

MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Karen Pinkos, City Manager
DATE: March 15, 2022
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

I'm pleased to report that our new Finance Director/City Treasurer Sandra Dalida began her employment with the City of El Cerrito on March 1, 2022. Sandra is an experienced leader with years of experience in both public and private sector finance, and you can find out more about Sandra [at this link](#). Sandra has hit the ground running with respect to engaging the Finance team and City staff, understanding the City's financial position, and getting started on the upcoming fiscal year budget process. Welcome Sandra!

On a positive note, the City's financial position has improved significantly during the past fiscal year and this has been confirmed in the City's [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report \(ACFR\)](#). This report presents the financial statements for the City for the year ending in June 2021 and is the result of an audit by the City's independent, third-party audit firm Badawi and Associates. The General Fund in particular now has a healthy fund balance which is due to the millions in cuts made to the budget in the last two years, a robust real estate market, and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the federal government. Now that stability to the budget has been restored, our commitment is to ensuring that this trend continues, that revenues continue to increase, and that we remain financially sustainable particularly as we begin to reinstate services that have been paused by the COVID-19 pandemic. City staff, in coordination with the City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee, will be reporting our improvements and progress to the State Auditor this week. I want to once again thank the City Council for their leadership, the City staff for their hard work and sacrifices, and our community for their accountability and investment: this turnaround has been a team effort, and we will be relying on that same team to keep the momentum going. I will be working closely with Sandra, with our Financial Advisory Board, and the City Council to develop and maintain policies that will sustain our fiscal health, and as we embark on the next fiscal year budget process we will continue to engage the public. My highest priority is to keep moving forward so that our City is able to thrive, and provide the services and quality of life our residents, businesses, employees, and visitors expect.

I'd like to remain optimistic that as COVID-19 cases continue to decline, we could be looking forward to the pandemic easing...but I don't want to jinx anything, so let me just once again remind you all to stay safe, get vaccinated and boosted, and be vigilant. Here's hoping that we all keep our forward progress moving, and with any luck it won't be too long before we really can put all this behind us! Stay tuned to the City's website at www.el-cerrito.org/covid19 and www.coronavirus.cchealth.org for the most up-to-date information.

As always, please take care of yourselves and each other.

Karen Pinkos
City Manager



CITY MANAGEMENT

Budget Update

On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, the City Council received the City of El Cerrito's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The ACFR is a set of financial statements the City prepares each year that comply with accounting requirements established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). This document is audited by a independent financial auditor using generally accepted government auditing standards. The ACFR demonstrated that the City had an ending fund balance of \$7.1 million, or 18% of FY 2021 expenditures. Given this turnaround, the Auditor eliminated the City's "growing concern" from the ACFR, which had been in the report for several years. To view the ACFR, visit: <https://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/16821/322022-City-of-El-Cerrito-Annual-Comprehensive-Financial-Report-ACFR-2021>. Additionally on March 1, the City Council adopted the FY 2022 Mid-Year Budget Update. To view the Budget Update, visit: <https://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/16790/312022-FY-2021-22-Mid-Year-Budget-Update>.

2022 Utility Box Public Art Program Call For Artists Released



On Monday, March 7, 2022, the City issued a Call for Artists (CFA) inviting proposals for the next phase of the City's Utility Box Public Art Program. The Utility Box Public Art Program is a beautification initiative designed to add to the vibrancy of the San Pablo Avenue corridor. Community artists from the East Bay are invited to participate in this program to help transform drab and unsightly utility boxes into attractive and captivating works of art that will enhance the beauty of the City's streets and sidewalks. Artwork that embraces local social justice movements (e.g. Black Lives Matter, LGBTQIA+, etc.) or environmental sustainability is preferred. This program is sponsored by the Arts and Culture Commission. Applications are due Friday, April 15, 2022 by 4:00 p.m. For more information about the program and how to apply, visit: <https://www.el-cerrito.org/publicartbox>.



City of El Cerrito/worldOne 4th of July Festival

Fundraising efforts are now underway to Bring Back the 4th of July Festival, this Summer as long as it is safe to do so. While the City’s finances are greatly improved, the City Council would like the 4th of July Festival to be cost neutral as work on financial sustainability continues.

Generous individuals, companies and organizations are invited to contribute funds that can only be used on the 4th of July Festival. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 in local funds, through corporate sponsorships and individual donations. After a week into the fundraising campaign, the City has already received \$660 from individual donors and \$2,800 in sponsorships. For more information on how you can contribute, please go to www.el-cerrito.org/july4.

ECCRU Artist in Residency Begins April 1

El Cerrito Artist Steve Zwetsch was selected by the Arts and Culture Commission to be the 2022 El Cerrito Creative Re-Use Artist in Residency, effective April 1, 2022. Steve started building guitars from his home studio in 2016. His focus has been on incorporating as many recycled, upcycled and found objects as possible. He started with and still uses cigar boxes, wine cases, assorted tins, cans and anything else he can find. This program, sponsored by the Arts and Culture Commission, is intended to support local artists in the East Bay who work with recycled materials, and to encourage environmental stewardship – specifically, resource conservation, recycling and upcycling - in the community through art that inspires people to think about sustainability and consumption. The ECCRU Artist Residency provides the artist with access to certain materials at the City's Recycling + Environmental Resource Center for use in artistic projects. For more information about the program, visit: <https://www.el-cerrito.org/968/ECCRU>.



COVID-19 Information –Free COVID Home Tests, County Vaccination & Booster Progress/Information

Every home in the U.S. can order eight free COVID-19 home tests ([click to order online](#) or call [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233)). Households can place a total of two separate orders for free, at-home COVID-19 rapid tests (four tests per order). If an order was previously placed for your address, you can place a second order now. Home tests can be bought at a pharmacy or online. There are several brands currently [approved by the Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) for emergency use. You should not use a home test that is not approved by the FDA.

Residents with private, employer-sponsored and student health commercial health insurance can request reimbursement for over-the-counter COVID-19 diagnostic tests purchased on or after January 15, 2022. The cost of home testing for COVID-19 is an [eligible medical](#)

[expense](#) that can be paid or reimbursed under health flexible spending arrangements (health FSAs), health savings accounts (HSAs), health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs), or Archer medical savings accounts (Archer MSAs).

Each Medi-Cal beneficiary can now go to a [Medi-Cal Rx pharmacy](#), show their Medi-Cal Benefits ID Card and have up to 8 over-the-counter COVID-19 diagnostic tests covered each month. If you have Medi-Cal and purchased over-the-counter COVID-19 diagnostic tests between March 11, 2021, and January 31, 2022, call the [Department of Healthcare Services](#) at [\(916\) 403-2007](#) for more information about getting reimbursed.

As of Thursday, March 10, 2022, Contra Costa County was reporting 80.9% of residents fully vaccinated, and 50.2% of residents boosted. COVID-19 boosters are critical to maintaining strong protection from severe illness from the virus. While the COVID-19 vaccines are working well to prevent severe illness, they can become less effective over time. Getting a booster shot extends your protection. Booster doses are very common and are part of most childhood and adult vaccines because they help a person keep strong protection against infection from a disease. People who get booster doses are less likely to get COVID-19 and, if they do become sick, are less likely to have severe symptoms, be hospitalized or die. To schedule your booster shot and view eligibility requirements, visit: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-vaccinated>.

CITY CLERK

Recent City Council Meeting Highlights

[February 15, 2022 \(Special Meeting\)](#)

- Appointed Rosa Esquivel (CCTA Citizen Advisory Committee)

[February 15, 2022 \(Regular Meeting\)](#)

- Authorized continuance of remote meetings (AB361) through March 22, 2022
- Adopted a Resolution in Opposition to Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act
- Received an operational and fiscal update from the Public Works Department
- Adopted Code of Conduct for Board, Commission, and Committee Members

[March 1, 2022 \(Regular Meeting\)](#)

- Recognized 125th Anniversary of Parent Teacher Association, Women's History Month, Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, American Red Cross Month, Arbor Week, and 63rd Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising
- Appointed Susan Kuchinskas (Urban Forest Committee)
- Received Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)
- Adopted Mid-Year Budget Adjustments

Upcoming City Council Meeting(s) (held via Zoom)

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

- Annual Progress Report for General Plan & Housing Element

- Annual Parcel Assessment for the NPDES Program and Drainage Maintenance Activities
- Police Officer/Professional Staff Person of the Year
- Arts and Culture Commission Workplan Presentation
- CORE Presentation and Homeless Resources

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

- Urban Forest Committee Workplan Presentation
- Real Property Transfer Tax (RPTT) Program Update
- Report on First Responder Fee Research

Agenda materials and public comment instructions are available online at www.elcerrito.org/CouncilMeetingMaterials as well as video archives. For more information, please contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or (510) 215-4305.

Regional Advisory Body Opportunities

[Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging Vacancy \(ACOA\)](#)

The City Council is seeking applications to serve as the EL Cerrito representative on the ACOA. The ACOA advises the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on all matters associated with the planning, development and administration of programs relating to older adults. You must be a resident of El Cerrito, a Contra Costa County taxpayer, and at least 18 years of age to serve. For more information, please visit the city's website at [Regional Bodies](#) or contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

[East Bay Paratransit's Service Review Advisory Committee \(SRAC\)](#)

The Committee is currently seeking to fill two seats representing West Contra Costa County. Established in 1995, SRAC consists of 16 members including twelve East Bay Paratransit users. SRAC members work with management staff on developing procedures, policy changes, budget reviews, and outreach. It also offers a public forum for the community to bring their comments or concerns about paratransit service. For more information, please visit [East Bay Paratransit website](#) or contact Alicia Brown at AliciaB@paratransit.org.

[West Contra Costa Unified School District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee \(CBOC\)](#)

The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee is a committee of 17 local citizens appointed by the Board of Education to provide oversight for school construction using funding from the current WCCUSD bond measures passed under Prop. 39: D-2002, J-2005, D-2010, and E-2012. The Committee meets publicly 11-12 times a year with facilities and bond finance staff. The purpose of the Committee is to inform the public concerning the expenditures and uses of bond revenues. For more information, please visit [WCCUSD CBOC Website](#) or contact CBOC Chair John Anderson at janorwoodpark@gmail.com or District Staff at askfacilities@wccusd.net.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Permits



For the month of February, 110 building permits were issued, 77 permits were “finalized” (e.g. closed out) and 89 new permit applications were received. Currently, the application processing for building permits requiring plan check is approximately 30 days from the date a complete application is submitted.

Over the Counter permits are available virtually through the [eTrakit system](#). Please note that City Hall is open to the public. In-person counter hours from 9:00 -1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and by appointment from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, and 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Please visit www.el-cerrito.org/permitcounter for more information.

Neighborhood Preservation (Code Enforcement)

For the month of February, 11 code enforcement cases were opened, and 20 were closed.

After two years, the Residential Rental Inspection Program (“RRIP”) resumes. Neighborhood Preservation is mailing program notices to property owners with program and appointment information. For more details on RRIP, please visit www.el-cerrito.org/RRIPProgram.

As a reminder, the City has a centralized website to help you better understand the process for operating rentals in El Cerrito. Please visit www.el-cerrito.org/rentalhousing for more details.

Planning Commission/Design Review Board/Zoning Administrator Update

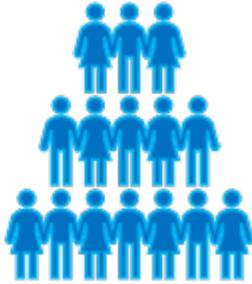
[11335 San Pablo Avenue, 6111 & 6115 Potrero Avenue](#): On March 16, 2022, the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing for an application for the demolition of an existing commercial building and subsequent construction of a new building containing 63 residential dwelling units and approximately 6,220 square feet of ground floor commercial space which will include a brewery and restaurant. The project will also contribute to the City’s Housing Trust fund to meet their affordable housing obligations.



For more information on any of these projects, please contact the [Planning Division](#) at planning@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

2023-2031 Housing Element Workshop: Save the Date – Tuesday, April 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

The Planning Division is currently updating the City’s Housing Element for the 2023 to 2031 planning period. The Housing Element reflects the vision, opportunities and priorities of the El Cerrito community while providing a road map for the City to accommodate our fair share of the regional housing needs at all affordability levels. Throughout this process, we will be seeking community participation and input to determine which policies/programs have been effective



and which need to be improved. Please subscribe to the Community Development e-Newsletter to receive updates or visit the [project website](#) for additional information in the coming weeks.

New Business Activity

The UPS Store, located at **11465 San Pablo Avenue** (across from Safeway), is now open and offers shipping, packing, printing, and notary services.

Stand-Up Comics, located at **10020 San Pablo Ave**, has been operating in El Cerrito for the last 20+ years. A longtime customer recently purchased the business and will continue operating it as Antonio's Stand-Up Comics. Aside from novel graphics and action figures, they also offer games nights or any other fun event you wish to host. Stop by and support your local comic shop.

Golden Poppy Florist is having their grand opening. Located at **7509 Fairmount Avenue**, *Golden Poppy* has flower arrangements for any occasion and even offers delivery to the El Cerrito area.

The Joint Chiropractic just opened in El Cerrito at **11450 San Pablo Ave. Suite 400!** *The Joint* is offering specials for the month of March to celebrate their grand opening.

Contra Costa County Point-in-Time Count

On February 24, 2022, Community Development staff participated in the [Contra Costa County Continuum of Care Point-in-Time Count](#) (PIT). The annual PIT is intended to document the number of both sheltered and unsheltered residents across the County, including El Cerrito. Once the data is final, it will be provided to the [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) and made available to the public.

If you/others are experiencing homelessness and need support, dial 2-1-1 or visit the County's Coordinated Assessment Referral and Engagement (CARE) Center - GRIP located at 165 22nd Street in Richmond – open seven days a week or click [here](#) to download the flyer.

Affordable Housing Resources



[Visit March 2022 Affordable Housing Opportunities](#) to view current openings throughout the Bay Area – (Courtesy of [Openhouse](#))

[Home Match, Contra Costa: March Available Rooms Catalog](#) If you are looking for housing, Home Match provides affordable opportunities to those who currently live, work or study in Contra Costa County.

First-Time Homebuyer Two-Part Workshop in March



If you are a first-time homebuyer and considering homeownership in the Bay Area, this workshop has been designed for you. ECHO Housing is hosting a two-part workshop series on Saturday, March 19 and Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. that will help

you determine if you are ready for homeownership. Learn how to create a budget, repair credit, and become a successful homeowner. This is a virtual event and registration is available [here](https://www.echofairhousing.org) at www.echofairhousing.org.

COVID-19 Rental Assistance: Deadline to apply is March 31, 2022



The [CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Program](#) provides financial assistance for unpaid rent to eligible renters and landlords who have been impacted by COVID-19. Both renters and landlords can apply for assistance. Don't miss this opportunity, apply by

March 31, 2022 at www.housingiskey.com or contact the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Call Center at (833) 430-2122 for more information.

Tenants/landlords in need of housing counseling should connect with the [Contra Costa Housing Services Collaborative](#) which is available to County residents at no cost. For legal consultation or representation, please contact [Centro Legal](#) at CCTR@centrolegal.org or 510-437-1554.

Homeowners seeking mortgage relief should visit California Mortgage Relief Program www.camortgagerelief.org and connect with a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved housing counseling agency listed [here](#).

FIRE

Calls for Service

The Fire Department responded to a total of 280 calls for service in February. Total recap of the calls in February are as follows:

1. Fires:	5
2. Explosions/Ruptures:	1
3. Medicals:	108
4. Hazardous Conditions:	23
5. Service Calls:	57
6. Good Intent:	55
7. False Alarms:	10
Total:	280

Arson Fires

The Fire Department responded to 14 exterior fires during the weekend of March 5, 2022, mostly on the Ohlone Greenway and San Pablo Avenue. The fires included dumpsters, plastic barricades, shopping carts, one electric scooter, and discarded garbage. The El Cerrito Police Department is investigating all the fires.

Battalion Chief Appointment

The Fire Department is pleased to announce the appointment of Joseph Torres as a Battalion Chief, who began his role on Monday, March 7, 2022. Joe most recently was working as a Captain Paramedic for the City of Pinole. He will be assigned to A-Shift and will be taking over the Support Services duties in addition to his shift duties.

POLICE

Calls for Service

The El Cerrito Police Department handled 1252 calls for service in February. Police responses to property crime continue to be the big focus of our criminal investigations.

Homicide Investigation

On January 31, 2022, ECPD Officers responded to the El Cerrito Library on the report of a possible deceased person. Officers arrived and discovered that a person experiencing homelessness was murdered. Since then, investigators have continued to follow leads to solve the crime. ECPD urges anyone with information about this case to contact us at (510) 237-3233.

Arson Incidents

During the day and early evening hours on Sunday, March 6, multiple individuals set a series of small fires in El Cerrito and Richmond, along San Pablo Ave. The suspects set six fires in El Cerrito and eight fires in Richmond. The suspect(s) set fire to shopping carts, dumpsters, barricades, a clothing donation bin and a business awning. Richmond Police apprehended a suspect that both agencies believe was responsible for setting some of the fires.

Community Events with ECPD

Over the next two months, ECPD patrol teams will be hosting some public events to introduce some of our new officers. Please follow us at www.nixle.com to stay up to date on these events, as we schedule and publish them.

PUBLIC WORKS

Application Submitted for Senate Bill 1383 Local Assistance Grant



As noted in previous updates, the Public Works Department is hard at work implementing the requirements of California Senate Bill (SB) 1383 (2016), which requires cities to implement

a number of new programs with the ultimate goal of reducing the amount of organic waste sent to landfills statewide. The City of El Cerrito has already met the first major milestone by adopting an enforceable ordinance in December 2021 that requires all residents and businesses to participate in the organics recycling program, with very limited exceptions. Other requirements of the law include developing an edible food recovery program, converting the City's collection containers to become color compliant (wherein recycling will be blue and garbage will be gray/black), producing and utilizing new labels on all new containers to improve customer education, implementing new procurement requirements for recycled paper, compost, and mulch as a jurisdiction, increasing inspections, enforcement, and recordkeeping, and more.

To support jurisdictions in these efforts, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is administering a one-time non-competitive grant program to provide funding for implementation. The City of El Cerrito was provided with an available funding estimate of \$33,609. At the end of January, City Staff completed an application to receive these funds to pay for some Staff time and material costs associated with implementing the law.

For more information on SB 1383 or the SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant Program, please contact Operations + Environmental Services Division Manager, Will Provost, at wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or (510) 559-7684.

Welcoming a New Analyst in the Public Works Department

The Public Works Department is pleased to introduce Christina Leard, a new Management Analyst in the Operations + Environmental Services Division (OESD) of Public Works. Her first day with the City was Monday, March 7, 2022.

Christina comes to El Cerrito from the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (also known as RecycleMore), where she has managed numerous programs and operations including household hazardous waste, Green Business, battery recycling and composting programs. She has also been actively involved in compliance efforts for AB 1826 and, more recently, SB 1383, a major focus for OESD in this coming year. Christina was also a key part of supporting RecycleMore through two large organizational transitions.

Having grown up in West Contra Costa County, Christina is looking forward to working for the City of El Cerrito and working on a variety of environmental and operations programs. Please join the Public Works Department in welcoming Christina to the City of El Cerrito! She can be reached at CLEard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

El Cerrito Recycling Center Piloting Dispatch Goods Drop-Off Site



The Operations + Environmental Services Division is excited to announce that starting March 1, 2022 community members are able to drop-off Dispatch Goods' reusable foodware containers at the City of El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center lobby at 7501 Schmidt Lane, open Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4pm and on Saturday, from 9am to 4:45pm. Dispatch Goods offers reusable foodware for takeout at a growing number of restaurants in the Bay Area. Providing a drop off location at the Recycling Center supports waste reduction and provides a valuable service to El Cerrito restaurants and residents interested in using the service. Dispatch Goods will continue working with businesses within El Cerrito to participate and City Staff will evaluate and assess the pilot drop-off location on an ongoing basis. Visit the

[Dispatch Goods website](#) to explore and learn more about the program.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Sign up to receive the latest info on these and other events in the Operations + Environmental Services Division's monthly e-newsletter at el-cerrito.org/greenhappenings.

- *Green Teams Broom Pull Event* (March 26, 2022): Join El Cerrito's Green Teams and El Cerrito Trail Trekkers from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. to remove invasive French broom from the Hillside Natural Area. Meet at the north end of Regency Court. All ages welcome (under 18 with guardian). For more info, email green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 215-4350.
- *Baxter Creek Volunteer Workday* (April 3, 2022): Help remove litter and invasive plants from this jewel on the Ohlone Greenway. Workdays will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month, except during major holiday weekends. RSVP to (510) 215-4350 or cbennett@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us
- *Earth Day Week* (April 23 – 30, 2022): Celebrate Earth Day between April 23 and April 30, 2022. During Earth Day week, the City is encouraging residents and businesses to conduct socially distanced clean-ups around the community and on their own properties. Find the latest information at el-cerrito.org/EarthDay.

Registration Deadline for The Citywide Garage Sale is April 15, 2022

The City will be hosting the 2022 Spring Citywide Garage Sale on Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As in years past, the City will coordinate the host locations to create a map and advertise the event. Hosts pay a registration fee that covers the cost of creating the citywide map (hard copies and the electronic document) and publishing newspaper ads. The map of garage sale locations will be



available on Saturday, April 30, 2022, a week prior to the Citywide Garage Sale, at el-cerrito.org/garagesale.

If residents are interested in being a host, they can complete the registration form between now and Friday, April 15, 2022 so that the location will be included on the map.

Registration forms can be mailed with payment to the City of El Cerrito. Please address it to: City of El Cerrito, Attn: OESD Citywide Garage Sale, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Alternatively, the form may be dropped off with payment at one of the following city facilities: City Hall (10890 San Pablo Ave), the Recycling Center (7501 Schmidt Lane), or the Community Center (7007 Moeser Lane). For more information, please contact the City's Waste Prevention Specialist, Laureteen Brazil, via email at lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 215-4350.



Free Compost Giveaway for El Cerrito Residents and Businesses

Free compost for El Cerrito residents and businesses only, at a new pilot location. Compost will be available at the Upper Cerrito Vista Parking Lot adjacent to the tennis courts (entrance off of Avis Drive) beginning Saturday, March 19 through Friday, March 25, 2022. Available while supplies last. Limit of 5 cubic feet per household or business (approximately seven 5-gallon buckets). For more info, email greenassistant@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 215-4350.

MCEv Charging Program Available for El Cerrito Workplaces and Multifamily Properties

City Staff are working to promote a new program from MCE Clean Energy to support expansion of the electric vehicle charging network. The MCEv program is now offering an expanded charging rebate for workplace and multifamily properties to help property owners save significantly on hardware installation costs for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Plus, the program is offering free technical assistance for the first 40 projects, providing applicants with an EV charging expert and electrician to help make projects a reality. Note, this charging rebate and technical assistance is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Below are some reasons why El Cerrito apartments and workplaces should install an EV Charging Station:



- It Makes Dollars & Sense: You can offset ongoing costs by requiring users to pay for charging as well as help attract and retain employees, tenants, and customers by offering it as a benefit.
- If You Build It, They Will Come: Commuters are 6 times more likely to drive an EV if their workplace or multifamily property offers charging capability.
- Our Future Depends on It: Hosting a charging station at your workplace or multifamily property will exemplify your environmental values and help reduce pollution associated with gas-powered cars.

To be eligible for this MCEv charging rebate a workplace or multifamily property must be an MCE customer and either be a workplace that will offer charging for employees and/or the business's fleet, or a multifamily property of 4 or more units that will offer charging to tenants. The Public Works Department is highly encouraging any interested and eligible property owners to participate. For more information visit <http://www.mcecleanenergy.org/ev-charging>

Countywide Transportation Plan Update

Give us your thoughts on what's needed to improve transportation in Contra Costa County and specifically West County! The Contra Costa Transportation Authority is updating its Countywide Transportation Plan and Action Plans. They want you to tell them what's needed! Among other things, they've planned pop-up outreach events and five virtual public workshops within the county and an online survey so you can share with them your ideas. The [project webpage](#) is now live. On this webpage you will also find background information, the online survey, and a list of all public outreach occurring in March and April 2022. Each public workshop will ask the same questions as the online survey, but in a more formal format via Zoom. Below is information on the upcoming pop-up in West County:

El Cerrito Del Norte BART

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
6400 Cutting Blvd, El Cerrito, CA 94530

We look forward to your participation!

RECREATION

Summer Camp 2022

After two summers of running limited “pod-style” summer programs under strict pandemic guidance, the Recreation Department is excited to reintroduce a more classic, robust camp program. While COVID-19 safety remains a priority in our programs, Summer Camp 2022 will be more reflective of our pre-pandemic model including one week summer camp sessions, a variety of traditional and specialty style camps, and the option to pair morning camps with afternoon camps for a full day of fun. Over 50 different camps will be offered over the course of nine weeks (June 13 – August 12, 2022). To see what camps are being offered, be sure to check out our Summer Camp rEC guide, which was recently mailed out to El Cerrito and surrounding communities with camp-age household members. The Summer Camp rECguide is also available online at www.el-cerrito.org/summercamp.

Registration for summer camp is open online at www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg. Hundreds of families took advantage of our “Discount Day” on March 1, 2022 and many camps filled on the first day of enrollment. But don’t worry, there is still plenty of space!

El Cerrito Camp Ravencliff

El Cerrito Recreation hopes to finally celebrate our 20th year at Camp Ravencliff! Registration is now open to campers entering grades 4-9 next school year, and applications are being accepted for the teen leadership program. For 12 days between July 11 – 22, 2022, participants will enjoy the great outdoors among Humboldt County’s redwood trees and Eel River, and participate in activities such as canoeing, sports, crafts, performing arts, team building, self-reflection, and so much more. A camp handbook is available online detailing what campers can expect, including preliminary COVID-19 precautions and protocols (though these are expected to evolve as updated camp guidance is released in the coming months). Space is limited for this residential camp, so those interested are encouraged to sign up early! For more information, visit www.el-cerrito.org/eccampravencliff.

Spring Camp

Recreation staff will provide Spring Camp April 4-8, 2022. Students in grades K-2 will enjoy camp from the Harding Clubhouse, while students in grades 2-6 will enjoy camp at the Fairmont Clubhouse. Campers will experience arts and crafts, outdoor group games, special events, and more! Spring camp is currently full with a waiting list, and parents needing care are encouraged to join the waiting list.



Egg Splash

On Saturday, April 16, 2022, the El Cerrito Swim Center will host four 45-minute Egg Splash events between 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Children will hunt for eggs and candy, engage in games and activities at different booths, and get to take pictures with a “very special” bunny. Event collaborators include the El Cerrito Fire Department, Police Department, local dentists and orthodontists, and the Richmond House Rabbit Society. For more information or to register, please visit <http://www.el-cerrito.org/1331/Spring-Egg-Hunt>

Easy Ride Senior & Disabled Transportation Service

Easy Ride Senior and Disabled Transportation is a shuttle van service for seniors (65 and over) and persons 18 and over with a disability who are El Cerrito residents. The program is funded by Measure J Sales Tax. Registration in our Easy Ride Para-Transit program is required and must be renewed annually. Registration information is available at <https://www.el-cerrito.org/adult>. For more information, email recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 559-7000.

AARP Tax-Aide Income Tax Preparation

FREE AARP Tax-Aide Income Tax preparation help for state and federal income tax forms is available for low and moderate-income seniors in El Cerrito. This FREE service is offered BY APPOINTMENT ONLY at the Hana Gardens Senior Center located at 10870 San Pablo Ave. Call (510) 241-2951 to make an appointment.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City is pleased to offer the following employment opportunities:

- Assistant Gymnastic Coach (Recreation Program Leader) – Part-Time
- Childcare Teachers and Aides – Part-Time
- Fire Chief
- Lifeguard & Swim Instructor – Seasonal
- Police Cadet – Part-Time
- Police Officer – Lateral and Academy Graduate
- Police Officer – Recruit
- Police Records Specialist
- Pool Manager (Aquatics Specialist II) - Seasonal
- Summer Camp Counselor (Childcare Aide) – Seasonal
- Swim Window Attendant – Seasonal
- Water Aerobics Instructor (Aquatics Specialist I) – Part-Time

For more information about the positions and how to apply, please visit: www.el-cerrito.org/jobs.