On Saturday July 18th, 2015 the City of El Centro participated in the Special Olympics Flame of Hope Torch Pass that started at Von’s grocery store in El Centro and ended at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sports Pavilion. Athletes from all over the world, participated in the El Centro Torch Pass along with our own Special Olympic runners and even Council Member Alex Cardenas got out to participate on a humid summer day in El Centro. As the race was finished, a celebration dance broke out at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sports Pavilion.

Earlier this year, the Flame of Hope was lit from the rays of the sun in Greece, the home of the Olympics and traveled across the sea to the United States where it has made its journey to communities throughout the country and Southern California ending at the Opening Day Ceremony in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on July 25th, 2015.
Summer Programs

The City of El Centro Parks and Recreation Department has had a robust summer with programs galore offered to kids and adults. Some of the most popular programs were the Splash Pad, Summer Camps, Aquatics and the YALS Youth Atteining Leadership Skills Program.

“We are absolutely delighted that the residents of El Centro have come out to enjoy the many programs offered by the City of El Centro Parks and Recreation division” says Marcela Piedra, Director of Community Services. “Most all of our programs have been full to capacity throughout the summer and so far we have served at least 500 children. I am especially proud that our fees are some of the lowest in the Imperial Valley which makes access affordable for the majority of our families” Piedra stated.

Aside from all the summer programs offered by the City, there is still more to come this fall and through the winter months. For more information visit www.cityofelcentro.org or call (760) 337-4555.

National Night Out

Organized by the El Centro Police Activities League, the fourth annual National Night Out held at Carlos Aguilar Park on August 4, 2015, was enjoyed by many El Centro residents. The event was free of charge and provided attendees the opportunity to learn more about the California Highway Patrol, Border Patrol and U.S. Customs Services, El Centro Fire Department, Imperial County Behavioral Health Services and the Imperial County Sheriff’s Office.

There was an assortment of free food and activities to be enjoyed by kids of all ages. “I have gone to this event every year with my children. My kids love the activities and of course the food! My oldest son is 18 years old now and was able to talk to businesses there about employment!” stated Esther Gomez from El Centro.

Despite the warm temperatures, residents enjoyed the opportunity to get outside with their families to have a good time and learn more about the active community in which they live.
Summer Programs

Library Reading Programs

It was a Super Hero kind of summer for the children that participated in the City of El Centro Summer Reading Program. Every year the Summer Reading Program has a theme for what the kids will be reading over the hot summer months. This summer it was Super Hero's and the kids just loved the challenge to read along with the thrill of learning more about Super Hero’s. The Summer Reading program ended their summer by hosting a Super Hero event complete with food, games and costumes.

This year the Summer Reading Program enrolled more than 200 children. For more information visit www.cityofelcentro.org or call (760) 337-4565.
El Centro residents turned out for Coffee With A Cop on a warm Saturday morning at the Starbucks on Imperial Avenue in El Centro. The El Centro Police Department hosted Coffee With A Cop as a way of inviting the public out to meet and interact with their local law enforcement officers. The event had numerous officers in attendance along with K-9 Officer Tico. Residents enjoyed the table display that had brochures on safety and plenty of stickers for the kids and of course K-9 Officer Tico received plenty of attention from adult, children and even many other canines that came out to say hello.

The outside of Starbucks was fully shaded and equipped with plenty of Starbucks beverages which made for a good opportunity for El Centro resident Norma E. to talk to the officers “I just wanted to come here and meet the officers. You know, it just feels better when you feel like you know them.” she stated. City Manager Ruben Duran was also present. “This is a great opportunity for our community to see the officers in a different situation than they normally would. When people call the police, it is generally for a problem and when they arrive at the scene they are active in their duties which provides little chance for down time to talk to people” Duran stated.

Along with the Officers, Commanders and K-9 Officer Tico also present was Police Chief Eddie Madueno. “Coffee With A Cop is a great venue for our citizens to feel comfortable around the police officers and to address issues they may have. It is also a great way for our department to balance the negativity the police department gets with our openness to be available to the public and interact on a more human level.” stated Madueno.

“Coffee With A Cop is a great event that allows the residents of El Centro to come by and speak with our officers. It builds relationships between the community and El Centro Police Department and provides resources to better protect the public. Myself along with the entire City Council fully supports their efforts” said Councilman Jason Jackson who was in attendance.
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Three Ways to Save Water Now
By Nancy Vogel

Nobody knows how much rain and snow will reach California next autumn. A fourth consecutive year of drought is just as likely as a return to regular winter storms.

The people who manage California’s water systems must assume that next year will be dry, too, or they invite unmitigated disaster.

California survives on the water it saves. In a state that must store the runoff of wet years in order to get through the dry years, there is never enough water to waste.

If everybody in California did three things to save water, we’d collectively stretch supplies.

First, if you’ve got a lawn, stop watering it. It will go dormant. Let it turn brown and crisp. Water it once or twice a month to keep it alive, and when rains return, the lawn will revive. You’ll save time and effort mowing, and more importantly, you’ll save a tremendous amount of water. When you water once or twice a month, do so only long enough to wet the root zone to a depth of three to five inches. Use a flat-blade screwdriver or trowel to check.

Most Californians think they use more water indoors than outdoors, but typically, the opposite is true. If you find that the only time you walk across your lawn is to mow it, consider replacing it with water-wise shrubs and bushes that require little maintenance, such as sage, manzanita, Santa Barbara daisy, lavender, yucca, and sedum.

Second, stop flushing so much. You don’t need to flush every time you use the toilet. The 1977 drought – driest year on record in California – taught us “if it’s yellow, let it mellow.” The average person flushes five times a day, and toilets use on average nearly two gallons per flush. Eliminate three flushes a day, and you’ll save more than 2,000 gallons a year. Toilets are the biggest users of water in the typical home.

The third thing you can do to help California cope with drought is to talk to your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors about water and how we use it. When they know you’re concerned about drought and water supply, they’ll think twice about their own daily practices. Imagine how much water we’d save statewide if millions of Californians halted sprinklers and skipped some toilet flushes each day. Word of mouth can help us get there.

Give kudos to the neighbor spreading mulch around his trees and shrubs (mulch reduces evaporation). Give gentle reminders to those watering when they shouldn’t. (Many local water districts have restricted outdoor watering to only certain days of the week, and even on those days, it’s best to water in the early morning to reduce evaporation). Tell your family members to keep their showers short.

How you save water depends upon your circumstances. If you’re able to make the investment, a new low-flush toilet and highly-efficient washing machine can reduce your water consumption for years to come. The investment of a few dollars at the hardware store will get you an easy-to-install aerator that limits how much water flows from your bathroom faucet, but not so much that it interferes with hand washing and teeth brushing. Or you can buy a shower head shutoff valve that allows you to easily turn the shower water off and on, so you can cut flow while you shampoo and lather. It takes no money and little effort to always run full loads in a dishwasher or washing machine.

Go to saveourh20.org for a wide array of tips from the experts and your fellow Californians to drought-proof your lifestyle. “Like” Save Our Water on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and make our motto -- Californians Don’t Waste – your ethic.

Vogel is assistant director, public affairs, at the California Department of Water Resources, which partners with the Association of California Water Agencies on the public education campaign Save Our Water (saveourh20.org).
California’s Drought Calls for Conservations

California, it’s time to adopt a new habit. One of our most important resources is in trouble, and we need to do everything we can to protect it today and into the future.

Our state is facing one of the most severe droughts in recent memory, and many communities and ecosystems are suffering as a result. Environmental problems, the pressures of a growing population and the effects of climate change are making it extremely difficult to keep water flowing reliably to our economy, our environment, our farms and our communities.

State and local water managers are working on long-term solutions, including investments in our water infrastructure. But in the meantime, California needs to save every drop of water it can get…we all need to do more to conserve water. The good news is that it’s not difficult to save water in our daily lives. Just as Californians have embraced compact-fluorescent light bulbs and recycling, we can adopt habits to reduce our water use inside and outside our homes on a daily basis. After all, everyone knows that Californians don’t waste!

In 2009, the California Department of Water Resources joined with the Association of California Water Agencies—450 public water agencies throughout the state—to form a statewide conservation and education program called Save Our Water. This effort is aimed at helping Californians learn about our water challenges and ways to save water inside and outside our homes.

For example, did you know that the typical Californian uses much more water outdoors than indoors? Watering the lawn, washing cars and cleaning off the driveway and patio use much more water than you might think. Simple changes to our behavior, such as watering only when your landscape needs it or using a broom instead of the hose on the driveway, can add up to big water savings for the state.

So join in this statewide effort to save California’s water. Plant water-wise landscaping, install a SMART irrigation controller, and take shorter showers. These are just a few of the easy ways we can all help to “save our water.”

For more information about how to conserve water or about the “Save Our Water” public education program, please visit www.saveourH2O.org or join the effort on Facebook and Twitter.

Water Safety Campaign

Imperial Irrigation District board members pose with Water Safety Campaign mascot Dippy Duck and City of El Centro Mayor Efrain Silva during a board meeting in which the district provided a check for $16,000.00 in total grants to Imperial Valley cities for continued contribution to summer water activities.

Bucklin Park Award

Thank You IV Press Readers for voting Bucklin Park as the best jogging place. The City is honored to receive this recognition from the community.
Imagine 2015 Award Recipients

**Innovator**
Juan Agatep and Rene Vega; Trademark Construction

**Motivator**
Lourdes “Lulu” Castro; Styles & Smiles Beauty Salon

**Architect of Change**
Ryan Figueroa; Half Baked Powder Coating

**Genius**
Carlos Vera; Carlos Neon Signs

**Industrious**
Marty Coyne; Imperial Valley Cycle Center

**Noble**
Clark Baker; Clark Baker Music

**Entrepreneur**
Jose Contreras; Kotori Japanese Food
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- Spend some quality time together...

CALL US FOR MORE DETAILS at
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PROGRAM IS FREE!!!!

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El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 337-4565
www.cityofelcentro.org/library
You are cordially invited to the

EL CENTRO
SIDEWINDER SKATE PARK
GRAND OPENING

Thursday, September 10, 2015
from 4pm to 7pm.
The skate park is located at
Adams, Park and Sixth Streets

4-4:30pm • Opening Ceremonies
4:30-6pm • Demonstrations
6-7pm • Free Skate (protective equipment is required)

“No scooters allowed”

For more information, please contact the
Community Services Department at 760.337.4543
Even great parents can forget.

Every year dozens of children and babies get left in hot cars and die from heatstroke. It could happen to anyone. Even you. So, be extra careful and always check the backseat before you walk away.

where's baby?
Look before you lock.
safercar.gov/heatstroke
#checkforbaby