

City of Calexico

NEWSLETTER

December 2025 / Issue 4

Message from City Manager, Benjamin Martinez:

"As we close out another eventful year, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each of you for your continued support, involvement, and pride in our community. Together, we have made meaningful progress, and we look forward to building on that momentum in the year ahead.

This holiday season, I encourage everyone to take time to connect with family, friends, and neighbors, and to reflect on the many things that make Calexico such a special place to call home. On behalf of the City of Calexico, I wish you a joyful, peaceful, and safe holiday season, and a prosperous New Year".

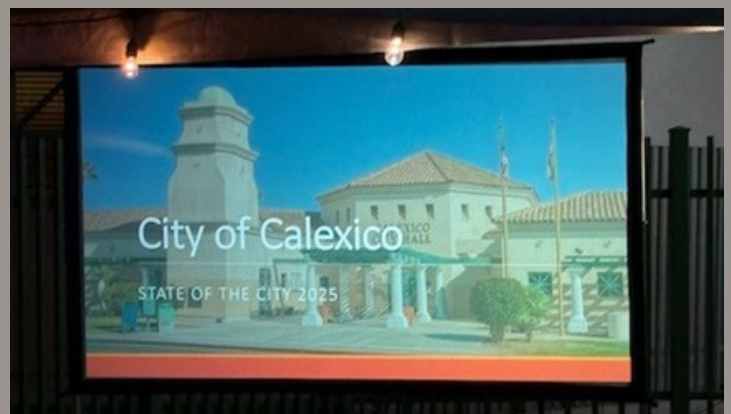
State of the City Event December 4, 2025

"Mayor Diana Nuricumbo delivered an uplifting State of the City Address highlighting Calexico's major progress and renewed momentum. Key accomplishments included Calexico's removal from the state's high-risk list, the adoption of a balanced \$160 million budget, a clean FY2024 audit, and the issuance of 162 new business licenses. City departments made significant strides, particularly in Planning and Building Services, which streamlined development, increased housing production, and supported new commercial growth throughout the city.

The mayor also recognized major infrastructure and public safety improvements. Public Works advanced long-awaited projects such as the New River Improvement Project, sidewalk repairs, new water turbines, and critical water-treatment upgrades—all achieved without raising water rates. The Police and Fire Departments expanded staffing, enhanced community programs, modernized equipment, and earned regional recognition. Mayor Nuricumbo closed by reaffirming Calexico's commitment to progress, noting that the city is "coming back to claim our rightful place" through teamwork, resilience, and a shared vision for the future."

In this Issue:

City Administration	1
Fire Department	3
Library Department	4
Public Works Department	5
Recreation Department	6
Finance Department	7
Police Department	8
City Clerk's Office	9
Human Resources	
Planning Department	10



City Manager - Benjamin Martinez

Upcoming City Council Meetings

December 17, 2025

January 21, 2026

Fernando "Nene" Torres Council
Chambers at 6:30 pm

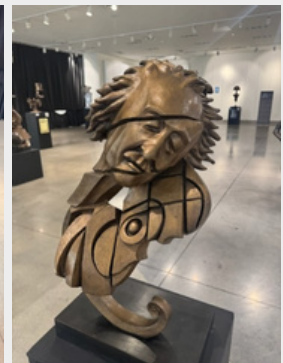
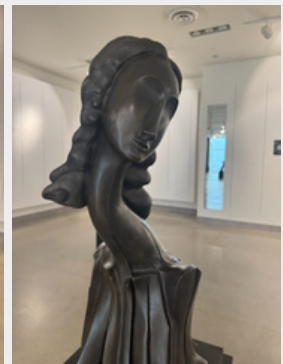
608 Heber Ave.
Calexico, CA

Jose Sacal's Transformative Sculptures at Gran Plaza Outlets

A new exhibition of twenty-one bronze sculptures by renowned Mexican artist José Sacal opened Dec. 4 at the Grand Art Gallery at Gran Plaza Outlets in Calexico. Organized by the Mexican Consulate, Gran Plaza Outlets, and the Sacal Foundation, the show features Sacal's reinterpretations of iconic artworks and historic figures, including pieces inspired by Picasso, Kahlo, Munch, O'Keeffe, Churchill, Gandhi, and Chaplin.

All are encouraged to visit this amazing exhibition from Thursday through Sunday from 12:00-6:00 pm at the Gran Plaza Shopping Center located at 888 W. 2nd St. The exhibit is located right next to the H&M retail store.

Admission is free.



608 Heber Ave. Calexico, CA 92231 (760) 768-2110

Calexico Fire Department

Captain Promotional Testing

The Calexico Fire Department successfully conducted its 2025 Captain Promotional Testing process. This testing supports CFD's ongoing commitment to professional development, leadership enhancement, and succession planning within the department.

EMS Study Approved

City leadership has approved the department's EMS Study, an important step in strengthening service delivery, improving operational efficiency, and expanding long-term system sustainability for emergency medical services in Calexico.

\$20,000 Donation from Terraform

CFD is grateful for a generous \$20,000 donation from Terraform, which will directly support the purchase of new personal protective equipment (PPE). This contribution enhances firefighter safety and improves our department's operational readiness.

Year-to-Date Incident Summary

January 1 – December 5, 2025

- 4,441 Total Incidents
- 3,847 EMS/EHR
- 266 Fire (fires, overpressure/rupture, explosions, hazardous conditions, severe weather/natural disasters)
- 328 Other (service calls, false alarms, lift assists, public assistance, etc.)



New Hire – Firefighter/Paramedic Jeremy Castaneda

CFD proudly welcomes Firefighter/Paramedic Jeremy Castaneda as our newest team member. Jeremy brings strong clinical skills, professionalism, and a dedication to serving the Calexico community. He will be assigned to shift operations following completion of orientation and field training.

November 2025 Incident Summary

- 364 Total Incidents
- 283 EMS/EHR
- 37 Fire
- 44 Other (lift assists, public assistance, false alarms, etc.)



Fire Chief - Juan Contreras

Library Department

Library Visits

The library has welcomed over 21 classes from Dool, Rockwood and Mains Elementary Schools during November and the first week in December. For many of these students, this is the first time they visit their public library. We are looking forward to receiving more classes during the rest of December & January 2026!

Student Success Cards

Thanks to a partnership with Community School Facilitators from Calexico Unified School District, 1,652 student success library cards were issued to students in TK through 6th grades at Dool, Rockwood and Mains Elementary Schools.

1K Books before Kindergarten

It takes a big effort to read 1,000 books to a child, yet 7 families just completed the challenge. 6 families from Calexico & 1 from El Centro. Congratulations!

Happy Holidays Family Night

Families with children ages 0-12 are invited to join us to celebrate the holidays with arts & crafts, games, books, snacks and lots of fun! Date: Thursday, December 18th at 5:00 pm.

Author Visit

Join us on December 20th at 1:00 pm and meet author David Tittle as he presents his first published book "Unmuted".

Keep updated about library programs by visiting the website <https://calexicolibrary.org>



Library Board of Trustees
Meeting

January 5, 2026 at 5:00 pm at
the Fernando "Nene" Torres
Council Chambers

Library Manager - Lizeth Legaspi

Public Works Department

The New River Improvement Project Community Action Day

1,000 iodine bush and 600 mesquite trees were planted along the New River.



Parking Lot Rehabilitation of Library, Community Center and Police Department

The existing asphalt was removed and replaced, including a new valley gutter to provide drainage for rainwater toward the street. Additionally, damaged sections of the existing curb and gutter were removed and replaced.

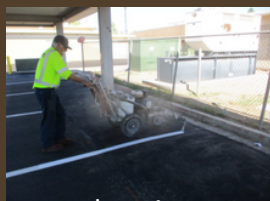
Estimated Project Cost: \$411,310.00

Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Construction Began: 09/04/25
End Construction: Dec. 2025



Library



Police Dept.

Sidewalk improvements on Grant St. & Van de Graaf Ave

The project consisted of the removal of existing parkway, subgrade, asphalt, and concrete, trimming and/or removal of existing trees, removal of fencing and roadway signs, procurement of concrete, construction of sidewalk, curb, gutter, driveways, and curb ramps, and adjustment of existing utility lids to grade.

Project Cost: \$739,863.90

Funding Source:

Federal Grant - \$230,000.00

Measure "D" - \$373,863.90

Transportation Development Act (Article 3) - \$136,000.00

Construction Began: 04/26/25

End Construction: 11/17/25



Before



After

Purchase and Installation of Sports Lights for Nosotros Park

Purchase and install thirty (30) sport lights at Nosotros Park multipurpose field.

Project Cost: \$36,624.58

Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Construction Began: TBD

End Construction: TBD



Public Works Director -
Jesus Villegas

Recreation Department

Parking Lot Resurfacing

We are pleased to share that the Community Center's parking lot was successfully resurfaced and reopened in November 2025. This improvement enhances safety, accessibility, and overall appearance for all visitors. Thank you for your patience during construction as we continue investing in high-quality facilities for our community.

Tree Lighting Event

The community came together for a festive and joyful evening at this year's Christmas Tree Lighting. Families enjoyed live performances, activities for children, youth dancers, and a special visit from Santa Claus. Thank you to everyone who joined us and a big shout out to event sponsors, city departments and volunteers who assisted.

Christmas Joy Around the World Parade

Saturday, December 13th at 10 AM, Downtown Calexico. Get ready for one of Calexico's most festive traditions, the annual Christmas Parade! This year, the parade will feature a float competition, showcasing creative designs from local schools, organizations, and community groups. Right at the end of the parade, everyone is invited to the Christmas Festival at Rockwood Plaza (behind City Hall), where we'll host the awards ceremony and enjoy exciting performances by local drumlines, drill teams, and cheer squads.

For questions about classes, facility rentals, upcoming events, or general inquiries, please contact us.



Winter/Spring Program Registration

Senior Citizens: Tuesday, December 16th at 8 AM

General Public: Wednesday, December 17th at 8 AM

To register visit: <http://calexicoca.myrec.com>

Christmas Dance

Friday, December 19th from 6-9 pm

Put on your holiday best and join us for our Christmas Dance at the Community Center!

Senior Tickets \$5.00

Adult Tickets \$10.00

Black & White Art Exhibit

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 | 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Carmen Durazo Cultural Arts Center -
421 Heffernan Ave.

Admission is free, and light refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be on display from January 13 through January 22, 2026, featuring works from talented community artists.

Community Services Commission Meeting

*Second Wednesday of the
month at 5:00 pm at the
Fernando "Nene" Torres
Council Chambers

Recreation Manager -
Norma Gerardo



Finance Department

Water Disconnection Update

Beginning February 2, 2026, the City will resume water service discontinuations for accounts that are \$150 or more past due or over 90 days delinquent.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, we want to support you. Our team is available to help set up a payment plan to keep your water service active.

Please contact us on or before January 30, 2026 to discuss your options.

We are here to help. Please reach out.

Business License Renewals – Due January 31, 2026

The City of Calexico will be mailing out 2026 Business License Renewal Notices during the month of December 2025. All businesses operating within the City are required to renew their license on or before January 31, 2026.

Because January 31 falls on a weekend, payments will be accepted without penalty through Monday, February 2, 2026.

To avoid late fees, please make sure your renewal and payment are submitted by the deadline. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the City's Finance Department at businesslicense@calexico.ca.gov or (760) 768-2120 or (760) 768-2122.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for doing business in the City of Calexico!

Pay your Water Bill ONLINE!

Just follow these steps:

- View your full billing history through Starnick's secure portal.
- Manage and pay your bills online 24/7
- Save credit card and banking information for future use.
- Pay your bills from your computer, tablet or smart phone.
- It just takes a few simple clicks.
- Set up recurring payments (Autopay) so you don't have to worry about paying your bills on time each month.
- No need to write a check, no need for stamps, save time with no traffic hassles.
- Save time by signing up for online payments today! Less time waiting in line is more time to do the things that are important to you!

Online

Economic Development/Financial Advisory
Commission

*Second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm

Measure "H" Committee

*Third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm

Fernando "Nene" Torres Council Chambers

Finance Director - Karla Chaparro

Police Department



Parking Meters

This month over 600 parking meters were installed downtown. These updated meters now accept credit card payments and will be operational 24/7.



License Plate Readers

CPD currently has six LPR units and one live-feed camera throughout the city. Our LPR network continues to expand, and we expect to add several additional cameras by early 2026.

National Night Out

Our first National Night Out event was a success, with approximately 25 participating agencies and organizations, including Imperial PD, Brawley PD, U.S. Customs, ICSO, ICDAO, USBP (which provided lighting), Probation Department, amongst others.



420 E. 5th St. Calexico, CA 92231 (760) 768-2140

New Vehicles

- 2 new police motorcycles were acquired. These motorcycles are expected to be in full service at the beginning of 2026.
- An F150 police patrol vehicle was acquired and it is expected to be fully operational in 2026.
- 2 new traffic control vehicles are in full service and were assigned to the Traffic Enforcement Division.
- 2 new Ford Explorers patrol units have arrived. Both are expected to be in full service at the beginning of 2026.



Congratulations!

- Officer Venegas and Officer Monninger were awarded the MADD Award.
- Officer Venegas was recognized as the 2025 Officer of the Year.



Police Advisory, Traffic & Code
Enforcement Commission
*Fourth Wednesday of the month
at 6:00 pm

at the Fernando "Nene" Torres
Council Chambers

Police Chief - Armando Orozco

City Clerk's Office

Public Information Requests

We're now using the NextRequest Portal for all Public Records Requests! Find it on the City's website under the City Clerk's Office tab:
<https://cityofcalexico.ca.nextrequest.com/>.

We're aiming to make things easier, faster, and greener by going paperless early next year. Behind the scenes, we've been using NextRequest for almost a year, and it's been available to the public since July.

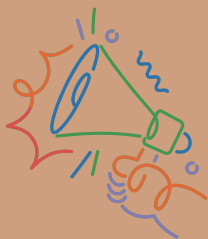


City Clerk - Veronica Luna-Alvarado

Human Resources Department

Employment Opportunities

- Reserve Police Officer (continuous filing)
- City Attorney (open until filled)
- Police Officer (to establish an eligibility list)
- Firefighter (to establish an eligibility list)



For questions, email personnel@calexico.ca.gov or call us at 760-768-2107

Welcome

NEW EMPLOYEES

- Jeremy Castañeda (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Fire Department
- Andres Hernandez (Traffic Officer)
- Police Department
- Gerardo Quero (Planner)
- Planning & Building Department
- Martin Bermudez (Waste Water System Supervisor) PROMOTION
- Public Works Department



Farewell to the Retirees

- Victor Felix - 37 years of service
- Jesus Marquez - 35 years of service

If you are interested in finding out more about the requirements for the employment opportunities, please visit the city's website at www.calexico.ca.gov

HR Manager - Maribel Castro

Planning & Building Department

Mobile Food Vendors

The City Council has adopted new regulations on mobile food vending that go into effect on January 3, 2026. Food carts, food trucks, and food truck courts are now allowed at various locations throughout the City. Please reach out to the Planning Department for additional information



Ironside Homes

Ironside Homes has submitted plans for a new residential community along Sheridan & McKinley Streets consisting of 182 condos with a clubhouse, swimming pool, basketball court and tot lot.

Building Permits

The Planning & Building Department has received a total of 690 plan check submissions for this calendar year. Of those submissions, 665 building permits have been approved and issued by the Department, as follows:

- 556 Residential building permits
- 102 Commercial building permits
- 7 Industrial building permits



New Residential Development

Viñedos del Sol, a new residential community along Bowker Road consisting of 113 single-family homes has submitted building and grading plans and is looking to break ground in early 2026.



New Sun Community Bank

The new Sun Community Credit Union at 523 E. Cole Blvd. has building/grading permits ready issue and should break ground in early 2026.



Planning Director - Michael Coyne