



City Voters Approve Measure R

IN NOVEMBER, 2010, El Cerrito voters approved Measure R, the El Cerrito Preservation of Citywide Services Measure. This temporary (7 year) half-percent sales tax increase will enable the City to maintain its current level of programs and services. The sales tax will go into effect on April 1, 2011 and will sunset (end) on May 30, 2018.

Measure R is a commitment to maintain the high quality of life in El Cerrito. Measure R funding will help maintain fire protection and law enforcement, after-school programs (for children and teens), and recreation services, as well as City park, playground, and athletic field maintenance.

- Measure R revenues will be used to return the Police Department to full strength. Filling these vacancies in the Police Department will allow the City to maintain its public safety programs, such as neighborhood police patrols, crime prevention efforts, special

investigations, and specialized teams such as the Bicycle Patrol Unit.

- By maintaining Fire Services at current levels, the City will be able to continue the dedicated fire prevention officer position and provide proactive fire hazard abatement efforts.
- Measure R funding will allow the Recreation Department to continue After-School Programs for children, and keep open the Swim Center, the Open House Senior Center, and the El Cerrito Library. The City will also continue to offer community events like the annual July 4th Festival.
- The Public Works Department will be able to maintain the current level of upkeep at City Parks, courts, playgrounds, and medians. The department will continue to run the street tree-trimming program.

Measure R will allow the City to maintain essential services while fulfilling our commitment to the community's priorities. Through the annual budget process, the City Council will determine how best to allocate General Fund monies, including Measure R funds, matching City services to estimated available resources. The Financial Advisory Board will provide citizen oversight of these funds by reviewing the budget each year.

The development, adoption, and implementation of the City budget is a major decision-making process with several phases. The public is encouraged to participate in this process. To learn more about the development of the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget, contact Administrative Services Director Mary Dodge at **215-4312**.



Bicycle and pedestrian amenities such as the 70 new bike racks are intended to encourage residents and visitors to spend more time along the Avenue.

STREETSCAPE PROJECT

San Pablo Avenue Redevelopment

THE EL CERRITO Redevelopment Agency is in the final stage of an exciting multi-year San Pablo Avenue enhancement project. The goal of this Streetscape project is to enhance the economic vitality of the area by identifying the portion of San Pablo that runs through El Cerrito as a distinct place and creating a more pleasant walking environment. The Agency has received numerous grants and funds from partners including the Bay Area Air Quality Management District/Transportation Fund for Clean Air, Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Contra Costa Transportation Authority/Transportation for Livable Community Programs, East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Environmental

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Monday, January 17 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE AND RALLY



The Human Relations Commission (HRC) invites everyone to celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The El Cerrito High School Marching Band will lead the parade from the DMV to E.C.H.S., followed by a rally in the Main Gym with singing, dancing, poetry, and other tributes to Dr. King. For information, visit www.el-cerrito.org or contact HRC Chair Patricia Durham at 234-2518.

When: Parade, 9:30 a.m.
Rally, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Parade start, DMV
6400 Manila Avenue at Kearney
Rally, ECHS Gym
540 Ashbury Avenue

Tuesday, January 18 EL CERRITO SUMMER CAMP WALK-IN REGISTRATION



The City's Summer Day Camps run from June 12 to August 19. In addition to traditional day camps, we offer specialty camps for sports, music, science and art. Early registration for residents is January 18-28. Open registration (including nonresidents) begins January 31 and continues until all spaces are filled.

When: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Where: Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane

Friday, January 28 CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER

The El Cerrito Police Employees Association (ECPEA) presents the second annual Crab Feed Fundraiser! Tickets are available at the El Cerrito Police Station, 10900 San Pablo Avenue, during regular business hours. Adult tickets cost \$40 and tickets for children 12 and under are only \$25. This event sold out last year so get your tickets now!

When: 6 p.m.

Where: Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane

HOUSING ELEMENT STUDY SESSION

A city's General Plan describes the vision that guides development and land use in the city. The Housing Element is an important component of the General Plan, required by State law to ensure local governments plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community. El Cerrito is in the process of updating its current Housing Element, adopted and certified in 2003. A study session is anticipated to be held in February. The public should attend this meeting to hear a staff presentation and provide input on housing needs in El Cerrito. Check the website or call the Planning Division for meeting date and location. If you cannot attend the meeting but have comments, contact Jennifer Carman, Planning Division Manager at jcarman@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 215-4332.

Spring 2011 SUNDAR SHADI FILM SCREENING

Free screening of a short documentary film about the late Mr. Sundar Shadi followed by a reception hosted by the Human Relations Commission. Light refreshments. All ages welcome.



When: For information contact
Suzanne Iarla at 215-4318 or
siarla@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Where: Rialto Cinemas Cerrito
10070 San Pablo Avenue

Monday, April 18 CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION DEADLINE



Turn your old stuff into treasure! Register now to host a garage sale at your home on May 7 as part of the Spring Citywide Garage Sale. Download the registration form at www.ecrecycling.org or stop by the Recycling Center or City Hall. Questions? Contact the Environmental Services Division at green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 215-4350.

Saturday, April 23 EARTH DAY



Volunteer to work or coordinate a crew on Earth Day. Register by April 11. Contact the Environmental Services Division at 215-4350 or earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us with questions or suggestions for potential work projects.

When: Work parties, 9 a.m.-12 noon
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch,
12 noon-1:30 p.m.

Where: Work parties, citywide
Volunteer lunch, Community
Center, 7007 Moeser Lane

Saturday April 23 ANNUAL EGG HUNT

Kids love a traditional Egg Hunt with candy and eggs. Come early as the hunt is over very quickly. This event will occur rain or shine! Don't miss the visit from a very special bunny. Contact the Recreation Department at 559-7000 for more details.

When: 10 a.m. sharp

Where: Arlington Park
1120 Arlington Boulevard

Saturday April 9 SPRING BOOK SALE



Friends of the El Cerrito Library's annual Book Sale features a large selection of children's books as well as fiction, non-fiction, paperbacks, videos and books on crafts and home repair. Books and tapes only 50¢ each! The sale will raise funds for new books and also benefits library activities, especially children's programs. For more information online, visit www.ccplib.org (click on Friends/click on El Cerrito) or friendselcerritolibrary.wordpress.com

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: El Cerrito Library
6510 Stockton Avenue

Lucile W. Weingart Community Organic Container Garden at the Open House Senior Center

VEGETABLES, HERBS AND flowers are growing in the Open House Senior Center's new organic garden.

Everyone is welcome to come by and enjoy the outdoor sitting area; volunteers can help to improve and expand the Garden; and if you have a green thumb but no yard of your own, now you can rent a raised wooden container at the new Lucile W. Weingart Community Organic Container Garden.

The Community Container Garden is ideal for those who live in an apartment or no longer have a garden. Raised containers are available for rent to grow your own herb, vegetable and/or cut flower garden. The Open House Senior Center's large, fenced, sunny, Southern exposed patio is ideal for container gardens. The City provides the 4'x 8' raised, wood containers, soil and water.

GARDENING EXPECTATIONS:

The average garden requires at least 15–20 minutes of maintenance a week. The six main requirements of community gardeners are:

1. Supply your own plants
2. Completely clear and substantially plant your rented container
3. Regularly weed, water and tend your rented container
4. Supply your own garden tools
5. Use no pesticides
6. Clear rented container of all dead plants by the end of rental agreement

For information about volunteering or rental availability, call the Open House Senior Center at **559-7677**. The current fee to rent a container is \$25 for El Cerrito residents and \$30 for non-residents.



STREETSCAPE: *Continued from page 1*

Protection Agency, and the State Water Resources Control Board.

The project has occurred in phases. In 2006, the Agency restored Baxter Creek and created Gateway Park at the City's northern boundary. In 2007–09, many new features were added, including unique banners and distinctive signage, a more efficient irrigation system for existing street medians, and new Bay-Friendly landscaping designed to reduce environmental impacts, saving labor and water costs. For example, colorful, low-water-use plants replaced grass on the medians. By upgrading to high efficiency sprinklers and using drought-resistant plants, the City is now saving over 1.5 million gallons of water each year!

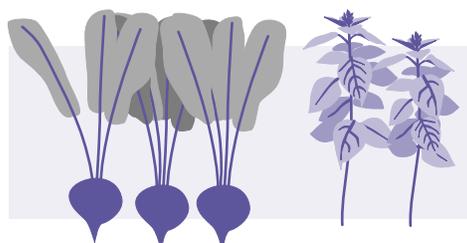
In 2010 and early 2011, the Agency installed several new crosswalks and upgraded existing crosswalks, planted trees, installed street furnishings (benches, bike racks and trash/recycling bins), and developed 28 historical/cultural sidewalk pavers based on community input. Two demonstration rain gardens were installed along the Avenue to clean stormwater runoff and provide more interesting landscaping. The rain gardens, located at south of Eureka and south of Madison, were created using federal stimulus funds.

In the summer of 2011, a public art project will be installed on streetlight poles along the length of San Pablo Avenue. Through a public process led by the City's Arts and Culture Commission, artists Jonathan Russell and Saori Ide were selected and commissioned to create this project. The artists will fabricate a series of metal icons representing El Cerrito, based on input they have received from the community.

"We hope that residents, business owners, shoppers and travelers are encouraged to enjoy everything the Avenue has to offer and that these improvements help catalyze economic development and are a visible reflection of both the vibrant El Cerrito community and our stewardship for the environment," said Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Division Manager.

The City is currently planning for a celebration in May inviting the public to walk the Avenue and experience the various improvements. If you are a San Pablo Avenue business owner and would like to get involved in the celebration, please contact Suzanne Iarla at 215-4318. Check www.el-cerrito.ca.us for the date and more details.

For more information about the Streetscape Project, go to www.el-cerrito.org/public_works/ave.html.



New Recycling Center Design Phase Underway

THE CITY COUNCIL recently selected the team of Pankow, Special Projects and Noll & Tam Architects to design and construct a new Recycling and Environmental Resources Center, to replace the existing center on the same site at 7501 Schmidt Lane. The existing facilities, built in the 1970s, do not meet current safety and operational standards. The new site will meet those standards and will be easier to use and able to handle increased demand.

The new Center will support the City's curbside recycling operations, accommodate community drop-off of other recyclables, and host environmental programs. The Center is operated by the City's Environmental Services Division which manages and coordinates the City's overall sustainability efforts. The redesign and reconstruction of the facility is funded entirely by the City's Integrated Waste Management Fund.

Expect the new Center to improve reuse and exchange opportunities, motorized and non-motorized circulation, collection for hard-to-recycle items, site security, educational and informational programs, and wayfinding. The facilities will be more accessible and include

public restrooms. The new design will incorporate numerous sustainability and cost-saving features, including solar panels to reduce the need for outside gas and electricity, and rainwater harvesting to supply water for toilets, landscaping and a truck wash.

The design process is currently underway. Construction should begin in Spring of 2011 and be completed by early 2012.

Plans and other project information are available at <http://www.el-cerrito.org/esd/newrecyclingcenter.html>, at the Recycling Center and City Hall.

If you would like to attend a meeting to learn more or comment on the proposed design, contact the Environmental Services Division at **215-4350** or email green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us



Rendering of the proposed new Recycling and Environmental Resources Center by the Design-Build team of Pankow, Special Projects and Noll & Tam Architects.

K-9 King Is On Patrol with the Police Department!

THE EL CERRITO Police Department has a new resource: Meet K-9 King! King, a two year old German Shepherd, is on patrol in El Cerrito with handler, Officer Aaron Leone.

King is trained to protect his handler and help the handler search for suspects, missing persons, or missing objects. In the past the El Cerrito Police Department has had to request K-9 teams from other agencies (such as the BART, Richmond, San Pablo, or Pinole police departments; or the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office). Trained canines are a great asset in searching for felony suspects or recovering objects such as firearms discarded by suspects. "Because King has superior tracking and apprehension skills, he is a needed addition to our front line police officers, and he enhances the already

great level of service we provide in our community," said Chief Sylvia Moir.

Two years ago, in 2009, the El Cerrito Police Employees Association (ECPEA) began to raise the money necessary to implement a Police K-9 Program. Through generous donations from the community, the ECPEA raised over \$20,000. King is named in honor of Bruce King, the Public Works Department employee who was tragically killed in 2009. Individuals and Businesses interested to learn more about how they can support the new El Cerrito K-9 program should contact **215-4400**.

If you see Officer Leone and K-9 King on patrol, please keep in mind that King is not a pet. He is a working dog and you should not approach him without first communicating with Officer Leone.



Barry Evans Studio

Safety Tips for Warm Winter's Nights

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT offers these safety tips to keep in mind when heating your home this winter. By following these recommendations, you can help keep your family safe.

The two most dangerous home heating problems are fires and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms throughout your house. The fire department also recommends a professional inspection of all fuel-burning heating systems, including furnaces, boilers, fireplaces, wood stoves, water heaters, chimneys, flues and vents.

Space heaters can cause fires if they are placed too close to flammable materials such as drapes, furniture or bedding. Fireplaces can cause fires if the chimney is cracked, blocked or coated with creosote, or if sparks and embers reach flammable materials.

Fuel-burning appliances can cause carbon monoxide poisoning if they are improperly installed or poorly maintained, they have defective or blocked venting systems, or they are misused.

SPACE HEATER TIPS

- Place space heaters on a level, hard, nonflammable surface such as a ceramic tile floor. Do not place the heater on top of a rug, or carpet. Keep the heater at least three feet away from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- To lower the risk of fire, never leave a space heater on when you go to sleep or place it next to any sleeping person. Turn the space heater off if you leave the area.
- Use a space heater that meets the latest safety standards as certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. These heaters will have the most up-to-date safety features. Look for a machine with automatic shut off. An unvented gas space heater that meets current safety standards will turn itself off when oxygen falls below a safe level.

- Make sure your space heater is correctly rated for your home. An oversized heater could deplete available oxygen and produce excess carbon monoxide. In each room with a space heater, keep a window open at least one inch and open doors to the rest of the house for proper ventilation. This will help prevent pollutant build-up and promote proper combustion.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions to provide sufficient combustion air to prevent carbon monoxide production.
- Have gas and kerosene space heaters inspected annually to make sure they operate properly.
- Do not use the oven or burners to heat your house because the stove could overheat or generate excessive carbon monoxide.
- Be aware that manufactured homes require specially designed heating equipment.
- Have a smoke alarm with fresh batteries on each level of the house, inside every bedroom and outside of the bedrooms in each sleeping area. In addition, have a carbon monoxide alarm outside of the bedrooms in each separate sleeping area.

FIREPLACE SAFETY TIPS:

- Have flues and chimneys inspected before each heating season for leakage and blockage by creosote or debris.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. Never close the damper or go to bed if the ashes are still warm. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.
- Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or relight a fire because the vapors can explode. Never keep flammable fuels or materials near a fire. Never store flammable liquids in your home.
- Never use charcoal in a fireplace because of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Keep a screen or glass enclosure around a fireplace to prevent sparks or embers from igniting flammable materials, and to keep curious small children out.
- Never put ashes from a fireplace or woodstove in a flammable container, or leave them in the house. Live embers may be present days after the fire has gone out and they are not always visible.
- Keep children away from heat sources and fireplaces. Make sure that they understand that it is not a place for them to be, and that fire is a tool not a toy.

Did you know that it is illegal to use wood-burning devices on days when the air quality in the Bay Area is forecast to be unhealthy? Illegal devices include fireplaces, wood stoves and inserts, pellet stoves or outdoor fire-pits. Check before you burn—visit www.sparetheair.org or call **1-877-4-NO-BURN** to find out if the wood-burning ban is in effect.

Free Tax Help!

EACH YEAR, IRS-CERTIFIED volunteer tax preparers help thousands of individuals and families claim their maximum tax refund through the *Earn It! Keep It! Save It!* campaign. Anyone earning less than \$49,000 in 2010 is eligible for this free tax return preparation service.

Last year, almost 52,000 Bay Area families filed their taxes with *Earn It! Keep It! Save It!* They avoided hundreds of dollars in tax preparer fees and "rapid refund" loans, and this year, you can do the same at one of the program's many sites in Contra Costa County. To find a site near you and to prepare for your visit, go to www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org or call **2-1-1**. This free service is sponsored by the Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP) and is coordinated by the Community Housing Development Corporation. FESP is a collaboration of public, private and nonprofit organizations dedicated to increasing income and building assets for low-income families and individuals living in Contra Costa County.



Doreen Spellman was nominated to the Wall of Fame in 1991 by the El Cerrito Garden Club for her significant contributions to the community.

El Cerrito Wall of Fame

THE EL CERRITO Wall of Fame, located inside City Hall, recognizes El Cerrito residents who have made significant contributions to the community over an extended period of time through their work on special projects. The first honoree was Sundar Shadi in 1990. He was followed by Louis and Bettianne Flynn (1991), Doreen Spellmann (1991), Arthur Schroeder (1992), Don West (1993), Marvin Collins (1995), Elmer Freethy (1995), Jean Siri (1995), Nancy Gans (1996), Charles and Lucy Wilson (1999), and Miriam Wilkins (2008).

To nominate an El Cerrito resident to the Wall of Fame, submit an application by March 15. The application and guidelines for nomination and selection are available from the City Clerk, **215-4305**.

This newsletter will feature an honoree from the Wall of Fame each year.

MEET DOREEN SPELLMANN

Doreen Spellmann was inducted into the El Cerrito Wall of Fame in 1991 for her efforts and passion in coordinating the award-winning "The Miracle on Moeser Lane" plantings and the Contra Costa Civic Theater Garden, as well as her leadership in the El Cerrito Garden Club.

Her inspiration for planting natives in the Moeser Lane medians was the idea of "xeriscaping," selecting plants for their drought tolerance and ability to thrive without regular maintenance.

City Rapidly Improves Streets

THANKS TO VOTER approval of 2008's Measure A, the El Cerrito Pothole Repair, Local Street Improvement and Maintenance Measure, the City of El Cerrito has developed and implemented a multi-year, intensive pothole and street repair program to address pavement problems throughout the city. The City's goal was to repair El Cerrito's streets in the most efficient and quickest way possible.

The original plan called for an intensive four-year pothole and street repair program with the goal of reaching an average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating of at least 70 by 2011. This would have required the City to repair up to 70% of neighborhood streets within a four year period (2008-2011.)

The City has since repaired and resurfaced 46 miles or 68% of City streets. It has completed all the work in the original accelerated plan a year ahead of schedule. As a result, El Cerrito's PCI has been upgraded from "fair" to "very good." "We expect El Cerrito streets will have gone from one of the 'ten worst' in 2006 to among the 'top ten' in the Bay Area," said Public Works Director Jerry Bradshaw.

With the accelerated program complete, the City will begin an ongoing Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program to keep its streets in good condition. To report a pothole or other street pavement problem, please call the Public Works Maintenance Division at **215-4369**.

Sign Up for E-News Updates

ARE YOU INTERESTED in hearing more about environmental events, activities, and programs? How about economic development news or support programs for local businesses? Would you like to know more about City events, programs and meetings? In an effort to provide community members with more timely and pertinent information, the City is now offering e-newsletters in three areas of interest:

- Environmental Services
- Economic Development
- Citywide Events/Programs

In 2009, the Environmental Services Division started a pilot program offering an e-newsletter about El Cerrito environmental events, activities, and programs. Since 2009, over 600 people have signed up to receive these monthly email updates. Participant feedback has been very positive.

E-newsletters save the City money and resources, when compared to mailings, and they are both convenient and secure. We regard your subscription information as confidential and we are committed to sending you only the emails you choose to receive. You will always have complete control over your subscription.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

The environmental activities e-newsletter covers training programs and workshops; volunteer opportunities for programs including tree planting and clean-up; and other local events aimed at improving the environment. Subscribers will receive about 12 emails per year.

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT

The economic development e-newsletter reports on activities and programs of interest to the local business community. This e-newsletter will cover economic development news, business openings, and resources for local businesses. Subscribers will receive about 2-4 emails per year.

CITY E-NEWS

The City e-News delivers monthly email updates on upcoming events and meetings of interest to City residents and business owners, as well as information about City programs and services. Subscribers will receive about 12 emails per year.

For any (or all!) of these e-newsletters, go to www.el-cerrito.org/news and complete the sign-up form. If you have questions about the subscription process, contact Suzanne Iarla, Community Outreach Specialist at siarla@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or **215-4318**.



Q&A Building Permits

Q: Why do I need a building permit?

A: The permit is part of the approval process for construction projects and ensures that the completed project will meet minimum standards for health and safety.

Q: How long does it take to process a building permit?

A: It generally takes 4 to 6 weeks to check plans and issue a permit, although processing time is less for some smaller projects and may even be completed over the counter.

Q: How much does a permit cost?

A: The cost depends upon the scope of your project. Building Division staff at City Hall can review this with you.

Q: How long does it take to process a building permit?

A: It generally takes 4 to 6 weeks to check plans before the permit is issued.

Q: How much does a permit cost?

A: The cost depends on the scope of your project. Please come into City Hall and someone in the Building Division can review this with you.

Q: Is the Building Division an enterprise fund for the City?

A: No. The Building Division charges cover only the expense of the services rendered (per State law).

Q: How do I contact the Building Division?

A: Visit the “one-stop” counter at City Hall or call ahead to **215-4360** for an appointment. You can also email your questions to bldg@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. For city office hours and days, visit www.el-cerrito.org/home/fridays.html

Benefits of Building Permits

BUILDING PERMITS PROTECT property owners. By following code guidelines, the owner knows the completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and be less likely to cause injuries. The permit also protects the public by eliminating problems caused by unsafe construction.

The building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. The best way to find out if you need a permit for a project is to contact the Building Division. Even if a permit is not needed, staff will answer your construction questions and may provide valuable advice.

Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with City building codes, this can lower the value of your investment. For example, property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications done without a permit, you may be required to undo or redo unpermitted work. You may be forced to leave the building unoccupied if you cannot make costly repairs.*

In 2010, El Cerrito’s Building Division issued over 75 commercial permits and around 1,000 residential permits.

ISSUED PERMITS FOR (January–October, 2010 only)	
COMMERCIAL PERMITS	
Building repair	17
Tenant improvements	11
Signs	10
Fire sprinkler	8
Electrical upgrade	4
RESIDENTIAL PERMITS	
House repair	544
Addition/remodel	154
Re-roof	127
Solar power system	24
Deck	24
Seismic upgrade	22
Retaining wall	7
Accessory units	4
New house	3

**This article is based on information developed by the International Code Council. For more information, contact them at www.buildingsafetyweek.org.*

SmartSolar Offers Free Assessment

THE CITY OF El Cerrito is partnering with Community Energy Services Corporation (CESC) to offer the SmartSolar program, a free, independent, solar consulting service for area residents and businesses.

SmartSolar offers East Bay property owners a free solar assessment of their property and an estimate of the savings they could receive by switching to solar energy. It’s easy—just share one year of your monthly energy use history, and CESC will do the calculations. CESC can also provide you with a list of vendors for bids, analysis, and free consultation.

If you think you may be interested in solar energy for your home or business, be sure to get a free estimate from SmartSolar before this program expires at the end of March, 2011. Contact

Brian Bishop, SmartSolar Program Manager, at smartsolar@ebenergy.org or **981-7774**. Community Energy Services Corporation (CESC) is a 501(c)(3) community-based non-profit dedicated to building sustainable communities in the greater Bay Area through innovative and hands-on energy and building improvement programs.



EL CERRITO POSTAL PATRON



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EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL	
Mayor Ann Cheng	
Mayor Pro Tem William C. Jones, III	
Councilmember Janet Abelson	
Councilmember Rebecca Benassini	
Councilmember Greg Lyman	
CITY WEBSITE	www.el-cerrito.org
CITY HALL (All area codes 510)	
10890 San Pablo Ave.	
City Management	
City Clerk	215-4305
City Council	215-4305
City Manager	215-4300
Administrative Services	
Employee Services	215-4315
Finance	215-4310
Economic Development	
Economic Development	215-4362
Housing	215-4358
Redevelopment	215-4380
Environmental & Development Services	
Building	215-4360
Code Enforcement	215-4374
Planning	215-4330
Environmental Services	215-4350
Recycling Center	
7501 Schmidt Lane	215-4350
Public Works	
Corporation Yard	215-4369
Engineering	215-4382
Maintenance	215-4369
After-Hours Emergency	237-3233

Community Center	
7007 Moeser Lane	
Recreation Department	559-7000
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
* Cell phone users should call dispatch in an emergency for direct local response.	
Fire Administration	215-4450
Police Administration	215-4400
City Hall Holidays (office closed):	
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day–January 17	
Presidents’ Day–February 21	
City Council regular meetings:	
January 3 and 18*	
February 7 and 22*	
March 7 and 21	
April 4 and 18	
*Denotes Tuesday meeting	
City Council meetings are held at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. Regular Council meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable channel 28 and KECG, 88.1 FM radio. To watch the meeting online, go to www.el-cerrito.org and click on the “Streaming Media” button. Schedules are subject to change; please check the website for updates. The City Council meeting agenda packet is available at least three days prior to each meeting at: http://www.el-cerrito.org/archive .	

Visit Open House Senior Center

ARE YOU OR someone in your household over 50 years old? If so, you may want to know about the Open House Senior Center. The Senior Services Division of the City’s Recreation Department offers many excellent programs and services for adults over 50, including life-long learning classes (recreation, art, fitness), hot lunches, computer access, Easy Ride paratransit services, dances, games (mah jong, chess, wii virtual sports), lectures, trips, and more! To receive a monthly calendar of classes and services, sign up to receive the *50+ Bulletin* at the address below.

The Senior Center also coordinates support groups for seniors. A Senior Women’s Support Group and a Support Group for the Visually Impaired both meet at the Senior Center. If you are interested in joining a support group on any of the following topics, please contact the Senior Center. The center will create a group if there is enough interest:

- Caregivers Support Group
- Bereavement/Grief/Change
- Stroke Survivors
- Men’s Support Group

For more information, call **559-7677** or visit the center (Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. or Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.) at 6500 Stockton Ave. Information, including the *50+ Bulletin*, is also available online at www.el-cerrito.org/recreation/senior_center.html