



Elk Grove becomes second largest city in Sacramento County

Annexation of Laguna West adds 13,000 residents to City

On December 15, 2003, the City of Elk Grove officially annexed Laguna West, adding more than 13,000 residents and making Elk Grove the Sacramento region's second largest city.

"This day is the culmination of tremendous time, effort and energy from numerous members of the community, the City Council and City staff," said Councilmember Jim Cooper. "We are thrilled to welcome Laguna West as a part of our city and help them enjoy safer streets, improved city services and easier access to local government."

One of the primary benefits Laguna West residents receive from annexation is better police protection. Before annexation, some Laguna West residents waited lengthy periods of time for a police response. The Elk Grove Police Department hired 13 new police officers to serve the area and help patrol the newly expanded community. Another benefit residents receive is adequate representation. Laguna West residents now have opportunities to voice their opinions for planning, land use and tax decisions and can vote for a local representative.

The City commemorated the historic annexation event with a news conference and a reception formally welcoming Laguna West residents to the community and allowing them to meet one-on-one with the City Council and key City staff. Those who attended the press conference and reception included representatives from the City Council, Elk Grove Police Department leadership and more than a dozen Elk Grove police officers, Laguna West Homeowners Association President Al Livingston and Stonelake Club President Stephen Hodge.

"We are always accessible to the community, gaining their feedback and input on decisions that shape our City," said Councilmember Mike Leary. "We look forward to working with all Elk Grove residents to build upon Elk Grove's excellent quality of life."



City and community leaders unveil the new City Limits sign at the annexation ceremony that formally welcomed Laguna West as part of Elk Grove.

Residents to receive improved trash removal service

The City of Elk Grove has signed a new solid waste removal contract, improving service to residents and businesses.

Early in January 2004, the City signed a contract with Browning-Ferris Industries securing service through the year 2011. The contract will not only improve service, but it will also reduce consumers' trash bills by \$3.50 per household per month. This equals more than \$16 million in savings over the term of the seven-year contract.

"We are excited to offer better service to our residents," said Mayor Pro Tempore Rick Soares. "This new contract will ensure that Elk Grove residents receive the highest quality service for the lowest price."

Residents urged to recycle oil

Californians illegally discard 52 million gallons of used oil each year in storm drains, gutters and the garbage. This pollutes the environment and our waterways – leading to irreversible ecological damage which could ultimately compromise Elk Grove's quality of life.

The City has started a new program to encourage all its residents to recycle their used motor oil. The program, funded by a state grant, encourages residents to drop off their used oil at four local certified recycling centers:

- Jiffy Lube, 7405 Sheldon Road, 916-681-5060
- Kragen Auto Parts, 6628 Laguna Boulevard, 916-691-3302
- Profleet, 9050 Elkmont Drive, 916-685-1533
- Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station, 8491 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, 916-379-0500

Curbside pick-up services are also available to Elk Grove residents on regularly scheduled recycling pick-up days. Used oil must be sealed and taped in a clear plastic container.

More information about used and re-refined oil and other certified recycling centers is available by calling 1-800-CLEANUP or visiting <http://www.1800CLEANUP.org>.

Two new appointees join Elk Grove Planning Commission

There are two new faces this winter on the Elk Grove Planning Commission.

Dan Kramer and Timothy A. Murphy were both appointed to the Planning Commission in December, 2003. After reviewing dozens of applications, Councilmember Dan Briggs appointed Kramer, and Councilmember Mike Leary appointed Murphy to the commission.

Both Kramer and Murphy have lived in Elk Grove for 10 years and are excited about their new responsibilities. They replace Commissioners George Lotz and Bob Whitelock, who both passed away last year.

City hires new full-time attorney

This fall, the City of Elk Grove hired its first full-time City Attorney, Anthony Manzanetti.

Manzanetti had served as the City Attorney since April of 2000 under a contract with Sacramento law firm Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann and Girard. According to Manzanetti, the move gave him the opportunity to devote more time and energy to the growing community which he and his family call home.

"As a resident of Elk Grove, I am excited to work alongside City staff in my hometown," he said. "This move will give me the opportunity to focus more intensely on the unique needs of Elk Grove and its residents."

Adds Elk Grove City Manager John Danielson: "As Elk Grove continues to grow, we needed a full-time City Attorney to protect our residents' evolving needs. Tony has always fought hard for residents, and his move allows him to spend more time protecting our community."

Message from the Mayor



Happy 2004, Elk Grove! We are ringing in the New Year as the second largest city in the Sacramento region! We welcome the residents of Laguna West as the newest members of our community, who bring our City's population to more than 100,000. With the annexation of Laguna West, our entire community will enjoy better police protection, fair government

representation and enhanced city services (see the front cover for more information).

But, as always, Elk Grove is looking ahead and continues to plan measures that will help us remain a well-balanced community. City leadership recently approved a General Plan (see page 4), which maps out numerous strategies relevant to economic development, housing, land use, traffic improvements, etc. City Council and City staff look forward to implementing these measures to help benefit residents and continue to offer you the finest service.

This issue of "Inside Elk Grove" also contains updates regarding the City's trash contract and traffic improvements – all in an effort to keep residents prepared and informed (see page 2).

Now it is your turn. If you are just joining the Elk Grove community or have been a resident for decades, City Council and City staff value your input and perspective on issues that affect our community. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Elk Grove City Hall at 916-683-7111 or visit us at www.elkgrovecity.org. As always, we are here to serve you, and we greatly appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Sophia Scherman

Elk Grove Mayor

Message From the Mayor



Elk Grove's General Plan includes strategies for several improvements to the City, including bike paths and walking trails.

Elk Grove Unanimously Approves General Plan and Helps Map City's Future

Outline helps map City's future

After two years of research and more than 40 public forums, the Elk Grove City Council unanimously approved the City's General Plan on November 19, 2003. The Plan is a guide to manage growth of the City, outlining various goals from traffic improvements to noise control and safety issues.

"Residents, City Council and City staff worked closely together to discuss goals for our City's future," said Councilmember Dan Briggs. "The end result is a General Plan that successfully retains the character of our past while mapping out our vision for the future."

General Plan Highlights:

Traffic Improvements – Provides for the completion of required major public roads at their full planned widths or capacities in one phase, preserves rural areas by maintaining oak trees and small local roadways.

Conservation and Air Quality – Protects the quality of ground and surface water, implements the City's federal pollution prevention permit, protects habitat, acquires open space and implements similar conservation measures.

Economic Development – Prepares an Economic Development strategy that promotes more office space and high wage jobs.

Historic Resources – Protects and enhances Old Town Elk Grove and establishes a Historic Resources Commission.

Housing – Assists in the development of adequate housing supply, identifies and removes government constraints to the development of adequate housing and promotes housing opportunities for everyone.

Land Use – Promotes a pattern of land use which enhances the community character of Elk Grove, provides employment and shopping opportunities to serve residents and the region, and protects Elk Grove's unique historical and natural features.

Noise – Increases protection from unwanted noise in residential neighborhoods and establishes noise standards.

Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space – Adds parkland, creates an interconnected multi-use trail system and protects open space.

Public Facilities and Finance – Ensures that water and sewer service are properly planned and implemented in new developments, discourages “leapfrog” development that extends in erratic patterns and guarantees that developers pay their fair share of infrastructure costs.

Safety – Establishes an Emergency Operations Center to coordinate emergency response operations, improves rail crossing safety, and promotes development standards which control flooding, seismic hazards and similar risks.

“Our goal was to create a plan that addressed the city’s needs on a multitude of levels,” said Planning Director Christine Crawford. “With the Plan’s comprehensive approach, Elk Grove is well prepared to take on the challenges of a growing city and protect the characteristics of the area that make it a unique and attractive community.”

City adds stop sign, other safety measures at site of street racing death

Just four days after annexing Laguna West and 12 days after a fatal street racing accident, the City of Elk Grove installed stop signs and other safety measures along a road notorious for speeding motorists.

On December 19, 2003, City crews installed a four-way stop sign and electronic message boards at the intersection of Harbour Point Drive and Galen Drive.

“As soon as we annexed Laguna West, we acted quickly to protect public safety,” said Mike Kashiwagi, Elk Grove’s Manager of Engineering and Building. “While we are looking at other alternatives to curb speeding in the future, we needed to do something immediately to help prevent another senseless death.”

Harbour Point Drive has long been a favorite stretch of road for speeders and street racers. Although the speed limit is 45 miles per hour, many drivers travel much faster on the long stretch of wide road, which was recently the scene of a fatal accident.

“The neighborhood has unanimously called for slower speeds and the City Council has listened,” said City Manager John Danielson. “Elk Grove’s first priority is the safety of its residents, and that is why we are taking a stand for traffic safety.”

In addition to the stop signs, the City will also be narrowing the roadway by painting bike lanes along Harbour Point Drive later this month. Research shows narrower lanes naturally slow traffic. The City will also work with neighbors, exploring other options to slow traffic in the area.



Elk Grove installed stop signs at the intersection of Harbour Point and Galen Drives to curb speeding and increase public safety.



Public meetings scheduled for Sheldon Road traffic improvements

Responding to residents' concerns about traffic congestion, the Elk Grove City Council has approved the widening of a portion of Sheldon Road and additional improvements to the Sheldon/Highway 99 interchange.

The first segment to be widened is a half-mile long stretch of road, beginning west of the Highway 99/Sheldon Road interchange and extending from Bruceville Road to Lewis Stein Road. The second segment is approximately one mile long and stretches from Power Inn Road to Elk Grove Florin Road, east of the Highway 99/Sheldon Road interchange. The interchange itself will also be widened and include sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

To keep the community informed about both of these projects, the City is initiating a Community Outreach Program, including a series of public workshops. For more information on the workshops or the projects, contact Kristy Babb at 916-448-2440 or email kristy@thehoytco.com