CENTENNIAL EVENTS

February 23, 2008
Le Tour de Manure
Bike Ride
Town Square

April 19, 2008
El Centro
Centennial Festival
& Fireworks Show
Stark Field

For more information on these events visit:
www.cityofelcentro.org
or call 337.4540
Meet the Fireman  Brad Wilkinson

In 2007, Brad Wilkinson was named as the El Centro Firefighter of the Year. Brad has been with the El Centro Fire Department for four years. Brad has continuously pursued training opportunities in his field. In 2006 he completed the 160-hour Hazardous Materials Technician certification from the California Specialized Training Institute in San Luis Obispo. Also, he is finishing his paramedic training at the Imperial Valley College. Brad previously studied Fire Science at Southwestern College and at the Imperial Valley College. While in high school at Central, Brad enrolled in the Fire Science class offered by the Regional Occupation Program sponsored by the El Centro Fire Department.

In 2004, Brad was laid-off from the El Centro Fire Department due to a budget crisis. During that time, he remained an employee of the City of El Centro, working with the Wastewater Treatment Department. Later that year, he was able to be reinstated to the El Centro Fire Department.

Brad is a native of El Centro. Brad graduated from Central Union High School in 2001. He married his high school sweetheart Christina. Together they have two daughters – Ava, 3 years and Zoe, 1 year.

In his time off, Brad likes to spend time with his family. His hobbies include football, hunting and off-road racing.

According to Tim Reel, Battalion Chief, “Brad is a highly motivated and an aggressive, yet safe, firefighter. We are proud to have him on our team.”

Heating Safety

It’s a cold winter night. You decide to use a space heater, or perhaps light a fire in the fireplace, to save on the heating bill. Comfortable from its warmth as bedtime approaches you think, “What harm could it cause to leave it on overnight?”

Think again. While these heating devices may help you feel cozy and warm, they can become extremely dangerous if not used properly. Home heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,000 home fires in 2005, according to the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The cost of these fires is more than just property damage. The cost includes roughly 700 lives and roughly 1,500 injuries.

Home heating fires are largely preventable when you know the rules. The El Centro Fire Department’s goal is to reduce the number of home-heating fires in our community. But we need your help. We are urging families to use extra caution this winter when heating your home.

While most heating fires are caused by creosote build-up in chimneys, statistics show that a majority of heating fire deaths are caused by space heaters.

To help keep our community safe and warm this season, the El Centro Fire Department recommends that you follow these guidelines:

• Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
• Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
• Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
• Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.
• Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.
• Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
• Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
• Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home — when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
• Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
• Never use an oven to heat your home.

With simple precautions, help us meet our goal of decreasing home-heating fires this winter.

www.cityofelcentro.org
Measure D FUND Street Repair to Continue in 2008

In 2008, the City of El Centro Public Works department will continue improving the streets throughout the city. Thanks to continued funding via Measure D, the following streets will be worked on throughout the year:

- Main St.
- 7th St.
- Southwind Dr.
- 3rd St.
- 2nd St.
- Ocotillo Dr.
- Aurora Dr.
- 5th St.
- Olive Ave.
- Vine St.
- Yucca Dr.
- Combs Way
- State St.
- Driftwood Dr.
- Brighton Ave.
- 18th St.
- Tangerine Dr.
- Barret Dr.
- 6th St.
- Smoketree Dr.
- Fairfield St.
- 10th St.
- Westwind Dr.
- Orange Ave.
- Hope St.
- New St.

Participate in Neighborhood Watch Without Leaving your Home? Here’s How!...

The El Centro Police Department has decided to take Neighborhood Watch to a new level for 2008.

As a convenience to our residents, we are introducing a quarterly Electronic Neighborhood Watch Newsletter. This will allow the residents of El Centro to keep in touch with what is going on in their city, as well as be alerted to any developing crime trends in their surrounding neighborhood, and share that information with their neighbors. It will be sent via E-mail. All you have to do is write Nicole Kenagy at: nkenagy@ecpd.org with your name, physical address, and e-mail address, and you will be included in the list of subscribers. For more information contact Nicole at (760) 337-4517.

Live Homework Help at the El Centro Library

The El Centro Public Library has a new and exciting program to help students succeed in school. The new “Live Homework Help” program offers students grades 4-12 live tutoring in Math, Science, Social Studies and English. These services are also offered in Spanish. There are 3 easy steps to access this free service 1) Go to the El Centro Library to access the program 2) Enter your grade level and subject 3) Connect to a tutor in the online classroom for expert help. For more information stop by the El Centro Library or give them a call at 337-4565.

El Centro Community Partner Meetings

The El Centro Police Department will continue hosting Community Partner meetings through June 2008. These meetings are designed to address public safety issues, and create an open forum for El Centro residents to interact with the Police Department. Every month a new topic is presented from a specialist in the community. Everyone is encouraged to attend. All meetings start at 6 pm on Thursdays. For more information, contact Nicole Kenagy at (760) 337-4517. The 2008 schedule is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Laws for 2008</td>
<td>Kennedy Middle School</td>
<td>Feb. 7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<td>April 3rd</td>
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<td>Cyber Crimes &amp; How to Protect your Children</td>
<td>Hedrick School Cafeteria</td>
<td>March 13th</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>May 8th</td>
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<td>Available Emergency Services</td>
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<td>Jan. 10th</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>March 20th</td>
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<td>Volunteer Opportunities</td>
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<td>May 15th</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>Feb. 14th</td>
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<td>DUI Awareness</td>
<td>El Centro Community Center</td>
<td>Jan 17th</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>Feb. 21st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Activities for the summer</td>
<td>Sunflower School Cafeteria</td>
<td>Jan 24th</td>
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www.cityofelcentro.org
Free Dumping Service

To provide the best service to El Centro residents, CR&R provides for the free disposal of material by residents at their facility located at 599 E. Main Street. This service is in lieu of taking material to the dump. Service hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. El Centro residents must bring in a current water bill and his/her identification. Construction and demolition material is excluded from free disposal. Upon arrival at the CR&R facility, please check in at the office.

In addition, CR&R provides pickup services for large, “bulky” items curbside. Items that cannot fit in your curbside containers, such as a chair or a couch, are considered “bulky items.” A bulky item is an object that can be handled by a two-person crew and may include washers, dryers, sofas or other large materials. Each residential customer is entitled to three (3) bulky item pick-ups free of charge per calendar year, with a maximum of four items per pick-up. Additional bulky item pick-ups will be provided for a nominal charge. To make arrangements for a bulky item pick-up on your regular waste collection day please contact CR&R at 877-482-5656.

For more information on the trash disposal services provided by CR&R visit their website: http://www.crrwasteservices.com/cities/elcentro/residents