

## Celebrate Independence Day in El Cerrito

THE CITY OF El Cerrito and worldOne invite you to the 2014 July 4th Festival in Cerrito Vista Park on Friday, July 4! This long-running event offers daytime family fun and entertainment from around the world for all ages. Admission is free.

The 16th Annual worldOne Festival (a part of the City's Fourth of July Festival presented by worldOne Radio, KECG 88.1 FM) begins the annual celebration on Thursday night, July 3, with a free performance by Los Cenzontles, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Cerrito Vista Park.

On Friday, July 4, main stage performers will include: The Rusty String Express, Kamakakehau Fernandez, Orquesta La Moderna Tradición Queen Makedah, Razteria, Bang Data, Zulu Spear, and Non-Stop Bhangra. Other performers are DJ Doug Went, DJ Jimmy Love, DJ Jose Ruiz and MCDJ worldOnelove, Roger Perkins' Mohawk Friendship Dance,



African Outlet, Circus Imagination, Magical Nathaniel, and Hoopin' Heather.

Kids can enjoy the carnival games and rides, face painting, rock climbing wall, and bounce houses.

The festival also includes the El Cerrito Art Association's seventh annual 4th of July Art Show and Sale, with numerous local artists selling their work, and artist demonstrations throughout the day. And, of course, there will be food stalls featuring food from around the world, especially delicious carnival treats; vendors of colorful arts and crafts, toys, clothing, books, jewelry, and accessories; and informational booths hosted by local organizations.

There is free bike parking and limited street parking at Cerrito Vista Park. Attendees may also park in the Moeser Lane Shopping Center on San Pablo Ave. (approximately ½ mile from the park).

Sorry, dogs are not allowed at the event.

The City of El Cerrito and worldOne Radio, KECG-88.1 FM, would like to thank the following sponsors: Honda of El Cerrito, Sierra Nevada, The Natural Grocery Company,

Maria-Tina Vision, Contra Costa Community College, WCCUSD, The Whole 9, RecycleMore, J C Armstrong, Safeway Bottling Company, Olivero Plumbing, C.V.S., O'Reilly Auto Parts, J&P Properties, and other local supporters.

More information is on the City's website at <http://www.el-cerrito.org/july4festival>.

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## Addressing Tough Financial Times

EL CERRITO IS facing tough fiscal challenges that may affect the delivery of services again this year. The City is still feeling the effects of the recent economic recession and Sacramento takeaways, in which the state seized over \$10 million of local funds to address California's budget deficits over the last decade. The City has struggled to maintain its high level of service to the community, but has not been able to fill all approved police officer positions and

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## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Through August 25 SWIM CENTER SUMMER HOURS

Summertime recreational swim hours at the El Cerrito Swim Center are now in effect. For more information, ask at the entrance, call **559-7008**, or visit [www.el-cerrito.org/swimcenter](http://www.el-cerrito.org/swimcenter).

**When:** Monday–Friday, 1:30–3:30 p.m.  
Weekends, 1–4 p.m.

**Where:** Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane

### Thursday, July 3 worldOne TARDEADA

Start your Independence Day celebration early with a free performance by Los Cenizontes. The Thursday night concert is a preview for the annual City of El Cerrito worldOne July 4 Festival.

**When:** 5–7 p.m.

**Where:** Cerrito Vista Park  
950 Pomona Avenue

### July 4 Festival FRIDAY, JULY 4

Happy Fourth of July! For a list of this year's vendors and performers, see page 1 or go to [www.el-cerrito.org/july4festival](http://www.el-cerrito.org/july4festival). Free admission. Sorry, no dogs allowed.

**When:** 10 a.m.–6 p.m., music to 7 p.m.

**Where:** Cerrito Vista Park  
950 Pomona Avenue



### Saturday, July 19 / Wednesday, August 13 HOUSING ELEMENT WORKSHOPS

Help shape the future of housing in El Cerrito! As required by the State, the City is updating its Housing Element for 2015–2022, with the goal of supporting a diversity of housing types, densities, and prices, to meet the needs of current and future residents of all income levels, ages, and abilities. Discuss housing issues, share ideas, and help shape the City's plan to address the community's housing needs.

### Wednesdays, July 9 & 16 SAN PABLO AVENUE SPECIFIC PLAN MEETINGS

The City will hold a number of meetings to discuss the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan. Read more on page 5 or go online to [www.el-cerrito.org/spasp](http://www.el-cerrito.org/spasp).

**When:** July 9, 7 p.m.; July 16, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** El Cerrito City Hall  
10890 San Pablo Ave

### Saturday, July 26 SUMMER READING FESTIVAL MOVIE: STUART LITTLE

As part of "Paws to Read!," the Contra Costa County Library's Summer Reading Festival, families are invited to watch "Stuart Little" at the Rialto Cinemas Cerrito. Visit [ccclib.org/summer](http://ccclib.org/summer) or the library for more Summer Reading Festival details including how you can win prizes for reading!

**When:** 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** Rialto Cinemas Cerrito  
10070 San Pablo Ave

### Saturday & Sunday, July 26–27 RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay for Life is an overnight, community, fundraising walk organized by local volunteers and supporting the American Cancer Society. For more information, email Kim Coles at [kim.coles@cancer.org](mailto:kim.coles@cancer.org).

**When:** 10 a.m. Sat. to 10 a.m. Sun

**Where:** Cerrito Vista Park  
950 Pomona Avenue

### Tuesday, August 5, 2014 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Read more about these neighborhood block parties to increase crime prevention and awareness on page 7 and register online to host a block party on your street by going to [www.el-cerrito.org/nightout](http://www.el-cerrito.org/nightout).

**When:** Evening

**Where:** Your neighborhood

### Monday, August 18 WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

WCCUSD students return to school after their summer vacation. Please drive with caution in school zones.

### DRAFT URBAN GREENING PLAN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The City's Urban Greening Plan envisions a complete, compact community, well supported by vibrant, ecologically rich, urban, green spaces.

Thanks to the input and active participation of El Cerrito residents, the City is about to present its draft Urban Greening Plan. In late summer, staff plans to hold a workshop to provide community members with an overview of the recommendations and gather community feedback on the draft plan before it is presented to the Environmental Quality Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, and City Council for consideration and adoption in the fall of 2014.

See the article on page 5 or go online to [www.ElCerritoUrbanGreening.org](http://www.ElCerritoUrbanGreening.org) for details about the plan. For more information, call Emily Alter, Community Planning Analyst at 215-4385.



# New Ways to Connect with the City

## Tuesday, August 26 CERT TRAINING STARTS

In a disaster, you may be on your own for several days without the assistance of emergency personnel. Your neighbors are learning what to do—are you?

The 2014 Fall Session of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Trainings begins in August! To register, go to [www.el-cerrito.org/fire/cert](http://www.el-cerrito.org/fire/cert) or call 215-4450. Open to all El Cerrito and Kensington residents. Class meets weekly for 8 weeks.

**When:** 6:30–9 p.m.

**Where:** Arlington Community Church  
52 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington

## Monday, September 1 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

City administrative offices will be closed.



## Wednesday, September 10 CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

See page 6 for details about the ECPD Citizens Police Academy. Enroll online at [www.el-cerrito.org/police/citizens](http://www.el-cerrito.org/police/citizens) or call 215-4448 for more details.

## Saturday, Sept 20 TRI-CITY SAFETY DAY

Tour emergency vehicles and meet police officers and firefighters from El Cerrito, Kensington, Albany, and Richmond. Watch demonstrations, and join in activities for the whole family. Call the Fire Department, at 215-4450, during business hours, for more details.

**When:** 11 a.m.–3 p.m

**Where:** El Cerrito Plaza (in front of Lucky supermarket),  
San Pablo and Fairmount  
Avenues

**D**ID YOU KNOW, you can now sign-up to receive news or meeting notifications by email from various departments or connect with the City through social media? These are all great ways to stay informed about city programs and events.

### EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

**rECnews:** Focused on Recreation Department programs, classes, and events, plus facility updates on the Swim Center, parks, and other news. To subscribe, visit <http://el-cerrito.org/recnews>.

**Environmental E-news:** Focused on upcoming environmental activities, events, and volunteer opportunities in El Cerrito. To subscribe, visit [www.el-cerrito.org/esd/emails](http://www.el-cerrito.org/esd/emails).

**ECPD Nixle Alerts:** Focused on criminal activity, public safety, traffic hazards, community events and other news from the Police Department. Register at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

### TWITTER

The City offers multiple twitter accounts. Don't have a Twitter account? You can still read the City's tweets online! The three twitter accounts are listed on page 8.

### FACEBOOK

The City plans to launch an official Facebook page this summer. Check the website over the coming months for updates and details.

### MEETING NOTICES

Go to <http://el-cerrito.org/list.aspx> on the City's website, and sign-up for notices about meeting agendas, events, Red Flag Days, bid postings and more. You'll need to create an account, if you haven't done so already.

### OTHER RESOURCES

The Police Department (ECPD) offers more ways for the public to know about its activities, including [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com), [www.CrimeReports.com](http://www.CrimeReports.com), and a new ECPD app for smart phones. Visit [www.el-cerrito.org/police](http://www.el-cerrito.org/police) for more details on these convenient tools.

### BUDGET: *from page 1*

has had to make cuts in such areas as landscaping, maintenance, and capital improvements. Additionally, the City has had to reduce its reserves and therefore has inadequate funds set aside for emergencies and unanticipated events.

Without additional funding, the City will likely have to make further reductions to services and programs in the future. To evaluate budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year (FY14–15) and beyond, the City recently conducted a resident satisfaction survey, held a series of community meetings, and began an online interactive forum.

Community members have provided feedback on how best to reduce expenses and generate additional funding to maintain the quality of life enjoyed in El Cerrito.

Based on input from the community, the City Council is considering placing

a measure on the November 2014 ballot that will extend Measure R at the one-cent sales tax rate. Local voters previously approved Measure R in 2010. If extended at the one cent rate, every penny generated by this funding would stay in El Cerrito and only be used to maintain vital city services, giving El Cerrito local control over local funds for local needs.

Extending Measure R at the one-cent sales tax rate will help the City to provide the same excellent fire protection, law enforcement services, and after-school programs for children and teens. It would help the City to maintain the parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields used by its recreation services. This measure would provide a guaranteed source of local funding for city services that could not be taken by the State, but instead would be spent locally to keep El Cerrito financially sound.

Information on the budget is online at [www.el-cerrito.org/budget](http://www.el-cerrito.org/budget).

# Drought Increases Fire Danger

**E**ACH YEAR, CALIFORNIANS face the threat of wildfires. That risk is even worse this year, due to extraordinary drought conditions.

Since the beginning of this year (through May 31), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) have already responded to over 1,500 wildfires, including the fires in and around San Diego in mid-May that burned over 10,050 acres. All homeowners in California are encouraged to be prepared for wildfires. This is especially true for El Cerritians, because our community includes “wildland intermix areas,” along the City’s eastern border hillside, as well as nearby open space areas (including Canyon Trail Park), which are at higher risk of loss from fire.

There are simple steps you can take to dramatically increase the chance of your home surviving a wildfire. Through vegetation management, El Cerrito residents can significantly reduce the possibility that a small fire will grow into a catastrophic event. The two main principles of vegetation management are to limit fuel size, and to keep combustible fuels away from the home. By taking these precautions,



homeowners can reduce the speed at which a fire will grow, and in that way, protect their own home and the homes around them.

The Fire Department can assist homeowners in planning and developing a defensible space. Pick up a copy of the ‘Defensible Space’ brochure at any El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Station, or from [www.el-cerrito.org/fire/prevention](http://www.el-cerrito.org/fire/prevention). For additional guidance in resolving fire hazards, please contact Fire Prevention Captain David Ciappara at **215-4457**. CAL FIRE also provides resources at [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

# Drought in the Bay Area

*Guest Column by  
Michelle Blackwell, EBMUD*

**T**HIS YEAR’S EXCEPTIONAL drought means that we all must conserve more water.

So far, 2014 appears to be almost the driest year on record, second only to 1977. If you have never heard stories of the 1977 drought, just ask any El Cerrito resident over 55. Residents were required to cut use by 35%—yards died, there were bricks in toilets, and a dirty car was a badge of honor. As a result, water use in El Cerrito dropped 52% in 1977, and even now remains low. Although El Cerrito has grown since that time, overall water use in 2013 was still 30% less than in 1976. Part of the reason is the area’s conservation ethic—EBMUD customers have done a great job and embraced conservation.

The other part of the reason is that changes in technology have reduced water use in El Cerrito, and throughout the EBMUD service area. EBMUD has been preparing for another drought since 1977, and has developed a multi-faceted program that includes water conservation, recycled water programs, groundwater storage, supplemental supplies, and expanded leak detection and repair.

As a result, despite the severity of the current drought, EBMUD is only asking for 10% voluntary conservation. Additional measures are not needed at this time, but we need your help to make it through this drought. The single most effective way to save water is to fix leaks in your home or business. EBMUD’s home audit program indicates that 1 in 4 homes has a leak, and leaks account for about 17% of water use overall. Common culprits are toilets, irrigation systems, water heaters, and faucets. For information about leaks, water conservation programs, and tips on how to save water, go online to <http://www.ebmud.com/water-and-wastewater/watersmart-center>, or call **(866) 403-2683**.

## Important Election Information for El Cerrito Voters!

**THE NEXT ELECTION** is Tuesday, November 4, 2014. El Cerrito voters will have an opportunity to vote for federal and state officials, several statewide ballot measures, two City Council members, as well as possible local measures.

The last day to register to vote in the November 2014 election is October 20, 2014. Voter registration forms are available from the Contra Costa County Election Department, City Hall, Post Offices, and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The County Elections Office recently launched a new website that is easy to navigate and provides the public with the ability to perform many tasks online such as checking the status of

your registration, checking the status of your vote by mail ballot, obtaining a sample ballot/voter information guide and polling place details based on address, and finding information and resources regarding the County’s poll worker program. You can contact the County Elections Division at **(925) 35-7800** or explore the County Election Department website at [www.cocovote.us](http://www.cocovote.us).

If you have any questions about city candidates, running for local office, or election statistics, please call the City Clerk at **215-4305**, or email [cmorse@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:cmorse@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us). For questions about local measures, call **215-4318**, or email [siarla@ci.el-cerrito.org](mailto:siarla@ci.el-cerrito.org).

# Planning for El Cerrito's Future

THE CITY OF El Cerrito has been hard at work on several interrelated long-range planning efforts over the past year, with the aim of fostering environmental sustainability, economic vitality, community livability, and safety. The City aims to bring the citywide Urban Greening Plan, San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan (including the San Pablo Avenue Complete Streets Plan, and the citywide Active Transportation Plan) to the Council for adoption in the fall. There will be several community workshops and other opportunities for the community to review those plans over the summer and fall.

## URBAN GREENING PLAN

The City's Urban Greening Plan, funded by a State Proposition 84, the Urban Greening Planning Grant for Sustainable Communities, will identify projects and policies that further develop El Cerrito as a well-connected urban community, supported by vibrant, public, open spaces that offer opportunities for play, gathering, exercise, learning, and relaxation. Other objectives include supporting natural ecosystems, and promoting biodiversity and food security.

The City hosted two community workshops on the Urban Greening Plan in the fall of 2013, and was able to confirm community goals and identify possible projects and policies. This summer, the City will host a Community Design Charrette (collaborative design session) to help stakeholders draft plans for five pilot projects. The Charrette will be followed by a workshop on the draft Urban Greening Plan. For more information, visit [www.ElCerritoUrbanGreening.org](http://www.ElCerritoUrbanGreening.org) or contact Emily Alter, Community Planning Analyst at 215-4385.

## SAN PABLO AVENUE SPECIFIC PLAN

The Draft San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, along with its Draft Environmental Impact Report was released to the public for review on June 3. The Plan aims to achieve a coordinated, cohesive, more vibrant environment in the San Pablo Avenue area through the implementation of a Form-Based Code and a Complete Streets Plan.

## THE CHALLENGES

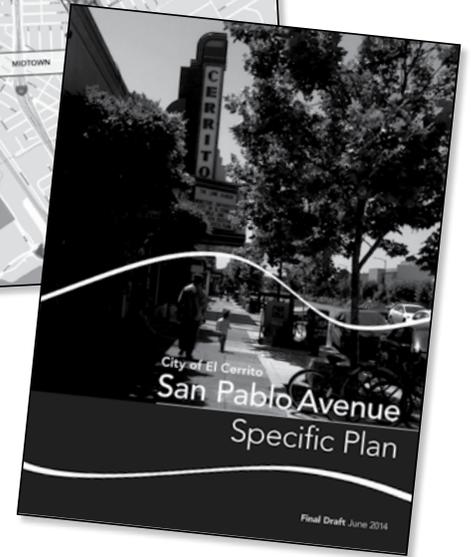
- Land use in the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan area, developed from the 1940s through the 1980s, has been dominated by auto-oriented uses.
- Large amounts of under-utilized surface parking occupy key locations near BART stations and important commercial business areas.
- More people living on or near the Avenue would help to stimulate and support economic activity on the Avenue.
- The City's Climate Action Plan calls for a reduction in overall vehicle miles travelled.
- Regional plans call for an increase in the supply of housing near transit infrastructure to accommodate the Bay Area's population growth while decreasing Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

In order to address these challenges, the Specific Plan will:

- Provide a regulatory context to facilitate and attract high quality, context sensitive development in the corridor.
- Allow new development to thoughtfully set the right amount of parking for their uses.
- Catalyze a shift to lower vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by adding new residents near transit infrastructure and improving walkability.
- Attract and grow new businesses to serve our community by bringing new residents to the corridor, providing a flexible, market-based code and improving the overall attractiveness of the Avenue.
- Create a street that will accommodate all transportation uses, including cars, bikes, buses, and pedestrians.
- Require the creation of both public and private open space to create community gathering places and offset the impacts of development.



A copy of the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan is available at the library and at City Hall.



- Consider shade impacts
- Establish new development review procedures that emphasize the importance of community input into the design process

There will be a public meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Report on July 9, at 7 p.m., at City Hall. Also, the Planning Commission will conduct a study session on the Specific Plan on July 16, at 7:30 p.m., at City Hall.

The Specific Plan will have a big effect on everyone who lives, works, and travels along San Pablo Avenue. To sign up to receive ongoing information about these planning efforts, please contact Emily Alter at 215-4385 or [calter@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:calter@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us). Or visit our webpage at [www.el-cerrito.org/SPASP](http://www.el-cerrito.org/SPASP) to learn about upcoming workshops or to view a copy of the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report. (The documents are also available for review at the library and at City Hall.)

For more information about these planning efforts, contact Melanie Mintz, Interim Community Development Director at [mmintz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:mmintz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or 215-4339.

# New Housing Under Construction

**O**N APRIL 22, the City of El Cerrito and Resources for Community Development celebrated breaking ground on the new Ohlone Gardens—a multi-family development to include 57 affordable apartments in a 4-story, mixed-use development, at the transit-friendly location of 6495 Portola Drive in El Cerrito. Resources for Community Development, a non-profit housing developer based in Berkeley, is the sponsor of this \$28 million project.

Construction activities are currently underway at the site, located in midtown just east of San Pablo Avenue. The project should be completed by September, 2015.

The Ohlone Gardens development, together with the affordable senior housing project currently under development by Eden Housing, will help the City meet its goal of increasing the housing supply. “Being able to provide needed housing also helps with economic development and revitalization of our commercial base,” said Melanie Mintz, the City’s Interim Community Development Director.

The development also includes a 3,200 square foot commercial space fronting Portola Drive. Resources for Community Development is currently seeking tenants for the commercial space.

The residential units will be a mix of 18 one-bedrooms, 21 two-bedrooms, and 18 three-bedrooms. Ten units will be reserved for residents with special needs.

Three of these ten will be fully accessible, and the rest will be adapted to the needs of the residents. Housing at Ohlone Gardens will be restricted to those with household incomes that are 30 to 50 percent of the Area Median Income (\$27,600–\$46,000 for a family of four), with rents expected to range from \$546–\$836 for a one-bedroom, to \$696–\$1,160 for a three-bedroom unit.

The residential units will surround a large, landscaped courtyard. Amenities will include community room with kitchen, computer lab and meeting space, fitness and teen room, central laundry, secure parking, and property management services. The project will incorporate sustainable green features, including renewable technologies, and is expected to receive a GreenPoint Rating of 125 points or more. Future residents will have easy access to the Ohlone Greenway, BART, and AC Transit bus lines, as well as restaurants, retail, and other services.

For more information, see the Resources for Community Development website at [www.rcdhousing.org](http://www.rcdhousing.org). Families



interested in living in this new development can connect with RCD through their website or call RCD’s resident interest line at **841-5046**, as the project nears completion. The interest list for the project will open in January, 2015.

The City of El Cerrito supports affordable, transit-oriented development that will revitalize the San Pablo Avenue Corridor and strengthen the area’s identity. The City’s investment in the Ohlone Gardens development was made possible by the former El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency Housing Set-Aside Fund, which provided \$3.5 million of funding for this project.

The City continues to promote public and private investment in the San Pablo Avenue Corridor area, through planning initiatives such as the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan and Complete Streets Plan, the Urban Greening Plan, the Ohlone Greenway Master Plan, and the Citywide Active Transportation Plan. (See page 5 for more information.)

The City regulates and monitors all construction projects, including limits on hours of construction, construction truck routes, stormwater runoff practices, and much more. For details on this development, including more information on construction related questions, please visit [www.el-cerrito.org/ohlonegardens](http://www.el-cerrito.org/ohlonegardens).

## Time to Renew Your Business License

**DO YOU** operate a business or rent property in El Cerrito? If so, your annual business license expires on June 30. By now, you should recently have received a courtesy renewal notice, but even if you didn’t receive your notice, you will need to complete a renewal form and pay the required business license tax by July 31, 2014 to avoid a late fee.

The City of El Cerrito requires anyone who engages in business within city limits to obtain a business license and pay the license tax. This includes

anyone who owns commercial or residential rental property. Quarterly and semiannual licenses are available for some business categories.

To operate your business legally in El Cerrito, you may also need a City-issued use or building permits. Some types of businesses also need licenses or permits from the State of California or Contra Costa County.

For more information about business licenses, check the City Finance Department’s webpage: [www.el-cerrito.org/bl](http://www.el-cerrito.org/bl) or call **215-4335**.

## Volunteers in Police Service

**I**N 2013, THE El Cerrito Police Department (ECPD) began a Citizen Volunteer program. The program is affiliated with the Volunteers in Police program, and endorsed by the International Chiefs of Police. El Cerrito residents who have time to donate to community service and an interest in law enforcement can assist the ECPD through the VIPs program.

The unit now has 6 uniformed Volunteers. They can be seen at all public outreach events, such as National Night Out, Tip a Cop, the July 4th Festival, and the K9 Crab Feed. Volunteers also serve as role players during ECPD training and ride along with patrol officers to help them stay engaged with the community.

All training and uniforms are provided by the ECPD. It is recommended that volunteers complete the Citizens Academy, but it is not required. The Department is always recruiting volunteers.

Requirements can be viewed online at [www.el-cerrito.org/police/vips](http://www.el-cerrito.org/police/vips). Above all, an applicant should have a positive attitude and a willingness to be involved. We look forward to putting the skills of the public to work for the community.

If you are interested in the challenge, contact the ECPD to begin the application process. For questions about VIPs you can also call Lt. Robert De La Campa at **215-4448**.



*El Cerrito Police Department's 2013 Volunteer of the Year, Todd Nowajewski*

## National Night Out 2014

**THIS YEAR'S** National Night Out will be on Tuesday, August 5. With over 30 block parties every year, this is the biggest crime prevention and awareness event of the year in El Cerrito, and a great way for law enforcement and other branches of local government to

meet the public. McGruff the Crime Dog and Sparky the Fire Dog also make appearances on National Night Out!



*El Cerrito Police Cadet Eddie Perales talking with some young El Cerritans.*

At a Night Out block party, neighbors gather to discuss crime prevention issues, meet each other, and strengthen community tie. Some groups do BBQs in the street, some do ice cream parties in their homes, and others host block parties at nearby parks. How you participate is up to you, but the important part is to be involved.

Register now to host a block party in your neighborhood! To register, call Lt. Robert De La Campa at **215-4448** or visit the ECPD Night Out web page, <http://www.el-cerrito.org/nightout>

## Citizens' Police Academy

**T**HE EL CERRITO Police Department (ECPD) hosts its third annual Citizens' Police Academy this fall.

The Academy's mission is to communicate to citizens how much our officers care about their profession and their service to the community. Participants learn how the ECPD operates and the reasons behind our procedures. Topics include a K9 demonstration, a mock crime scene investigation, driving simulators, the use of force simulators, and presentations by the traffic and school resources units. Each participant also gets to ride along with a patrol officer.

Some program alumni have decided to serve the community by becoming members of our Volunteers in Police Service Unit. One even became an El Cerrito Police Officer!

The next Citizens' Police Academy will begin on September 10. Classes will meet weekly for 8 weeks, plus one full Saturday in October.

The Academy is part of the ECPD's public outreach program. It is a great way to become involved with the Department and the City of El Cerrito. The experiences offered during the Citizens' Academy relate to real-life situations and helps to build a better understanding of the Police Department by participants. The Academy also provides an opportunity for the department to hear directly from residents about their expectations of police services.

Citizens' Academy participants must be 18 years or older, reside in El Cerrito and pass a background check before being accepted into the Citizens' Police Academy. (*Note:* Exceptions to the residency restriction will be considered on an individual basis.) Completion of the CPA is a great way to begin service with the ECPD as a Police Volunteer!

If you are interested in attending, please view our web page and enroll online at [www.el-cerrito.org/police/cpa](http://www.el-cerrito.org/police/cpa). For questions about the Academy, please call Lt. Robert De La Campa at **215-4448**.

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

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*The City of El Cerrito serves, leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.*

**EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL**

Janet Abelson, Mayor  
 Rebecca Benassini, Mayor Pro Tem  
 Jan Bridges  
 Mark Friedman  
 Greg Lyman

**CITY WEBSITE** [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org)

**TWITTER** @cityofelcerrito  
 @ElCerritoREC  
 @ElCerritoPD

**City Hall Holidays (office closed):**

Independence Day—July 4  
 Labor Day—September 1

**City Council regular meetings:**

July 15  
 August 19  
 September 22 (Monday)  
 October 7 and 21

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

To watch meetings online, go online to [www.el-cerrito.org](http://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 215-4362  
 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 237-3233  
 Fire Administration 215-4450  
 Police Administration 215-4400

# Open El Cerrito

THE CITY OF El Cerrito has a new online engagement forum, where community members can read what others have to say, and join the conversation by posting their own opinions. The forum is online at [www.el-cerrito.org/openelcerrito](http://www.el-cerrito.org/openelcerrito). It can also be accessed by visiting [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org), and clicking on the “Open El Cerrito” button at the top right corner of the screen.

“In addition to meetings, Open El Cerrito is another way to engage in a conversation with the community,” said Suzanne Iarla, Community Outreach Specialist. As with any public comment process, participation in Open Town Hall is voluntary. The City Council considers all input from the community, now including the forum, as it makes its decisions.

However you participate, the city thanks you for helping to build a better El Cerrito. Together we can make this a safe, connected, and environmentally focused, Bay Area destination. It is our vision to build a city of vibrant neighborhoods, businesses and public places, one that offers diverse cultural, educational and recreational opportunities for people of all ages.

