



Muffin Cares Program

Cayce Fire Department's Therapy Horse, Muffin, will be out and about in the community visiting as part of the Muffin Cares program. Muffin took a break during the summer due to the hot weather but as the temperatures cool, Muffin will be back out helping to break down barriers and start the conversation about substance use disorder (SUD). Muffin is also used to connect community members to resources or just brighten their day. Need help checking your smoke alarms? Want to know more about Muffin? Please see our website CayceFire.com or scan the QR code.

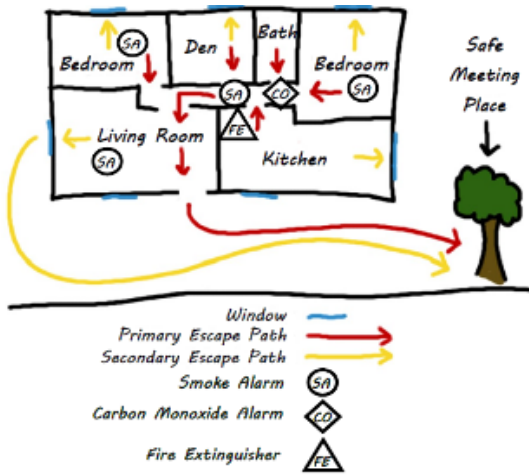


New Bike Rack

The City of Cayce recently partnered with the Lexington II Innovation Center Welding and Fitting students to create a new bike rack for Guignard Park. Students first determined which types of metals would be best suitable for the outdoor environment and then began the creative process designing the rack. After finalizing the design, they skillfully welded the rack, incorporating the distinctive Cayce City limits shape into its base. Welding Instructor Laird Thompson helped guide the students in creating a rack that would help lock up the most valuable part of the bike, the middle frame. Now visitors to the park can reap the benefits of this new bicycle rack.

Fire Safety

Is your home Fire Safe? Statistically, colder weather brings an increase in home fires. Make sure you test your smoke alarms. If they are older than 10 years after manufacture, they need to be replaced. Do you have a fire escape plan? Make sure you practice twice a year.



Always Learning

A few of Cayce's firefighters will be attending the September hosting of "The Art of Reading Smoke" class in Summerville. This course will teach our firefighters the processes, science and physical characteristics of fire smoke and how to predict fire behavior within a structure. It is important as a fire service to have the most up to date fire science and methodology for home fire response.



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Fall 2024

City Reflections

A Letter from Mayor Elise Partin

Some people say that the budget we just passed achieved everything we needed it to do, but I disagree. Yes, we are still the lowest taxing entity of anyone we pay taxes to. And yes, we still have some of the lowest water and sewer rates in the region – to the tune of our bill being half what many others are, and that's before their increases. But we didn't take care of one of our fundamental responsibilities, which is taking care of staff who take care of us. That is why I'm the only one on Council who didn't vote for any of the final tax and fee increases suggested by Council.

Staff, who showed up in numbers to the Council meeting because of their care of the budget and the customer service they provide us, will not get a Cost-of-Living raise and will not have some of the tools they need to do the job we have asked them to do. They will get a one-time 'retention bonus' that won't come until this year's budget is finalized, which will be many months out, will be highly taxed as bonuses are and won't give them the peace of mind of knowing what their budget is when they take care of their families. It is more expensive to get a new employee than it is to keep the good

ones we have. Taking care of our employees is one of the ways we save taxpayer dollars. We – and you with your kind words and recognition of the hard work they do – have prioritized that. I will continue to be a consensus builder and look forward to talking with Council to see how we can correct any issues like this that were left outstanding by the motions. I know you join me in that hope because so many of you have said so. You have shared with me time and time again about how our sanitation team, our utility team, our police and fire men and women and more have helped you.

We ask ourselves Do we feel safe? Is our water clean to drink? Do we have places to play and meet up with neighbors?

That depends on the dedication of our hardworking staff and it should be rewarded. I am confident we can come up with a solution.

We are the government that is closest to the people. What we do on the City level has the most effect on our quality of life. We have so much to be proud of in our City. We can also be proud that we don't have fluff in our budget.



We don't have to look further than our property tax bill. We can see that the City gets the least amount on our bill. Most of our property tax bill goes to the School District. The rest goes to the County. While we will continue to provide amazing services as the lowest taxing entity we pay, let's all continue to lift up our staff, encourage our Council to collaborate and ask our other taxing entities to keep their costs low too.

Elise Partin

Calendar of Events

Sanitation Reminders

Please do NOT put large yard debris piles under low hanging limbs or lines. Make sure roll carts are out to the curb by 7:30 a.m. on your pick up day.

KUDOS:

Residents from Moss Creek helped a neighbor clean up his yard and ended up with a very large pile of yard debris. While the residents were still working in the yard, Nate and Connor not only worked great together as a team, were friendly, had a positive attitude, they also did an amazing job picking up the very large yard debris piles.

August

- 6 Meet with the Mayor, 5 p.m.
- 6 Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 7 Museum Commission Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 8 Events Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Beautification Foundation Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 19 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Council Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 27 Public Safety Foundation Mtg., 5:45 p.m.
- 28 Bulk/White Goods Collection Day

September

- 2 City Offices Closed - Labor Day
- 3 Meet with the Mayor, 5 p.m.
- 3 Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 4 Museum Commission Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 9 Beautification Foundation Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Events Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 16 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 16 Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Housing Authority Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 18 Council Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 24 Public Safety Foundation Mtg., 5:45 p.m.
- 25 Bulk/White Goods Collection Day

October

- 1 Meet with the Mayor, 5 p.m.
- 1 Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 2 Museum Commission Mtg., 4 p.m.
- 5 Cayce Fall Fest, 12-6 p.m.
- 10 Events Committee Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 14 Beautification Foundation Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 16 Council Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 21 Zoning Board of Appeals Mtg, 6 p.m.
- 21 Planning Commission Mtg., 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Public Safety Foundation Mtg., 5:45 p.m.
- 30 Bulk/White Goods Collection Day

Note: Zoning Board of Appeals only meets when a zoning appeal needs to be reviewed. If they do not meet, the Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m.

September 2 Garbage, Yard Trash and Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

School Safety Tips

1. Review the school’s drop-off and pick-up procedures with your child. Emphasize the importance of following these guidelines to avoid accidents and congestion.
2. Ensure the school has updated emergency contact information for your child. Discuss emergency procedures with your child, including whom to contact and what to do in different scenarios.
3. Teach your child road safety, including looking both ways before crossing the street, using crosswalks, and avoiding distractions such as phones.
4. Reinforce the concept of not talking to strangers or accepting rides or gifts from any adult that’s not pre-approved by you. Discuss safe places to go if they feel threatened or uncomfortable.
5. Encourage open communication about bullying. Discuss what it is, how to recognize it, and whom to report it to (teachers, counselors, SRO or you as parents).
6. Avoid labeling a child’s belongings (backpack) with their name or any identifying personal information that’s visible to the public.
7. Remind your child about the importance of handwashing and maintaining good hygiene practices to prevent illnesses.
8. Keep lines of communication open with your child about their day. Encourage them to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns. Express the importance of personal space, boundaries and good touch/bad touch.
9. If your child has any medical conditions or allergies, ensure the school is aware and has appropriate plans in place.
10. Discuss safe internet practices with your child if they use technology.

Council Corner



Mayor Pro Tem Tim James, District 1
After Council/Staff work sessions and various Council meetings, the 2024-2025 budget was passed that allows for the inclusion of the great services the citizens of Cayce have come to expect and appreciate. While many options were on the table, the overwhelming citizen input led Council to understand a fairness in taxes and fees, while also allowing for the continuation of our quality services. I am grateful for your input during the budget process- please always feel free to call upon me, timjamesforcouncil@gmail.com.



Byron Thomas, District 2
I’d like to again thank Mayor Pro Tem Tim James for joining me on a walk-through District 2, to speak with my constituents regarding the budget. I stood with supporting my fellow councilmembers on a small millage increase. We should work to be proactive, with small incremental increases, so we’re not falling behind and putting the burden on our taxpayers with massive increases. Next, I’ve received many calls from Citizens about our City’s Roads. A majority of the roads in Cayce are owned and/or maintained by the S. C. DOT or Lexington County. Let’s use our strength in numbers of over 13,000 residents to report road maintenance problems to this link: <https://apps.scdot.org/mwro/>. Lastly, District 2 has low representation on Cayce’s boards, commissions, and foundations, and our voice is not being represented and heard. Please stand with me, by signing up and serving on our city’s boards, commissions, and foundations. <https://caycesc.gov/boards.php> It’s such an honor to serve the beautiful citizens of Cayce!



Hunter Sox, District 3
Council has been hard at work recently, passing a conservative and balanced budget, a hate intimidation ordinance, and a new, innovative zoning district that we plan to use strategically in blight infill areas. I fought for the lowest possible tax and fee increases for you during the budget process. In doing so, I spoke with many of you to hear your thoughts and new perspectives from those I didn’t know before. I hope all of you are staying cool this summer, and as always, please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns or to sign up for my newsletter at HunterSoxForCayceCouncil@gmail.com.



Phil Carter, District 4
I want to begin by saying thank you to our Cayce citizens for attending our budget hearings and being an important part of our city budgeting process! I’ve spent 17 years on the Lexington District Two school board and Cayce City Council. And this year I was happy to see so many of you getting involved! I appreciate your calls and your comments. My goal was to make sure that the things that are necessary for our citizen’s quality of life were taken care of without overly burdening our taxpayers. I believe that with your help, we accomplished our goals. The cost of living will continue to go up, but it is important to find balance and still provide you with the highest level of service that you deserve. As we start to think of back to school, I am thankful for our Cayce teachers and schools. I hope for a wonderful and safe year full of new and exciting experiences for all of our Cayce students. I’m available any time you need me at phillipacarter@yahoo.com!

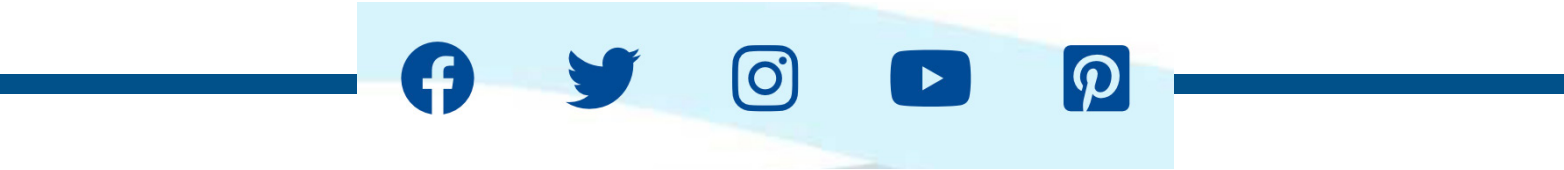
A Treasure Trove of History

With its ties to Native American History and Colonial History as well as African American History , World War II and the history of the Railroads, the City of Cayce has it all. If you have not done so, check out the Cayce Historical Museum or the History Walk Tours at the 12,000 Year History Park.



Cayce has significant historical ties not normally associated with the Midlands. Native American artifacts found in Cayce date at least 12,000 Years. The 12,000 Year History Park protects the native homelands while also containing the first substantial European structure in the Midlands, Fort Congaree I. Built in 1718, Fort Congaree I was a place of trade between Native Americans and Englishmen. Our second fort, Fort Congaree II has connections to Ft. Necessity in Pennsylvania and America’s first President: George Washington. From the German and Swiss settlers who still impact the Midlands with their religions and foods to African Americans and their contributions to today’s Cayce community, these cultures are showcased at the Cayce Museum. From Fort Granby, Revolutionary War battles, and the Civil War Battlefield of Congaree Creek, to Steamboats and locks, railroads, quarries, brick foundries, and B-25 pilots, these stories are told at both the museum and on the tours at the 12,000 Year History Park.

The Museum is open Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Museum has a city webpage and profiles on Facebook, X, and Instagram. The 12,000 Year History Park is open from dawn to dusk. Guided tours are usually conducted on weekends (April-November). For more information, check upcoming scheduled tours at the 12,000 Year History Park on the park’s website or Facebook page. If you love history, then Cayce is truly a treasure trove of stories, peoples, and cultures of the past. Come visit the Cayce Historical Museum or 12,000 Year History Park to get your ticket to history!



Celebrating City Employees’ Retirements and Milestones

RETIREMENTS

Keith Crawford retired from our Sanitation Department after 28 years of dedicated service on July 11.
Darrell Watson retired from our Water Treatment Plant after 12 years of dedicated service on July 16. Darrell was an Operator A for the City of Cayce.
Johnny Ringo retired from our Police Parks Department after 17 years of dedicated service on August 6.
We wish all of you nothing but the best during your Retirement! Congratulations, it is well deserved!

MILESTONES

The City is so fortunate to have team members that have been with the city for many years. Below are a few that will be reaching large milestones before the end of 2024.

- Chris Orpilla- 25 Years
- Monique Ocean-26 Years
- Al Smalls – 27 Years
- Tal Dennis -30 Years

CELEBRATIONS

September 16- Finance & Accounting Appreciation Week
September 17- IT Professionals Day
September 26- HR Professionals Day
October – National Community Planning Month
October 7 - Code Enforcement / Accounts Payable / National Fire Prevention / Customer Service Week
October 28 - National First Responders Day



Fall Fest Scheduled for October 5

The City of Cayce's Fall Fest will return October 5, 2024. This free event is held 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Granby Gardens Park, located at 1800 12th Street in Cayce. You can join in on all the fun with live music, food vendors, craft vendors and a kid’s area with face painters, balloon artists, inflatables, and more! This year’s music lineup includes Willie Wells and the Blue Ridge Mountain Grass, Chris Reed and the Bad Kids, and headliners Cash Money Experience. This event is free and open to all, including friendly pets! Join the City of Cayce on October 5, 2024 for Cayce’s Fall Fest!

Paint the Pillars at Cayce Quarry

Martin Marietta recently improved the appearance of their entrance on State Street by installing pillars, and the Cayce Quarry held a Paint the Pillars Contest at this year’s Soiree on State to raise money to donate to the City’s Beautification Foundation. The contest was open to anyone interested in painting a pillar and once all the pillars are finished the winner will be chosen based on creativity and subject matter.

City team members and artists Ken Walters and Leila Williams painted a pillar creating another piece of art for the City’s River Arts District. Great job!



Cayce Chosen as 1 of 100 Cities to Be Visited

The National League of Cities (NLC) recently held a Centennial Roadshow: 100 Years, 100 Cities to celebrate their 100th anniversary. This initiative was part of the NLC’s year-long celebration, marking a century of commitment to advancing local government and advocating for the interests of cities, towns and villages nationwide. There are close to 20,000 municipalities in the United States so it was a huge honor for Cayce to be chosen as one of the 100 cities to be featured. During the Roadshow stop in the City, the NLC team toured the Cayce River Arts District and visited the City’s Art Lot, State of the Art Gallery and Pottery Studio, Trini Lime Caribbean restaurant, Piecewise Coffee Shop, the City’s Riverwalk and experienced all things creative in our City.