



Calendar Contest - Submit Your Photos

The City of Cayce is holding its annual photography contest for its much-loved yearly calendar that showcases the beauty and charm of our City. This year’s special theme is Cayce Restaurants. We want to see pictures of your favorite local restaurants and the food that you love there. And for the first time ever, photos will be available at Soiree on State for voting and your vote will help determine which photos are chosen for the calendar. Along with Cayce centric images from local photographers, the annual calendar also provides residents and visitors with information on City Council meetings, board and committee meetings throughout the year, special events, frequently used phone numbers, City Council Members, and more. Entries are due by March 7, 2025 and must be submitted in raw or jpg format, in landscape orientation and at least 3MB. For full release and rules, please email arowan@caycesc.gov. Pictured: 2024 Calendar Cover



Cayce’s Family Phonograph (1925-26)

This machine, pictured to the left, was one of the early 20th century’s new forms of technology in the field of sound media, which also included the telephone and radio. The Starr Phonograph was a competing device against the Victor Company’s self-named Vitrola. The machine, today called a clone Vitrola, was made by the Starr Piano Company of Richmond Indiana. It is a standard floor model from the mid 1920s. The case for the machine is made of walnut. The Starr Company’s recording department was known as Gennett Studios and recorded early jazz, blues, and country singers. Jelly Roll Morton participated in the first interracial recording session with the New Orleans Rhythm Kings for Gennett Studios.

Come by and see other items from the history of Cayce at the Cayce Museum.

Christmas Clean Up

On December 27, 2024, Officers Lopez and Henderson, and Code Compliance Officer Jarrett Epperson conducted a “Christmas Clean Up” on Commerce Drive. During this time, they collected a total of 104.2 pounds of litter over a span of approximately 0.1 miles.

This clean-up is part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a clean and safe environment in our community. Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to keep our surroundings clean and welcoming.



Now Hiring

The City of Cayce is proud of all our employees and wants to serve them in the best way possible. The City of Cayce offers State Health Insurance, the Employee Portion is paid for by the City of Cayce. We also participate in South Carolina State Retirement, 14 paid Holidays, great equipment, the best technology, Annual and Sick Leave, Competitive Salaries and many other perks.

The easiest way to apply is through the City of Cayce website, under Career Opportunities you will see all available positions as well as the application. You can complete the application and email it, mail it in or drop it off at City Hall. Come join the City of Cayce Family! See www.caycesc.gov website for more information.



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Spring 2025

City Reflections

A Letter from Mayor Elise Partin

A new year is a time for new beginnings and for setting goals...a time when many of us resolve to improve ourselves in some way. For those of us in positions of leadership, it's an opportunity to reflect on ways we can make life better for those we serve. For my part, I hope – and believe – the coming year will bring a new era of cooperation among city leaders and a new dedication to making Cayce the best city it can be.

The past year saw many successes for the City of Cayce. We continued to attract good, new businesses, such as Tacos Nayarit on Knox Abbott Drive. We kept taxes low while making important safety and quality-of-life upgrades, including a new fire truck (with its \$1 million cost being paid by the county, rather than city taxpayers.)

As leader of the Regional Gateway project, I was able to secure county funding to beautify the mile-long corridor stretching from I-26 to the airport, which will help revitalize the area. (The groundbreaking is planned for this spring.) And we continued to improve recreational opportunities for Cayce residents. For example,

improving Glenwood Park. I was also able to secure \$2.1 million in outside funding to complete the visitors center at Cayce’s 12,000 Year History Park on Congaree Creek.

I was honored to be invited to share our city’s successes from the Mayors Institute for City Design. (This is a huge honor for Cayce. Since its inception in the 1980s, just 17 mayors from S.C. have been invited to participate.)

I look forward to building on these successes, and I'm truly excited about what 2025 has in store. Working together, we can build a better, brighter future for Cayce residents.

In the coming year, I plan to continue my efforts to increase citizen input and engagement, especially at City Council meetings. I encourage you to follow the meetings online or in-person. (They’re streamed live via the City’s Youtube channel; visit CayceSC.gov and click “Council Livestream” near the top of the page). Upcoming meetings are Feb. 4 at 6 pm, Feb.19 at 5 pm, March 4 at 6 pm, March 19 at 5 pm,



April 1 at 6 pm and April 16 at 5 pm. They’re held at City Hall at 1800 12th Street Extension.

Council makes many important decisions that impact you, so I hope you’ll tune in if you can. Elected officials tend to be at their best when they know the public is watching.

It’s an honor to serve you.

Elise Partin

Calendar of Events

Spring Plant Exchange

The Spring Plant Exchange returns Saturday, April 12. Hosted by the Cayce Events Committee, the plant exchange begins at 10:00 am and continues until all plants are gone. Bring any plants, clippings, or seeds you'd like to exchange. But it's not required to bring anything. This event is free to the public and goes rain or shine. For any questions, call 803-796-9020.



February

- 4 Meet with the Mayor, 5 p.m.
- 4 Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 5 Museum Commission Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 10 Beautification Foundation Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 13 Events Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 17 City Offices Closed - President's Day
- 19 Council Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 24 Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 25 Public Safety Foundation Mtg., 5:45 p.m.
- 26 Bulk/White Goods Collection Day

March

- 4 Meet with the Mayor, 5 p.m.
- 4 Council Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 5 Museum Commission Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 10 Beautification Foundation Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 13 Events Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 18 Housing Authority Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 19 Council Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 22 Soiree on State, 2-8 p.m.
- 25 Public Safety Foundation Mtg., 5:45 p.m.
- 26 Bulk/White Goods Collection Day

April

- 1 Meet with the Mayor, 5 p.m.
- 1 Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 2 Museum Commission Mtg., 4 p.m.
- 10 Events Committee Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 14 Beautification Foundation Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 16 Council Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 18 City Offices Closed - Good Friday
- 21 Planning Commission Mtg., 6 p.m.
- 22 Public Safety Foundation Meeting, 5:45 p.m.
- 30 Bulk/White Goods Collection Day

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

**February 17 Garbage, Yard Trash and Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, February 19.*

**April 18 Garbage, Yard Trash and Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, April 16.*

Fire Dept. Programs

The Cayce Fire Department provides a variety of specialized programs designed to enhance safety and well-being. Our programs include:

- Blue Address Signs: Ensure that your home or business is easily identifiable by emergency responders.
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Request: We can install or inspect smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to protect your household.
- CPR/First Aid Classes: Learn these life-saving skills, designed for both individuals and groups.
- Fire Extinguisher Training: Learn to properly use a fire extinguisher through our hands-on training.
- Public Education Events: Participate in events about fire safety, prevention, and emergency preparedness within the community.

For more information, visit <https://caycefire.com/special-programs/>.

Irrigation Meter

On average, a residential lawn irrigation system uses 13 gallons of water per minute. Over a billing cycle that spans two months, that can add up to a significant increase on your water and sewer bill. Just watering your lawn for 20 minutes a day can equal an additional \$117.46 on the sewer portion of your bill.

The Cayce Water and Sewer Billing Department offers an Irrigation Meter that can be installed to help eliminate the extra charges on your sewer bill. Currently the City can tap off of your existing service line and install a box and meter for \$550.00, which is far lower than any other surrounding providers! If interested in having an irrigation meter installed, please contact the Cayce Water and Sewer Billing Department at 803-796-9020, ext. 1.

Council Corner



Mayor Pro Tem Tim James, District 1

Wishing everyone a Happy 2025 and looking forward to the enjoyment the New Year will bring. Over the last months, the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission (LCRAC) has worked with our city to grow the William J. Cayce Park at State and Michaelmas Avenue; adding Pickleball to the tennis courts, a basketball goal and converting one of the two fields into a

(much requested) dog play area. While these small steps are not our end goal, it is the start of a partnership with LCRAC, as we have asked for improved play equipment for our growing young family community. You can look for our City Manager to continue improving upon our recreational areas. In addition, our beloved Cayce Grammar School has now made way for new families and homes, and this neighborhood will forever hold the name of the first principal of the school, as it has been named Hattie's Crossing.



Byron Thomas, District 2

Thank you to the Brookland-Cayce High School Bearcat Band for working with me to bring last fall's free concert to our City's Art Lot in the Cayce River Arts District. The band did a fabulous job, and we had a great turnout! Special thanks to the incredible folks at State of the Art Gallery and Pottery Studio and Trini Lime Caribbean Café for staying open later so everyone

could shop and eat during and after the concert! People were walking in the Avenues telling me that they never knew the Art Lot was there. Many guests either walked into State of the Art or ate at Trini Lime for the first time! Our City might not yet have an amphitheater, but we are creative in our core, and work with what we have. I will continue to work hard at bringing our community together and supporting our local businesses. Cayce has so much potential, and I want to do my part to bring that to light and working together, we will!



Hunter Sox, District 3

City Council is off to a busy start to 2025. I look forward to building on our recent economic and infill housing development efforts. As the weather starts to warm up, we have many upcoming community events like the Soiree on State, so be on the lookout for further information on the City of Cayce socials! If you are not signed up for my email newsletter and would

like to be, please email me your contact information, and I will add you to my distribution list.



Phil Carter, District 4

Spring is a time for renewal and in this New Year, we have so much to look forward to in Cayce! As someone who grew up in our City, it is exciting to see so many things coming our way in 2025! Make sure you have our seasonal events on your calendar: Soirée on State: March 22; Cayce Cool Down: July 26; Cayce Fall Fest: October 4; and Christmas in Cayce: December 4-6.

Follow the City of Cayce on Facebook and Instagram so that you receive updates on everything from our City Council meetings held twice a month to our bulk recycling and pickup day!

You can reach out to me any time! I am thankful to continue to serve the citizens of Cayce!

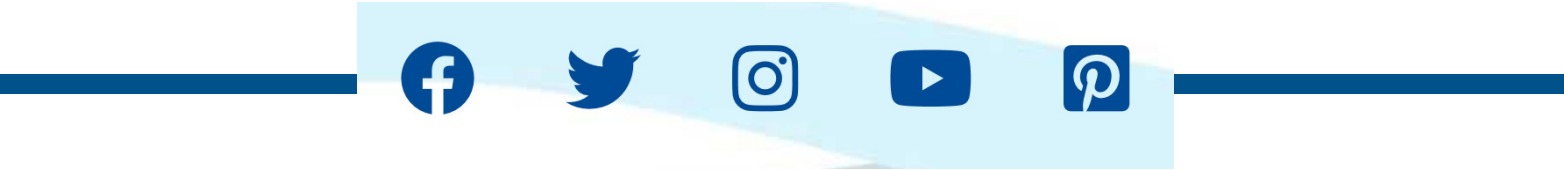
Proposed Community Garden Initiative

The City of Cayce is excited to announce that we are actively working with local community stakeholders and various organizations to establish a community garden aimed at benefiting all residents, with a focus on low- to moderate-income families, senior citizens, veterans, and those facing food insecurity, particularly during these challenging times of inflation and rising living costs.

This proposed community garden is currently in the planning stages, and we are collaborating with key partners to ensure its success. We believe that by offering access to fresh, locally grown produce, the garden will not only provide healthy food options but also help reduce pollution, promote environmental sustainability, and foster stronger community ties.

The garden will serve as an educational tool, teaching residents about the benefits of gardening and sustainable practices. We will offer programs and resources to support individuals and families in growing their own food, which can be particularly impactful for those struggling to afford nutritious meals. Additionally, we aim to provide a space where senior citizens and veterans can engage in physical activity and community interaction, which can have a positive effect on their overall well-being.

As we move forward with this proposed project, we are committed to keeping the community informed and involved. We will continue working with local organizations, schools, and businesses to ensure that this garden serves as a valuable resource for everyone in our community. Together, we can create a healthier, more sustainable future for Cayce.



City Partners with Stewart Inc. to Upstate Zoning Ordinance and Land Development Regulations

The City is pleased to announce a partnership with Stewart Inc. to update the City's Zoning Ordinance and Land Development Regulations. This important project will modernize the City's planning framework, making it more adaptable to current needs and future growth. The City wants to create land usage ordinances that will help achieve its vision for the future as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

The City received four proposals from experienced consultants willing to assist in the project: Stewart Inc., CPL, TSM, and Inspire. A selection committee, made up of 3 City Staff members and 2 City Planning Commission members, reviewed and scored each of the proposals based on specific criteria. Stewart Inc. received the highest score.

The updated regulations will offer clearer guidelines for property development, zoning, and land use, helping to streamline the approval process for developers, businesses, and residents alike. The goal is to create a more sustainable, efficient, and vibrant community, ensuring that future development aligns with the city's long-term vision.

As the project progresses, residents and stakeholders will have opportunities to provide feedback, ensuring the updates reflect the values and needs of the community. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to get involved in shaping the future of our City!



Mark Your Calendars for Soiree on State

The City of Cayce is thrilled to announce the return of Soiree on State, to be held March 22, 2025. The City is again partnering with the Avenues Neighborhood Association to combine the Cayce Festival of the Arts with Soiree on State. Soiree on State will include artists, a free kid's area with inflatables, face painting and a balloon artist, food vendors, a variety of musicians and more for fun all afternoon long!

The event will take place from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm along State Street, from Poplar Avenue to Railroad Street and this year's headliner is local favorite, Tokyo Joe! Food vendor applications are being accepted! To apply to be a food or community vendor, contact Amanda Rowan at arowan@caycesc.gov or 803-550-9520. To apply to be an artist, crafts or author vendor, visit caycefestivalothearts.com.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on March 22!

2025 Hospitality and Accommodation Grants Program

The City of Cayce is pleased to announce the opening of the 2025 Hospitality and Accommodation Grants program. This annual funding opportunity is designed to support local businesses, tourism-related initiatives, and community organizations that contribute to the city's economic growth and cultural development through hospitality and accommodation services.

The Cayce Hospitality and Accommodation Grants provide financial assistance to businesses and organizations that are working to enhance the visitor experience, promote tourism, and drive economic activity in the City of Cayce. Eligible applicants can apply for grants that support a variety of projects, including but not limited to:

- Tourism marketing and promotion efforts
- Facility improvements and upgrades
- Event hosting and community programming
- Infrastructure projects that improve the hospitality experience

Applications for the 2025 Hospitality and Accommodation Grants are open now through March 31, 2025. Interested parties can access the application form and detailed guidelines on the City of Cayce's official website at www.cityofcayce.com/grants.