

A Greener El Cerrito

News from the City of El Cerrito Operations + Environmental Services Division

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www.el-cerrito.org/recycling | 510-215-4350

SPARK YOUR CREATIVE TALENTS AT THE EXCHANGE ZONE



The Exchange Zone at the El Cerrito Recycling Center provides materials for creative people of all ages and interests. El Cerrito residents Sharon Gostlin and her two delightful daughters, Deki and Jasmine, stopped by recently and perused the available items for craft materials and toys, which they like to do from time to time.

Deki (11 years old) likes to learn about new craft ideas on Pinterest and then go to the Exchange Zone to see if any of the materials are available there. One of her frequent projects is to hollow out the pages of a hardback book (which she finds at the Zone) into an interesting shape. The space inside the book can then be used for storage. She has also made a cat tent (for their cats, Miff and Luna) using wire clothes hangers and cardboard found at the Exchange Zone and a T-shirt. Deki also looks for fabric, which she uses to sew purses, after making the pattern herself. She recently found corks and hangers at the Exchange Zone, which she used as part of a school project to build a covered wagon.

Jasmine (8 years old) has quite the collection of Barbie dolls and likes to look for more Barbie dolls and clothes. Both girls also like to look for books to read and wrapping paper. On their recent visit, the girls and their mom looked



through the seed library in the main office and selected some vegetable seeds to plant in their home garden. The family also regularly drops items off in the Exchange Zone, at the Goodwill truck, and in the materials bins.

Feel free to come to the Exchange Zone to drop off or look for books, magazines, hangers, corks, CDs, toys and games, and small household appliances. You can find a more complete list of items accepted at the Exchange Zone, and Recycling Center hours, at www.el-cerrito.org/recycling. The Recycling Center is at 7501 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito.

Do you have empty or outdated fire extinguishers?

They are considered hazardous material and must be disposed of properly. West County residents can 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 for more information on where to dispose of HHW and recycle other types of materials.

Expired Food Disposal

Do you want to dispose of canned, bottled or boxed food that is more than two years past the "Best by" or "Sell by" date? You can reduce the amount going to the landfill by recycling them rather than throwing them in the trash. Empty the contents into your green waste bin; wipe or rinse out the residue; then put the can or bottle in your grey recycling bin.

Help Prevent Litter: Don't Overfill Your Containers

Each year public agencies in California spend millions of dollars to prevent and dispose of litter. Not only does litter create an unsightly mess, it is an environmental hazard, especially when it gets into our creeks, storm drains and other waterways. In fact, in order to reduce pollution in our Bay and oceans, local governments in the Bay Area are under a State mandate to reduce litter by 70% from 2009 levels by July 1, 2017. This is an ambitious goal, and the City needs your help to achieve it.

A major source of litter comes from overstuffed curbside containers on pick-up day. One important way to reduce litter is to avoid overfilling your garbage, recycling and organics containers in order to prevent materials from falling out of your cart onto the ground before and during collection. Make sure the lids to your carts are fully closed to prevent the wind from blowing waste materials into the street and potentially into storm drains and creeks that flow out to the Bay, affecting aquatic life.

Want to do more to prevent litter?

- Pick up litter when you see it and place it in a proper trash receptacle.
- Join the El Cerrito Green Teams on community clean up days. The next Green Team event is Coastal Cleanup Day on September 17, 2016. For details, see the Events Calendar in this newsletter.
- Report illegal dump sites to the City by emailing maintenance@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or calling 215-4369. If you witness illegal dumping, try to get a license plate number and call the Police non-emergency number at 237-3233.

Need to dispose of extra material?

- Once per year, residents can schedule free garbage, green waste, and recycling bulky pickup service. Visit www.el-cerrito.org/AnnualCleanup for details and guidelines.

Environmental Activities Calendar

1st Sat. Monthly	10 AM to 12:30 PM	Baxter Creek Gateway Work Parties: Join volunteers and City staff in removing invasive species and restoring native habitat in this jewel on the Ohlone Greenway. For more info, 510-559-7685, spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.
Sept. 5	All Day	Labor Day Holiday: The Recycling Center and East Bay Sanitary offices will be closed all day. Curbside collection of recycling, greenwaste and garbage will occur as normally scheduled.
Sept. 17	10 AM to 12:00 PM	Coastal Cleanup Day: Join the Environmental Quality Committee's Green Teams, Friends of Five Creeks, and Albany Parks during this international day to keep our coasts and oceans healthy and beautiful. Meet at El Cerrito's Creekside Park, south end of Santa Clara Avenue. Tools, gloves, snacks, and good company provided. Wear closed-toed shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty!
Sept. 27	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	The Drought Resilient Garden: This free workshop will provide you with information on residential water conservation and re-use strategies, technologies and rebates. Representatives from EBMUD and the non-profit Greywater Action will be on hand to discuss: common irrigation mistakes; establishing a drought tolerant garden; water-saving devices and rebates; and how to set up a laundry to landscape greywater system. Council Chambers, El Cerrito City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Avenue.
Oct. 1- Oct. 7	9 AM to 4:30 PM	Compost Giveaway: Free compost made from your yard waste and food scraps. El Cerrito residents & businesses only. Bring proof of residency and containers. Limit of 5 cubic feet per household. Available while supply lasts. We will have a shovel available; however, you may want to bring one. Recycling Center, 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito. 510-215-4350.
Oct. 20	7 PM to 9 PM	Residential Solar Workshop: At our free Solar Simplified event for homeowners, learn how rooftop solar can add up for you! Local solar consultant will lead an in-depth workshop covering the step-by-step of home installation including financing, tax credits, choosing a contractor, net-metering and more. Council Chambers, El Cerrito City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Avenue.
Oct. 22	9 AM to 3 PM	Citywide Garage Sale: Keep waste out of the landfill while discovering your community and finding great deals. To register to host a sale, complete the Registration Form below or go online. Registration due by 4 PM on September 22 2016. Visit www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale for more information.
Nov. 1- Feb. 1	Winter Hours	The Recycling Center will have winter hours from Nov. 1 to Feb. 1: 8 AM - 4:45 PM weekdays; 9 AM - 4:45 PM weekends.
Nov. 11	All Day	Veterans Day Holiday: The Recycling Center and East Bay Sanitary offices will be closed all day. Curbside collection of recycling, greenwaste and garbage will occur as normally scheduled.
Nov. 24 Nov. 25	Both Days	Thanksgiving Holiday: The Recycling Center and East Bay Sanitary offices will be closed Thursday and Friday (11-24-16 and 11-25-16). Curbside collection of recycling, greenwaste and garbage will occur as normally scheduled.
Dec. 25 Dec. 26 Jan 1 Jan 2	All Day	Christmas and New Year Holiday Schedule: The El Cerrito Recycling & Environmental Resource Center and East Bay Sanitary offices will be closed December 25, December 26, January 1, and January 2. Curbside collection of recycling, green waste, and garbage will occur as normally scheduled on these days. Christmas trees will be picked up free of charge through January 13.

El Cerrito's Citywide Garage Sale Registration Information

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 22, 2016.

Check online or at one of the newstands at: El Cerrito Recycling Center (7501 Schmidt Lane) and Community Center (7007 Moeser Lane). www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale

Garage Sale Registration Form

Fall 2016 El Cerrito Citywide Garage Sale October 22, 2016 | 9 AM to 3 PM

Registration forms are due by September 22 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.
