I was stuck in my house; I needed to move, but owed more than my house was worth. I saw my neighbor's house go up for sale and I went to [www.MyWestValleyHouse.com](http://www.MyWestValleyHouse.com) to see what my house was worth and it said I was finally able to break even. I called Myranda Shields and she got my house sold in one weekend and found me the perfect house to move into."

Justin isn't the only one happy with the price he sold his house for. Heather bought a house for \$76,000 in 2009, when the housing market was in really bad shape. She has lived there and loved the house. She recently got a job in the East Valley and the drive was too far. She thought she could make a little bit of money off her house, but she was blown away with what it was actually worth.



Heather said, "I knew that house prices were better now than when I bought my house. I was hoping that I could walk away with around \$20,000 to put down on a new house closer to my work. I checked it at [www.MyWestValleyHouse.com](http://www.MyWestValleyHouse.com) and it said my house was worth \$150,000. I called Myranda and she said it was actually worth \$175,000. I sold it for over list price in one day. I never thought I'd have that much money in my life! I was able to put 20 percent down on a new house and pay off debt. I'm in a better house that is closer to work and I don't have any debt. Best decision I have ever made."

Many home owners are on the fence about selling because they are concerned they won't have anywhere to go if their house sells

too fast. This is a valid concern, but one that is easily overcome. One of the best ways to combat this is to request a longer close date from the buyer so the seller has time to figure out their plans and not be so rushed. Just because your house goes under contract immediately doesn't mean you need to get out right away.

If you are thinking about making a move or if you are wondering if you could remove the costly mortgage insurance on your house payment, go to [www.MyWestValleyHouse.com](http://www.MyWestValleyHouse.com) and find out a realistic/instant value on the house you own, so you can make the best decision possible for your situation. Say you saw it in the El Mirage News and get two free movie tickets!



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Owner Horizon Southwest Realty



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- 30 Day Close



**Sold in 7 Days!**

- \$5,000 over what sellers expected
- Sellers leased house back so they didn't move twice



**Sold 1st Weekend!**

- Over List Price
- Multiple Offers
- 3 Week Close



**Sold in 3 Days!**

- List Price
- Multiple Offers
- Sellers leased house back, so they didn't move twice

Go to [www.MyWestValleyHouse.com](http://www.MyWestValleyHouse.com) for an **ACCURATE/INSTANT VALUE** on your house!



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<http://www.cityofelmirage.org/>

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agreements, domestic  
partnership agreements  
as well as business  
law, see: [www.sharonravenscroft.com](http://www.sharonravenscroft.com).

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## Public Works: Working hard for El Mirage

### Spring 2016 Bulk Trash Update

The City's Bulk Trash collection program continues to provide residents with an opportunity to clean up their properties and support Council goals for community beautification. The current focus of the program is awareness and education in an effort to ensure that the program continues to maximize value for residents.

The fall 2015 event was highly successful and saw an increase in program efficiency. It was the largest collection to date, the program was well received, with minimal amount of compliance issues, which were addressed in a timely manner.

For the spring 2016 event, the bulk trash pickup was scheduled to mirror the regular trash/recycle route, reducing mobilization costs for Parks and Sons in an effort to lower the overall cost of the program. This change also allows pickup to be split into two sections rather than four, which provides seamless integration of bulk trash collection. Collection dates for the spring program were April 11 (Section 1 – East) and April 25 (Section 2 – West).

As the popularity of the program continues to rise and demand remains high, the City will continue to look for efficiencies in the bulk trash program moving forward in order to provide this valuable service in the most efficient manner.



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ADOT has finalized their forms for REAL ID implementation and began issuing them in April 2016. Anyone wishing to be issued a REAL ID will need to go to the MVD. The Department of Homeland Security has granted a waiver to Arizona until 2020. After that time, anyone without the REAL ID wishing to fly domestically or gain access to certain federal buildings will need to use their passport for identification purposes.

For more information on the REAL ID Act, visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs>

- The cost is \$25 for first time issuance and renewals.
- In most instances, it will be valid for eight years.

### SHIRTS FOR SALE!



The City of El Mirage is selling shirts, window decals and stickers that proudly display the new F35 fighter jet with the saying "Proud Supporter of Luke AFB."

Women and Men Sizes: Small - XXL

T-Shirts: \$15.00

Window Decals or Stickers: \$2.00

Available at the Customer Service Department, 14406 N. Alto Street

# May is Building Safety Month

All communities need building codes to protect their citizens from disasters like fires, weather-related events and structural collapse. Model building codes are society's best way of protecting homes, offices, schools, manufacturing facilities, stores and entertainment venues.

Code Officials work hard to keep the public safe. Building

Safety Month is a month-long celebration of all aspects of building safety that helps families, employers, and leaders understand and appreciate the best practices that keep the places where we live, work, and play safe.

Please join the City of El Mirage to celebrate the following Building Safety efforts during May.

**Driving Growth through Innovation, Resilience and Safety**

**BUILDING SAFETY MONTH MAY**

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

[www.buildingsafetymonth.org](http://www.buildingsafetymonth.org)



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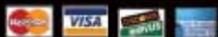


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**Week One- Building Solutions for All Ages**  
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**Week Two- The Science Behind the Codes**  
<http://www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/building-safety-month/week-two/>

**Week Three- Learn from the Past, Build for Tomorrow**  
<http://www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/building-safety-month/week-three/>

**Week Four- Codes: A Small Investment**  
<http://www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/building-safety-month/week-four/>

## Snake Safety Reminders

*Courtesy USDA.gov*

Generally not aggressive, rattlesnakes strike when threatened or deliberately provoked, but given room they will retreat. Most snake bites occur when a rattlesnake is handled or accidentally touched by someone walking or climbing. The majority of snakebites occur on the hands, feet and ankles.

Rattlesnakes usually avoid humans, but about 8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes in the United States each year, with 10 to 15 deaths, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The most common venomous snake in Idaho is the Western Rattlesnake. Other non-venomous snakes of Idaho include the Rubber Boa, Racer, Ringneck Snake, Night Snake, Striped Whipsnake, Common Garter Snake, Gopher Snake, Ground Snake, and Longnose Snake.

### Precautions

Most bites occur between the months of April and October when snakes and humans are most active outdoors.

About 25 percent of the bites are "dry," meaning no venom was injected, but the bites still require medical treatment. Depending on weather and threatening conditions such as wildfires; rattlesnakes may roam at any time of the day or night. If walking at night, be sure to use a flashlight.

To avoid rattlesnake bites some safety precautions will help:

- Wear appropriate over-the-ankle hiking boots, thick socks, and loose-fitting long pants. Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through wild areas.
- When hiking, stick to well-used trails if all possible.
- Avoid tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.
- Look at your feet to watch where you step and do not put your foot in or near a crevice where you cannot see.
- Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see, and avoid wandering around in the dark.
- If a fallen tree or large rock is in your path, step up on to it instead of over it, as there might be a snake

**MORE SNAKE SAFETY ON 15**

# ADOT MVD Kiosk at El Mirage City Court

The El Mirage City Court has partnered with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to provide a new service for Court customers. A Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) kiosk will offer many MVD online services such as registration renewal, access to motor vehicle driving records,

and electronic change of address. The kiosk will be a great addition for Court customers and improve customer service. The El Mirage City Court MVD kiosk was provided cost-free by ADOT, and El Mirage City Court is the third court in Arizona to have this service.



Pictured left to right: ADOT Program Administrator Robert Smith and El Mirage City Court Director Rod Wettlin

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<b>Worship Service (Sunday)</b> 10:15 AM	<b>Servicio de Adoración (Domingo)</b> 11:45 AM
<b>Youth Group (Sunday)</b> 5:00 PM	<b>Clasé Discipulado (Domingo)</b> 6:30 PM
<b>Prayer Meeting (Wednesday)</b> 6:30 PM	<b>Servicio de Oración (Miércoles)</b> 6:30 PM
<b>AWANA (Seasonal) (Wednesday)</b> 6:30 PM	<b>AWANA (temporal) (Miércoles)</b> 6:30 PM
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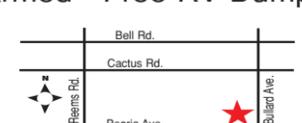
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## MAY NEWS

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** Pool will open on Sundays from 12:00pm to 3:30pm

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** New **GROUP FITNESS** Summer schedule begins

**May 6<sup>th</sup>** Mother Member's Pancake Breakfast from 8:00am to 11:00am and is free for members

**May 6<sup>th</sup>** Parent's Night Out from 5:00pm to 9:00pm and is free for first 50 members

**May 31<sup>st</sup>** Summer Camp begins on Tuesday, Registration is open now.

**May** Visit [www.valleyYMCA.org/Northwest](http://www.valleyYMCA.org/Northwest) for new program announcements and details on Karate, Preschool Ballet, Dance Pop, Kid Power, Family Dance Fusion, Preschool Gymnastics, and more!

**NORTHWEST VALLEY FAMILY YMCA**  
 12450 West Cinnabar Avenue, El Mirage, Arizona 85335  
 Phone: 602.688.5335 | Email: [www.valleyYMCA.org/Northwest](http://www.valleyYMCA.org/Northwest)

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# SNAKE SAFETY From 12

on the other side.

- Be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood.
- Check out stumps or logs before sitting down, and shake out sleeping bags before use.
- Do not turn over rocks or logs. If you must move a rock or log, use gloves and roll it toward you, giving anything beneath it the opportunity to escape in the opposite direction.
- Never grab "sticks" or "branches" while swimming in lakes and rivers. Rattlesnakes can swim.
- Avoid approaching any snake you cannot positively identify as a safe species.
- If you hear the warning rattle, move away from the area and do not make sudden or threatening movements in the direction of the snake.
- Remember rattlesnakes do not always rattle before they strike!
- Do not handle a freshly killed snake - it can still inject venom.

### First Aid

#### DON'T

If bitten by a rattlesnake DO NOT:

- Do not make incisions over the bite wound.
- Do not restrict blood flow by applying a tourniquet.
- Do not ice the wound.
- Do not suck the poison out with your mouth.

These methods can very well cause additional harm and most amputations or other serious results of a rattlesnake bite are a result of icing or applying a tourniquet.

#### DO

- Stay calm
- Call Dispatch via radio or 911
- Wash the bite area gently with soap and water if available
- Remove watches, rings, etc., which may constrict swelling
- Immobilize the affected area
- Keep the bite below the heart if possible
- Transport safely to the nearest medical facility immediately.

Frenetic, high-speed driving places the victim at greater risk of an accident and increased heart rate. If the doctor is more than 30 minutes away, keep the bite below the heart, and then try to get to the medical facility as quickly as possible.

Most modern over-the-counter snakebite kits consist of a suction device for drawing out venom from the bite wound. This can be helpful in the interim of getting to a hospital or poison center if a kit is handy. Using your mouth is not advisable as the poison can enter the bloodstream through cuts or sores and might be swallowed.

Rattlesnake serum (antivenin) is made from antibodies extracted from horse blood. The serum has its own side effects as the body will have an allergic reaction. However, it's the most effective treatment available.

Rattlesnake bites are rarely fatal with less than 1 in 600 resulting in death, and approximately 33 percent not containing injection of venom at all. However, you should assume for your own sake that venom has been introduced and always seek treatment.

### Snake Facts

- There are over 2700 different Breeds of Snakes in the world.
- Less than one-third of the 2,700 species of snakes are classified as poisonous and fewer than 300 species of snakes may be fatal to humans. In fact, more than twice as many people in the United States are killed annually by bees, wasps, and scorpions than by snakes.
- Snakes are one of the most persecuted animals in the world.
- In the United States, there are over 25 different species of Rattlesnakes.
- Snakes are one of the only animals in the United States that helps control the US rodent population.

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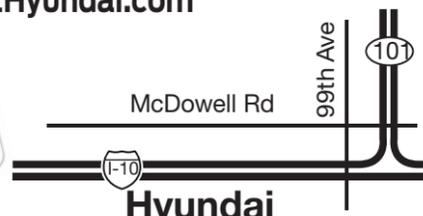
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*Vanity Remnants in Stock at 1/2 Price!*

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**\$10 to \$30** per foot

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**QUALITY**

- Materials
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- Fabrication
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- Granite • Marble
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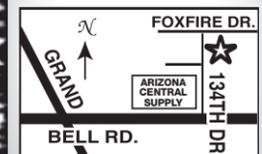
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All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
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**City of EL MIRAGE**  
SUMMER GARDEN TIP

During the hotter months be sure to water the root zone areas and use mulch to retain moisture. Fertilize trees to gain rapid summer growth and cut off dead leaves. Pre-emergent weed killer will help control summer weeds.

It is a good time to plant bougainvillea, hibiscus, roses, and citrus.

*This month's garden tips by: Harlowgardens.com*

**El Mirage Garden Grows**

- Bulbs
- Fruits
- Leaves
- Roots
- Stems
- & More

*For More Information:  
Contact: Janeen at 623.876.2973  
Email: jgaskins@cityofelmirage.org*



**SLOW DOWN AND WATCH FOR CHILDREN IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!**

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**

**March 2016 Home Sales**

Address	Price \$	Date Sold	Total SF
11819 W Windrose Ave	147,000	3/30	1,756
12113 N 115th Ave	138,000	3/30	1,238
12758 W Pershing St	165,000	3/30	1,615
11621 N Pablo St	163,000	3/30	1,832
12530 W Hearn Rd	203,000	3/30	2,515
11706 W Altadena Ave	160,000	3/30	1,832
12430 W Flores Dr	102,000	3/29	988
12730 W Charter Oak Rd	185,000	3/29	1,901
11807 W Ester Dr	152,500	3/29	1,756
11727 W Banff Ct	169,000	3/28	1,978
12505 W Rosewood Dr	179,500	3/28	2,002
11751 W Wethersfield Rd	139,500	3/25	1,423
14832 N El Frio St	184,250	3/25	1,978
14904 N 130th Ln	149,900	3/25	1,308
11789 W Dahlia Dr	106,000	3/25	1,208
12530 W Santa Fe Ln	143,500	3/24	1,308
11525 W Larkspur Rd	142,000	3/23	1,572
12729 W Voltaire Ave	150,000	3/23	1,691
12633 W Willow Ave	135,000	3/22	1,106
12310 W Dreyfus Dr	135,500	3/21	1,106
11546 W Windrose Ave	124,999	3/21	1,068
12426 W Willow Ave	145,000	3/21	1,183
12225 W Saguaro Ln	155,000	3/21	1,407
12105 W Ocotillo Ln	160,900	3/18	1,680
12929 W Columbine Dr	163,000	3/18	1,588
14709 N 125th Ave	160,000	3/18	1,534
11637 W Wethersfield Rd	137,000	3/18	1,208
13209 N 127th Ln	165,000	3/18	1,978
14109 N 127th Dr	154,500	3/18	1,534
11818 W Sunnyside Dr	159,900	3/17	1,832
11530 W Windrose Ave	113,000	3/17	1,068
15509 N Poppy St	165,000	3/17	1,907
12721 W Myer Ln	154,000	3/17	1,978
11401 N 126th Dr	238,000	3/16	2,653
12954 W Willow Ave	129,000	3/16	890
11802 W Corrine Dr	123,000	3/16	1,208
12150 W Bloomfield Rd	131,000	3/16	1,208
12621 W Columbine Dr	156,285	3/16	1,721
11944 W Scotts Dr	141,000	3/15	1,385
12633W Ash St	148,500	3/14	1,495
13002 w Bloomfield Rd	152,500	3/11	1,106
12305 W Bloomfield Rd	142,500	3/11	1,106
11803 W Ester Dr	169,500	3/11	2,191
12309 W Cameron Dr	195,000	3/11	2,004
12102 N 128 <sup>th</sup> Dr	133,000	3/11	1,090
13025 W Gelding Dr	215,000	3/11	3,086
11748 W Mauna Loa Ln	172,000	3/11	1,642
14610 N 126 <sup>th</sup> Ave	165,000	3/10	1,722
12309 W Canterbury Dr	205,000	3/8	2,250
12833 W Redfield Rd	157,900	3/8	1,530
12917 W Gelding Dr	164,000	3/8	1,722
11954 W Larkspur Rd	135,000	3/8	1,385
12017 W Columbine Dr	163,000	3/7	1,832
12125 W Ocotillo Ln	185,900	2/2	1,505
<b>Avg. Home Price</b>	<b>156,093</b>		

# MOTHERS DAY VALUES!

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MADE FRESH DAILY ON THE SPOT!

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**COMMUNITY EVENTS – MAY 2016**

SENIOR CENTER	El Mirage Fy16-17 event schedule	ONGOING ACTIVITIES
<p><b>El Mirage Senior Center</b>  <b>1441 North El Mirage Road</b>  <b>El Mirage, Arizona 85335</b></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>Halloween Harvest Festival</b>            • Friday, Oct. 21, 2016            • 5-9pm @ Gentry Park</p> <p><b>El Mirage Salute to Veterans</b>            • Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016            • 10am-9pm @ Gateway Park</p> <p><b>Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony</b>            • Friday, Dec. 9, 2016            • 5-9pm @ Gentry Park</p> <p><b>El Mirage Public Safety Day</b>            • Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017            • 10am-2pm @ Gateway Park</p> <p><b>El Mirage Car Show</b>            • Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017            • 9am -1pm @ Gentry Park</p> <p><b>Easter Eggstravaganza Celebration</b>            • Saturday, April 8, 2017            • 9am-1pm @ Gentry Park</p> <p><b>Cinco de Mayo Fiesta</b>            • Friday, May 5, 2017            • 6-10pm @ Gentry Park</p> <p><b>City of EL MIRAGE</b>            Arizona            GRAND HERITAGE. BRIGHT FUTURE</p>	<p><b>Co-ed Adult Soccer</b>            Games played at Gateway Park.  <a href="http://www.azcoedsoccer.com">www.azcoedsoccer.com</a> or            1-800-BSA- 0886</p> <p><b>Benfica Youth Soccer</b>            Mon –Thurs., 6 pm – 8 pm year round  <a href="http://www.azbenfica.org">www.azbenfica.org</a> or            1-800-BSA-0886</p> <p><b>White Tanks Little League</b>            Baseball and Softball            Spring Season is in Full Swing!            Ages 4 to 16  <a href="mailto:Whitetanksll@msn.com">Whitetanksll@msn.com</a> or            (623) 241-4602</p> <p><b>West Valley Youth Football</b>            Ages 5 – 15 learn flag, tackle, cheer, dance, and step  <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.            Richard Gutkosky (623) 628-6725</p>

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

Youth	Adult
<p><b>Teen Volunteers Wanted!</b> Help out with the Summer Reading Program and earn community service hours. Must be 13-18 years old; available June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, and commit to four or more hours a week. Teens that are selected for the volunteer program must attend one training session prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>. For more detailed information call or visit the library and ask for Suzie. Applications are available at the customer service desk.</p> <p><b>Spring Storytime – May 5, 12, 19, and 26 (Thursdays) 10:30 am.</b> Parents/caregivers can accompany children ages 2 - 5 for stories, songs, rhymes and more! Reading time is essential for the growing toddlers or preschoolers.</p> <p><b>Cosmic Comic Book Day – May 7 (Saturday) All Day</b> – Do you love comic books and graphic novels? So do we! Join us for an ALL DAY Movie Marathon of films based on comic books! Plus there will be comic book/graphic novel trivia, free temporary tattoos, a “Draw Your Own Comic Strip” contest and more.  <b>** Free mini poster and comic book for each participant, while supplies last. **</b></p> <p><b>Craft Afternoon – May 16 (Monday) 1:30 pm.</b> Children ages 5 – 12 can get crafty at the library. Stop by and make fun crafts. All supplies provided.</p> <p><b>School’s Out for Summer! Movie Afternoon – May 24 (Tuesday) 1:15 pm</b> – Kick off the Summer Break with a movie at the library, including refreshments and a prize drawing! Plus you can pre-register for the Summer Reading Program, which runs June 1 to August 1. Ask at the customer service desk for the featured movie title.</p>	<p><b>Morning Book Club</b> – The monthly Morning Book Club that meets the first Friday of the month will be taking a long summer vacation. (We presume they will be busy with fun beach reads.) The Friday morning book club will resume meeting in the November. See the online calendar for future titles and meeting dates: <a href="http://mclidaz.org/events/elmirage">http://mclidaz.org/events/elmirage</a>. Don’t forget to check back for another <b>NEW Book Discussion Group</b> starting in September. Details coming soon.</p> <p><b>DE-STRESS WITH COLORING!!! - May 14<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) 2:00-3:30pm.</b> Adults of all ages who feel stressed are quieting their minds and souls by putting away the smart phones and tablets and picking up pencils, markers, and crayons to color beautiful designs! All supplies are provided; however feel free to bring your own. Program will be in the library. Seating is very limited. First come, first served. For more information, call 602-652-3000.</p>

**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>  <b>623-583-2137</b></p> <p>May 31<sup>st</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>            Monday – Thursday 8 AM to 3 PM.            \$20/week or \$100 for 8 weeks            Extended Care Hours: 8 AM to 5:30 PM            \$25/week or \$140 for 8 weeks</p> <p>Includes educational activities, sports, field days, guest presentations, games, arts &amp; crafts, breakfast, lunch and more!            Registration begins April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 AM            Space is limited, pay with check or cash.            Please call ahead with questions.</p>	<p><b>ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES</b>  <b>623-974-4156</b></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> – Mon through Thurs, 10 AM – 12 PM and 6 – 8 PM, \$30            Twice per week with professional instructor, classes</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.</p> <p>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><b>Thank you for your support!</b></p>	<p><b>MOBILE FOOD PANTRY</b>  <b>DYSART COMMUNITY CENTER</b>  <b>623- 974-4156</b></p> <p>May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm</p> <p>Movil Distribucion de Despensa en <b>Dysart Community Center</b>            Primer Sabado de cada mes a la 1 PM.</p>  <p><i>1st Saturday of the month @ 1PM</i></p>
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# MOTHER'S DAY BARGAINS!

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New mattresses, floor models, scratch and dent, one of a kind. Brand new at less than wholesale prices.

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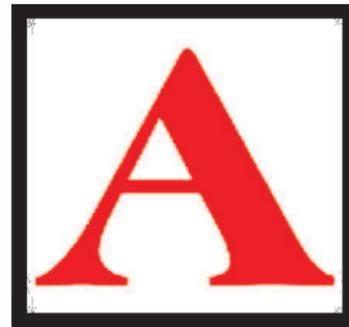
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**We dress for success.**



# El Mirage News

The El Mirage News is the official publication of the City of El Mirage, Arizona. It is mailed monthly to every residence and business throughout the city.

It is also available at all city offices, local area businesses, neighboring community visitor's centers, Luke AFB and online at [www.cityofelmirage.org](http://www.cityofelmirage.org)

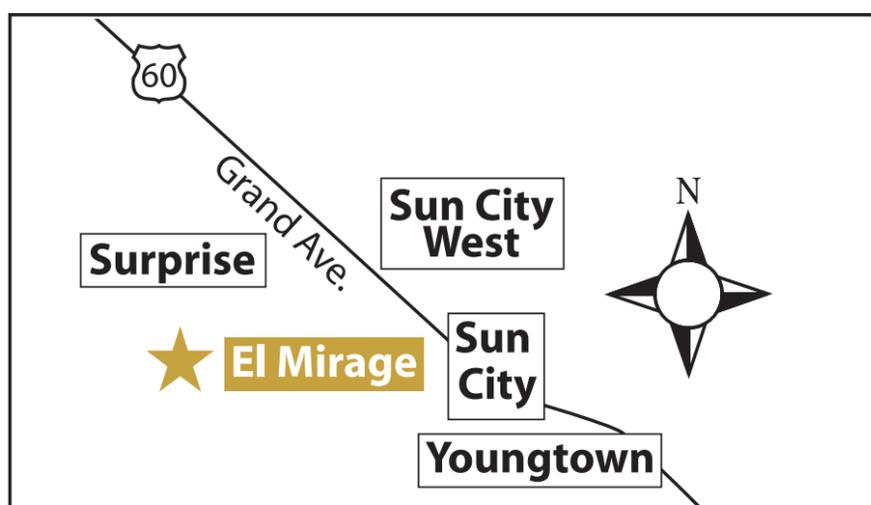
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