The City of El Centro and the City of Mexicali, B.C. formalized a Partnership City Agreement on Friday, September 25, 2015 at the Casa de la Cultura in Mexicali, B.C. The partnership will promote economic, industrial and agricultural development, with an emphasis on tourism, education, sports and physical education, and cultural and regional traditions.

Later that evening, Mayor Efrain Silva and Mexicali Mayor Jaime Rafael Diaz Ochoa held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Fiestas del Sol honoring the Partnership Agreement.
El Grito de Independencia

The City of El Centro and the Consulate of Mexico celebrated El Grito in authentic style on September 19, 2015, staying true to the heritage of Mexican Independence Day at Stark Field in El Centro.

The event was complete with authentic Mexican food, cultural music with a special presentation by Tiranos Del Norte along with artesian merchandise and plenty to do for the children. El Grito is a family event that is looked forward to every year by residents.

Military Convoy

On October 16th, 2015, the City of El Centro supported the 95th anniversary of the Bankhead Highway Historic Military Vehicle Convoy. This historic convoy has passed through El Centro at different times throughout its 95 years of travel. El Centro was a stopover in the very first convoy in 1920. The convoy was a follow-on project to the 1919 US Army Transcontinental Motor Convoy - the first-ever Convoy across the US along the Lincoln Highway.

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association (MVPA) organizes the group “To provide an international organization for military vehicle enthusiasts, historians, preservationists and collectors interested in the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation and public education of historic military transport”.

The Convoy’s route began in Washington, D.C. and traveled across the country to end in Balboa Park in San Diego.

Travel time takes approximately 116 days and covers over 3,300 miles. The Convoy consists of as many as 120 historic military vehicles. You can follow the Convoy’s journey at facebook.com/MVPAConvoy
Skate Park Grand Opening

On September 10, 2015, the long awaited grand opening for the “Sidewinder Skate Park” finally came to fruition. Several hundred people lined up to watch the opening ceremonies, the skating demonstration team, and the BMX’ers.

The $2.5 million skate park includes 35,000 square feet area of skating space. The skate park was a vision and a goal of the Desert Skatepark Coalition, which included active members Anastasia Miki and Brett Driscoll.

As well as sponsoring the grand opening, California Skateparks, Erickson Hall Construction, and Kimley Horn were all in attendance for the ribbon cutting of the skate park. California Skateparks provided the “world’s largest skateboard” for the public to view and pose for pictures on the large 34 ft. skateboard.

Dan Evers of the RainForest Project was in attendance at the unveiling of the Sidewinder Skate Park mosaic at the entrance to the park. Father Mark Edney provided the invocation for the event as well as being the first official skater for the skate park.
The City of El Centro held its reorganization ceremony at City Hall on December 3, 2015. The purpose of the ceremony is to formally recognize newly elected council members, vote in the new mayor and occasionally have to say good bye to some. This year the City said good-bye to longtime council member Sedalia Sanders.

It was an emotional evening for each council member sharing their fondest memories of all the work Mrs. Sanders has accomplished in her many years of service as a council member and Mayor of the City of El Centro.

The evening continued on to formally recognize newly appointed Council member Edgard Garcia and celebrated the re-election of Efrain Silva and new Mayor, Jason Jackson.
The signature event for the City of El Centro is the Mardi Gras Light Parade and Street Festival event. With the traditional flare and authentication of the original Mardi Gras, a King and Queen of Mardi Gras must be selected. This is a process that starts long before the parade and it is an open nomination process so anyone living within the city can nominate or be nominated.

On Thursday January 21st, Albert and Sedalia Sanders were nominated to fill the role of King and Queen of the 2016 City of El Centro Mardi Gras Light Parade and Street Festival. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders were delighted by the nomination and are looking forward to the celebration and festivities that is Mardi Gras.

Get your beads ready because the Mardi Gras Light Parade and Street Festival is Saturday, February 20th on Main and State Streets near the Court House beginning at 5 PM. This is a free event and families are welcome to attend.
Mardi Gras 2016

LIGHT PARADE & STREET FESTIVAL

February 20, 2016 • El Centro Civic Center Area
5pm - 10pm • Parade starts at 6pm
Parade, Concert, Beads, Dancing, Games, Food

PARADE ROUTE

14th Street
City Hall
12th Street
Court House
Main Street
8th Street
State Street

MUSIC HEADLINER
EEVAAN TRE' & THE SHOW

For more information call (760) 337-4555 • www.cityofelcentro.org • www.facebook.com/ElCentroCA
City of El Centro Business Recognition Awards
Call for Nominations

On Thursday, March 31, 2016, the City of El Centro will celebrate the IMAGINE 2016 Business Recognition Awards Event. The business recognition event will host a distinctive audience of business owners, managers, community development leaders, and members of the El Centro community.

The City of El Centro strives to better serve our business community, and we desire to give special recognition to those businesses which truly exemplify the meaning of the award acronym IMAGINE:

Innovators, Motivators, Architects of Change, Genius, Industrious, Noble, Entrepreneurs

If you know of a business owner or business that you feel should be recognized at this event, please complete and submit the attached nomination form to the El Centro Community Services Department.

A nominating committee comprised of previous award recipients and individuals from the public and private sector will be reviewing the applications and determine which business person or business best represents the IMAGINE award category. The competitive criteria for selection will include the attribute of each individual category, but should also contain an overall blend of each of the IMAGINE characteristics. These unique efforts will create a prestigious award that will showcase the highest accolade for business acumen and talent.

Submission Requirements
The deadline closing date for receiving applications is 5:00 pm on Friday, February 19, 2016.
You may submit more than one nomination application form by photocopying the “Call for Nominations” application packet or submitting online applications at www.cityofelcentro.org.
You may also mail, fax or hand-deliver applications to the following address:

Community Services Department
1249 Main Street • El Centro, CA 92243
Telephone (760) 337-4543 • Fax (760) 352-4867
mpiedra@cityofelcentro.org
Nominee for IMAGINE 2016 Business Award

Name of Nominee’s Business: ________________________________

Nominee's Business Address: ________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________

Nominee's Telephone Number: ________________________________

Name of Person Submitting Nomination: ________________________________

Your Business Address: ________________________________

Telephone Number: ________________________________

Your nomination category: (Select only one.)

☐ Innovator
☐ Motivator
☐ Architect of Change
☐ Genius
☐ Industrious
☐ Noble
☐ Entrepreneur

Please provide a description of your nominee and why you feel they should be recognized with an IMAGINE 2016 Business Recognition Award. Please try to limit your description to no more than 250 words. You may attach additional information to your nomination application form.

Thank you for taking time to assist the City in recognizing the entrepreneurial spirit in our community!
Thank You to Our Sponsors