

Ballot Measure to Improve Parks and Recreation

ON JULY 16, the El Cerrito City Council voted unanimously to place Measure H on the November 2019 ballot. Measure H is an extension of Measure A, a parks and recreation parcel tax passed by voters in 2000. Measure H would enable the City to improve and maintain parks and recreation facilities into the future by continuing Measure A funding at the current tax rates.

The funds provided by Measure A in 2000 were used to rebuild and renovate the El Cerrito Swim Center, among other projects. Capital improvements included installation of the Splash Park, new heaters, landscape improvements, and energy efficiency upgrades. Funds were also used to rehabilitate the Canyon Trail Clubhouse

and upgrade restrooms at the Harding, Huber, and Poinsett Park Clubhouses.

Now, almost 20 years later, the City has developed new goals, plans, and projects to meet the community's continuing need for high quality parks and recreation facilities and services. Parks are widely enjoyed by residents. The El Cerrito parks and recreation system consists of 16 City parks, the greenway, two special-use open spaces, the Swim Center, and 15 recreation buildings. The City owns 155 acres of parkland and an additional 175 acres of parkland are maintained and operated by the City, including 102 acres of dedicated open space.

This past April, the City Council approved the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, outlining the multiple goals, priorities, and projects that are needed to provide high-quality services at parks and open spaces throughout the City. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is summarized at www.el-cerrito.org/ParksMP. The overarching goals are to:

- enhance El Cerrito's park network
- enhance El Cerrito's recreation facilities
- support recreation programs
- improve pathways and trails
- improve natural areas

To realize these goals, we need a continued, dedicated, restricted funding source to solidify our commitment to parks and recreation. Funds from Measure H will continue to provide this source. If Measure H is extended at the current tax rate of \$58.46 per year for single-family homes (and other rates for other property types), the City can continue to fund maintenance and improvements to parks and recreation facilities, as detailed in the Master Plan.



EVAN CLARK

These funds would be restricted to the uses described in the Master Plan, including:

- maintaining Swim Center pools, locker rooms, and restrooms
- protecting natural areas, greenways, and open space
- increasing urban forest and vegetation management, including fire hazard reduction
- maintaining and improving program space for children, families, adults, and seniors
- maintaining and improving City parks, paths, and playfields
- replacing aging playgrounds and improving safety
- addressing seismic issues at recreation facilities
- upgrading irrigation systems to conserve water
- improving trash and litter cleanup

Measure H will contain the same strict accountability and oversight controls found in the original Measure A passed in 2000. The City's independent auditor and the Financial Advisory Board will review revenue and expenditure of funds annually. Additionally, the City Council will submit expenditures to the Park and Recreation Commission so that the commission can review for alignment with the Master Plan.

Measure H renewal will appear on the November ballot. For more information, go to www.el-cerrito.org/2019Measure, or contact City Clerk Holly Charléty at hcharley@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

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THE CITY OF EL CERRITO serves, leads and supports our diverse and transit-rich community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

CALENDAR

**Saturday, September 14
and Sunday, September 22**

National Drive Electric Week

3rd Annual Berkeley Event
Saturday, September 14

Berkeley Farmers' Market, Civic Center Park
1940 Allston Way, Berkeley, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Richmond Event

Thursday, September 19

Richmond Civic Center, 450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, noon–3 p.m.

Interested in buying an electric car? Learn about the benefits and savings while having fun driving an electric vehicle during National Drive Electric Week. Join the City of El Cerrito's Environmental Quality Committee in supporting these National Drive Electric Week events. For more information go to www.driveelectricweek.org/events.php.

Saturday, September 21

El Cerrito Green Teams Coastal Cleanup

3499 Santa Clara Ave., 10 a.m.–noon

On Coastal Cleanup Day, join El Cerrito Green Teams in removing trash along Cerrito Creek. Meet at El Cerrito's Creekside Park, at the south end of Santa Clara Ave. All ages welcome. There's a play structure for very young children. Tools, gloves, bags, snacks, and water supplied. For more information about Coastal Cleanup Day, visit www.coastal.ca.gov, or contact City staff at 510-215-4350 or green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Month of October

October is Arts Month!

The Arts and Culture Commission encourages everyone to participate in and support the arts and humanities in El Cerrito—especially during Arts Month! Visit www.el-cerrito.org/ArtsMonth for a list of events and shows.

Saturday, September 21

Tri-City Safety at El Cerrito Plaza

In front of Lucky's, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

The El Cerrito Fire Department is hosting the annual Tri-City Safety Day in late September! Families are invited to see a display of emergency vehicles and equipment, talk to police officers and firefighters, watch demonstrations, visit information booths, and join in fun activities for the whole family! Representatives from the following agencies will be among those at the event: Police and Fire Departments from the cities of Albany, El Cerrito, and Kensington; Richmond Fire Department; AMR; Contra Costa County Environmental Health Team (County HAZMAT) and Animal Rescue/Control; Milo Foundation (pet adoption); and the East Bay Regional Park District. Special appearances by McGruff the Crime Dog, Sparky the Fire Prevention Dog, and Smokey the Bear. Throughout the day, kids can tour the Fire Safety Trailer and watch demonstrations of the *jaws of life*.

Wednesday, October 2

Annual Senior Resource Fair

El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane
9:30 a.m.–noon

Get information on senior options for services such as transportation, education, public health, housing, entertainment, city and county services, and volunteer opportunities. Door prizes included! Free lunch and free rides for El Cerrito residents. To find out more, call 510-559-7677 or e-mail midtown@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

**Friday, October 4 through
Sunday, October 6**

El Cerrito Art Association Annual Art Show

El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane

This yearly show includes entries in a variety of media, such as oil painting, watercolor, acrylic, drawing, photography, digital, mixed media, and sculpture. Up to 300 entries will be on display, with special sales of unframed work on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, go to www.elcerritoart.org.



SHARON HOPKINS

Saturday, October 5

Fall Citywide Garage Sale

Locations throughout El Cerrito, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Keep waste out of the landfill while exploring your community and finding great deals. Maps of sale locations will be available. Go online to www.el-cerrito.org/GarageSale for more information.



Saturday, October 12

Litquake at the Library: 20-in-20

El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave.
2–4 p.m.

2019 is Litquake's 20th anniversary! To celebrate, former El Cerrito Poet Laureate Maw Shein Win, will host an evening of readings by local poets laureate, current and former. Poets will include (clockwise, from upper left): Ciera-Jevae Gordon, Richmond (current); Maw Shein Win, El Cerrito (former); Dani Gabriel, El Cerrito (current); Lisa Rosenberg, San Mateo County (former); Aileen Casinetta, San Mateo County (current); and Rebecca Black, Albany (current).



Saturday, October 12

Annual Fire Prevention Week Open House

Fire Station 72, 1520 Arlington Blvd.
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to tour the fire station, talk to our firefighters, and ask those fire safety questions you have always wanted to ask. Come see us where we live and learn about tools that we use! Questions? Call the El Cerrito Fire Department at 510-215-4450.

**Saturday, October 12
and Saturday, October 19**

Fall Book Sale

El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave.
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Come to the Friends of the El Cerrito Library's Annual Fall Sale featuring books, DVDs, CDs, and other items for children and adults. For more information, go online to the Friends website at www.friendselcerritolibrary.wordpress.com/.

Sunday, October 13

Talk on Creedence Clearwater Revival

El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane, 2 p.m.

Fifty years ago, Creedence Clearwater Revival, the El Cerrito-born rock'n'roll band, became the most popular band in the world. The El Cerrito Historical Society presents a free talk about CCR's first decade from a music scholar with a special interest in East Bay music.

Sunday, October 13

El Cerrito Rotary's 2019 Sip & Savor

Berkeley Country Club, 7901 Cutting Blvd.
2:30–5:30 p.m.

This year's Sip & Savor features fine vintners, artisanal beer makers, and other purveyors of sips, sweets, and savory delights such as spirit mixers, olive oil, balsamic vinegars, chocolate, cheese, and artisan bread. For information and tickets go to www.cerritovistasipandsavor.com/tickets.

Tuesday, October 22

Mystery Week Writer's Panel

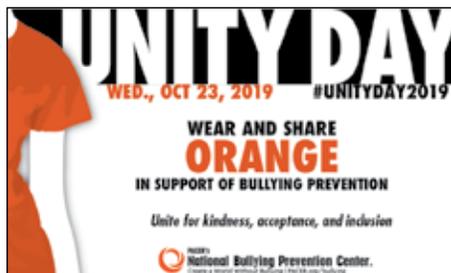
El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., 6 p.m.

Authors from the local chapter of Mystery Writers of America speak about the joys, foils, and foibles of writing mysteries. Q&A to follow. Authors include Kelli Stanley, Gigi Pandian, S.A. Lelchuk, and Terry Shames.

Wednesday, October 23

Unity Day

Wear orange to send a message of support, hope, and unity. Together, we will show that we are united *against* bullying and *for* kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.



Saturday, October 26

El Cerrito Free Folk Festival

El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury Ave.
noon–10 p.m.

This exciting event features performances and workshops from world-renowned and local musicians, with open mic and jam sessions. There will be two stages for performances, music and dance workshops, a family program, and spaces for spontaneous jams. Listen, learn, play, and enjoy live music. Co-sponsored by the El Cerrito Art and Culture Commission. For more information, visit www.elcerritofreefolkfestival.org.



Saturday, October 26

Halloween Carnival & Haunted House

El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane

Join us if you dare for a Halloween scare! Goblins and ghosts will enjoy carnival games, bounce houses, and our infamous Haunted House. For details, visit www.el-cerrito.org/821. If you or your group would like to volunteer for Haunted House set-up or to help out at the carnival, please email recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.



Monday, November 11

Veterans Day Holiday

All City offices will be closed.

**Monday, November 25 through
Wednesday, November 27**

Thanksgiving Week Camp

WCCUSD will be closed all of Thanksgiving week. To fill this gap, the Recreation Department will host a three-day camp at the Harding Clubhouse for children in grades K–6. For more information, contact the department at 510-559-7000 or email recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

**Thursday, November 28
and Friday, November 29**

Thanksgiving Holiday

All City offices will be closed.

1st Wednesday of Every Month

Free Tour of the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center

El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental
Resource Center, 7501 Schmidt Lane, 3 p.m.

Join the City for a behind-the-scenes look at the LEED Platinum Certified Recycling Center. Tours at an alternative time can be scheduled for a fee. For more information, call City staff at 510-559-7686.

El Cerrito Recycling Center Winter Hours

Starting November 1, the Recycling Center will return to Winter hours. Drop off your recyclables Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:45 p.m. or weekends, 9 a.m.–4:45 p.m. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) will still be collected on Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Recycling Update

DUE TO UNPRECEDENTED changes significantly depressing international recycling markets, single-stream curbside recyclables now receive little or no compensation. In fact, recycling processors throughout the United States are shifting to a model of charging municipalities to accept these materials. New costs have also affected the City's recycling programs.

The City Council held a public hearing on June 4 to discuss these unexpected costs and market conditions and concluded that it is necessary to increase the Integrated Waste Management (IWM) fee charged to residents for processing curbside recyclables. The raise, which began on July 1, increases pickup rates by \$1 to \$2 per month for the typical El Cerrito customer.

On June 18, the council authorized a switch to Napa Recycling and Solid Waste Services (NRSW) to process recyclables from the City's curbside program. Switching to NRSW has resulted in little change to the materials accepted in our curbside program—with a few notable exceptions. The curbside program will continue to accept all classes of durable plastics (such as laundry baskets, buckets, and crates) and single use plastic containers (such as bottles, yogurt tubs, and #1 PET "clamshell" containers). It will also now accept paper-based milk cartons and aseptic cartons (for example, Tetra Pak). However, the program will not accept certain types of problematic plastics, including plastic bags and plastic items smaller than two inches by two inches (such as plastic utensils, straws, and small take-out salsa cups) because these are difficult to process.

With all these changes, the City has produced a new brochure, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Recycling, Green Waste, and Garbage Services*. Please go online to www.el-cerrito.org/RecyclingUpdates to download an electronic version.

For more information, contact the City's Operations + Environmental Services Division at 510-215-4350.

San Pablo Specific Plan Update

THE PURPOSE OF the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan (Plan), adopted by the City Council in 2014, is to communicate plans and provide regulations for development along San Pablo Avenue. Under the provisions of the Plan, San Pablo Avenue will provide more creative public spaces and a more walkable and livable experience for both residents and visitors. Integrating the work of artists while adding new residential, commercial, and mixed-used development along the Avenue maximizes urban design and ensures that the diverse needs of our community are met.

Since the Plan was adopted, approximately 930 new residential housing units, 124 new hotel rooms, and 20,000 sq. ft. of new commercial space (representing 8–12 spaces for new businesses) have been approved at 13 locations. Each of these approved projects was required to contribute public art or pay an in-lieu fee that allows the City to create public art. Projects over 25,000 sq. ft. were also required to contribute public open space or pay an in-lieu fee that allows the City to improve existing open spaces and create new ones. Visit www.el-cerrito.org/MajorProjects for more information on each of these new developments.

PUBLIC ART

The El Cerrito Municipal Code (Chapter 13.50, Art in Public Places) requires the integration of public art into all new commercial and residential projects with five or more units. The art must be designed by a visual art professional working in



Mayfair will feature 3,945 square feet of public open space that will serve as a pedestrian walkway.

one of several media, including sculpture, painting, graphics, mosaics, crafts, or mixed media.

All projects with development costs exceeding \$250,000 are required to spend 1% of those costs (but not more than \$150,000) to provide public art on-site or pay an in-lieu fee in the same amount to be used by the City's Public Art Fund. Funds are allocated for the acquisition, funding, and placement of art on public property in the City, and their expenditure is overseen by the City's Arts and Culture Commission. To date, nine of the new projects are providing public art on-site and over \$500,000 has been committed in in-lieu fees. Visit www.el-cerrito.org/ACC for more about the Public Art Fund.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The Plan requires residential and non-residential projects of 25,000 sq. ft. or greater to provide on-site public open space equal to 25 sq. ft. per 1,000 sq. ft. of the building. Public open space provides for community enjoyment in many ways and creates a more vibrant urban environment for residents and visitors. The spaces include plazas, pocket parks, and midblock connections that make open areas more accessible. Eight of the new projects have cumulatively contributed about 21,000 sq. ft. of new public open space in the form of corner plazas and two mid-block connections. Over \$440,000 of in-lieu fees have been committed, which helped the City rebuild Centennial Park, and the balance will continue to be invested in other open space opportunities.

COMMERCIAL SPACE

New business activity is also coming to San Pablo Avenue. The Plan set the framework for new development by requiring ground floor commercial uses in certain locations on the Avenue. The City has approved over 23,000 sq. ft. of new commercial space in the uptown, downtown, and midtown areas.



(Above) 10919 San Pablo Ave., a 90-unit residential project, will include 3,000 sq. ft. of ground floor commercial space. (Below) Improvements to Centennial Park were partially funded through public open space in-lieu fees.

In addition, a new 124-room hotel, with ground floor commercial space, has been approved at the corner of Cutting Boulevard and San Pablo Avenue. The City looks forward to welcoming businesses to these new locations and to residents being able to walk to, eat in, and shop at local businesses.

These developments along San Pablo Avenue bring new investment, much-needed housing near transit, and many public amenities. They will enhance the community, enrich the culture, and stimulate economic development.

For more information about development or the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, please go online to www.el-cerrito.org/SPASP, call the Community Development Department at 510-215-4362, or email community@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Wildfire Safety— Get Ready, Be Ready!

IN AUGUST, every resident of El Cerrito and Kensington was mailed a wildfire preparedness booklet. This booklet was designed to help you protect your family, home, and neighborhood in wildfire season. Please review the information in the packet and commit to helping your community defend against wildfires by preparing now for your needs during the fire season.

As part of its Community Wildfire Safety Program, PG&E is also implementing new precautionary measures to reduce the risk of wildfires. If extreme fire danger conditions threaten a portion of the electric system serving the community, it may be necessary to turn off the electricity in the interest of public safety. This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). PG&E is predicting at least half a dozen PSPS events this year, lasting three to seven days. You can find more information about PG&E's fire safety and PSPS events at www.prepareforpowerdown.com.

Also, if you have not already done so, take time to register your cell phone with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) at www.cwsalerts.com and encourage your neighbors to do the same. CWS will alert you to life-threatening incidents such as wildfires. It may save your life in an emergency.



El Cerrito firefighters conduct a prescribed burn in the Hillside Natural Area to reduce fuel.



Fire Prevention Week

ON FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, fire departments all over the country commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of October 1871. More than 250 people died in that tragic event and 17,000 buildings were destroyed. Each October, the National Fire Protection Association sponsors

a fire prevention campaign and designates the first full week of October as Fire Prevention Week.

This year's theme is *Not Every Hero Wears a Cape—Plan and Practice Your Escape!* During October, the Fire Department will be out in the community and the schools, spreading fire safety messages to keep everyone as safe as possible.

On October 12, Fire Station 72 at 1520 Arlington Boulevard, El Cerrito, will hold its annual Open House. Everyone is welcome. Join us for a tour of the fire station, talk to the firefighters, and ask those fire safety questions you have always wanted to ask. See us where we live and learn about the tools we use! Questions? Call the El Cerrito Fire Department at [510-215-4450](tel:510-215-4450).



Our Families: Love, Dare, and Grow

WHO IS FAMILY? How do you know?

El Cerrito Poet Laureate Dani Gabriel has begun work on a multidisciplinary project to explore changing ideas of family in our evolving community. This project, supported by the California Arts Council and the El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission, promotes connection across difference and the many ways people can come together to form supportive and nurturing families. It also looks deeply at a changing Bay Area and the ways families change in response to economic and cultural shifts as well as how physical and social space impact families in El Cerrito.

Dani's work will include two art projects and two community events. The events are an opportunity for families to write about who they are, what makes them different as a family, and how it feels to be a family in this particular place. The first of these took place at this year's 4th of July Festival and the second will happen in May 2020. At these events, Dani will also introduce her long-term projects: a manuscript-in-progress that looks at these concepts and a series of creative essays, co-written with El Cerrito families and paired with photographs.

The project will culminate in a public reading, where Dani will debut new pieces from her manuscript, families will read from the essays they have co-created with her, and family photographs will be on display. If you'd like to be interviewed or to find out more about Dani's work, email poetlaureate@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or visit www.el-cerrito.org/PoetLaureate.

El Cerrito STARS Program of 2019

THE EC STARS program, in partnership with West Contra Costa Unified School District's Summer Pathways Program, provides El Cerrito High School students with an opportunity to intern in various City departments. One of this year's STARS has written this story about the program.

My name is Michelle Li, and this summer I was a part of the EC STARS program, working in the Finance Department and the City Manager's Office. There were five other interns: Vonne Ng Bader (Fire), Anna Madrid (Recreation), Jessenia Ponce (Public Works), Aaradhya Poudyal (IT), and Jullisa Rodriguez (Police).

Coming into the internship, I had no idea what local government was, nor the time-consuming activities it consisted of.

Homeowner Transfer Tax Rebates

PROPERTY SALES IN El Cerrito are now subject to a Real Property Transfer Tax (RPTT) equal to 1.2% of the sales price. However, this tax can be partially rebated. Buyers and sellers may be eligible for a rebate if they undertake certain upgrades.

Qualifying projects include seismic upgrades to improve the ability of a structure to withstand damage in an earthquake; installation of electric vehicle supply equipment or charging stations; installation of rooftop solar energy systems; or certain other energy and water conservation projects.

Work must be completed within a period starting one year before the transfer and ending one year after. The maximum rebate is one-third of the tax paid. If the work qualifying for the rebate is completed prior to the transfer of property, seller and buyer decide who will apply for and receive the rebate. If the work is done after the transfer, the rebate goes to the buyer.

For more information regarding the RPTT rebate and eligible projects, visit www.el-cerrito.org/TransferTaxRebate.

The experience allowed me to look at my hometown from a completely different perspective. My co-interns and I not only learned about the amount of work a City must put in, we experienced it firsthand. For example, to prepare for the 4th of July Festival, I mailed 540 letters to residents regarding road closures; Anna helped vendors set up booths and diligently sliced tomatoes for three hours straight, prior to the event; and Jessenia explained the importance of recycling to anyone who asked.

I had exciting days of working on business licenses, creating a list of legislative priorities, and interviewing department heads, but we all had our exhilarating moments.

Jullisa, in Police, was tasked with finding architects and construction dates for police department buildings in other counties, and she also occasionally went on rides with officers. One time she even saw a car crash into a CVS!

Although Aaradhya and Vonne were not as involved in outdoor activities, they played a big part in making sure the City ran smoothly. Aaradhya worked on automation and systems management and learned about electronics, while Vonne created a new emergency bag and plan for fires and other natural disasters.

There was a diverse range of tasks, like answering emails or recycling questions; setting up new phones and computers; and teaching the elderly how to use electronic devices—but, in all cases, our work involved helping the City.

These experiences were made possible by the program mentors. I realized that our City is great, not only because the people who work within it are hard working and capable, but because everyone truly cares for the City and its residents. The experiences we gained cannot be described by mere words. This and the connections we built are irreplaceable to us, and we are thankful to have been able to participate.



EC STARS Interns, Summer 2019 (l to r): Michelle Li, Vonne Ng Bader, Jessenia Ponce, Aaradhya Poudyal, Anna Madrid, and Jullisa Rodriguez

Go Solar or Gasoline-free with SunShares

ARE YOU INTERESTED in putting solar panels on your house or driving an electric vehicle? The City of El Cerrito has teamed up with other Bay Area cities and the San Francisco-based Business Council on Climate Change (BC3) to provide a solar and electric vehicle (EV) group-buying program called SunShares. The program makes it easier and more affordable for Bay Area residents to go solar or to purchase an electric vehicle by vetting contractors, offering discounts, holding free workshops, and generally helping renters learn more about clean energy options. Participants can also find out about a Federal Tax Credit that incentivizes clean energy upgrades.



Register now to receive a no-cost, no-obligation solar proposal, an EV discount code, and financing options. Workshops explaining the program will be available in the fall, with one at El Cerrito City Hall on October 3 at 6:30 p.m. To register for the program, visit www.bayareasunshares.org. For more information about workshops, contact BC3 at sunshares@bc3sfbay.org or the City of El Cerrito's Environmental Analyst, Will Provost, at 510-525-7622.



Switch to the Clipper-Only All-In-One Bay Area Transit Card

THE METROPOLITAN Transportation Commission has prioritized use of the new Clipper card as an all-in-one Bay Area transit card. This

has prompted BART to create a timetable for switching to a Clipper-only fare payment system. When the timetable is complete, the only fare product available for purchase at BART stations will be the reusable, reloadable, and regionally accepted Clipper card. This is already the case at some stations.

BART instituted a pilot program to eliminate the sale of the paper magstripe tickets at the following four stations this summer, with systemwide expansion expected in 2020:

- 19th Street and Embarcadero in August
- Powell Street on September 3
- Downtown Berkeley on September 24

While magstripe paper tickets will no longer be sold at those stations, riders can still use paper tickets to enter or exit the fare gates. Riders will be able to add funds to a paper ticket when they exit the station, using the add fare machines located inside the paid area of each station.

The Clipper card has many advantages over paper tickets:

- Clipper saves riders money. Adult paper tickets add 50 cents per trip—\$1 per round trip. A Clipper card has a one-time acquisition fee of \$3, paying for itself within three roundtrips.
- Clipper is reusable and long-lasting, unlike paper tickets that get worn and tattered.
- Clipper is accepted by nearly all transit agencies in the region and many offer discounted fares for Clipper use.
- Riders can set up their Clipper card account to reload automatically, saving time and eliminating the inconvenience of reloading.

- The loaded value on the Clipper card is secure with a registered card. If you lose the card, the balance will be replaced for a nominal fee.
- Your Clipper card can be linked to a BART EZ Rider parking account, for a fast and easy way to pay BART parking.
- The tag in and out system allows Clipper card users to move through fare gates faster.
- Clipper cards can be purchased at all BART station as well as retail outlets throughout the region.
- With paper tickets no longer jamming the fare gates, Clipper cards mean more open gates, shorter lines, and less fare gate maintenance.
- Clipper usage reduces the paper waste of the magstripe tickets.

To learn more about BART's Clipper-only efforts go to www.bart.gov/tickets.

Plan Your Commute to Reduce Air Pollution

WARMER TEMPERATURES are here and so are *Spare the Air* alerts. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District reminds residents that they can improve air quality by driving less. Fewer cars on the road means fewer smoggy days.

Ground-level ozone, also known as smog, is the primary air pollutant during warm months in the Bay Area. Poor air quality in the area affects everyone—but children, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with respiratory problems such as asthma or bronchitis, are at even higher risk.

Driving less is the best way to prevent air pollution. Plan ahead for your commute by visiting www.bayareacommuetips.org, an excellent resource on commute alternatives and transportation incentives in each of the nine Bay Area counties.

By working to ensure that everyone has the knowledge and tools they need to make a difference, we can reduce air pollution—and *Spare the Air* alerts. Below are some alternative approaches to transportation that may work for you.

- **Work from home**
Many employers know the benefits of allowing employees to work from home one day per week or more. Employees can get more work done without the usual office interruptions. Ask your employer about telecommuting—especially during *Spare the Air* alerts.
- **Carpool to work**
If telecommuting isn't an option, think about sharing a ride during a *Spare the Air* alert. Carpooling can significantly reduce the number of cars on Bay Area roads, reducing air pollution as a result.



- **Take public transit**
Check out the schedules in your area to prepare for using public transit on a *Spare the Air* day. To plan your trip, go online to www.511.org or www.bayareacommuetips.org.
- **Link your errands into one big trip**
You'll reduce pollution, save fuel, and save time.

For more information about *Spare the Air* alerts, visit www.sparetheair.org and follow **Spare the Air** on Facebook, on Twitter [@SpareTheAir](https://twitter.com/SpareTheAir), and on Instagram [@sparetheair](https://www.instagram.com/sparetheair).

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL:
PLEASE DELIVER BY SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

POSTAL CUSTOMER



DIRECTORY

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto,
Mayor

Greg Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem

Janet Abelson

Paul Fadelli

Gabe Quinto

CITY WEBSITE

www.el-cerrito.org

CITY COUNCIL

FALL MEETINGS

September 17

October 1 and 15

November 5 and 19

December 3 and 17

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

To watch meetings online, go to www.el-cerrito.org and click on **City Council**.

The City Council meeting agenda packets are available online, five days prior to City Council meetings, at www.el-cerrito.org/archive.

CITY HALL FALL HOLIDAYS

(offices closed)

Veterans Day
November 11

Thanksgiving
November 28 and 29

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

(Area codes 510, unless otherwise listed)

CITY HALL

10890 San Pablo Ave.

City Clerk

Passport Services ... 215-4371
M–Th, 9 a.m.–noon

City Management

City Clerk 215-4305

City Council 215-4305

City Manager 215-4300

Human Resources 215-4315

Community Development

Building 215-4360

Code Enforcement 215-4363

Planning 215-4359

Economic
Development 215-4362

Housing 215-4361

Finance

Finance Office 215-4323

Public Works

After-hours/
Emergency 215-4369

Maintenance/
Corporation Yard ... 215-4369

Engineering 215-4382

Recycling & Waste
Management 215-4350

Recycling + Environmental
Resource Center
7501 Schmidt Lane ... 215-4350

COMMUNITY CENTER 7007 Moeser Lane

Recreation

Department 559-7000

Swim Center 559-7011

MIDTOWN ACTIVITY CENTER 10940 San Pablo Ave.

Adult Programs

& Services 559-7677

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING 10900 San Pablo Ave.

Emergency 911

Police Dispatch

(non-emergency) ... 237-3233

Fire/Medical

Dispatch (925) 951-3330

Fire Administration ... 215-4450

Police

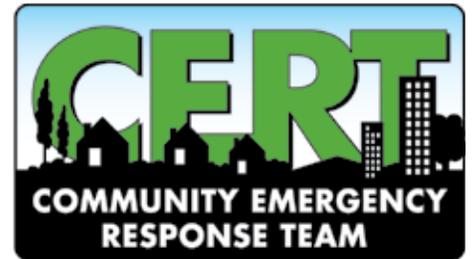
Administration 215-4400

CALLING 9-1-1

CALL 911 only for time sensitive emergencies requiring immediate response of police, fire, or emergency medical personnel.

You can also reach the Police Dispatch Center directly by calling **510-237-3233**. Please listen to the prompts, as the menu has recently changed.

The phone number to directly reach the dispatch center for El Cerrito Fire or Medical has changed to **925-941-3330**. Please note the **925** area code for this number.



Attend a CERT Training

THE EL CERRITO Fire Department provides Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training free of charge to residents. The next CERT boot camp will take place Saturday, November 2, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the El Cerrito Community Center. Boot camp is a condensed version of a 20-hour CERT training. It includes an overview and

such essential topics as fire suppression, utility control, and search-and-rescue. Registration is required. Class size is limited. To sign up, go to www.el-cerrito.org/CERT or email fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Have you completed a training or boot camp? If so, take your training to the next level by connecting with your CERT Area Coordinator. To connect, go to www.el-cerrito.org/CERT.

If your area doesn't have a coordinator and you would like to be one, email Program Manager, Battalion Chief Joseph Grupalo, at jgrupalo@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

or Community Lead Chris Hilliard at chris.hilliard.ec.cert@gmail.com.