

Serve on a Board or Commission

CURRENTLY, OVER 80 RESIDENTS make a contribution to the El Cerrito community by serving on advisory boards and committees. The City has 14 groups that advise the City Council on a number of topics. Their recommendations provide feedback to the City Council and can result in innovative programs and improved city services.

The following bodies advise the City Council in their areas of responsibility:

- Arts & Culture Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Design Review Board
- Financial Advisory Board
- Human Relations Commission
- Park and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Centennial Celebration Planning Task Force
- Citizens Street Oversight Committee
- Committee on Aging
- Crime Prevention Committee
- Economic Development Committee
- Environmental Quality Committee
- Tree Committee



PUBLIC MEETINGS

Most advisory groups meet once a month during evening hours. Meetings are always open to the public. More information about the individual groups is available on the City's website at www.el-cerrito.org/commissions.

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

Several advisory bodies already have openings, with more expected as terms expire in early 2017. If you are interested, please submit an application to the City Clerk, City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Applications are available online at www.el-cerrito.org/commissions, where you can also find out about the selection process. For more information, email City Clerk Cheryl Morse at cmorse@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call 215-4305.

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Street Paving Program Update

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT continues to fix potholes and make paving surface improvements to local streets. This Fall, the City has been making repairs to the following roadways:

- Arlington Boulevard, from Barrett Avenue to the north City limits
- Fairmount Avenue, from San Pablo Avenue to the BART driveway
- Lexington Avenue, from Eureka Avenue to Fairmount Avenue
- Norvell Street, from Eureka Avenue to Fairmount Avenue
- Schmidt Lane, from Navellier Street to the Recycling Center
- Stockton Avenue, from San Pablo Avenue to Richmond Street

In addition to pavement repairs, the project includes installation of 12 curb ramps.

The Measure A-funded Annual Street Improvement Program is responsible for these on-going street maintenance and rehabilitation projects that ensure the continual repair and improvement of City streets. For more information regarding the program, please contact the City's Public Works Department at street@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call 215-4382.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Thursday and Friday
November 24 and 25**

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

All City offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. Curbside collection of garbage, recycling, and green waste will continue on the usual schedule.



**Wednesday
December 7**

OPEN HOUSE SENIOR CENTER HOLIDAY PARTY

Seniors and their families are invited to the annual Senior Center Holiday Party. The party includes a special lunch and a performance by the Senior Center Choir. Please call **559-7677** for lunch reservations or more information.

When: 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

**Where: Open House Senior Center
6500 Stockton Ave.**

**Saturday
December 10
BREAKFAST
WITH SANTA**

Enjoy a pancake breakfast, a visit from Santa, and a special musical performance. Bring your cameras! Proceeds from this event go to the Recreation Department's David Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund. The event is also a donation drop off location for the annual Firefighters' Holiday Toy Drive. (See page 3 for details.) Pancake Breakfast tickets may be purchased at the El Cerrito Community Center or online at www.el-cerrito.org/recreation.

When: 9–11 a.m.

**Where: El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Moeser Ln.**



December 11–27

SHADI HOLIDAY DISPLAY

The El Cerrito Community Foundation invites you to visit the Shadi Holiday Display, created by Sundar Shadi as a gift of peace to the community. For more information, go to www.shadiholidaydisplay.com.

When: 5–10 p.m., nightly

**Where: Moeser Ln.
at Seaview Dr.**

**Mondays through Thursdays
December 19–22 & 27–29**

HOLIDAY BREAK CAMP

The Recreation Department will offer two weeks of holiday break camp for students in grades K–6. Campers can enjoy fun activities, gift making projects, and a field trip. Pre-registration required. Registration information will be available starting on November 21, online or at the Community Center.



**Late December
WINTER BREAK**

Check the City's website in December for information about holiday business hours for City administrative offices. There will be no change to the curbside collection of garbage, green waste, or recycling. For curbside collection details, call **215-4350** or visit www.ecenvironment.org.

**Starting January, 2017
CENTENNIAL YEAR**

The City of El Cerrito was incorporated one hundred years ago, on August 23, 1917. In 2017, City will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The Centennial Celebration Task Force and community groups are planning to host a variety of events throughout the year to celebrate El Cerrito's rich history and unique identity. (See page 8 for details.)



Election Day Is November 8!

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, El Cerrito voters will have an opportunity to vote for

the President of the United States, other federal and state officials, several statewide and local measures (including Measure B), and three City Council members. On Election Day, polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information about voting, call the County Elections Division at **(925) 335-7800** or go online to www.cocovote.us.

Monday

January 16, 2017

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ANNUAL PARADE AND RALLY

Join the El Cerrito community's annual celebration to honor the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Share his message and celebrate his life. See the story on page 3 and visit www.el-cerrito.org/MLK.



Saturday

February 4, 2017

FAMILY SWEETHEART DANCE

Save the date and plan to bring your little someone special to our Family Sweetheart Valentine Dance at the El Cerrito Community Center. More details will online at www.el-cerrito.org/recreation in the new year, including ticket prices.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Rally

THE EL CERRITO COMMUNITY will honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., share his message, and celebrate his life on Monday, January 16, 2017 with a parade and rally. This year will be the twenty-eighth consecutive annual celebration in El Cerrito of the life and work of Dr. King.

All individuals and groups are invited to join the parade and rally. The events are free and all ages are welcome.

Parade participants should meet at the El Cerrito City Hall Plaza on Manila Avenue at 9 a.m. The parade leaves City Hall promptly at 9:30 a.m., proceeds down San Pablo Avenue to Moeser Lane, up Moeser Lane to Ashbury Avenue, and arrives at the El Cerrito High School at approximately 10:15 a.m. The rally will begin at 10:30 a.m. inside the Performing Arts Theater at El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury Avenue. The Theater will open to the public at 10 a.m.

For program details, including announcement of the 2017 keynote speaker, please check the website in January.

This annual event is brought to you by the El Cerrito Human Relations Commission and is sponsored by the City of El Cerrito, St. Peter Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the

El Cerrito branch of the NAACP and the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

For more information, go to the City website at www.el-cerrito.org/MLK. You can also contact event coordinator Patricia Durham at **234-2518** or Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager, City of El Cerrito at **215-4302**.



Each year, the El Cerrito community celebrates the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday with a parade and rally, featuring performances and a keynote speaker.

Donate to the Toy Program and Spread Holiday Cheer

FOR OVER TWO DECADES, the Richmond/El Cerrito Firefighters' Annual Toy Program has delivered a little extra holiday cheer for disadvantaged children in West Contra Costa County. You can support the Toy Program by donating a new, unwrapped toy, making a financial contribution, or hosting a donation barrel at your business or event.

The Toy Program is part of a joint effort by the Firefighters, the Richmond Police Department's Food Basket Program, and the Coronado YMCA in Richmond. Last year, over 1,200 families benefited from these programs.

To help the Toy Program

- Drop off a toy at any fire station in West County.
- Make a monetary donation via the Toy Program website, or at any Richmond or El Cerrito Fire Station.
- Request a donation barrel from El Cerrito Firefighter Damien Carrion at **215-4450**.

For more information about the Toy Program, please contact the Richmond/El Cerrito Firefighters Toy Program. Call **774-5133**, email info@toyprogram.org, or visit www.toyprogram.org.



I-80/Central On-Ramp Improvements

IMPROVEMENTS ARE COMING to ease congestion along Central Avenue between Jacuzzi and Pierce Streets, a popular means of access to the I-80 and I-580 freeways, commercial centers in Richmond and El Cerrito, and the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station.

The first of two projects will begin construction in spring, 2017. It will prohibit left turns onto the westbound I-80 on-ramp to San Francisco on weekends from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This was found to be the most congested period in the week. Electronic message signs will redirect drivers to the eastbound I-580 ramps at Rydin Road, also leading to San Francisco, and signals will replace the all-way stop signs there and at westbound I-580 ramps. The proposed project also includes installing 21 curb ramps to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

The second project will improve traffic flow along Central Avenue by moving the signals to increase space between signal intersections and prohibit left turns from Central onto Pierce Street to reduce through-traffic backup.

The traffic signal at Central Avenue and Pierce Street will be removed and access from Central to Pierce will be restricted to right-in/right-out, with no left turns allowed. A signal and left turn only lane will be added to accommodate left turns into and out of Pierce Street at San Mateo Street. Comprehensive environmental studies on this second project are expected to start in 2017.

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), in cooperation with the City of Richmond, the City of El Cerrito, and Caltrans, selected these two projects as offering the best chance of improvement in corridor traffic flow.

More information is on the CCTA website at ccta.net/projects/project/36 or contact the City of El Cerrito Engineering Division at engineer@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or **215-4382** for more information.



Hana Gardens Update

HANA GARDENS is a 63-unit, mixed-use, senior, affordable housing community, scheduled to be built on San Pablo Avenue at the former Trade-way Furniture store site, next

door to City Hall. In addition to residential units, the project will also include two ground-floor commercial spaces and a beautiful Japanese Heritage Garden and public plaza. The public spaces were inspired by the single-story Contra Costa Florist building at 10848 San Pablo Avenue.

The development is funded by a variety of funding sources, including the State Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities grant program, the State Infill Infrastructure grant program, Wells Fargo and Contra Costa County housing programs, and the City of El Cerrito.

Eden Housing is on track to close financing and start construction before the end of 2016. Construction is estimated to take about 17 months and leasing should begin in Summer, 2018. To be placed on an interest list for the senior affordable units, please contact Eden Housing at **582-1460**. For more information, please visit the City website at www.el-cerrito.org/HanaGardens, or contact Katherine Ahlquist at kahlquist@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or **215-4361**.

Preparing for the Rainy Season

EACH YEAR, during the winter months, the City relies on the cooperation and assistance of residents to help minimize the risk of flooding.

REPORT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

If you see any of the following problems, please report them to the Maintenance Division:

- a blocked (clogged) storm drain grate or blocked inlet to an underground pipe
- flooding on your property from water entering by way of the street

Crew members from the Maintenance Division will respond to all requests. In the event of a citywide flooding event, the requests will be prioritized, but Maintenance will do their best to respond promptly to everyone.

You can reach the Maintenance Division by calling at **215-4369** or by emailing maintenance@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Outside of normal business hours, please call police dispatch at **237-3233**.

SANDBAGS

During the rainy season, up to 10 sandbags per household are available to El Cerrito residents and business owners concerned about flooding on their property due to water entering from a public right of way. Please bring proof of residency to the El Cerrito Recycling and Environmental Resource Center, 7501 Schmidt Lane, during normal business hours. You will need to fill the bags yourself.

CREEKS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

If you have a creek or open watercourse on your property, it is your responsibility to maintain that part of the creek that lies within your property. If it contains debris or is overgrown, it poses a flooding threat to you, your neighbors, and those living downstream. The Public Works Department has posted creek maintenance guidelines for property owners at www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?NID=574.

Local Firefighters Respond to Wildfires Across the State

THIS SUMMER has been a busy one for California firefighters with multiple large fires impacting thousands of Californians. Between June and August, the El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department has responded to seven different incidents through the State's mutual aid process:

JUNE

- Sherpa Fire (Santa Barbara County)
- Erskine Fire (Kern County)

JULY

- Pine Fire (Los Angeles County)
- Soberanes Fire (Monterey County)

AUGUST

- Clayton Fire (Lake County)
- Blue Cut Fire (San Bernardino County)
- Chimney Fire (San Luis Obispo County)
- Soberanes Fire (Monterey County)

California communities have historically relied upon mutual aid in combating large fires and other emergencies such as floods, earthquakes, and hazardous material spills. The California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System provides a statewide structure for quick mobilization of needed resources to combat any emergency situation that exceeds the capabilities of an individual community. Upon receiving a mutual aid request, each fire department first checks to be sure it can fulfill its responsibilities to its own community. If personnel and equipment are available, the department will send help to the community in need. The city is later reimbursed for any expenses incurred in responding to the request, including firefighters' salaries, fuel used to travel to and from the incident, and equipment repairs.



This yellow, Type I fire engine, housed at Station 71 on San Pablo Avenue, is owned by the State of California. It is provided to the City on the condition that it be staffed and ready to respond to any emergency within the state, under the statewide mutual-aid agreement. It can carry 800 gallons of water and pump 1,250 gallons per minute. It is also equipped with medical equipment, supplies to provide advanced life support, and tools and rope rescue gear to assist with urban search and rescue.

An example of mutual aid occurred in July of this year when over 5,000 firefighters from multiple agencies assisted Monterey County with the devastating Soberanes fire. A five-person El Cerrito crew joined a five-engine "strike team" from the Bay Area that worked for 12 days to protect numerous homes, install over 10,000 ft. of hoses, and strengthen containment lines. The terrain in this area is extremely steep and it was a challenge to negotiate the hills safely.

A total of 11 personnel from the department were rotated to serve as needed during the Soberanes fire. They included Battalion Chief Michael Pigoni, who joined another Bay Area strike team, and Captain Kevin Janes, who served as a communication manager with California Interagency Incident Management Team 4. All El Cerrito personnel and equipment returned home safely.

Mutual Aid is a way for California communities to be good neighbors and help each other when necessary. It also provides invaluable training and experience for our local firefighters.

Don't Pour Grease Down the Drain

COOKING OIL AND GREASE poured down the drain can build up inside of pipes and lead to backups at home, in the street, and elsewhere in the community's sewer system. Overflows pose health and environmental hazards, eventually polluting local creeks and the San Francisco Bay.



To reduce grease-related problems at home:

- Never pour fats, oil, or grease (FOG) down the drain, even if you have a garbage disposal. Hot water and soap do not help dilute FOG either.
- Before washing pots, pans, and plates, scrape leftover food waste into the garbage or compost container. To order a free FOG scraper, visit www.ebmud.com/store/water-conservation/plate-scraper/.
- Place large quantities of cooking oil or grease in a sealed container and pour it out at one of EBMUD's residential cooking oil and grease drop-off locations. Find the location nearest you at www.ebmud.com/wastewater/bay-friendly-waste-disposal/fats-oils-and-grease/residential-cooking-oil-and-grease-drop/.

Remember, a clean bay begins with you.

Find more environmentally-friendly tips at www.ebmud.com/cleanbay or contact the EBMUD Environmental Services Hotline at **287-1651**.

Minimum Wage Increase

THE MINIMUM WAGE for workers in El Cerrito will increase to \$12.25 per hour on January 1, 2017.

These requirements are higher than the California minimum wage requirements. They apply to any employee (part- or full-time) who performs two or more hours of work within El Cerrito's geographic boundaries, regardless of the size of the employer or where the employer is based.

Employers can download the official El Cerrito Wage Bulletin in multiple languages from www.el-cerrito.org/wages. The bulletin must be posted at all worksites.



The City is committed to serving as a resource for businesses that need information or assistance in order to comply with the law. The City's website at www.el-cerrito.org/wages also offers a tip sheet about Employer Responsibilities. For additional information, email wages@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or contact Suzanne Iarla, Assistant to the City Manager, at **215-4318**.

Street Sweeping Schedule

STREET SWEEPING is important! Not only does it keep El Cerrito looking tidy, it also removes pollutants before they can enter the storm drains, ditches, and creeks that flow into San Francisco Bay.



In El Cerrito, residential streets are swept once per month, major arterial streets are swept on first and third Fridays, and commercial areas are swept every Monday night. Refer to the map on page 7 to locate your street sweeping zone or street designation.

Please help the City to maximize Street Sweeping effectiveness by following these guidelines:

- Cut out the map on the next page to keep as a reminder of the street sweeping schedule!
- Park cars off the street on your scheduled sweeping day. Sweeping around parked cars requires more time and is a dangerous maneuver.
- Remove your garbage, greenwaste, and recycling containers from the street after they have been picked up.
- Do not pile leaves or other yardwaste in the street. The sweepers cannot pick up large piles of leaves.
- Keep landscape plants pruned far enough back to allow sweepers to reach the curb.
- Keep tree branches pruned to a height of 12 ft. above the street to allow passage of a sweeper.
- If you see someone dumping something into a storm drain, call **1-800-NODUMPING**. Report as much information about the incident and the involved parties as you can.

For answers to any street sweeping-related questions or complaints, email the East Bay Sanitary Company at info@ebsan.com, call **237-4321**, or visit the company's website at www.ebsan.com/street-sweep.html.

Voters to Decide on Measure B

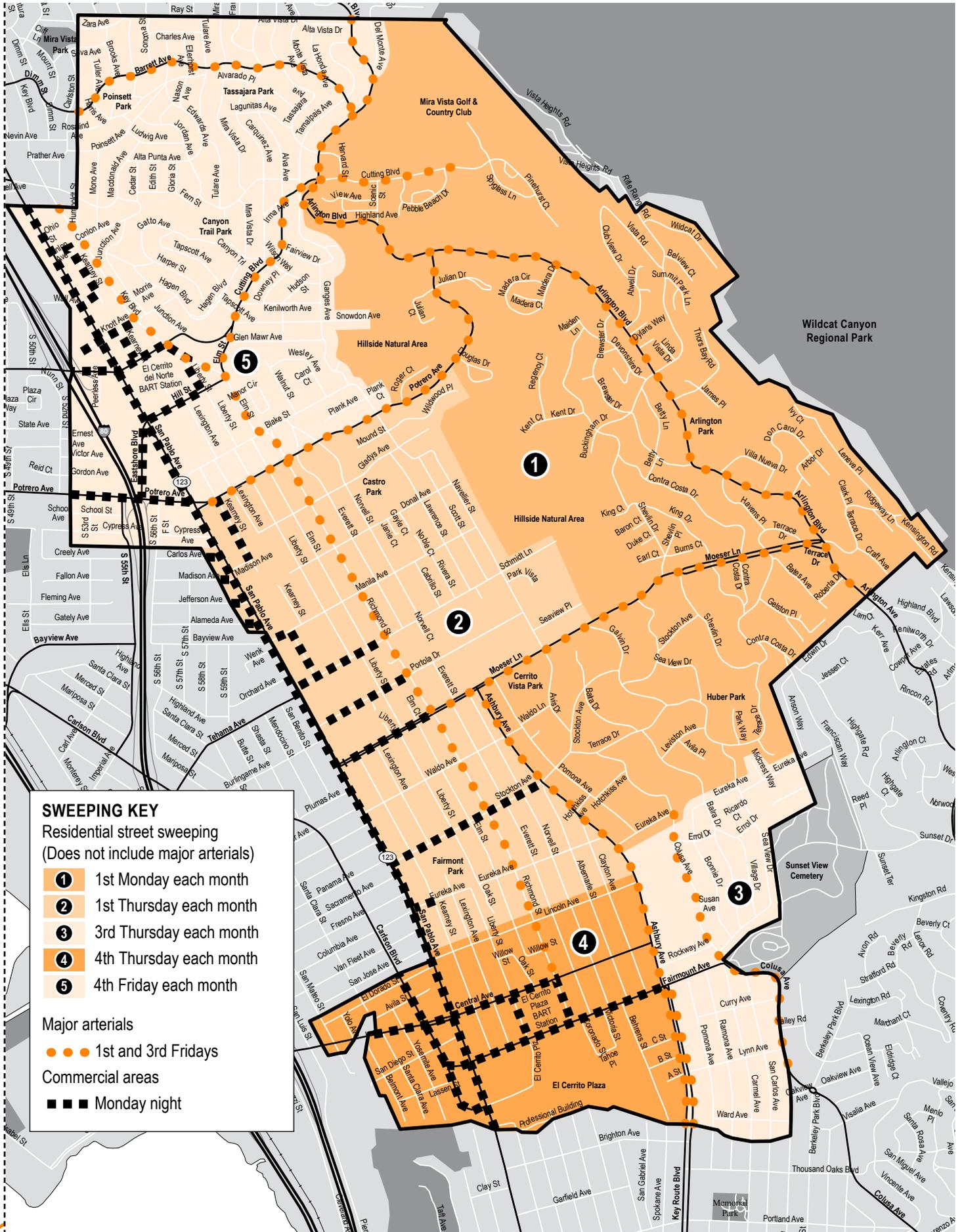
MEASURE B for a safe, modern El Cerrito Library is on the November ballot. If the measure is approved by two-thirds of El Cerrito voters, the City will be able to issue bonds to finance the construction of a safe, energy efficient, 21st century library that meets current earthquake and fire codes. The new library would include a children's area with space for story times; public access computers and a computer learning center; up-to-date book and resource collections; and improved senior and disabled access. The City has been interested in building a safe, modern library for the community's benefit for over a decade.

The existing El Cerrito library was built in 1948 and expanded to its current size of just 6,500 square feet in 1960. A City needs assessment, conducted in 2006 and updated in 2014, determined that the library should be approximately 21,000 square feet in order to meet current and future needs. The current location on Stockton Avenue is too small to allow for such an expansion. Because the City's preferred location in the lower portion of the former Portola School site is not available, the City has spent the last few months examining several other sites, some of which would require the

acquisition of land. The city has heard from the community that the library should be located in a convenient location near civic and commercial amenities.

If passed by the voters, up to \$30M in bond financing could be used for land acquisition; design, engineering, and construction; and for certain durable equipment and fixtures, such as shelving and information technology infrastructure. Principal and interest on the bonds would be paid by taxes on real property in El Cerrito, as described in the Tax Rate Statement on the City's website and in the Contra Costa County Official Voter Guide (mailed to all voters). The money raised by Measure B would be placed in a restricted fund to be used only for the library project. Additionally, the City would be required to prepare an annual report on its use of bond proceeds and the status of the library project would be reviewed by the City's Financial Advisory Board to ensure proper spending of taxpayer money.

Information about Measure B can be found online at www.el-cerrito.org/MeasureB, in your voter's guide, or by calling the City Manager's Office at **215-4302**. Remember to vote in the November 8 Election. Your opinion counts!



SWEEPING KEY

Residential street sweeping
(Does not include major arterials)

- ① 1st Monday each month
- ② 1st Thursday each month
- ③ 3rd Thursday each month
- ④ 4th Thursday each month
- ⑤ 4th Friday each month

Major arterials
●●● 1st and 3rd Fridays

Commercial areas
■ ■ ■ Monday night

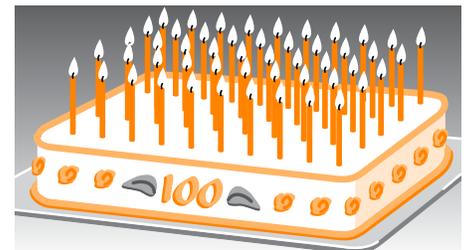
City of El Cerrito
 City Hall
 10890 San Pablo Ave.
 El Cerrito, CA 94530

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL:
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ECR-WSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER



El Cerrito Centennial Year

NEXT YEAR, El Cerrito will celebrate its 100th anniversary as a city. Since 1917, residents, businesses, and visitors have all contributed to El Cerrito's unique identity and quality of life. Plans are currently underway to celebrate our history throughout 2017.

The City Council recently established a Centennial Celebration Planning Task Force to work with the community and help to develop plans for the City's 100th anniversary. As plans are finalized, they will be posted on the City website.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Today's El Cerrito was originally part of the Castro family's *Rancho San Pablo* land grant, issued in 1834. In the late 1800s, William F. Rust established a blacksmith shop on San Pablo Avenue. His store later served as the post office and the area became known as Rust. The City of El Cerrito was incorporated on August 23, 1917, after a spirited vote by the residents of the unincorporated areas of Stege Junction and Rust. Two other small communities, Schmidville and Schindler, were also included, for a total population of 1,400.

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

Greg Lyman, Mayor
 Janet Abelson, Mayor Pro Tem
 Jan Bridges
 Mark Friedman
 Gabriel Quinto

CITY WEBSITE www.el-cerrito.org

TWITTER @cityofelcerrito
 @ElCerritoREC
 @ElCerritoPD

City Hall Holidays (office closed):

Thanksgiving
 November 24 and 25

Winter Break
 Check website for details.

City Council regular meetings:

November 1 and 15
 December 6 and 20

Regular Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. Schedules are subject to change; check the website for updates. Regular Council meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable channel 28 and KECG, 88.1 FM radio.

To watch meetings online, go online to www.el-cerrito.org and click on the "Streaming Media" link.

The City Council meeting agenda packet is available at least three days prior to each City Council meeting at: <http://www.el-cerrito.org/archive>.

CITY HALL (All area codes 510)

10890 San Pablo Ave.
City Management
 City Clerk 215-4305
 City Council 215-4305
 City Manager 215-4300
 Human Resources 215-4315

Community Development Department

Building 215-4360
 Code Enforcement 215-4374
 Planning 215-4330
 Economic Development 215-4385
 Housing 215-4358

Finance 215-4310

Public Works

After-Hours Emergency 237-3233
 Corporation Yard 215-4369
 Engineering 215-4382
 Maintenance 215-4369
 Recycling & Waste Management 215-4350
 Recycling + Environmental Resource Center
 7501 Schmidt Lane

Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane

Recreation Department 559-7000
 Park/Facility Rentals 559-7004
 Swim Center 559-7011

The Open House Senior Center

6500 Stockton Ave.
Senior Services 559-7677

Public Safety Building 10900 San Pablo Ave.

Emergency 911
 Police/Fire/Medical
 Dispatch 233-1214, Option 2
 Fire Administration 215-4450
 Police Administration 215-4400