

What's Happening In El Cajon

By Monica Zech, City of El Cajon Public Information Officer

Discover All The Great Things Happening In El Cajon!

Don't Miss The Grand Re-Opening Of Renette Park Community Center -Thursday - February 2nd!

Join us for the Grand Re-Opening of the Renette Park Community Center on Thursday, February 2, from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m., at 935 South Emerald Avenue. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 4:00 p.m. Enjoy tours, the T-N-T Performing Company, safety displays and free crafts. Renovations were made with a 1.6 million dollar Community Development Block Grant, made possible by the U. S. Department of HUD. The 40-year-old facility has been remodeled with a beautiful new exterior, courtyard, gymnasium, a new HVAC system, and more ADA accessible spaces.

Available for a variety of uses, the Renette Center includes meeting spaces for rent at a nominal fee. Whether you need a space to rent for club meetings, children's parties, a bridal shower or professional training, the Renette Park Community Center has an overall new look for the community to enjoy!

The gymnasium, available for all ages, is the perfect venue for the Recreation Department's popular youth sports programs. The game room is equipped with a pool table, ping pong table and foosball table. The Renette Center also hosts many popular and affordable classes including tiny tots, arts, dance, tumbling and cheer. Operational hours are Monday through Friday, 2:00 - 9:30 p.m. and Saturday 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. The beautiful new center is located at 935 South Emerald Avenue in El Cajon. For more information please visit www.elcajonrec.org, or call (619) 441-1678.

Youth Of The Year Award Nominations NOW Being Accepted

The City of El Cajon Teen Coalition would like to recognize youth for making a difference in our community. If you see, hear, or know of a youth who has gone the extra mile to improve the quality of life in our community, please take this opportunity to acknowledge and reward that effort. "The Success of Tomorrow...Depends on the Youth of Today!" How Does This Work? The City of El Cajon Teen Coalition presents a "Youth of the Year" Award to recognize those youth who go above and beyond in serving their community either through their leadership abilities and/or their quality or level of community service in El Cajon. Leadership can be defined as those individuals who consistently facilitate a team vision and help guide others towards success. Community service is work that helps better the community through the value and impact of those served. Final awards will be based on dedication, commitment beyond what may be required by school, and demonstrated impact of those served. Who is Eligible? Two youth will be awarded each year: one youth currently at the middle school level (grades 6th – 8th) and one youth currently at the high school level (grades 9th – 12th). Note: Recognized work by youth is based on their personal merits and contributions and is not intended to be limited to their school involvement. All nominations are reserved for youth who

are City of El Cajon residents. Youth will be recognized and awarded for service accomplished within the calendar year previous to the nomination period. Currently awarding for work accomplished in and between, January 1 through December 31, 2011. Current Teen Coalition members are not eligible for this award.

Nomination and Selection Process - Anyone may nominate a youth by completing the nomination form found on our website at www.elcajonrec.org, and returning it to the City of El Cajon Recreation Department. Nomination forms will only be accepted from now through March 9, 2012. The City of El Cajon Teen Coalition will review applications and select finalists in each grade level category. Nominators of the finalist will also be invited to attend the March 18th Teen Coalition meeting to further discuss the accomplishments of youth they nominated with the Teen Coalition. The Teen Coalition will make their final selection and notify the awarded youth recipients and their nominators of further details by the first week in April. **Award Presentation** - Youth selected for this award will be presented with a City of El Cajon Teen Coalition "Youth of the Year" Award plaque and proclamation during an El Cajon City Council Meeting in April. A perpetual plaque will also be displayed in the "Wall of Fame" case at City Hall. Press releases will go out showcasing award recipients. For More Information please contact the City of El Cajon Recreation Department, Attn: Teen Coalition, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, CA 92020, or you can call (619) 441-1754.

Applications Now Being Accepted For 2012 Citizen's Academy

The El Cajon Police Department is now accepting applications for the 2012 Citizen's Police Academy. The Citizen's Police Academy is an eight week program that allows members of the community to learn how their police department functions from the inside - out. Students will attend weekly classes and learn about topics including the history of law enforcement, the criminal justice system and crime scene investigation. Students will see presentations from divisions within the police department and participate in hands-on exercises such as conducting traffic stops, dusting for fingerprints and firearms simulation.

The academy will begin on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, and will conclude with a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. Classes will be held weekly from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the El Cajon Police Department located at 100 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, CA 92020. Anyone is encouraged to apply, however residents and business people in the City of El Cajon will be given priority in acceptance to the academy. A background check will be conducted on all applicants. A total of 25 students will be accepted on a first come first served basis. An application for the Citizen's Police Academy can be downloaded at www.elcajonpolice.org. If you have any questions or need an application, please call (619) 579-4227, or (619) 441-1597.

Season for Nonviolence

Join Christ Church Unity of El Cajon as they welcome world-renowned speaker, Azim Khamisa on Sunday, January 29, as they kick off the 15th Annual Season for Nonviolence. Azim delivers his inspirational message following the senseless gang-related death of his son, Tariq in 1995. Season for Nonviolence is a 64-day, global grass roots campaign dedicated to raising awareness of the principles and practices of nonviolence for which Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

gave their lives. These dates mark the memorials of these two men and began in 1997 on the 50th and 30th anniversaries of their deaths. Join them for this 10:00 a.m. service. The address is 311 Highland Avenue in El Cajon. For more information, please call (619) 579-9586.

New Dance Studio Downtown

Rubio's Dance Studio is thrilled to announce their new location for 2012. This new studio is conveniently located at 237 E. Main Street #A. The new location features three separate dance floors each with large viewing windows, three separate music rooms and three times the parking. The Grand Opening ribbon cutting ceremony by the Chamber of Commerce was held on Saturday, January 7th. For more information please check their website at www.rubiosdancestudio.com, or e-mail crpproductions@aol.com or call us at 619-579-6197.

Are You Prepared For A Disaster? Register For CERT!

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is all about being prepared for a disaster, such as an earthquake, firestorm or house fire. This FREE preparedness education program offers residents the knowledge and tools they'll need in the event of a disaster. The first academy is now full, but there are two more academies being offered for 2012. Pick the one that best fits your schedule, and call (619) 441-1737 to register. Please leave your name and best contact phone number. Hurry, classes will fill quickly.

The 2012 East County CERT schedule is as follows:

Academy - #1 – beginning January 28 - Full. Thank you!

Academy #2 – 70% Full

June 9 - Disaster preparedness/CERT Organization

June 23 - Disaster Medical/ Triage

July 7 - Fire Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue

July 21 - Fire Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue hands on - *At HTF

August 4 - Disaster Psychology/Hazardous Materials/Terrorism

August 18 - All inclusive manipulative review & graduation - *At HTF

Academy - #3 – Space Available

September 22 - Disaster preparedness/CERT Organization

October 6 - Disaster Medical/ Triage - *HTF (Due to event conflict)

October 20 - Fire Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue

November 3 - Fire Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue hands on - *At HTF

November 17 - Disaster Psychology/Hazardous Materials/Terrorism

December 1 - All inclusive manipulative review & graduation - *At HTF

CERT classes are held on Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes take place at 8054 Allison Avenue in La Mesa. The hands-on training classes will be held at 1301 N. Marshall Avenue, Heartland Training Facility (HTF), in El Cajon. Class sizes are limited to 35 people per academy, ages 16 and up, non-residents welcome. For safety concerns, we ask you do not bring babies or children to class. Wear closed toed shoes only - no sandals. On the first day you will need to bring a 1½-inch thick notebook binder for the curriculum. Any classes missed may be made up during the following academy. Classes are taught by members of Heartland Fire & Rescue and Santee Fire Departments. For general information on being prepared for a disaster, please visit www.heartlandfire.org.

Visit The Knox House Museum During February

If you haven't had the chance to tour the Knox House Museum, stop by any Saturday during the month of February for museum month in the City. The Knox House has a wealth of information about El Cajon, with photos and artifacts on the history of the City. Did you know the Knox House was the first commercial building in El Cajon, built in 1876 as a hotel for travelers and teamsters on their way to the Julian gold fields. The Knox House Museum will be open each Saturday in February, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at 280 N. Magnolia Avenue, in El Cajon. Free admission with private tours available for your class or organization. For more information, please call (619) 444-3800, or visit www.elcajonhistory.org.

News from Grossmont College

Looking For Couples Who Met Their Spouse At Grossmont College

Grossmont College is looking for former students, faculty and staff members who met their spouses at Grossmont College. The couples who respond to college officials will be invited to attend a free pre-Valentine's Day reception to be held on Friday, February 10th at the El Cajon campus. The event is one of several the college is planning as part of its year-long 50th anniversary celebration through June 2012. The reception will feature refreshments and live music, including love songs from the past five decades.

"We are hoping to identify as many couples as possible whom we can recognize and honor for finding love at Grossmont College," said Grossmont College President Sunny V. Cooke, noting that one in three adults living in East County has taken a class at Grossmont or Cuyamaca college. Interested

persons are encouraged to contact Grossmont College's Office of College and Community Relations at (619) 644-7840, or send an e-mail to grossmont50years@gcccd.edu.

East County Chamber Upcoming Celebrations

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce with your Chamber family and friends at a gala to be held Saturday, February 4, at the historic US Grant Hotel in downtown San Diego. Join them as they celebrate 100 years of serving the business community of East County, honoring individuals and businesses that make our home such an extraordinary place to live and work! For more information on tickets please call (619) 440-6161.

On **Monday, February 27**, the Chamber will hold its annual **Citizen of the Year** luncheon at the Ronald Reagan Community Center, from 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. The Center is located at 195 E. Douglas Avenue. Join the Chamber as they honor the **Citizen of the Year 2011 "Odi Goward!"** For reservations please call (619) 440-6161.

Winter Classes Are Now Starting!

Winter classes with the City of El Cajon Recreation Department started January 9, 2012. You can still register by going online, by mail, or at our recreation centers during operational hours. We offer a wide variety of classes for ages 9 months to seniors. Everything from dance and tumbling to preschool and gymnastics. Winter 2012 session dates are January 9 - March 17, 2012. Visit our website for the new Guide to Recreation at www.elcajonrec.org or call (619) 441-1516 for more information.

Help Us Celebrate Our Centennial Year!

The City of El Cajon is celebrating 100 years! The exact date of the City's 100th birthday is Monday, November 12, 2012. The Centennial Celebration Committee, led by Councilmember Jillian Hanson-Cox, is already planning fun events to mark the occasion. We are accepting volunteers by going to www.elcajon100.com, or visiting our Facebook page under El Cajon Centennial. Look for the volunteer information, registration page, as well as sponsorship opportunities. *If you know of someone turning the age of 100 during 2012 or have some vintage photos and stories you would like to share, please call (619) 441-1737 or email to celebrate@elcajon100.com.

Safety Lectures for your group or school! In El Cajon, Safety Educator Monica Zech is available to speak to your group or school by request. Injury prevention lectures cover such topics as driving safety, disaster preparedness, fire safety and careers in Emergency Medical Services. Please call (619) 441-1737, or send your request to mzech@cityofelcajon.us.

Note: Please keep me informed of your community events by placing me on your mailing or e-mail list. If you have an event in the City of El Cajon that you would like to share, please contact Monica Zech, Public Information Officer for the City of El Cajon, at (619) 441-1737 or via e-mail at mzech@cityofelcajon.us, or mail to: Monica Zech, Public Information Officer, City of El Cajon, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, CA 92020.