



Zoning: The New Code is almost Complete!

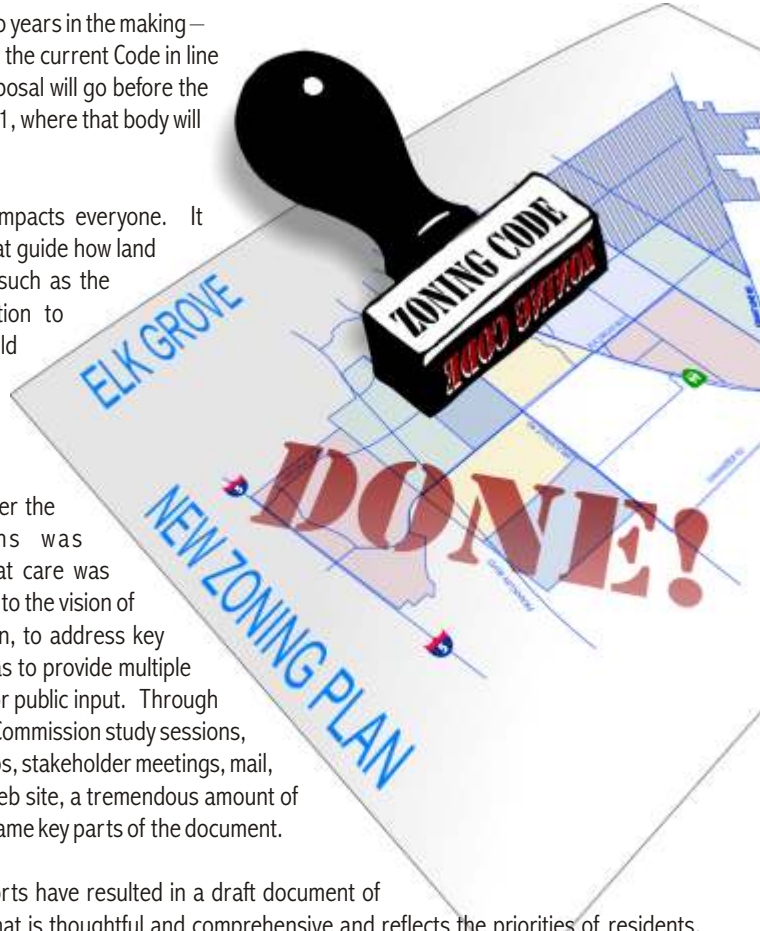
The City's first Zoning Code — nearly two years in the making — is almost complete. Initiated in order to bring the current Code in line with the newly adopted General Plan, the proposal will go before the Elk Grove Planning Commission on December 1, where that body will make a recommendation to the City Council.

The Zoning Code is important because it impacts everyone. It establishes the regulations and standards that guide how land can be used and developed. From issues such as the location of a commercial building in relation to residences to how many parking spaces should be required, the Zoning Code implements the vision of the City's General Plan one parcel of land at a time.

The process of preparing the draft Code over the last 22 months was extensive. Great care was taken to adhere to the vision of the General Plan, to address key issues, as well as to provide multiple opportunities for public input. Through three Planning Commission study sessions, public workshops, stakeholder meetings, mail, email and the Web site, a tremendous amount of public input became key parts of the document.

All of these efforts have resulted in a draft document of the new Code that is thoughtful and comprehensive and reflects the priorities of residents, businesses and stakeholders. Additionally, the draft Code is greatly improved with concise language, simplified provisions and more visuals and graphics — making it easier to understand.

Staff will be asking the Planning Commission to make a recommendation to the City Council for final action on the draft Code at their regularly scheduled meeting on December 1. It is anticipated that the City Council will review and hold hearings in January and February.



To view the draft Zoning Code document or see the latest on the City Council review and public hearings, please visit the website at: www.egplanning.org

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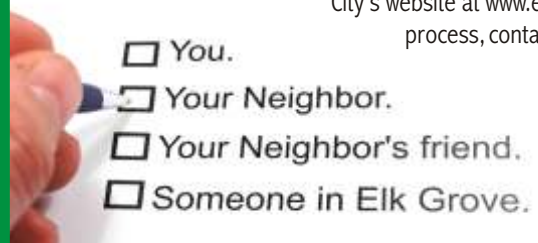
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Elk Grove's Newest Planning Commissioner — Maybe You?

Elk Grove residents with an interest in community planning and community service are encouraged to apply for a vacant seat on the Elk Grove Planning Commission.

Appointed by the City Council, the Commission advises the Council on General Plan amendments, development proposals, zoning regulations and other issues in planning and zoning law. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, residents of the City, and registered voters.

More information — including a fact sheet and application — is available by visiting the City's website at www.elkgrovecity.org. For additional questions on the process, contact City Clerk Peggy Jackson at 478-2205.



Visit the city's website at www.elkgrovecity.org



Big News From e-tran – More Rider Benefits and More Recognition

Not content with being one of the most widely acclaimed commuter transit systems in California, Elk Grove's popular e-tran commuter bus system continues introducing new innovations to make public transit a better alternative to personal vehicle travel.

Thanks to new technology, riders will be able to receive real-time alerts on their cell phone or PDA about the status of their bus. When buses are operating off schedule, commuters can be notified immediately with the expected time of their ride's arrival.



Simply log on to e-tran's website at www.e-tran.org/rider-alerts.htm for step by step instructions on how to take advantage of the new program.

It's thanks to innovations like these – a continued focus on improving service and setting a higher standard – that won e-tran the prestigious Transit Excellence Award from the California Transit Association recently.

"e-tran is hitting the mark and setting the standard for transit innovation statewide," noted CTA Chair John Catoe during the award presentation in San Jose. e-tran has received numerous awards in its first year of operation for improving air quality and relieving traffic congestion on regional roads and highways.

Remembering Safety in the Holiday Season

Following some simple safety tips can lead to a happier holiday season for everyone. Preventing house fires, vehicle theft and auto accidents can be as easy as remembering the rules during the hustle and bustle of the holidays and winter vacations.



In the home



In the car



On the road

Keep candles a safe distance from holiday decorations and out of the hands of kids



Hanging stockings on the mantle? Don't light a fire in the fireplace.



Use flame retardant decorations where holiday lights and candles are present



Choose fresh trees (and keep them watered!) or flame retardant artificial trees



Keep holiday paper out of the fireplace



Keep sharp and breakable decorations out of kids' reach



Keep the tree away from fireplaces, doorways, radiators and high traffic areas



Don't overload electrical outlets, and follow written guidelines on lighting packages



Use safety tested lights and decorations, and only use outdoor lights outdoors

Many vehicle burglaries can be prevented by taking a few precautions – remember that most crimes are crimes of opportunity, so take away the opportunities from potential thieves:



Park in well-lit areas and be aware of your surroundings when walking to and from your car



Hide the valuables in the trunk – don't leave them in plain sight



Don't forget to lock your vehicle and roll up the windows

Always buckle up, and make sure the kids are buckled – using a safety belt is the most effective way to prevent injury in a motor vehicle collision



Use a designated driver after holiday parties and get-togethers



Drive safely – and drive appropriately for the weather conditions

Look for much more information and helpful safety tips on the Elk Grove Police Department website at www.elkgrovepd.org.

Calendar at a Glance

December

1 Planning Commission
City Hall Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.

3 SPCA Cat Adoption
www.sspca.org

Elk Grove Hotel and Stage Stop
Museum Tours
North End of Elk Grove Park
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

10 Holiday Open House and Book Sale
Elk Grove Library
8962 Elk Grove Blvd.
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

14 City Council Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers
6:30 p.m.

15 Planning Commission
City Hall Council Chambers
6:30 p.m.

19 Trails Committee
City Hall Council Chambers
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

20 Quality of Life Task Force
City Hall Council Chambers
CANCELLED.

24-25 City Hall Closed

28 City Council Meeting
CANCELLED.

29 Planning Commission
City Hall Council Chambers
CANCELLED.

Police, Firefighters and Community Team Up for Holiday Toy Project

The Elk Grove Police Department will again team up with the Elk Grove and Wilton Fire Departments to make the holidays a little more special for children in need in our community. Donations of new, unwrapped toys are now being accepted at the following locations:

Elk Grove Police Department / Elk Grove Service Center
8380 Laguna Palms Way

City of Elk Grove – City Hall
8400 Laguna Palms Way

Elk Grove Fire Station #71
8760 Elk Grove Blvd.

Elk Grove Fire Station #72
10035 Atkins Drive

Elk Grove Fire Station #73
9607 Bond Road

For more information or to find out how you can get more involved with the Toy Project please contact Officer Garrett Wood at 478-8120.

Elk Grove Fire Station #74
6501 Laguna Park Drive

Elk Grove Fire Station #75
2300 Maritime Drive

Elk Grove Fire Station #76
8545 Sheldon Road

Wilton Fire Department
9800 Wilton Road



Remembering less fortunate families during the holiday season says a lot about who we are as a community. The Elk Grove Food Bank is one special resource that operates year-round to help those in need with food, clothing and even the new community garden.

Elk Grove Food Bank
8820 Elk Grove Blvd.
685-8453
elkgrovefoodbank.org

Road Work Notes

Please note that road improvements will take place at these locations during the month of December.

CONSTRUCTION ZONES (EXPECT DELAYS):

Bond Rd between Elk Grove Florin Rd and Bradshaw Rd (eastbound & westbound lanes)
September 6 – December 31, 7:00am-8:00pm (Mon-Sat)

Lewis Stein Rd. between Sheldon Rd. & West Stockton (northbound & southbound intermittent lanes) August 22 – December 31 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Sheldon Rd. between Elk Grove Florin & Freesia Dr. (alternating lanes) Nov. 14 – Dec. 12 8:30 am-3:30 pm

Waterman just South of Bond Rd (various lanes)
October 15 – December 31 8:30am-3:30pm

LANE CLOSURES:

Big Horn Blvd and Ancestor (westbound lane)
September 19 – December 31, 8:30am – 3:30pm

Calvine Rd between Kingsbridge Dr/Vineyard Rd (Sac County) (alternating lanes) Ongoing 7:00am-5:00pm

Elk Grove Blvd. between Franklin and Fire Poppy (eastbound #2 lane) Oct. 31 – Dec. 31, 8:30am-3:30pm

Laguna Springs Dr. between Laguna Blvd. & West Stockton (northbound lanes) November 7 – December 31

Who to Call

Fire - Medical - Police Emergency 911
Police Non-Emergency 714-5115
City of Elk Grove 24-Hour Call Number 478-2263

for Street Hazards, Flooding, Drainage Problems, Traffic Signals, Street Lights

Abandoned Vehicles (Police) 478-8140
Animal Control 687-3023
Bus Service (e-tran) 687-3030
Building Department 478-2235
Chamber of Commerce 691-3760
City Clerk 683-7111
City Council 478-2201
City Hall 683-7111
City Manager 478-2201
Community Enhancement 687-3023
Community Services Director 478-3627
Economic Development 478-2261
Fire Dept Non Emergency 405-7100
Food Bank 685-8453
Garbage & Recycling 635-2500
Laguna Town Hall 684-7550
Library 264-2700
Mosquito Control 685-1022
www.fightthebite.net
Planning Department 478-3620
Poison Control (800) 876-4766
Police Service Center at City Hall 478-8100
Public Works 478-2263
School District 686-5085
Senior Center 685-3160
Suicide Prevention 368-3111
Teen Center 686-6942
Traffic Bureau (Police) 478-8140
Utility Billing 478-3642
Water Service 685-3556
Women's Shelter Crisis Line 920-2952

Mayor Daniel Briggs
– dbriggs@elkgrovecity.org

Mayor Pro Tempore James Cooper
– jcooper@elkgrovecity.org

Councilmember Michael Leary
– mleary@elkgrovecity.org

Councilmember Sophia Scherman
– sscherman@elkgrovecity.org

Councilmember Rick Soares
– rsoares@elkgrovecity.org

Kids' Corner



Many adults make New Years' Resolutions – a list of things they want to do better in the New Year. Can you think of some things you want to do better or other goals you have? Do you want to read more books, or learn how to play an instrument, or get along better with your brothers and sisters?

Your resolutions could be in the January newsletter! Write a sentence about what you want to improve in the New Year, include your name, grade and school and have a parent send it to us at:

Kids Corner
c/o Elk Grove City Newsletter
8380 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

(Note to parents: Please include your name, phone number and signature as well. Entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 16th.)

Coming Soon

Planning Update

Envision Elk Grove

Updates on Old Town Elk Grove

Make a New Years' Resolution to Recycle



This year alone, more than 35 million trees are cut

...to decorate homes, community centers and businesses for the holiday season. Each year, more than 2/3 of those trees are recycled, where they'll see new lives as paper products, landscaping materials, and even building materials.

After the holidays, make sure to recycle not just your tree, but all recyclable products used during the holidays – cardboard, certain paper, glass and aluminum cans. For the trees, remove all the ornaments, decorations, lights, tinsel and stands. Cut into 5-foot lengths and place the sections either inside your grey greenwaste cart, or put the tree next to the container on your normal service day during the week of January 2nd or 16th.

BFI cannot recycle flocked trees, artificial trees, or "live" trees with the root ball attached.

 For more information and recycling tips, visit the website at www.elkgrovecity.org.

QUICK NOTES

- Traffic Safety Brochures – answering questions about stop signs, traffic signals, speed bumps and speed limits – will soon be available at City Hall. Check the website and future newsletters for more information. →
- In addition to the vacancy on the Planning Commission, the City Council will be forming a Construction Board of Appeals. The five-member Board, composed of a General Contractor, Architect, Civil or Structural Engineer, Mechanical or Plumbing Contractor and an Electrical Contractor, meets as needed to resolve appeals for permit applications.

Applications are due on or before December 30, 2005.



Contact information:
 City of Elk Grove
 8400 Laguna Palms Way
 Elk Grove, California 95758
 (916) 683-7111 Phone
 (916) 691-2001 Fax
www.elkgrovecity.org

 Newsletter Editor:
 Michelle Smira
 Public Information Officer
mmsmira@elkgrovecity.org



City of Elk Grove
 8400 Laguna Palms Way
 Elk Grove, CA 95758

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