El Cerrito Citywide Garage Sale Turns 25

Twenty-five years ago, long-time resident Marianne Hegeman proposed the concept of a Citywide Garage Sale to the El Cerrito City Council. Hegeman, an avid proponent of reuse and recycling, got the idea shortly after the Loma Prieta earthquake in October 1989, when many residents in El Cerrito could not have the foundations of their homes inspected because their garages were packed full of stuff. The City Council endorsed the idea and the City has held one or two garage sales per year ever since.

Each year the City’s Recycling and Environmental Resource Center designates a date for residents who want to participate and hold their own garage sales. The City then advertises and promotes the event, attracting shoppers from all over the East Bay. The event not only promotes reuse, it gives residents a chance to get rid of clutter. It is also a fun community event and a chance to get to know neighbors.

The next Citywide Garage Sale will be held on October 10, from 9 AM to 3 PM. If you’d like to host a garage sale and have it listed in the City’s garage sale map, the registration deadline, along with a $16 payment, is due Thursday, Sept. 10th by 4 pm. (Online registration now available - visit Citywide Calendar and click on Oct. 10th.) This newsletter contains a hardcopy of the registration form. For more information contact Laurenteen Brazil in the Operations + Environmental Services Division at lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 510-559-7686.

How to Dispose of Unused Medicines and Used Sharps

Over-the-counter and prescription medications contain hazardous substances that can threaten human health and the environment if improperly disposed. Recent studies have found that waterways throughout the nation are contaminated with traces of drugs. Help protect our water and environment by properly disposing of unwanted or expired medications. The Recycling and Environmental Resource Center (RERC) can collect your unwanted medications for shipment to an incinerator.

When bringing pharmaceuticals to the RERC, empty pills from the hard plastic container into a ziplock bag; pills can be mixed together in one bag. Liquids, creams, and foiled-wrapped pills should remain in their original containers for disposal. The bin is locked.

Provide Input on Ohlone Greenway Improvements near Both BART Stations

As part of a federal grant from MTC’s OneBayArea Grant Program, the City is considering several improvements to the Greenway near both BART Stations in El Cerrito, and would like to hear from community members about how the Ohlone Greenway can best be improved to reduce vehicle-miles travelled and foster a healthy, active, and more connected community.

Go to the City’s website at http://www.el-cerrito.org/OhloneASP for more information about the project and to take an online survey about the proposed improvements.

Do you have old paint and solvents in your garage?

West County residents can properly dispose of these and other Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) free of charge at the West County HHW Collection Facility in Richmond. Visit www.recyclemore.com and www.paintcare.org for more information on where to dispose of HHW and recycle other types of materials.

How to Dispose of Unused Medicines and Used Sharps

Come into the office or ask yard staff to assist you with unlocking the bin.

The RERC also collects used sharps. Throwing sharps into household trash poses a significant danger to waste management and recycling workers. When bringing sharps to the RERC, they must be stored and securely contained within a thick sturdy plastic container with a screw-top lid.

Only household generated pharmaceuticals and sharps are accepted at the RERC. Waste generated by businesses cannot be accepted.

For more detailed information check online: www.ecrecycling.org; or contact us: green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 510-215-4350.
Environmental Activities Calendar
For more information about events, please check the online City Calendar
Recycling and Environmental Resource Center information: www.ecenvironment.org | 510-215-4350

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El Cerrito’s Citywide Garage Sale Registration Information

CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE: HOST A GARAGE SALE!

Turn your old stuff into treasures! Register now to host a garage sale at your home during the Fall Citywide Garage Sale. Registration fees cover the costs of advertising and promotion which includes posting your sale in the garage sale brochure, classified ads in newspapers and online.

Spread the word about the Garage Sale! Make your event fun and enjoyable by providing refreshments, treats, prizes or other enticements! Send us your suggestions regarding how to make our advertising strategy more effective!

Find Good Bargains!
Garage sale maps, locations, and listings will be available October 2, 2015. Check online or at one of the newstands at: El Cerrito Recycling Center (7501 Schmidt Lane) and Community Center (7007 Moeser Lane).

Garage Sale Registration Form
Fall 2015 El Cerrito Citywide Garage Sale
October 10, 2015 | 9 AM to 3 PM

Registration forms are due by September 10 at 4 PM (along with NON-REFUNDABLE $16 registration fee paid to the City of El Cerrito) to: Environmental Services Division - Citywide Garage Sale 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito CA, 94530

Name: ________________________________
Street Address/Sale Location: ________________________________
Nearest Cross Street: ________________________________
Phone Number: ________________________________

Email Address (please provide an email address, especially if you would like the opportunity to review your listing prior to publication):

Sale Description: Maximum of 20 words describing the items for sale and any other details about the sale (i.e. fundraiser for a specific charity, snacks available, etc.). Descriptions will be repeated verbatim in the listing so please use good grammar.

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