



Cayce Times

Fall 2021

Calendar of Events

Free Calendar

Stop by City Hall to pick up a FREE copy of the 2021-22 City Calendar.

Sanitation News

Please keep our city clean by putting household garbage in securely tied plastic bags in your roll cart and placing it out for collection on the morning of pickup—not before! All household garbage/recycling roll carts should be placed by the curb no later than 7:30 a.m. the day of pick up. The refuse collectors have been directed not to empty containers that are holding loose or raw garbage. Place roll carts with the lid opening facing the street and make sure to leave space between roll carts and yard debris. The City's Sanitation Department is unable to pick up construction materials.

August

- 3 Meet with the Mayor, 5 p.m.
- 3 Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 9 Beautification Foundation Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Events Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 16 Zoning Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 16 Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Lexington District II School Begins
- 17 Housing Authority Mtg, 5 p.m.
- 18 Council Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 25 Bulk/White Goods Collection Day
- 30 Neighborhood Leaders Mtg, 5:30 p.m.

*Sept. 6 Garbage, Yard Trash and Recyclables will be picked up on Wednesday, Sept. 8.

September

- 1 Museum Commission Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 6 City Offices Closed - Labor Day
- 7 Meet with the Mayor, 5 p.m.
- 7 Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 9 Events Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 9 Adult Spelling Bee, 2-4 p.m.
- 13 Beautification Foundation Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 20 Zoning Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Council Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 27 Neighborhood Leader's Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 28 Public Safety Foundation Meeting, 5:45 p.m.
- 29 Bulk/White Goods Collection Day

October

- 2 Cayce Fall Fest, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- 5 Meet with the Mayor, 5 p.m.
- 5 Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 5 National Night Out, 6-8 p.m.
- 6 Museum Commission Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 11 Beautification Foundation Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 14 Events Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Cayce Drives, 8 a.m.
- 16 Fall Plant Exchange, 10 a.m.
- 18 Zoning Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 18 Planning Commission Mtg., 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Housing Authority Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 20 Council Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 25 Neighborhood Leader's Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 27 Bulk/White Goods Collection Day

Cayce Plant Exchange: Rain or Shine

The City of Cayce hosts a Spring and Fall Plant Exchange each year. Everyone is invited to bring seeds, bulbs, clippings/cuttings, potted house plants, shrubs, and even trees. However, you do not have to bring a plant to participate. A master gardener will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. This child and pet-friendly event will run until all plants have a new home. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 16 at 10 a.m. at Cayce City Hall.

City Reflections

A Letter from Mayor Elise Partin



While my letter to you in our quarterly newsletter is always a great opportunity to celebrate Cayce and share good news, in this one I need to highlight some facts we have already shared with you so that we can correct misinformation being perpetuated. We maintain a goal of fact-based communication, and while some of these issues may not be on most citizens' radar, as always, we want to make sure you have all the correct information.

So, no matter how many times someone wants to beat up the City for this issue, all it is doing is falsely and negatively affecting what people think about the place we call home. Bad mouthing where we live only hurts where we live. What does help is using our collective voice and energy to get our county, state and federal partners to work together to fix the problem.

The first topic is storm drainage. No matter how many times someone blames Cayce on social media, it will not change the fact that storm drainage is a multi-jurisdictional issue. I have made clear to our partners at the county, state and federal level that the City is happy to coordinate the solution to this decades long and multi-million dollar problem, but we do not have the funding required to fix it. Our partners have to help with the majority of the funding - for many reasons not the least of which is a majority of storm drainage comes off of county and state roads. Senator Setzler, Representative Caskey and SCDOT have helped so far, but they have been the only ones. As problem solvers, we have commissioned a storm drainage study giving us a smarter plan of action and have aggressively pursued grants. As we get funding from our partners we take on sections of storm drainage like we are currently. As the lowest taxing entity of all those I listed (please check your property tax bill to verify), the City of Cayce gets only 14.16% of your property tax bill. For the average home that equates to \$355.81 for an entire year for all the services we provide. That is it. The other 85.84% goes to other entities. The saying goes - you cannot get blood out of a turnip.

The other topic comes from the timber harvest that we did around the Timmerman Trail starting in 2019 (check out information on our website, in council minutes, in news articles from the press release we issued and more). What was cut was a monoculture (meaning that is the only tree there) pine forest that was intentionally planted many years ago with the intent to be cut. This project started because our neighbors at that property, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, cut theirs to bring it back to a natural state.

While the primary goal of our harvest was to improve environmental health there was a second financial responsibility to our citizens. Those planted pines had reached maximum growth potential and were showing signs of disease and bug infestation - and they would soon begin to die. Not harvesting them would have resulted in maintenance expenses and lost revenue which would have been an irresponsible misuse of Cayce's resources. If you want to check out SCDNR's section, it is beautiful. And healthy for the environment, unlike a monoculture pine forest. On their property, the herbaceous layer that has returned is incredibly diverse in species. Those plants have drawn a diversity of insects and birds and other

animals that were not present in the monoculture planted pines. Their forester, botanist, ornithologist, small game biologist, herpetologist and entomologist could all tell you that what we did is good for the environment. It is no doubt shocking to see the difference in landscape when timbering first happens, but it does not change the fact that our actions prioritized the healthier move for the environment.

Our staff and council have a heart of customer service which is what you deserve and together that is how we will continue to be. We communicate about the actions we take - over and above most cities so our citizens have peace of mind and we earn your trust. So if you hear a rumor or as Abraham Lincoln said, "it was on the internet so it must be true" 😊, but you are still not sure, call us. We love to hear from you and make sure that you have the facts. In the meantime, we will continue our meaningful, measurable track record of success to keep Cayce as the City with one of the lowest taxes and fees in the region (as you can see from the budget flyer placed on your roll cart - yet another low cost, cool way to communicate), protecting taxpayer money, keeping us safe, and ensuring robust ways for us to gather at our 9 parks, 20 miles of trails, churches, businesses, and other gathering places. We look forward to seeing you there and at all the cool events listed in this newsletter!

Elise Partin



Cayce's First Firetruck Returns to Service

In 1937 the City of Cayce purchased its first firetruck, a 1936 REO Seagrave. The City utilized the firetruck from 1937-1960 in emergencies and fire suppression, and in representing the City in various parades, festivals and historical reunions. In 1960, due to the purchase of a new firetruck, the 1936 REO Speed Wagon was sold to the Sally Fire Department in Aiken County, South Carolina. After years of service in Aiken, the firetruck was eventually retired and later abandoned. In 2002 the firetruck was bought back by the Cayce Historical Museum and, in 2019 after years of repairs and refinishing, the firetruck was finally restored to its former glory.

The restored firetruck made its debut at the West Columbia-Cayce Parade of Lights and most recently made an appearance at the Columbia Convention Center for the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association 2021 Convention. It can now be viewed at the Cayce Historical Museum Tuesday - Sunday, 9 am - 4:00 pm (weekends 2-5:00 pm). Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 per child (3-12) with free admission on Sundays.



New Picnic Tables

Have you seen the beautiful new picnic tables in our Art Lot in the Cayce River Arts District and in Guignard Park? We want to extend our thanks to Mr. Shumpert's Building Construction class at the Lexington School District Two Innovation Center for building these tables for our citizens and visitors in our City to enjoy! And thank you to Ms. Giovannone's Art Classes at Brookland-Cayce High for painting these beautiful creations!



Employee of the Year: Robert Haynes

Robert Haynes began his career with the City of Cayce in March 2013 as an Operator Trainee in the Utility Field Crew, eventually earning his C License. Robert then transferred to the Utility Billing Department and was promoted to Meter Tech II. When an opening became available in the office as a Customer Service Representative, it was a natural fit. He had the knowledge of the field and the demeanor for customer service. 2020 presented many challenges on its own, but Robert really stepped up to the plate, notably when the department was suddenly down two Meter Tech Positions and Robert assisted in both areas. He was extremely flexible, going back and forth between positions, which helped ensure the department did not miss a beat. He was able to help ensure readings and work orders were completed, and billings went out on time! For his efforts, two associates nominated him for Employee of the Year. One was from Charles Turner, Staff Accountant. He wrote: "As someone who worked in the Water Billing Department, I know the challenges that are presented when the department is short staffed. I feel like Robert has earned the nomination for employee of the year because of his positive attitude, willingness to go above and beyond, and hard work."

Emergency Preparedness

The City of Cayce is committed to assisting our citizens in preparation for emergency incidents, whether manmade or natural. We will soon be heading into hurricane season, so it is critical to prepare before storms arrive. The Cayce Public Safety Department also provides several other options for community preparedness. The department provides active threat response classes, location safety assessments, and first aid training. Cayce utilizes up-to-date national curriculum in these areas and provides knowledgeable instructors to convey it to our citizens.

If you, your business, or civic group are interested in allowing Cayce to assist you in incident preparation, please contact the Department of Public Safety's Emergency Management Division at 803-794-0456.



Fall Fest is Back!

The City of Cayce Events Committee is excited to announce the Cayce Fall Fest is back! This FREE culturally diverse event will be held Saturday, October 2, 2021, from noon - 6pm in Granby Gardens Park featuring performances by live local bands. The headlining band is Mystic Vibrations, a four-piece Reggae band with music that speaks love, unity and peace.



The festival will also include a FREE kid's area with obstacle courses, face painters, games, art and hay rides. You can also expect great international food and drinks (including beer and wine), a dance floor with a DJ, local art vendors and much more making it suitable for families of all ages. Join us for a fun-filled pet friendly day for the entire family!

Fire Services

The mission of the Cayce Department of Public Safety states it will "provide its citizens and visitors with professional services." In keeping with that mission, the department strives to provide the best training opportunities for its officers.

The fire division recently sent four of our finest to Company Officer training in Spartanburg. As part of this three-day training these shift and division leaders learned the importance of good leadership, supervisory skills and fireground responsibilities. Several of our fire fighters took part in training at the annual fire fighters convention in Columbia. Some of the training received included flood boat operator, elevator rescue, as well as leadership and technical seminars. Two fire fighters received week-long training in Fire Officer 2. They learned advanced leadership skills, developing, and administering training programs, among many other administrative duties.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Battalion Chief, Steven Bullard and Emergency Management Coordinator, Jacob Harlow for their completion of the 18-month South Carolina Certified Public Manager program. The program offers extensive and advanced leadership training for personnel in the public sector. With these two most recent graduates the department now has five officers with CPM certifications.

Grants Administration

In 2020, the City of Cayce managed over \$1,000,000 in grant awards, addressing critical infrastructure, emergency preparedness, traffic enforcement safety standards, previtalization efforts, and more. As we explore highly competitive grant opportunities, we work diligently to build social capacity and networks that support public engagement and accessibility for community improvements. The City of Cayce currently administers two grant opportunities.

- » The Façade Improvement Program Grant is available to owners and tenants of buildings used for commercial purposes along the Knox Abbott, State Street, and Frink Street (State to 12th) Commercial Corridors. Qualifying properties are eligible to receive a one-time grant of up to \$5,000.00. This is a reimbursement grant administered on a first-come, first-serve basis until available funding for the program is expended.
- » The Hospitality Tax Program Grant established a local hospitality tax for the purpose of funding the operation and maintenance of current tourism-related facilities and to fund projects and events that promote quality of life, tourism, and recreation. As part of this, once a year the City makes grant funding available to nonprofit organizations hosting events within the Cayce city limits through a competitive application process.