

News

FALL/WINTER 2009

San Pablo Avenue: A New Sense of Place

HE CITY Redevelopment Agency is in the final stage of a program to make improvements to San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito. Over the last few years, the Agency has worked to create a distinct sense of place for this portion of the Avenue through the use of banners, landscaping, and street furnishings. The new streetscape is designed to further economic development and to improve transportation safety with new intersection bulb-outs and upgraded crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and transit stops.

Planning for the project began in 2001. The Redevelopment Agency committed a total of \$4.3 million and City staff obtained a total of \$2.3 million in outside grant funding. The Agency added

another \$700,000 to upgrade the street lighting along this heavilytravelled corridor.

With the goal of transforming San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito into a distinctive destination, over the past decade the City embarked on several beautification and "place building" efforts:



As part of the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Project, medians were renovated last year with a new water-saving irrigation system and landscaping.

- developing Baxter Creek Gateway Park, a riparian-corridor and park at the City's northern end (built in conjunction with the Baxter Creek Restoration and Ohlone Greenway Extension Project)
- initiating a year-round street banner program
- implementing a unique wayfinding and identity signage program, installing a comprehensive array of signs with a distinctive look, along the entire length of the Avenue in El Cerrito
- renovating medians, which included planting 180 new trees and redesigning landscaping to reduce environmental impacts (such as water use) but increase seasonal color and visual interest
- replacing streetlights with new LED technology to dramatically reduce energy costs (over 40%) while providing better lighting

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STATE BUDGET SHORTFALL

City Faces Tough Budget Choices

LTHOUGH THE City Council passed a balanced budget for FY09-10 in June, some changes must be made to accommodate the new State Budget, which the State adopted in late July. To address California's budget deficit, the State Legislature chose to take \$2.05 billion from local redevelopment agencies and to "borrow" \$1.9 billion of property tax revenues from California cities. The State is supposed to repay this money (with interest) within three years but since the current budget does not address the State's structural deficit, many cities are concerned that this "borrowed" money may not be repaid.

For El Cerrito, this means the State is "borrowing" \$667,500 in funds to be

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Saturday, October 10 CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

Shop over 100 individual garage sales. Find a bargain and help the environment by re-cycling used goods! Sale maps



will be available a day before the sale at the Community Center, the Recycling Center, or online at www.el-cerrito.org.

When: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Where: Citywide

Saturday, October 10 CERT BOOT CAMP

This non-certified, one-day, condensed format training will introduce participants to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. To register, call the Fire Department at **215-4450**.

When: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Where: Kensington Community Center

59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

Saturday, October 10 FREE FOLK FESTIVAL

The San Francisco Folk Music Club presents a daylong art and music festival featuring performances and workshops by more than 50 musicians. Some musicians are world-renowned and some local. Some are both.



Co-sponsored by the City of El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission.

See www.elcerritofolkfest.org for details and schedule.

Cost: Free. All ages welcome.

When: 12 noon-10 p.m. Where: Windrush School 1800 Flm St.

Saturday, October 17 FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE

Kids and parents can tour the El Cerrito and Kensington Fire Stations and talk to the firefighters!

When: 12 noon-4 p.m.

Where: El Cerrito Station 72 (1520 Arlington) Kensington Station 65 (217 Arlington, Kensington)

Saturday, October 17 NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN TEAM EVENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SHOWCASE

See page 7 for details.

When: Green Team, 9 a.m.-12 noon Showcase, 12 noon-2 p.m.

Saturday, October 17 ARTS CELEBRATION AT CITY HALL

Hosted by the Arts and Culture Commission, this free event features film, music, and gallery exhibits for the entire family and is part of the City's month-long celebration of the Arts. Call Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager, at 215-4302 or email kap@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us for more details.

When: 2-3:15 p.m., screening of videos by Eve A. Ma

3:30-4p.m., performance by the Kensington Symphony Orchestra

4-6p.m., reception, Kristin Satzman, photographer

Where: City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave.

Saturday, October 24 COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Learn how to reduce fertilizer and pesticide use and green waste as well at this free composting workshop. Registration required. Call RecycleMore at 215-3021 for more information or to register.

When: 10 a.m.-12 noon

Where: Open House Senior Center

6500 Stockton Ave.

Saturday, October 31 HEALTHY GARDENING WITHOUT TOXIC CHEMICALS

Join us for a hands-on introduction to smart garden planning and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. Registration required. For more information, call Environmental Services at 215-4354. Register with the Recreation Department at 559-7000.

Cost: \$15 residents; \$30 non-residents

When: 10 a.m.-12 noon

Where: Open House Senior Center

6500 Stockton Ave.

Sunday, October 25 HOME-BASED BUSINESS EXPO

Informational event for El Cerrito businesses. Call the Economic Development Division at **215-4362** for more details.

When: 1-5 p.m.

Where: El Cerrito High School

540 Ashbury Ave.

Friday October 30 HALLOWEEN AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Kids can come in costume and enjoy a spooky Haunted House, games, and, weather permitting, there will be bouncy houses too! New this year: register your dog for the Do

register your dog for the Dog Parade and Costume Contest! For more details, visit www.el-cerrito.org/recreation.

When: 3-7:30 p.m.

Where: Community Center

7007 Moeser Lane

Saturday, November 7 DOG PARK FUNDRAISER

Come to the Rialto Cinemas Cerrito to see *Hotel For Dogs* (Rated PG). Tickets only \$7 for all ages. Proceeds will benefit the Bruce King Memorial Fund.

When: 10 a.m.

Where: Rialto Cinemas Cerrito 10070 San Pablo Ave.

Wednesday, November 11 **VETERANS DAY**

City Hall and the El Cerrito Recycling Center are closed.

Saturday, November 14 **GARDEN MAKEOVER**

Ioin us in a hands-on volunteer project at the Community Center and learn how to make your yard drought-tolerant. Help to replant the community center garden with drought-tolerant



native plants over several days.

Space in the first workshop is limited to 30 volunteers. To register or for more information, call the El Cerrito Public Works Maintenance Division at 215-4369.

When: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Where: Community Center 7007 Moeser Lane

Thursday and Friday November 26-27 THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

City Hall and the El Cerrito Recycling Center are closed. No curbside recycling collection.

Saturday December 12 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The City's Annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast includes a visit from Santa and a holiday marionette show. Tickets are \$8 per person (includes breakfast and show). For tickets, visit the Community Center or call **559-7000**.



Donation barrels will be available if you wish to donate a new (unwrapped) toy to local children. The toy drive is sponsored by the El Cerrito and Richmond Fire Departments. See page 6 for details.

When: 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

(Show starts at 10:30 a.m.)

Where: El Cerrito Community Center

7007 Moeser Lane

Tuesday, December 15 OPEN HOUSE SENIOR CENTER HOLIDAY PARTY

Come and enjoy wonderful holiday music, refreshments, excerpts from the Nutcracker performed by the El Cerrito Ballet Company, and a special visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus. Party open to all older adults. Call 559-7677 for lunch reservations

When: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where: Open House Senior Center

6500 Stockton Ave.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Hall and the Recycling Center are closed December 24, 25, 31 (half-day) and January 1 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Check www.el-cerrito.org for additional city facility closures. Check www.ecrecycling.org for curbside recycling and garbage collection holiday schedule.

Saturday-Sunday January 2-3 E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

Need to get rid of an old TV, computer, or mp3 player? This dropoff event is FREE to everyone. No residency restrictions, no appointment needed. Visit www.unwaste.com or



call (888) 832-9839 to learn more about this event. No appliances, batteries, microwaves, paints,

or pesticides, please.

When: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., both days Where: El Cerrito DMV Parking Lot 6400 Manila Ave.

Monday, January 18 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE AND RALLY

Save the date for this annual event. For more details, contact the Human Relations Commission or MLK Coordinator Patricia Durham at 234-2518.



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repaid with interest (maximum 6%) over the following three years.

The State is also taking \$1.7 billion of property tax revenues from redevelopment agencies' funds to meet Proposition 98 obligations to education. This is referred to as the "ERAF shift." For the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency, the ERAF shift is \$1.77 million in this fiscal year and \$364.000 in the next fiscal year. Staff projects that, after utilizing all Redevelopment Agency cash, the Agency will be short \$1.3 million and will have to consider cancelling projects, selling land, laying off staff, borrowing money, or other options. The El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency Board has already decided to cancel the planned purchase of the Senior Center land from the West Contra Costa Unified School District

With sales tax revenues uncertain and further State takeaways a possibility, the Council and staff will monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary to maintain the current level of service. However, further takeaways or significant declines in revenue may limit the City's ability to fund day-today operations without cuts in service.

Street Repairs Underway

HANKS TO voter approval of Measure A in 2008, the City now has funds available to improve our local streets. The Public Works Department is overseeing the intensive, four-year citywide pothole and street repair program that began in 2008.

Before the end of the year, about 28 miles of streets will be resurfaced. Look for the "No Parking" signs posted on affected streets. For more information about the work being done, maps showing the type of work planned for each street, and a contractor schedule for the current week, visit www.pavingelcerrito.org. If you have additional questions, call the Street Paving Hotline at 219-4155 or email paving@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

El Cerrito and Richmond Draft a Cohesive Plan for San Pablo Ave.

URING THE PAST two years, the Cities of El Cerrito and Richmond have developed a draft Specific Plan for San Pablo Avenue to jointly address issues and opportunities for the area.

Once adopted by both cities, this Specific Plan will guide future land use and design decisions. It will create a cohesive approach to development along the shared length of the Avenue. The Specific Plan is also intended to:

- catalyze economic revitalization for the corridor
- encourage transit-oriented development
- enhance walkability and bikeability on the Avenue

A major goal of the joint Specific Plan is the creation of unified land use and

design standards. A zig-zagging municipal boundary line and misaligned cross-streets were an obstacle to earlier revitalization of the Avenue, but the Draft Specific Plan provides the cities with a consistent land-use approach to new development in the plan area.

To develop the Specific
Plan, multiple community
workshops were held to
obtain public input. Workshop discussions covered
revitalization, land use, transportation,
and design. A San Pablo Avenue Advisory
Committee (SPAAC) was also organized
to develop the Specific Plan. The SPAAC
consists of elected officials and key staff



At this community workshop, El Cerrito and Richmond residents and businesspeople discussed ideas with planning staff.

and business owners from both communities, and representatives from regional organizations, such as BART, AC Transit and the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee.

The draft San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan is now available for public review. Visit **www.el-cerrito.org** or the public counter at City Hall to read the full document.

The Draft San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan consists of three volumes. Volume I is a user-friendly document that outlines the overall vision, approach and strategy for the plan area. Volume II contains goals, policies, design guidelines, technical analyses, and the necessary tools for implementation. Volume III is a collection of technical reports and background documents completed as part of the Specific Plan project.

NEXT STEPS

The Draft Specific Plan is currently under review. First, the Design Review Board will look at the Design Guidelines section. Then the entire document will be the subject of study sessions and public hearings by the Planning Commissions and City Councils of both El Cerrito and Richmond. The City Councils of both cities should adopt a final version of the Specific Plan later this winter.

Meeting dates will be posted on our website as they become available. For more information about the Draft Plan, please contact Dwayne Dalman, Economic Project Manager, at **215-4362**, or email **ddalman@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us**.

SENSE OF PLACE: Continued from page 1

Currently, the Redevelopment Agency is in the final stage of the project, which includes the following features:

- Street Tree Planting along frontages to complement the median tree planting
- Pedestrian improvements at high-use locations. These include countdown signals at all signal crosswalks; bulbouts at key intersections; in-pavement flashers and overhead signs to warn of pedestrians in two locations; striping (roadway markings); and new crosswalks at 4 locations.
- Improved amenities along the entire corridor, including new benches at bus stops, additional lighting at Rapid Bus Stops, more bicycle racks, and new dual stream trash/recycling bins

The City recently issued a "Call To Artists" and received proposals to create and install site-specific, durable, artworks to provide continuity and color along the Project. The City encouraged works of art that would fit into the fabric of the streetscape, such as:

Visual art pieces

- Mosaics
- Artistic functional streetscape elements, such as benches, kiosks, fixtures, sidewalk treatments, banners, trash cans, lighting, granite seat pads

from El Cerrito and Richmond, residents

 Other elements conducive to an outdoor streetscape environment

The project's design was based upon input from general public meetings in 2006 and 2008, the Arts and Culture Commission, and the Design Review Board. City staff worked with Caltrans, AC Transit, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (these two latter agencies were also funders). In addition, they consulted with regional groups such as the San Pablo Avenue Working Group and researched pedestrian-oriented best management practices.

The San Pablo Avenue Streetscape and Gateway Identity Program is a program of the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency. This agency, whose governing board is made up of the five City Council members, uses property tax increment funds generated within the Agency's project area.

City Sponsors New Ventures Business Training

OULD YOU LIKE to improve your small business and sharpen your business skills? Are you planning to start a new business? Consider the New Venture Training series, a 12-week program starting in January, 2010. The training is sponsored by the El Cerrito Economic Development Division.

The training series will be run by the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center, and covers these topics:

DEVELOPING A BUSINESS PLAN

A new or an existing business can benefit from a working business plan—a map—to guide development and growth.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

Most people start businesses based on specialized skills or knowledge. They often need to enhance their business management expertise. This program fills the gap, by giving business owners the management skills they need.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Starting and running a business often takes place in isolation. This program gives attendees the opportunity to meet, learn and exchange ideas with fellow entrepreneurs.

In addition, attendees will learn:

- Goal setting techniques
- Time management skills
- Strategic planning
- Pricing products and services
- Effective marketing strategies
- How to estimate sales forecasts
- How to research an industry, target market, trade area, or your competition

The program is limited to 15 businesses. If you are interested, or have questions, visit the Economic Development website at **www.DiscoverElCerrito.com** or contact Dwayne Dalman, Economic Development Project Manager at **215-4362**.

El Cerrito Seeks Community Input on Climate Change Efforts

DURING THE NEXT year, the City of El Cerrito will hold a series of meetings and workshops on global warming. We want to know how the people of El Cerrito think we should respond to this challenge.



We'll meet with some of El Cerrito's business and civic groups and hold community-wide workshops. In these meetings, we'll discuss such important issues as environmental quality, global warming, energy efficiency, energy security, and transportation options. Please attend and bring your concerns and ideas. Together, we'll develop a shared vision of the City's response to climate change and figure out the best policies and programs to make that shared vision a reality.

The City's Environmental Services Division will be using this input to develop a Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. This plan will

- summarize the risks El Cerrito faces from the effects of global warming,
- investigate ways to minimize those risks,
- set a goal for reducing the pollution that causes global warming,
- analyze options to meet that emissions reduction goal, and
- develop a roadmap to help El Cerrito meet its goal.

To get involved, email Maria Sanders in the Environmental Services Division at msanders@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call 215-4351.

October Is Fire Prevention Month: Make Your Home a Safe Haven

OUR HOME should be a safe haven—but do you regularly it check for fire hazards? If not, there is potential danger. The US Fire Service responds to approximately 400,000 home fires a year. That's why the National Fire Protection Association is focusing on preventing home fires during October's Fire Prevention Month.

If you practice a little extra caution, you can greatly reduce your risk of fire. The following inspection list can help you make your home safer.

- Make sure electrical cords are kept in good condition.
- Appliances and lights should be plugged into separate electrical outlets.
- All smoke alarms should be tested regularly.

- Furnaces should be inspected annually.
- All home escape routes should be clear and easily accessible.
- Move curtains and other flammable items away from any and all heat sources.
- Portable space heaters should be in the "off" position when unattended.
- Clothes dryers should be checked to ensure that the filter is clean.*
- Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected annually.

These tips can help you protect your loved ones and your home.

* Clothes dryer fires in the home are far more common than you may think. Please visit **www.el-cerrito.org/fire** to learn more about how you can reduce the risk of a clothes dryer fire.



This manufacturer's rendering shows the new play equipment installed at Cerrito Vista Park earlier this summer.

Safer Playground at Cerrito Vista

ARLIER THIS SUMMER, the City replaced the old wooden play structure at Cerrito Vista Park with colorful new play equipment and a safer rubberized ground surface.

This renovation was funded by the East Bay Regional Park District's Measure WW Bond Extension and a "First Five" grant from the Contra Costa Children and Families Commission.

Cerrito Vista Park is located at 7300 Moeser Lane. The popular park includes a field, jogging track, restrooms, tennis courts, and a barbecue and picnic area. Call the Recreation Department at **559-7000** or visit **www.el-cerrito.org/recreation/parks.html** for more information about parks in El Cerrito.



Share the Joy

ONATE A NEW, unwrapped toy to a needy child through the El Cerrito and Richmond Fire Departments' Annual Toy Drive. The toy program benefits the children of West Contra Costa County. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and local companies, over 1,000 families received toys last year.

Toys for all age groups will be collected from late November through mid-December. Look for donation barrels at locations all over town or drop off new, unwrapped toys at the El Cerrito and Kensington Fire Stations:

- Station 71, 10900 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito
- Station 72, 1520 Arlington, El Cerrito
- Station 65, 217 Arlington, Kensington

For more information, or to make a monetary donation, contact the El Cerrito Fire Department at **215-4457**.

Police Department Carries the "Torch of Hope" for Special Olympics



Officers and staff from the El Cerrito Police Department participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run on Wednesday, June 24. They helped carry the Special Olympics "Torch of Hope" along San Pablo Avenue on its way to the Special Olympics Summer Games 2009 at the UC Davis campus. Officers also raised over \$4,000 for Northern California Special Olympics during a "Tip-A-Cop" fundraiser at Macaroni Grill, El Cerrito Plaza, in August. For information regarding the Northern California Special Olympics, visit www.sonc.org.

What is a Parking Strip, and What Can I Plant There?

ANY RESIDENTS CONSIDER using "curb appeal" projects to improve the appearance of their property or to simplify maintenance. These projects often include upgrading the landscaping of the parking strip area located between the curb and the sidewalk.

The parking strip area is considered the public right-of-way. Typically, the Public Works Department plants the trees that grow in the strip. When existing trees are in decline, or if a property owner wants to plant new trees, the owner should contact the Maintenance Division. City personnel will inspect and care for existing trees or

replace dead or unhealthy ones. The property owner is required to maintain the new tree or trees for the first two years, critical to tree survival, by keeping the trees well watered. After the initial two years are over, the City begins tree trimming services on a four year rotating schedule. General maintenance, however—such as weed, leaf or trash removal, mowing, trimming or re-landscaping—is the responsibility of the property owner.

Property owners are free to plant shrubs or native grasses and spread mulch in the open parking strip space. If shrubs are planted, they must not exceed 3 feet in height. All vegetation must be trimmed so that it doesn't block the sidewalk or a driver's line of sight around a corner. The sidewalk must remain clear, allowing pedestrians and wheelchair users to move freely. No one should have to walk into traffic to avoid plants that block the sidewalk nor should a driver have to make a blind turn around corners with overgrown bushes.

An Encroachment Permit is required if you want fill the open parking strip with concrete, pavers, brick or stone, also known as flat work. Conditions of an encroachment permit include:

- You must leave at least one tree well open to facilitate future tree planting by the City or new property owners
- Two inspections (pre-pour and final) are required with this permit.
- Prohibited: Loose, aggregate material cannot be used to cover the parking strip area.
- Fees include: an issuance fee (nonrefundable), a deposit (refundable), and inspection fees (nonrefundable).
- You can purchase an encroachment permit for work in the public right of-way at the Public Works counter at City Hall.
- If you have hired a contractor to do this work, the contractor typically pays the permit fees along with the deposit ensuring their work. The contractor must have a City of El Cerrito business license.

If you are planning to do any kind of landscaping, please contact the Maintenance Division at **215-4369** with your questions and concerns. You will be requested to show your landscape plans to staff.



Community Green Events October 17th

START A GREEN TEAM AND PLANT TREES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON

Organize a neighborhood Green Team for a volunteer tree planting effort! The El Cerrito Public Works Department is ready to supply free trees, help you find appropriate locations in the public right-of-way, waive encroachment permits, and instruct you in tree planting techniques. All you need to do is organize neighbors to dig the holes, plant the trees, and commit to caring for them for the first two years.

For more information, to sign up to plant a tree, and/or to organize a Green Team in your neighborhood, please call Garth Schultz with the Environmental Services Division at **215-4354** or email **gschultz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us**.

The Environmental Quality Committee hopes the neighborhood Green Teams will undertake other volunteer projects in addition to the tree planting event. These community groups can improve environmental quality in El Cerrito by working on projects such as:

- Hillside Natural Area restoration and clean-up
- Creek and Greenway cleanups and restoration
- Community outreach about City environmental programs

- Being local points-of-contact for neighborhoods about environmental issues
- Other ideas from people like you!

Sign up to lead a Green Team by contacting the Environmental Services Division today!

MAKE EL CERRITO GREENER: ENVIRONMENTAL SHOWCASE 12 NOON TO 2 P.M.

After the Green Team/Tree Planting Event, join the City of El Cerrito and the Environmental Quality Committee at City Hall for music, food, and information booths showcasing new, local, environmental programs. Activities for children will be available, so bring the whole family!

Come learn about the Committee's and the City's efforts to:

- Reduce waste and increase recycling
- Recognize environmental achievement
- Promote environmental education
- Support volunteer efforts
- Support community Green Teams
- Develop a Climate Action Plan
- And more!

This is a great opportunity to connect with other environmentally-minded community members to plan new environmental programs for our community.

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

El CERRITO POSTAL PATRON



EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL
Mayor Sandi Potter
Mayor Pro Tem Janet Abelson
Councilmember Ann Cheng
Councilmember Greg Lyman
Councilmember William C. Jones, III

CITY WEBSITE www.el-cerrito.org

CITY HALL 10890 San Pablo Ave

Recreation Department

Swim Center

10890 San Pablo Ave.	
(All area codes 510)	
Administration	215-4300
City Clerk	215-4305
City Council	215-4305
City Manager	215-4300
Employee Services	215-4315
Environmental Services	215-4350
Finance	215-4310
Community Development	215-4380
Building	215-4360
Economic Development	215-4380
Housing	215-4380
Redevelopment	215-4380
Planning	215-4330
Public Works	
Corporation Yard	215-4369
Engineering	215-4382
Maintenance	215-4369
Street Paving	219-4155
Recycling Center 7501 Schmidt Lane Environmental Services Division	215-4350
Community Center 7007 Moeser Lane	

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): Veterans Day, Wed Nov 11 Thanksgiving, Nov 26-27 Christmas: Dec 24 and 25

New Years: Dec 31 (half day) and Jan 1 Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Jan 18

City Council regular meetings: October 5 and 19, November 2 and 16, December 7 and 21.

City Council meetings are held in the new City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. Regular Council meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable channel 28 and are also available live online. 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 www.el-cerrito.org for updates.

NEW: Follow us on Twitter! Go our website at **www.el-cerrito.org** and click on the Twitter link to follow the City of El Cerrito.



559-7000

559-7011

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Flu Season Is Here

FEW COMMON precautions can help prevent the spread of germs that cause the flu. Help protect everyone's health by taking these steps during flu season.

- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective. Germs can live for several days on surfaces such as doorknobs.
- Avoid close contact with sick people. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from those who may be sick.
- If you get sick with influenza, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

