This week serves to recognize important people and raise awareness of significant issues. I’d like to take an opportunity to recognize and honor what makes our community great...

Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4-8): Thank you to all the dedicated people who lend their passion and skills to educate our children. During this crisis, our teachers have gone above and beyond to continue education with virtual classrooms and learning at home lessons. Especially now, we truly recognize and appreciate how our nation’s educators play such a pivotal role in our children’s lives. We are grateful for your service and for how much you care about your students and their families.

National Nurses Week (May 6-12): We express our deep gratitude to nurses for their hard work, compassion, and resilience, especially throughout this public health emergency. Nurses are indispensable and show tireless commitment to their patients and to our collective public health. Thank you to all nurses (including Councilmember Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto) for being there for our communities and for making a lifesaving difference every day.

Public Service Recognition Week (May 3-9): Now more than ever, I am proud to work in local government. I am especially grateful for our talented and resilient staff team in El Cerrito, who have risen to the occasion and taken on the challenges we face with dignity and leadership. We are on the front lines of ensuring the public’s health and safety and we are proud to serve our community. I stand with all those who have dedicated their careers to Public Service, and I am grateful to be a part of such an important profession. Thank you to all those who work in the public sector (including Mayor Greg Lyman), and for making people’s lives better.

Wildfire Prevention Week (May 3-9): It is truly hard right now to envision another potential disaster, yet it is extremely important for all of us to be prepared for wildfire season. We must work together to help prevent loss of life and property by taking steps such as ensuring adequate defensible space around homes and buildings, making homes more fire resistant, and preparing for an evacuation. The City has begun its annual Vegetation Management Program and there is no time like the present (especially since landscaping services are allowed per the County public health order) to make sure that your home is prepared and in compliance with our fire hazard mitigation standards. Learn more at www.el-cerrito.org/firehazardmitigation.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Karen Pinkos
City Manager
City of El Cerrito
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES

www.el-cerrito.org/COVID19 - Please see website for citywide updates.

Shelter-in-Place Orders Extended through May 31, 2020 as Some Rules Ease
Seven Bay Area Public Health Officers who ordered a shelter in place in mid-March have extended the orders through May 31, while some restrictions are eased and tools to strengthen containment of COVID-19 are put into place. The social distancing intervention has slowed the increase of new cases and prevented the anticipated medical surge. As restrictions are eased, it is critical to ensure that most of the prior Order’s restrictions remain in place.

However, the new Order makes a number of significant changes, which are summarized as follows: Most real estate, construction, landscaping, and outdoor businesses can resume granted that appropriate social distancing protocols and project safety protocols are followed, as detailed in the health order.

Additionally, the County Health Officer will consider easing or expanding restrictions based on progress we collectively achieve on several key indicators described in the new Order and referred to as the COVID-19 Indicators.

CITY MANAGER’S UPDATE (CONT’D)

CITY MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

Contra Costa County Customer Focused Session on June 10, 2020, 5:30 p.m., SAVE THE DATE.

PG&E is hosting a series of online webinars for anyone interested in learning more about the Community Wildfire Safety Program, including how you could be affected by a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

These virtual gatherings will allow community members to learn more about wildfire safety and emergency preparedness, meet with PG&E representatives, ask questions, and share feedback. Visit PG&E’s website for the full webinar schedule and to register.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Inspections and Applications
Under the revised Shelter-in-Place guidelines, construction for both small and large projects have resumed. The City’s Building Inspectors are adhering to physical distancing protocols and all construction sites are required to do the same. While City Hall remains closed to the public through May 31, staff is available to process applications for permits, submittal of documents for review, payment of fees, etc. which must be done by appointment, by email, or phone. For more details, please visit el-cerrito.org/Building.

Affordable Housing Week 2020: Affordable Homes for All
The East Bay Housing Organization (EBHO) invites you to celebrate Affordable Housing Week between May 7 – May 17. EBHO has organized Affordable Housing Week annually for 24 years and this year’s festivities include virtual tours, educational events, a podcast and digital art gallery acknowledging the need for and benefits of affordable housing in our region. To learn more about these events, please visit www.ebho.org/our-work/affordable-housing-week. We hope you will be able to join! For more information about affordable housing in El Cerrito, please visit el-cerrito.org/affordablehousing or contact Aissia Ashoori, Housing Analyst, at aashoori@ci-el-cerrito.ca.us.

El Mono in New Location
In case you missed it, El Cerrito’s Peruvian restaurant is making a move to its new location at 11720 San Pablo Avenue, Suite B at Del Norte Place (right across from Honda of El Cerrito Honda). As a family owned and operated restaurant, founders Matt and Dani pride themselves on going the extra mile to bring to you the healthiest ingredients. Given the current Shelter in Place Order, El Mono is offering lunch specials all day and night as part of their take-out and delivery service. Their tentative re-opening date is set for May 8. Please support by ordering directly from the restaurant at (510)
Annual Business License Renewals & COVID-19
Due to the impacts of COVID-19, some businesses may need more time to pay the business license fee due on July 1. If your business has been impacted, the Finance Department will be able to extend your business license renewal deadline by 60 days without penalty. Businesses will have until September 1 to pay fees, and penalties will not begin accruing until October 1. The City will send out detailed information in the annual business license renewal mailing. Please visit www.elcerrito.org/COVID19 and select “Resources for Local Businesses” for additional resources.

FIRE

Drone Mission to Find a Missing Person
On Sunday, March 3, around 7:30 p.m., the Fire Department was dispatched to assist Kensington Police Department (KPD) with a missing person suffering from dementia in the Grizzly Peak Blvd area. The 72-year-old woman had reportedly walked away from her home earlier in the afternoon and had not been seen since around 5 p.m. KPD requested our drone to survey the park area near the resident’s home to look for her, as it was starting to get dark. This was a joint search and rescue operation that involved El Cerrito/Kensington Fire drone, County Sheriff’s drone, County Search and Rescue team, Kensington PD, Albany PD, East Bay Regional Park District helicopter, and a San Pablo PD K9 unit for tracking. The Fire Department crew were able to launch the drone with the night camera and infrared lens and searched most of the east side of El Cerrito and Kensington in the park and along the Old School Trail. Eventually, around 11:00 p.m., a local citizen discovered the lady on San Pablo Avenue near Cutting. She was evaluated and safely returned home.

Wildfire Preparedness
The 2020 Fire Season is rapidly approaching. While there was some late-season precipitation last month, the weather for the most part is drying out and with the below-average rainfall this year, the annual grasses and other small fuels are starting to dry out. The current warming trend has been drying out the 1-hour fuels rather quickly. There have already been several grass fires in the Bay Area and throughout the region, some growing to well over 100 acres. Cal Fire has begun upstaffing their stations in the region in preparation for the increased needs. While we live and work in a cooler microclimate, we are not exempt from the much hotter and dryer weather that can be perfect for extreme fire weather and behavior. You may notice the fire crews out practicing and training on their wildland drills and hose-laying techniques.

Fire Hazard Inspections
The Fire Department has begun their hazard inspections this month which focus primarily on vegetation reduction and management around the homes, to create a more defensible space and help prevent wildland fires in the community. Vegetation management planning in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) focuses on areas where fire poses the greatest risk to life and property. There are three specific goals of the Fire Department’s program:
1. Keep all fires small. Small fires generally are cooler than large fires and are more easily extinguished.
2. Limit the speed with which any fire will grow. Fires need fuel to burn; if fuel is available, fires will continue to grow rapidly. Fuel must be limited or made unavailable to spreading fire.
3. Make it more difficult for fires to ignite and spread. Small fires can ignite progressively larger fuels. Small fuels are like kindling and are easily ignited. Reducing and separating kindling fuels from larger fuels reduces sources for ignition and the potential for fire spread.

Fires will continue to be a part of California urban living. By implementing vegetation management standards, residents can significantly reduce the potential of a small fire to grow into a catastrophic event involving one or more structures, as well as lower the risk of ignition to their property in the event of a nearby fire or fire ember storm as can happen during the Diablo wind events. The primary method of stopping fire spread is by increasing separation distances between combustible fuels.

POLICE

Annual Police Report for 2019
The Police Department has completed its Annual Report for 2019. Look for this publication at elcerrito.org/AnnualReport2019 to find out about the incredible work our officers did last year!

PUBLIC WORKS

Maintaining Closure of City Playgrounds, Picnic Areas, and Some Shared Recreational Facilities

Public Works Maintenance crews are continuing their emergency response activities by maintaining COVID-19-related closures of City playgrounds, dog parks, picnic areas, and some shared recreational facilities, as required by the Contra Costa Health Officer Order dated March 31, 2020, and in alignment with the superseding Order dated April 29, 2020.

The superseding Order allows for the opening of some shared recreational facilities in the County, including golf facilities and tennis courts. The City is posting signage at all City tennis courts to provide guidance on how to ensure Social Distancing requirements are met with these facilities reopened. It is important to note that some playfields are closed to sports activities, although recreation activities by members of the same household are permitted.
In addition, Public Works and Recreation Department staff continue to work closely together to ensure parks and the Hillside Natural Area stay open with the dual goals of minimizing transmission of the coronavirus, while supporting essential activities that are crucial for the mental, emotional, and physical health of community members.

**Recycling Center Planning for Reopening**

As noted above, the most recent Shelter-in-Place Order allows, among other things, for most real estate, construction, landscaping, and outdoor businesses to resume operations, granted that appropriate social distancing protocols and project safety protocols are followed. The Order, and associated Frequently Asked Questions document, also explicitly states that “all recycling facilities may operate…” As a result, Public Works staff is planning for reopening the City’s Recycling Center to the public.

While a date has not yet been determined, many self-serve recycling services will soon be available once again to the public. To be sure, some service offerings may be limited during this time, in order to minimize the potential for transmission of the coronavirus; however, it is the City’s goal to find a way to safely offer core services at the Recycling Center that are essential for our community. Services that will likely be available include: all self-serve drop off stations for materials including clothes and shoes, metals, bike parts, books, aluminum cans, glass bottles, paper fibers, used motor oil, cooking oil, electronic waste, household batteries, and cardboard. The collection of Styrofoam, compact florescent lightbulbs, sharps, and pharmaceuticals may also re-open with new limitations and protocols that ensure Staff and customers can maintain social distancing. In addition, the important service of Household Hazardous Waste collection would also likely resume on Tuesdays.

Staff is outlining how each of the services provided could be performed to minimize or eliminate close contact. In the near term, this will likely mean keeping the Administrative Office and Exchange Zone closed, and limiting services offered to non-residents which typically require a transaction. In addition, Staff is thinking through what personal protective equipment (e.g., face shields) and design elements (markings on the ground, signage, etc.) will ensure that the facility can operate as safely as possible.

Stay tuned for more information about the reopening of the Recycling Center in the coming weeks. Contact Recycling Center Staff at greenassistant@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or (510) 215-4350.

**All construction activities allowed to resume with required social distancing protocols in place**

Under the updated Shelter-In-Place Order, that took effect on Monday, May 4, all construction activities have been allowed to resume with required social distancing protocols in place. Engineering staff are currently developing processes/procedures to accommodate the additional need for review and inspection of Encroachment Permits, Grading & Transportation Permits and Building Permits. To maintain proper social distancing, all applications for permits, submittal of
documents for review, payment of fees, etc. must be primarily done by email or phone and, if needed, in-person by appointment only at City Hall. Face coverings are required to be worn while in City Hall. For Engineering services and assistance during this time, please visit el-cerrito.org/PublicWorks.

El Cerrito has the County's Highest in Deep Green Participation Rate

According to the latest data from MCE Clean Energy, El Cerrito again boasts the highest “Deep Green” participation rate in Contra Costa County, with 7.4% of accounts opting for 100% renewable energy. Other interested community members can still opt-up to "Deep Green" through MCE, our local electricity provider. MCE's Deep Green costs less than $5 more per month for the average household, when compared to MCE's standard option, and it's easy to sign up using this online form. Signing up for cleaner energy is an easy and impactful action people can take to reduce their carbon footprint and support the City’s Climate Action goals. For more information about clean energy, visit mcecleanenergy.org.

Subscribe to the Green Happenings Monthly e-newsletter

The Operations + Environmental Services Division sends out a monthly email about environmental activities in El Cerrito. The e-newsletter typically provides information about the Recycling Center’s offerings, environmental programs and events led by the City and community partners, Public Works projects, and other City information that is especially relevant during this time. Sign up for the monthly newsletter at el-cerrito.org/GreenHappenings or by emailing wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.
Virtual Recreation: Online Classes for All Ages
The El Cerrito Recreation Department has been working with program instructors to continue providing shared recreation experiences for our community. In late April, the Virtual Recreation pilot program was launched, offering something for youth, teens and adults alike. Many spring classes are still available for registration including youth sports and adult learning. To view the Virtual Programs Brochure and see all that is being offered, visit el-cerrito.org/SpringVirtualProgramming.
Sing-Along with Terry!
Do you miss Friday Senior Sing-Alongs? Now you can sing-along with Terry at home! New song lists with lyrics and music will be posted weekly to el-cerrito.org/1490/50-Seniors

Courts Open
The El Cerrito Tennis and Pickleball Courts are now open with limitations. The public is asked to adhere to physical distancing and safety protocols detailed on the attached flyers while utilizing courts or visiting our parks. Tennis Courts are located at Arlington, Canyon Trail, Castro, Harding, Tassajara and Cerrito Vista parks. Currently, one court is available for reservation at each park, while the other is open on a first come, first serve basis (except for Arlington Park where 2 of the 3 courts are available for reservation). Tennis court reservations can be made by going online to el-cerrito.org/onlinereg. Please note effective May 2020, reservations will only be accepted online. All reservations are final, and no refund or transfer requests will be processed. For more information visit el-cerrito.org/sportsfacilities.

Essential Senior Services
The El Cerrito Recreation Department has been working to continue providing essential services for seniors in our community, including the C.C. Café To-Go Meal delivery program and Easy Ride Paratransit service to grocery stores. To find out more about these programs, email midtown@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 559-7677.

Summer Camp Survey
All families who are currently enrolled in the Recreation Department’s 2020 Summer Camp Program have been sent a survey to assess current needs and concerns as planning continues for a very different-looking camp year. Staff are working closely with professional organizations in the planning phase to create protocols and curriculum for a program that would enable small groups of children to come to camps. More definitive plans are expected later this month.

Subscribe & Follow
It is important to stay connected during this difficult time. For up-to-date information in the El Cerrito Recreation Department, please subscribe to our email newsletter rECnews at el-cerrito.org/recreation
Follow us: Instagram - @ecrecreation | Facebook - @ecrecreation | Twitter - @ElCerritoREC
CITY MANAGER’S UPDATE (CONT’D)

ATTACHMENTS/FLYERS

- Protocol for Use of Tennis Courts
- Protocol for Park Use
- El Cerrito Restaurant List
- County Health Stay at Home Order
Do not use courts if experiencing any symptoms of illness, especially fever, cough and difficulty breathing. Do not use courts if considered by the CDC to be a vulnerable individual. Help keep parks and tennis courts open by following these guidelines. Repeated violations may require the court to be closed.

**SIX FOOT PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIRED**
2 people per court only. Avoid changing ends of the court.

**SANITIZE HANDS FREQUENTLY**
Avoid touching gates, fences, benches, nets, water fountain, etc.

**NO SOCIAL GATHERING**
No congregation before or after playing. Players with reservations receive priority at certain courts. Players without reservations must relinquish the courts to any persons waiting after twenty (20) minutes.

**NO SHARING OUTSIDE OF HOUSEHOLD**
All players outside of a shared household must provide own racquets & identifiable balls. Label items so you know what is yours. Send another player's ball back to them with a kick.

**PLAY HEALTHY**
Do not use courts if experiencing any symptoms of illness, especially fever, cough and difficulty breathing. Do not use courts if considered by the CDC to be a vulnerable individual. Help keep parks and tennis courts open by following these guidelines. Repeated violations may require the court to be closed.
DUE TO COUNTY SHELTER IN PLACE

MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING
Maintain a mandatory 6 feet of distance between yourself and anyone not living in your household.

STAY OFF PLAYGROUNDS AND AMENITIES
All playgrounds and park amenities such as basketball courts and picnic/BBQ areas are closed.

DO NOT SHARE EQUIPMENT
Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Do not share equipment such as basketballs and frisbees except with members of your own household.

FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED
Cover your nose and mouth with cloth or fabric, such as a scarf or mask, while outside your home.

Please do your part to keep our parks open & safe for everyone.
For more information visit el-cerrito.org/covid19
Dine Out
El Cerrito

Bánh Mi Sandwich Deli
10174 San Pablo Ave.
Banana Leaf Thai
11880 San Pablo Ave.
bananaleafelecerrito.com
Baskin Robbins
10598 San Pablo Ave.
baskinrobbins.com
Brasil Bistro
11866 San Pablo Ave.
Burger
El Cerrito Plaza
burgerim.com
Burger King
6021 Central Ave.
bk.com
Chef’s Chinese
El Cerrito Plaza
Chipotle
Carlson & San Pablo
chipotle.com
Church’s Chicken
11575 San Pablo Ave.
churchs.com
Donut Time
10740 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito Natural Grocery
Annex — wine & beer only
Stockton & San Pablo
naturalgrocery.com
Elevation 66 Brewing Co.
10082 San Pablo Ave.
elevation66.com
El Mono Fresh Flavors of Peru
10264 San Pablo Ave.
elmonofresh.com
Frannie Express Hawaiian Barbecue
11775 San Pablo Ave.
frannieexpresshawaiian.com
Gangam Tofu Korean Cuisine
11740 San Pablo Ave.
Himalayan Grocery
10340 San Pablo Ave.
HK Home Kitchen
10140 San Pablo Ave.
Jack in the Box
5920 Cutting Blvd.
jackinthebox.com
Jamba Juice
El Cerrito Plaza
jamba.com
Little Caesar’s Pizza
11299 San Pablo Ave.
littlecaesars.com
Little Hong Kong
10443 San Pablo Ave.
Lucky Store
El Cerrito Plaza
luckysupermarkets.com
McBears Social Club Taco truck
10458 San Pablo Ave.
McDonalds
11821 San Pablo Ave.
mcdonalds.com
Mountain Mike’s Pizza
10750 San Pablo Ave.
mountainmikespizza.com
Mr. Pickle’s Sandwich Shop
10810 San Pablo Ave.
mrpickles.com
New India Supermarket
10289 San Pablo Ave.
Nation’s Giant Hamburgers
Central & San Pablo
nationsrestaurants.com
New Dumpling
10064 San Pablo Ave.
Noodles Fresh
10042 San Pablo Ave.
noodlesfresh.com
Nori Roll
10178 San Pablo Ave.
noriroll.com
Papi’s Pizza Roma
10616 San Pablo Ave.
papispizzarama.com
Panda Express
El Cerrito Plaza
pandaexpress.com
Peet’s Coffee
Carlson & San Pablo
peets.com
Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen
10125 San Pablo Ave.
popeyes.com
Quickly
El Cerrito Plaza
Red Onion
11900 San Pablo Ave.
Romano’s Macaroni Grill
El Cerrito Plaza
macaronigrill.com
Safeway
11450 San Pablo Ave.
local.safeway.com
Sasa Kitchen
10350 San Pablo Ave.
sasakitchenca.com
Starbucks Coffee
11861 San Pablo Ave.
starbucks.com
Subway
10398 San Pablo Ave.
11430 San Pablo Ave.
subway.com
Taqueria El Salva
11252 San Pablo Ave.
Tashi Delek Cuisine
11224 San Pablo Ave.
tashidelekcuisine.com
The Junket
El Cerrito Plaza
thejunket.com
Uncle Wong’s
11760 San Pablo Ave.
unclewongselcerrito.com
Well Grounded Tea & Coffee Bar
6925 Stockton Ave.
well-grounded.com
Wienserschnitzel
11101 San Pablo Ave.
wienserschnitzel.com
Wingstop
El Cerrito Plaza
wingstop.com
Yammi Sushi
El Cerrito Plaza
Yoshio Sushi
10889 San Pablo Ave.
yoshiosushielcerrito.com

These restaurants offer take out food during the COVID-19 lockdown.
List subject to change. El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce members shown in red.
Check restaurant websites as many provide online ordering and delivery to maintain social distancing.

TAKE OUT SPECIAL!
20% Off Food • 50% Off Bottled Wine
Call 510-237-9047 to order; pickup curbside
www.lastradasanpablo.com
Executive Summary of May 4, 2020 Shelter Order

This updated Order continues to restrict most activity to essential functions and needs. But because of progress we have collectively achieved in slowing the spread of the disease and limiting hospitalizations, the Order allows certain additional essential businesses and activities to resume, allows certain low-risk outdoor businesses to begin operating again, and authorizes certain additional outdoor activities to take place even though they are not essential. The new Order also introduces a framework to guide the Health Officer’s decisions about further easing of restrictions, focusing on progress achieved addressing COVID-19 and ensuring that there are adequate health care resources available.

This new Order replaces the shelter order issued on March 31, 2020. We refer to the March 31 order as the “Prior Order” and the April 29 Order as the “new Order” or “Order.”

What changes does this new Order make?

This new Order will go into effect on 11:59 pm on Sunday May 3, 2020, and will remain in effect until 11:59 pm on Sunday May 31, 2020, unless the Health Officer amends or extends it.

Most of the Prior Order’s restrictions remain in place. However, the new Order makes a number of significant changes, which are highlighted below:

**Essential Businesses:**

- Under the new Order, all construction projects can resume, provided they comply with the Construction Project Safety Protocols issued as part of the Order. (These protocols replace the COVID-19 Construction Field Safety Guidelines applicable to the Prior Order).

- Commercial as well as residential real estate transactions are allowed to fully resume, but with continued restrictions on in-person viewings and appointments.

- Under the new Order, childcare establishments, summer camps, schools, and other educational and recreational programs can operate to provide care and supervision for children to allow all persons who are working in essential businesses or outdoor businesses or performing minimum basic operations to access childcare. All of these operations must comply with restrictions specified in the Order, including that they be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer children. This category is also subject to the State’s Shelter in Place Order, but the Health Officer will assess whether to ease childcare restrictions further in coordination with the State and as the spread of COVID-19 is further contained.
**Outdoor Businesses:**

- Outdoor Businesses (as defined in the Order and described below) are now allowed to operate, and people are allowed to visit them to perform work or to obtain goods, services, or supplies.

- Outdoor Businesses are those that normally operated primarily outdoors prior to the Shelter in Place Orders, and where social distancing of at least six feet can be maintained between all people. These include outdoor retail businesses like nurseries, outdoor service providers like landscapers, and agricultural operations.

**Social Distancing Protocols for Businesses:**

- All business facilities operating in the County, including businesses carrying out minimum basic operations, must comply with the requirement to create a Social Distancing Protocol. (Note: construction activities must instead comply with the Construction Project Safety Protocols.)

- In their Social Distancing Protocols, businesses must now ensure that personnel and customers wear face coverings when entering their facilities (except those customers for whom face coverings are not recommended, like very young children).

- All existing Social Distancing Protocols must be updated to reflect the new requirements.

- We encourage businesses that are not yet allowed to operate to focus on planning to effectively implement social distancing and related measures in their facilities so they are ready to safely reopen when allowed.

**Essential Activities and Travel:**

- All residential moves are now allowed to proceed.

**Recreation:**

- The new Order allows use of shared outdoor recreational facilities that do not encourage gathering or contain high-touch equipment. However, everyone must follow any restrictions that either state or local authorities impose. For instance, right now, the State Shelter Order prohibits golf courses from operating.

**COVID-19 Indicators**

- The Health Officer will consider easing or expanding restrictions based on progress we collectively achieve on several key indicators described in the new Order and referred to as the COVID-19 Indicators.