



THIS IS EL DORADO

What's Happening in El Dorado

- **April 1** - Young Knitters Workshop @ Coutts
- **April 2** - Chamber Chat
- **April 5** - Student Art Show Opening Reception @ Coutts
- **April 5-6** - Grow & Bloom in Butler Lawn and Garden Show
- **April 7 & 21** - City Commission Meetings
- **April 7** - Community Potluck @ Senior Center
- **April 8** - Catching Up with the Classics Book Club
- **April 10** - Thursday Speaker Series @ KS Oil Museum
- **April 15** - Coutts Brown Bag Program
- **April 18** - Live Band @ El Dorado Senior Center
- **April 23-6** - Friends of the Library Book and Bake Sale



Mural Matching Grant Program to assist with new murals

In 2021, the City of El Dorado and Experience El Dorado began a public beautification campaign to bolster civic pride, increase tourism, enhance walkability, and compliment the revitalization of El Dorado's historic downtown.

The flagship project – a mural at El Dorado's busiest intersection – was completed in September 2021 with donations from Experience El Dorado and Martin Pringle Law Firm. "Greetings from El Dorado" was inspired by iconic El Dorado sights and installed by Wichita creative collective Brickmob. Since then two murals and a sculpture have been added at Mural Plaza and a baseball mural was completed at McDonald Stadium.



Now we want your help to add more murals to our community. The City Commission approved Sales Tax dollars to fund a matching grant program to assist with new murals in our community. You can learn more about our current murals at www.experienceeldo.com/muralplaza and find more details about applying for a mural grant at www.eldoks.gov/603/Submit-A-Mural-Grant-Application.

City to end leak adjustment policy

The City of El Dorado will be ending its leak adjustment policy on May 1. The decision to change this policy was made after implementing the new automated meters and software that allows residents to track their usage in real time through the website and app. This software also allows residents to receive email notifications of possible leaks in their service.

Currently, the leak adjustment policy allows residents with a water leak to contact City Hall for an adjustment once it is repaired. To apply for an adjustment, you need to write a letter describing the location(s) of the leak along with how and when it was repaired. The letter should be signed and dated by the account holder and include their printed name, service address and phone number. Included with the letter should be all receipts from either a plumber, hardware store or any other location where services or parts were purchased for repairs. The City will then verify the leak has been repaired and an adjustment to the bill will be processed for the time period the account was affected by the leak. The City will forgive half of the cost of the water used during the leak in excess of the average usage for the account.

If you currently have a leak, you will have until the last week of April to get your leak repaired and information submitted so it can be processed by May 1 for an adjustment.

If you have not signed up for the new "Get My Meter Info" water meter portal website and app, please visit <https://portal.eldoks.gov>. To establish the account, enter "City of El Dorado" as the utility name and your utility account number as it appears on your bill.

If you choose not to sign up for the new water meter portal, you can still submit your email to City Hall at 321-9100 opt. 1 so it can be added to your account and you will receive an email if a leak is detected.

City welcomes new animal shelter attendant, animal control officer

The El Dorado Animal Shelter has added two new employees recently. Jennifer Bell joined the shelter staff on Feb. 3 as the shelter attendant. Before coming here, she worked in a vet clinic for seven years. She said she was looking for more stable hours, but still wanted to help and work with animals.

"I have a vet tech degree, so I felt this would be a good fit," she said. "I was really interested in working with the city because I had heard good things about it. You have hard days, but it's rewarding."

One of her goals at the shelter is to maintain the good working relationship with rescues and clinics, as well as learn new ways to help move animals out of the shelter, such as working with new rescues. She encourages people to consider a rescue animal when looking for a pet.

"We see quite a few dogs come in with quite a bit of training," she explained. "A lot of dogs just don't have structure, but once they are given that, they turn into great dogs."

She enjoys rec volleyball, fishing and camping in her spare time. She also enjoys spending time with her family and has three dogs.

Heather Rose started as Animal Control Officer on Jan. 4. She said she was interested in the job because it has more regular hours and she enjoys animals. It also allows Heather, who used to work at the El Dorado Fire Department, to continue working with First Responders because the position is now part of the El Dorado Police Department. This also lets her keep up her credentials.

"I enjoy getting to know more people in the community and their pets," she said. "I want to get dogs back to their owners when they are lost."

She also is working to educate people about compliance, such as getting their animal licenses by Jan. 1 each year. When owners come in to get licenses that helps her and Jennifer become familiar with the owners and their pets, aiding in returning pets when they are lost.

In her spare time, Heather enjoys walking her dog and racquetball.



Jennifer Bell



Heather Rose

Building in El Dorado? Know before you go! A guide to permits

Thinking about sprucing up your property? Whether it's a major renovation or a simple fence, chances are you might need a permit. The City of El Dorado adopts the International Code Council (ICC) building codes to ensure safety and quality construction. But permits aren't just for houses! Let's break it down:

When do you need a permit?

Generally, you'll need a permit for any construction, alteration, repair or demolition that affects the structure of a building. This includes:

- **New construction:** Houses, additions, garages, decks.
- **Renovations:** Kitchen and bathroom remodels, finishing basements, adding or moving walls.
- **Roofing:** Replacing or significantly repairing your roof.
- **Electrical and plumbing:** Most electrical and plumbing work requires a permit to ensure it meets safety standards.
- **HVAC:** Installing or replacing heating and cooling systems.
- **Demolition:** Tearing down structures or parts of structures.

Don't forget the "little" things!

You might be surprised to learn permits are also often required for:

- **Fences:** Especially if they exceed a certain height or are located near property lines.
- **Sheds:** Depending on the size and use of the shed.
- **Signs:** Including business signs, billboards and temporary signs.
- **Swimming pools:** Above-ground and in-ground pools typically require permits.
- **Driveways and sidewalks:** New construction or significant alterations often need approval.

Why are permits important?

- **Safety first:** Permits ensure your project meets safety codes and standards, protecting you, your family and your property.
- **Quality control:** Inspections throughout the permit process help guarantee proper construction and prevent costly mistakes.
- **Property value:** A permitted project adds value to your home and provides peace of mind for future buyers.
- **Avoid penalties:** Building without a permit can result in fines, legal issues and even forced demolition.

How do I get a permit?

- **Contact the City's Building Department:** They can provide information on specific requirements, fees and application procedures. Contact: 321-9100.
- **Be prepared:** You'll likely need detailed plans and specifications for your project.
- **Schedule inspections:** Inspections are typically required at various stages of construction.

Don't get caught off guard!

Even if you're unsure whether your project requires a permit, it's always best to check with the City of El Dorado Building Department. They can provide guidance and help you navigate the process. Remember, building permits are not meant to be a hassle; they're a crucial step in ensuring safe and compliant construction.

DID YOU KNOW?

El Dorado's Garage Sale Weekend is coming up on Friday and Saturday, June 20 and 21. Submit your address by 5 p.m. June 15 to info@eldoks.com or call Julie at 321-9100 ext. 113 to be included on the online map.