



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Scott Hanin, City Manager
DATE: Thursday, November 8, 2018
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

CITY MANAGEMENT

Commission and Committee Vacancies

The City seeks interested applicants to serve on various boards, commissions and committees. Anyone interested in serving, may download an application from the City's website at www.el-cerrito/boardvacancies. Applications may be mailed or e-mailed to the City Clerk at City of El Cerrito, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530, cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Please contact Sherry Kelly at 215-4305.

There are vacancies on the following:

- Citizens Street Oversight Committee (1)
- Committee on Aging (1)
- Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees (1)
- Crime Prevention Committee (9)
- Design Review Board (1)
- Economic Development Committee (8)
- Environmental Quality Committee (1)
- Human Relations Commission (2)
- Planning Commission (1)
- Urban Forest Committee (9)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Development Updates

On October 3, 2018, the Design Review Board conducted a public hearing for the project at *921 KEARNEY STREET*, and conducted study sessions for the *POLARIS APARTMENTS* project at *11965 San Pablo Avenue* and the *HAMPTON INN* hotel project at *11615 & 11645 San Pablo Avenue*.

921 KEARNEY STREET

- The project at *921 KEARNEY STREET* consists of 69 residential units and was considered by the Board on August 1, 2018. At this meeting the Board continued the project to the October 3, 2018 meeting, and provided comments to the applicant. At the October 3, 2018 meeting, the Board reviewed the revised project and gave further comments to the applicant, continuing the

item to the November 7, 2018 meeting. The meeting was well attended by neighbors and the public. There were 10 public speakers, expressing concern about height and parking.

POLARIS APARTMENTS

- The *POLARIS APARTMENTS* project consists of 144 residential units and will return to the Board for a public hearing on November 7, 2018.

HAMPTON INN

- The *HAMPTON INN* project (117-room hotel plus 2,500 square feet ground floor retail) will return to the Board after the applicant has completed revisions and the environmental review process has been completed.

Recent Planning Commission and Design Review Board agendas, meeting minutes, and meeting packets are available at: www.el-cerrito.org/PlanningCommission and www.el-cerrito.org/DesignReviewBoard.

Approved San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Projects Update

- *10963 SAN PABLO AVENUE* (50 residential units plus 2,867 square feet commercial) AND *10300 San Pablo Avenue* (32 residential units, including two live-work units) will soon be receiving demolition and building permits.
- *10810 SAN PABLO AVENUE* (40 residential units at the existing Village at Town Center) submitted for a Building Permit the week of October 22.
- *10192 SAN PABLO AVENUE* (21 units) has submitted a revised application to add 5 additional units and will likely return to the Design Review Board on December 5.
- It is anticipated that the *MAYFAIR* project will close escrow with the City in November, and that a Building Permit application will be submitted early 2019.

Transportation/Parking Studies

As part of continued efforts to implement the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, and with grant funding from MTC's PDA Implementation program and Regional Measure 2 Safe Routes to Transit, the City is moving forward with a parking study and Complete Streets conceptual design.

On Sept. 13, 19, 20 and Oct. 11, Community Development and Public Works staff hosted both business- and resident-focused meetings to share information about: 1) On-Street Parking Study and Recommendations, including information about existing on-street parking conditions and opportunities and future potential parking strategies; and 2) San Pablo Complete Streets project, including pedestrian safety improvements,

buffered and/or separated bike lanes, and bus bulbs. Over 30 attendees participated to provide feedback on the study's findings, challenges and opportunities for improvements. The goal of these projects is to create a more vibrant and connected community while maintaining and increasing access to commercial districts, local businesses, transit, parking and neighborhoods. Staff will present the findings and recommendations regarding parking in the Specific Plan area early 2019. For more information, please visit www.el-cerrito.org/transportationstudies.

New Businesses

- **Nana Dessert:** After many years vacant, a 500 square foot tenant space at 10172 San Pablo Avenue (*Peppermint Tree Plaza*) is being built out as a small, mostly take-out shop serving desserts, smoothies and ice cream. Tenant improvements are underway.
- **Bay Area Community Resources (BACR):** After decades of vacancy, the property at 11175 San Pablo Avenue has been upgraded and tenanted. The property completed a seismic upgrade in 2017 and completed tenant improvements in 2018. The space will be the central business office for BACR's programs in Contra Costa & Alameda counties and provide offices for 15 permanent staff as well as workstations for occasional workers plus conference and training rooms. BACR (www.bacr.org) is a 40-year old organization. According to BACR, they are excited about the location due to its proximity to public transportation, BART, available parking and nearby retail/restaurants.
- **Chop Salon:** A new salon and spa has moved from Berkeley to the remaining retail space at Ohlone Gardens at 6493 Portola Drive. Their website says, "We opened our first doors in Berkeley in 2009. After 9 years we decided to expand our salon and moved to a great space in El Cerrito."

Earthquake Brace & Bolt (EBB) Program: On October 23, 2018, the Community Development Department and California Earthquake Authority, hosted the City's annual homeowner workshop to discuss the State's EBB program. EBB grants are available to homeowners interested in seismic retrofitting their homes. Applications are being accepted between October 9 - November 13 at www.earthquakebracebolt.com. A copy of this presentation is available online at www.el-cerrito.org/CommDev.

Temporary Use Permit for Food Truck

A Temporary Use Permit (TUP) was issued on October 1, 2018 for a food truck to operate on private property for six months at the corner of Cutting and San Pablo Avenue, on the site of a proposed future hotel. The operators of the food truck will maintain a permit from the Contra Costa Health Department and will be allowed to

operate from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily. For more information, please contact Sean Moss at planning@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 215-4330.

El Cerrito Restaurant Week 2018 (October 11-17)

The fourth annual Restaurant Week, co-sponsored by the Economic Development Committee, Community Development Department and Chamber of Commerce, was a success! Many thanks to the 16 restaurants that participated (see below) and the residents, friends and families who ate out (some multiple times!) to support the restaurants. Also, many thanks to the Arts and Culture Commission, musicians Hideo Date & Ken Hayes, and restaurants El Mono & Elevation 66 who provided entertainment.

The participating restaurants were: Café N!ne, El Mono, Elevation 66, Fatapple's Restaurant & Bakery, Larb Thai Food & Tapas, Los Moles Beer Garden, Mountain Mike's Pizza, Mr. Pickle's, Nation's Giant Hamburgers, Nông thôn, Noodles Fresh, Papi's Pizza Roma, Scene Wine Bar, Tashi Delek, Taste of Ethiopia, and Uncle Wong's Restaurant.

FIRE

Toy Drive

In November, the El Cerrito Police and Fire Departments will begin collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. The program has been in operation since 1947. Please be on the lookout for donation barrels in the public safety buildings and in city hall.

POLICE

Community Police Academy

The fall session of the Community Police Academy graduated on October 24. The class of 23 community members took courses in crime scene response, patrol procedures, use of force, canine operations and many other police-related topics. The course consisted of 8 sessions over 7 weeks. Officer Sarah Perez, the ECPD Community Liaison Officer, was the course coordinator and did an excellent job running the program. The next Community Police Academy will begin in February 2019. www.el-cerrito.org/communityacademy

PUBLIC WORKS

New Recycling Trucks Arrive

Operations + Environmental Services Division staff are happy to announce the arrival of two new recycling trucks in early November. In December 2017, City Council approved the lease purchase of two McNeilus/Peterbilt refuse collection trucks to

replace the two trucks that currently serve the residential curbside recycling routes. The current trucks are 10 years old and have reached the end of their useful lives.

The new trucks were built at the McNeilus factory in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin and arrived in the Bay Area the week of October 15. They were commissioned at the Peterbilt facility in San Leandro before arriving in El Cerrito. These trucks will help improve our curbside operations by providing a larger collection capacity to maximize routes and minimize runs to the sorting facility; better cab ergonomics for driver convenience and safety; and an on-board camera system for greater visibility when backing up, to cover blind spots and to monitor lifting arms, hoppers, and contamination of recycling loads.

Staff will be holding a debut event to welcome these new additions to our fleet, date yet to be determined. If you wish to be added to the invite list or have questions, contact the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center at green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

SunShares Program a Success in El Cerrito

This fall, the City partnered with other Bay Area cities to promote the 2018 SunShares program, which makes it easier and more affordable for Bay Area residents to install solar panels or to purchase an electric vehicle. City staff widely promoted the program and hosted a well-attended workshop at City Hall on October 15. As of this writing, 53 El Cerrito residents have signed up to participate in the SunShares program and 4 have signed contracts to install solar panels on their homes. These numbers far exceed other participating jurisdictions that are similar in size, and the numbers are comparable to the participation rates in cities like Berkeley, Fremont, and Palo Alto. To participate in this year's SunShares program, register by November 15 at www.bayareasunshares.org. For more information on the SunShares program, contact Will Provost at 525-7622 or wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Update

Operations + Environmental Services Division staff have been exploring grants and opportunities to add additional electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at city facilities and other locations throughout the community. Previously, the grants offered by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, PG&E, and others required as many as 10 stations and came with other restrictions that did not make them suitable for El Cerrito. However, MCE's new MCEv program offers generous rebates for installing just one dual-port station. Staff are now looking into the cost and feasibility of adding dual-port stations at City facilities in publicly accessible areas. Installation considerations include need and length of any new conduit and electrical equipment and availability of parking spaces, including ADA accessibility. For more information on EV charging infrastructure, contact Will Provost at 525-7622 or wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Tennis and Pickleball Court Improvements

Last month, Operations + Environmental Services Division staff completed the resurfacing of the Harding Park tennis courts. The improved and enhanced facility addresses needed maintenance and provides users with a better overall experience. In addition, after completing the resurfacing of the Castro Park tennis courts and adding six pickleball courts last June, Public Works has continued to work with the pickleball and tennis communities and will be adding new storage containers to assist players at the facility. We are also adding more contrast to the pickleball lines to make it easier for players to identify the separate courts. For more information, contact Will Provost at 525-7622 or wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Tree Ordinance Update

As called for in the City's Urban Forest Management Plan (adopted 2007), Public Works staff are working with the Urban Forest Committee on drafting a Tree Ordinance to provide clear guidance for the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees and shrubs in the public right-of-way, parks, and other public spaces. The ordinance will clarify activities that are required or prohibited, and public and private responsibility for trees and shrubs in the public right-of-way. The ordinance will also meet a prerequisite standard for the City to receive the Tree City USA designation. A public draft is being prepared for preliminary review by the Urban Forest Committee. The ordinance is expected to be ready for Council's consideration in early spring 2019. For more information, contact Will Provost at 525-7622 or wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

El Cerrito Ranked by MTC as Top Three in The Bay Area for Pavement Conditions

Last month, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission once again ranked El Cerrito among the top three in the Bay Area for pavement conditions. The City managed to transform from having one of the worst pavement conditions in the Bay Area in 2006 to one of the best. The significant strides made in improving the conditions of El Cerrito roads is the result of the funding provided by Measure A – El Cerrito Pothole Repair, Local Street Improvement and Maintenance Measure, which was approved by El Cerrito voters in 2008. El Cerrito's success story and the complete report on pavement condition scores for all Bay Area counties and cities is featured in The Pothole Report: Bay Area Roads at Risk, available at www.el-cerrito.org/potholereport.

I-80/Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Project Update

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority, in partnership with the cities of Richmond and El Cerrito, has completed construction of improvements to Central Avenue from I-80 to I-580 as part of the first phase of the I-80/Central Avenue Improvement Project. The first phase of this project is designed to smooth peak traffic flows on Central Avenue in the westbound direction during the peak weekend hours (the most congested period for this corridor) by redirecting left turns from westbound Central Avenue onto westbound I-80 to the adjacent I-580 on-ramp at Rydin Road.

Improvements include installation of traffic signals at the two I-580 intersections, enhanced access to the Bay Trail, electronic message boards, and repaving. Drivers traveling westbound on Central Avenue should be aware that between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, left turns onto I-80 Westbound (toward Oakland/San Francisco) are now prohibited. Instead, message boards direct drivers to proceed straight and make a left turn onto I-580 Eastbound on-ramp from where they can access I-80 one mile south of the on-ramp. While the left-turn movement onto I-80 Westbound is prohibited during this time, drivers are permitted to make a left-turn onto Jacuzzi Street.

A six-month study to monitor the effectiveness of the project is currently underway. The cities of Richmond and El Cerrito will track any injury accidents, citations, and complaints. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at street@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 215-4382.

RECREATION

Community Center Off-Season Office Hours

Beginning in November, the Community Center's Office Hours will change slightly:

Mondays, Wednesdays, & alternate Fridays from 8 a.m. to **4 p.m.**
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The office will remain closed every other Friday. Upcoming closed Fridays as well as holidays include: November 2, 12, 16, 22, 23, 30 AND December 14, 24-31.

Programs and classes are not affected by these new office hours.

El Cerrito Midtown Activity Center (ECMAC) Annual Giving Campaign

The ECMAC raises funds to cover the cost of many of its programs and activities through generous donations. Your annual donation helps to keep costs down for activities and services for seniors and allows the center to continue to expansion and improvement. Donations may be tax deductible. For more information, please contact 559-7677 or recreation@ci.el-cerrito.org.

Van Drivers Wanted!

If you have a Class B driver license (or are willing to get one) and you're interested in a fun and rewarding part-time job, please apply for the Van Driver position at the Midtown Activity Center. Training provided. Not only do you get to provide seniors and persons with disabilities critical access to destinations that they would not otherwise be able to get to, you also get to explore the Bay Area on the various day trips and

excursions offered by the ECMAC. City employees also get to lap swim for free and receive 25% other programs and services! For more information and to apply, please visit www.el-cerrito.org/jobs.

El Cerrito Swim Center Closure and Special Hours

The El Cerrito Swim Center will be closed Saturday, November 17 through Friday, November 23 for floor repair in the women's locker room. We apologize for the inconvenience.

The Swim Center will reopen with a special schedule on Saturday, November 24 and Sunday, November 25 with a special schedule:

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Masters
10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lap Swim & Water Walking

Thanksgiving Break Camp

This is the first year in which WCCUSD students will get the entire week of Thanksgiving off from school. The Recreation Department will be offering a three-day holiday camp, Monday 11/18 through Wednesday, 11/20/18, at the Harding Clubhouse for families who need a fun and safe place for their children to be during this time. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Basketball & Volleyball

Youth Basketball and Volleyball are in full swing in El Cerrito at the Korematsu Middle School Gym. In early December, the Recreation Department will be organizing league and team play for boys and girls in 3rd through 8th grades. For more information, please go to www.el-cerrito.org/youthsports.

Check out the Fall rECguide (www.el-cerrito.org/656/Recreation-Brochure)

Fall 2018 seasonal activity brochure to explore all the programs and services available to you through December. The Winter/Spring rECguide will be hitting your mailboxes and online around December 9th.

Subscribe

For up to date information on all the happenings with the Recreation Department, please subscribe to our email newsletter "rECnews" at www.el-cerrito.org/recnews.

Follow Us

Instagram - @ecrecreation
Facebook - @ecrecreation
Twitter - @ElCerritoREC

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 1 to December 13 - City Hall Gallery Space: "3Sum" By Dean Hunsaker

Location: City Hall, 2nd Floor

The show features 10 paintings from three different thematic series of works. See show flyer attached. www.el-cerrito.org/galleryspace

November 7 (Wednesday) - Out Loud Poetry Event, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Location: Fairmount Ave at San Pablo Ave.

Contact: Maya Williams, mwilliams@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us, 215-4318

City Poet Laureate Dani Gabriel will host an "Out Loud" event at Off the Grid. Hear featured poets and participate in an open mic and writing activities. All ages encouraged to participate. No experience necessary.

November 8 (Thursday) - Tenant Protection Workshop, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 pm

Location: El Cerrito City Hall Council Chambers

Contact: Aissia Ashoori, aashoori@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us, 215-4361

On August 21, 2018, Community Development staff held a study session to discuss El Cerrito 2017 Affordable Housing Strategy, Pillar B: Reduce the Risk of Displacement and Help Stabilize At-Risk Populations. This workshop will allow the public to provide feedback on the draft recommended policies that will be introduced at the December 18, 2018 City Council meeting.

December 5 (Wednesday) - Out Loud Poetry Event, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

See Above

December 8 (Saturday) - Holiday Pancake Breakfast & Toy Drive, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Location: El Cerrito Community Center

Contact: recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us, 559-7000, www.el-cerrito.org/recreation

Enjoy a Pancake breakfast, visit from Santa, and a special performance by Puppet Art Theater Co. The event raises money for the David Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the toys and books donated at the event support the El Cerrito Fire Department Toy Drive.

December 8 (Saturday) - Dodgeball Tournament, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Korematsu Middle School

Contact: Sarah Perez, sperez@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us, 820-3115

The El Cerrito Police Explorer post will host a dodgeball tournament that will feature over 20 teams from Northern California competing to see which explorer post can "dodge, dip, duck, dive and dodge" the best.

December 15 – December 26 - Shadi Holiday Display, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Location: 7501 Moeser Lane

Contact: www.shadiholidaydisplay.com

See the elaborate handmade holiday pieces that have graced the hillside for more than 65 years.

January 26 (Saturday) - Crab Feed, 5 p.m.

Location: El Cerrito Community Center

Contact: recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us, 559-7000, www.el-cerrito.org/recreation

Join your friends and family to enjoy generous servings of fresh crab along with salad bread, pasta & dessert. Proceeds benefit the David Hunter Memorial Scholarship. \$50 per ticket.

PERSONNEL

Promotions

- Jose Delatorre promoted to Lieutenant
- Aaron Leone promoted to Sergeant

Separations

- Jay Marlette, Building Inspector, effective November 1
- Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, Development Services Manager, effective October 12

Attachments: Thanksgiving Camp flyer; Dodge Ball Flyer; and Gallery Space Flyer

Register Now for our



Thanksgiving Break Camp!

Register your child for one or more days of our Thanksgiving Break Camp! During camp there will be a variety of fall-themed activities, healthy physical endeavors, and lovely art projects.

Where: Harding Clubhouse
7115 "C" Street, El Cerrito

When: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
Nov 19, 20 & 21, 2018

Time: 7:00am – 6:00pm

Fees: \$64.00 / day

Register Online: www.el-cerrito/onlinereg

Activity #321324



EXCURSION INFORMATION:

NOV 19 – RIALTO CINEMAS

NOV 21 – CHUCK E CHEESE'S

EL CERRITO POLICE EXPLORER POST 0705

PRESENTS

Dodgeball

TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

10:00 - 3:00PM

KOREMATSU MIDDLE SCHOOL

EXPLORERS DODGE . DIP . DUCK . DIVE

Trophies for Top 2 Explorer Teams

Food trucks on site - Lunch provided - Costumes encouraged

Registration 10am - Warm-up 10:30am - 1st game 11am



- ✓ \$250 PER TEAM ENTRY FEE
- ✓ TEAM OF 6 EXPLORERS (+14)
- ✓ LUNCH PROVIDED
- ✓ ONLY FIRST 32 TEAMS ARE ACCEPTED
- ✓ AT LEAST 1 FEMALE PER TEAM

**More info: sperez@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 820-3115
10900 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530**

CITY HALL GALLERY SPACE

3Sum by Dean Hunsaker



November 1 through December 13, 2018

El Cerrito City Hall Gallery Space 2nd floor - 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito
Hours: Mon-Wed: 8am-4pm Tues-Thurs: 8am-6pm
(City Hall closed on Monday, November 12 for the Veterans Day holiday,
and on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, for the Thanksgiving holiday.)
Friday, November 1, 18 & 15; December 7: 8am-4pm

Sponsored by the City of El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission

