

## City Passes Balanced Budget, Maintains Existing Services

IN JUNE, THE City Council adopted a new Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year 2011–2012 (FY11–12). The Budget provides funding for all City services, including police, fire, recreation, economic development, redevelopment, public works, building, planning, environmental, and administrative services.

Passage of Measure R by voters in 2010 allowed the City to maintain its current level of service to the community. There were no cuts to Police or Fire Department personnel, park or playfield maintenance, after-school programs, Swim Center hours, or Open House Senior Center hours. The City continues to host the July 4th festival as an admission-free, family-friendly event. Through the cooperation of residents, the leadership of the City Council, and the hard work and dedication of City staff, the FY11–12 budget was also balanced without the use of reserves.

The budget is the City's fundamental policy document. It reflects the projected workload and funding, as well as the City Council's goals for 2011–12.

The General Fund is the city's main operating fund and includes all of the City's revenues and expenditures not legally restricted for specific uses. General Fund

revenues include certain taxes (such as Measure R, the half-cent sales tax approved by voters in November 2010); charges for services, licenses, permits, and fines; and other revenue, such as interest from invested funds, rental revenue and donations.

► **BUDGET:** Page 4

## CITY'S NEW MISSION STATEMENT AND FISCAL YEAR GOALS

IN EARLY 2011, the City Council developed a Mission Statement for the City, identifying goals for the upcoming year. In May, the Council adopted the following Mission Statement:

*The City of El Cerrito serves, leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.*

Additionally, the following goals were identified as priorities for FY 2011–12:

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Responsive Government
- Community Engagement and Partnership
- Public Safety
- Economic Development
- Environmental Stewardship
- Support of Multi-Modal Transportation

### News and Views

#### Upcoming Events 2–3

“Every 15 Minutes” at El Cerrito High School 3

Residential Parking Permits 4

Ohlone Greenway Changes 5

City Promotes Compostable Containers 5

Pedestrian Safety Tips 6

15th Annual Dynamo Golf Scramble 6

Improving the Intersection at Fairmount and Ashbury 7

When Are Building Permits Required? 7

Thanks to July 4th Festival Sponsors 8

*El Cerrito's Night Out provides a unique opportunity for residents to connect with the Police Department and each other to learn about safety and crime prevention. City teams will visit pre-registered neighborhood block parties on Tuesday, August 2nd. Register online today at [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org) or leave a message for the Crime Prevention Committee at 215-4414, ext. 30.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Saturday, August 13 CINEMA IN THE PARK

**Free!** Bring a picnic dinner and blanket and come watch the original *Karate Kid* outdoors.

Rated PG. Snack shack will be open. For more details, contact the Recreation Department at 559-7000.

**When:** Movie starts at dusk

**Where:** Cerrito Vista Park  
950 Pomona Avenue



### Monday, August 15 ANIMAL ORDINANCE UPDATE

The City Council will consider proposed revisions to local laws governing the keeping of animals. Check [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org) to confirm meeting date. Proposed revisions will be available for public review both online and at City Hall prior to the meeting. If you have questions about the proposed changes, contact the Planning Division at 215-4360.

**When:** Time TBD

**Where:** City Hall  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

### Thursday, August 25 SOLID WASTE SERVICES MEETING

Provide input on solid waste collection services in El Cerrito. The City is undertaking a comprehensive review of its garbage and green-waste hauling company, East Bay Sanitary (EBS). This is part of an ongoing review process to ensure that EBS rates and services are in line with City needs and goals. Results of the review will be presented to the Council this fall.

City and EBS representatives will be at the meeting to answer questions from residents and business owners. If you cannot attend, call Environmental Analyst Garth Schultz at 559-7684 or send your comments to [gschultz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:gschultz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

**When:** 6:30 to 8p.m.

**Where:** City Hall  
10890 San Pablo Avenue.

### Sunday, August 28 ALBANY-EL CERRITO STREET PLAY

The Cities of Albany and El Cerrito will host a day of fun in the street. Pack a picnic, bring your bike and have fun playing outdoor games with your family and neighbors.

Visit [www.el-cerrito.org/calendar](http://www.el-cerrito.org/calendar) for more details or call the Recreation Department at 559-7000.

**When:** Noon to 3 p.m.

**Where:** portion of  
Ashbury/Key Route (TBD)



### Tuesday, September 6 GET C.E.R.T.IFIED!

This 20-hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is designed to help El Cerrito and Kensington residents become self-sufficient in a disaster. Classes are free but pre-registration is required. Classes will be held Tuesday evenings September through October and end with a hands-on Simulation/Drill on October 29. Contact the Fire Department at [fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or call 215-4450.

**When:** 6:30-9 p.m.

**Where:** Open House Senior Center,  
6500 Stockton Avenue

### Friday, Sept 9 CINEMA IN THE PARK

**Free!** Bring a picnic dinner and blanket and watch *How to Train Your Dragon* outdoors. Rated PG.

Snack shack will be open. For more details, contact the Recreation Department at 559-7000.

**When:** Movie starts at dusk

**Where:** Cerrito Vista Park  
950 Pomona Avenue



### Sunday, September 18 A TASTE OF EL CERRITO

Come celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber's annual event, "A Taste of El Cerrito." The evening includes a cocktail hour, three-course dinner, live entertainment, and drawings to win gift baskets donated by local businesses. Performers include Chaz & Company, Magical Nathaniel, and members of the Berkeley West Edge Opera Company. Tickets are \$40 per person and include a coupon book. (Local businesses will sell the book for \$20 after the event.) A portion of the proceeds fund scholarships for El Cerrito High students. For tickets or information, call the Chamber at 705-1202.

**When:** 4:30-8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane

### Saturday, September 17 TRI-CITY SAFETY DAY

Come meet the men and women who serve and protect El Cerrito, Kensington and Albany. See emergency vehicles and police and fire department demonstrations. Kids can meet Smokey the Bear or McGruff the Crime Dog, learn safety tips, and more! For information, call the Fire Department at 215-4450 during business hours. Tri-City Safety day has been a popular family tradition for over 20 years!

**When:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Where:** El Cerrito Plaza  
(in front of Lucky)  
San Pablo/Fairmount Avenues

### Saturday & Sunday September 24 & 25 ANNUAL BOOK SALE

For details about Annual Book Sale, visit the Friends of the El Cerrito Library at [friendselcerritolibrary.wordpress.com](http://friendselcerritolibrary.wordpress.com)

**Where:** El Cerrito Library  
6510 Stockton Avenue

### Monday, September 26 DYNAMO GOLF TOURNAMENT

Last day to register is August 29. See page 6 for details.

**Where:** Tilden Park Golf Course

## Month of October

The Arts & Culture Commission is planning to celebrate National Arts Month and California Arts Day. Check the City's website for more details.

### Saturday, October 8 FALL CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

Find great bargains while shopping locally at the annual Citywide Garage Sale or host a garage sale at your home. Registration forms, available at City Hall or online, are due by September 26. For more information, contact the Environmental Services Division at [green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or 215-4350.



**Registration due: September 26, 4 p.m. Mail or bring form to: City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave**

**When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Where: Various locations**

### Saturday, October 22 EL CERRITO FREE FOLK FESTIVAL

Enjoy performances, a family program, open microphone and jam sessions at the 3rd annual El Cerrito Free Folk Festival. More details at [www.elcerritofolkfest.org](http://www.elcerritofolkfest.org).

**When: Noon to 10 p.m.**

**Where: Windrush School  
1800 Elm Street**

### Monday, October 31 HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

The whole family can enjoy the annual Haunted House and Indoor Carnival, Tail Gate Trick-or-Treat, and Dog Costume contest. Call the Recreation Department at 559-7000 for more information, including times and admission prices and the registration form for the Dog Costume contest.



**Where: Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane**



## “Every 15 Minutes” at El Cerrito High

**D**ID YOU KNOW, every fifteen minutes, someone in the US is killed in an alcohol-related vehicle accident? The “Every 15 Minutes” program challenges high school juniors and seniors to think about the consequences of drinking alcohol and make better decisions about personal safety. The program dramatically illustrates how the wrong decisions can lead to alcohol-related vehicle accidents, and shows the impact of an accident on an entire community.

The first “Every 15 Minutes” program in the United States was presented by the Chico Police Department in 1995. An “Every 15 Minutes” program is prepared months in advance and involves multiple agencies and many students. Usually, it involves staging an accident on a high school campus. However, El Cerrito High School students wanted their “Every 15 Minutes” program to be unique and they felt the program would have more impact if they made a high-quality film of the accident scene instead. The scene was filmed on a City street without a student audience.

The program was presented on May 24 in the theatre at El Cerrito High School. For days before the presentation, students in the project avoided their friends and acquaintances and students entered the

theatre without knowing anything about the assembly or the film. Approximately 600 juniors and seniors filled the theatre with their normal high voices, laughs, and giggles. As the film started, the audience became totally silent as they watched their peers and friends partying with alcohol. The party was followed by a devastating alcohol-related collision that affected not only the students but their families and friends as well.

After the movie, the students who made the film took the stage and talked about the impact the program had on them and their families. Some students in the audience were crying. Several teachers commented that it was the first time they have ever observed an assembly where the student audience was so focused and moved by a presentation.

The Police Department, school administrators, and the students all agreed the program had been a great success.

The “Every 15 Minutes” program was presented by the Police Department with the help of a grant from the California Highway Patrol. Officer Jacala and Officer Albrandt would like to thank the students who participated in the program: Lena Miller, Jordan Taylor, Alaina Alvarado, Eric Nelson, and Kat Mazzera.

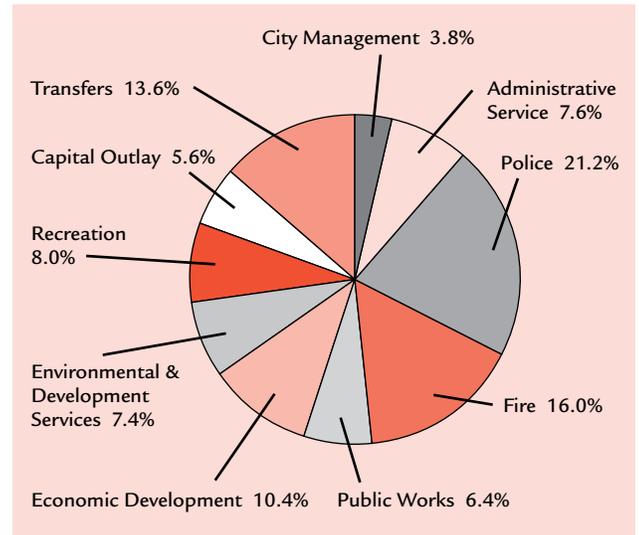
### CONCERNED OPTIMISM

While the level of service will remain high, the budget remains very tight and minimal funds are available for re-investment in City infrastructure (with the exception of streets). Although parks and play fields, technology, and aging facilities—the Library, Public Safety building and Senior Center—require upgrading and improvements, the funding is simply not available. In addition, the City continues to hold a number of non-public-safety positions vacant and has not created any new positions.

A number of challenges continue to confront the City, despite the passage of Measure R. These include the constant threat of state takeaways, rising costs of services, and increases in employee benefit costs. As has become an annual problem, once again State takeaways threaten local revenues as the State of California continues to struggle to balance its budget. The City's budget does not reflect potential State takeaways or the impact of other State actions. At the time of this writing, of paramount concern are the impact on El Cerrito of the Governor's elimination of redevelopment agencies in California (estimated impact up to \$2.5M), the loss of Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Funds and the possible Booking Fee Reimbursement to local law enforcement (combined impact \$450,000). These hits from the State may force the City to re-consider this budget during the year.

The staff and City Council will carefully monitor revenues and expenses and are prepared to make new financial and operational decisions as necessary, based on the economy and potential State takeaways. However, we are optimistic that Measure R and an improving economic climate will provide a safety net unavailable to most cities. With continued citizen participation, City Council leadership, and the ongoing efforts of our dedicated employees, El Cerrito will continue to be a great place to live, work, play and shop.

Copies of the Adopted FY 2011–12 budget book are available for review during business hours at City Hall, the El Cerrito Library and available for download from [www.el-cerrito.org/admin/city\\_manager.html](http://www.el-cerrito.org/admin/city_manager.html)



## Residential Parking Permits

RESIDENTS WHO LIVE in a four-hour parking zone (near the El Cerrito Plaza and Del Norte BART stations, or some streets in West El Cerrito) are eligible to apply for Residential Parking Permits that exempt their vehicles from the parking restrictions.

The City enforces 4-hour parking limits on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on blocks with four-hour parking signs. Usually, only one side of the street is restricted and anyone may park for any length of time on the non-posted side. Only cars with a Residential Parking Permit can park for longer than four hours on the restricted side.

Permits in the Del Norte area (blue permits) expire on September 30. Residents in this area should renew their permits before this date. You can pickup a form for this purpose at City Hall or download one from [www.el-cerrito.org/services](http://www.el-cerrito.org/services). Bring proof of current registration for each vehicle. If your address is different than the one registered, please also bring a copy of a utility bill, rental agreement, or other proof of residency. There is a fee of \$18.00 per vehicle for three years.

If you have any questions about the Residential Parking Permit system, contact Lori Framsted, Administrative Services at [lframsted@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:lframsted@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or **215-4335**. If you have questions about enforcement, please contact the Police Department at **215-4400** during business hours.



*This past year the City of El Cerrito was honored with its first Government Finance Officers Association of USA/Canada (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation award (above). Additionally, the City has received the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) Budget Award (left) for the 6th year in a row.*

# Enjoy the Multi-Use Ohlone Greenway

**T**HE OHLONE GREENWAY is used and loved by many El Cerritos and visitors. On Bike to Work Day in 2011, the City tracked 361 cyclists passing the Energizer Station at El Cerrito Plaza BART between 7 and 9 a.m. In another study by the City and BART in 2009, an average of 627 bicyclists and pedestrians used the path on weekdays and another 531 people on weekends. A Metropolitan Transportation Commission Data Collection and Analysis Project in 2002 counted 103 bicyclists and 462 pedestrians at Fairmount and the Ohlone Greenway between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., and another 99 bicyclists and 479 pedestrians between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. No matter who counts it, hundreds of people use the Ohlone Greenway that traverses the length of El Cerrito and connects to places beyond. The “BART path,” as many locals call it, is a valuable resource enjoyed by many for exercise, transportation, and relaxation.

As with any resource enjoyed and relied upon by so many people, this 2.7 mile route poses some management challenges for the City and requires that users be courteous. Below is a short list of common complaints and questions about the Greenway, with answers based on the City’s guidelines and laws.

## **“There are too many pedestrians on the bike path.”**

**The main trail is a multi-use, non-motorized trail.** It is open to pedestrians, people pushing strollers, bicyclists, roller skaters and others. In places, there are separate trails for pedestrians and bicyclists but for the most part this is a multi-use trail. Motorized vehicles (except for wheelchairs, maintenance and police vehicles) are *not* allowed.

## **“Bicyclists go too fast.”**

Because the trail is multi-use, bicyclists and others must be courteous to and anticipate the needs of others. Cyclists, skateboarders and rollerskaters should always travel at a safe speed and in a manner that does not pose a threat to others. Bicyclists wishing to go faster than is appropriate on the Greenway are encouraged to use city streets.

## **“How should users pass each other?”**

Share the trail. Ride, walk or run on the right, pass on the left. Those traveling in groups should be careful not to block the path. Listen for people needing to pass. It is recommended that bicycles be equipped with a bell and that users not put earphones in both ears.

## **“I’ve heard that the City is planning to consolidate the trails.”**

In June 2009, the City Council adopted the Ohlone Greenway Master Plan. This Plan, recommended to the Council by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and further developed through feedback received at many public workshops, calls for consolidating pedestrian and bicycle trails into a single, wider, multi-use trail where possible. This plan will be implemented as a part of the upcoming BART Earthquake Safety Program. The 8 ft. main trail will be widened to 14 ft. with a 2 ft. shoulder. This wider path will better facilitate shared use but will not, of course, supplant the need for courtesy.



The Ohlone Greenway Master Plan can be viewed at City Hall or online at [http://www.el-cerrito.org/public\\_works/ohlonegreenway.html](http://www.el-cerrito.org/public_works/ohlonegreenway.html).

For more information about the BART Earthquake Safety Program and upcoming detours, visit: <http://www.bart.gov/about/projects/eqs/updates.aspx>.

For information about the Ohlone Greenway, contact the El Cerrito Public Works Department at (510) 215-4382 or [engineer@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:engineer@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

## City Promotes Compostable Containers

**T**HE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES Division and Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) are teaming up to tell El Cerrito food service businesses about some new types of to-go containers.

In 2009, the City received a \$5,000 grant from RecycleMore, the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority, to encourage the use of reusable and/or compostable food containers. The City used part of the grant to distribute reusable to-go containers to residents. Over 1,200 containers have already been given away at community events like the Fourth of July Celebration. Another part of the program will provide some money to food service businesses as an incentive to switch to compostable food ware.

At a City community meeting in September, food service businesses can learn how compostable containers provide environmental benefits. The meeting will also explain how businesses can get access to incentive funds to cover

purchase of sample compostable food containers.

Many surrounding communities—including Albany, Richmond, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Alameda and San Francisco—already have food ware container ordinances that prohibit containers made of polystyrene (styrofoam) and encourage recyclable and/or compostable food containers and packaging. At the September meeting, food service businesses will also hear from City staff about plans for a City food ware ordinance that would require the use of compostable food ware and prohibit non-compostable/non-recyclable food wares such as polystyrene (styrofoam).

The community meeting is planned for **Wednesday, September 21**, at 10 a.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Food service businesses and residents interested in this topic may contact Environmental Analyst Garth Schultz at [gshultz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:gshultz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or call **559-7684** for additional details.

# Walking Safely in El Cerrito

**W**ALKING IS A great way to travel and El Cerrito is a great place to walk. Safety is a shared responsibility involving pedestrians as well as drivers. The Public Works Department has developed some helpful tips that can make walking in El Cerrito safer and more enjoyable. Please read the "Guide to Walking" on the City's website and teach everyone in your family how to be a safer, more responsible, and street smart pedestrian.

As a pedestrian you have the right to cross at the intersection of any two streets (unless there are signs prohibiting it) or at a marked crosswalk in a mid-block location. State law says that drivers must yield the right-of-way in these places. However, a pedestrian must also take care for his or her own safety. Pedestrians cannot suddenly enter the street and walk or run in the path front of a moving vehicle. Also, while in the street, pedestrians may not unnecessarily obstruct traffic.

## NEW FLASHING PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS

Two new flashing crosswalks were recently installed as part of the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Project. One at Madison and another at Lincoln Avenue/El Dorado Street. The new systems are intended to alert drivers to pedestrians crossing or preparing to cross San Pablo Avenue at these intersections. These locations were chosen based on a combination of factors: traffic volumes and speeds, collision history, heavy pedestrian use, and distance to the nearest crosswalk controlled by a traffic signal. Each system includes warning lights embedded in the roadway, an overhead message board, and "Yield" markings on the pavement. The message board and warning lights are only activated when a pedestrian passes in front of the sidewalk motion detectors so it is important to walk between the short white poles. Also, be aware that while the system warns drivers of the presence of pedestrians in or at the crosswalk, it is not a "stop sign." Pedestrians must still use caution and not assume that the vehicles will stop. As a driver entering a flashing crosswalk, proceed with caution and look for slow-moving pedestrians

such as children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Two new projects, currently under design, will install flashing crosswalks (without overhead signs) at ten more locations in El Cerrito. The City successfully applied for federal grants from the Highway Safety Improvement Program and Safe Routes to School Program for these improvements at the Ohlone Greenway and nearby BART-related crossings at Fairmount Avenue, Central Avenue, Stockton Avenue, Moeser Lane, Potrero Avenue, Hill Street and Cutting Boulevard, and on Arlington Boulevard at Madera Drive.

## NEW "YIELD" MARKINGS

The "Yield" pavement markings at the flashing crosswalks (also known as "shark's teeth") indicate the point behind which vehicles must yield to crossing pedestrians or vehicles. The markings consist of a row of solid white



*Yield markings or "Shark's Teeth" on a roadway warn drivers to watch for pedestrians in the crosswalk.*

triangles pointing toward approaching vehicles and is where vehicles should stop. "Yield" markings can be found on San Pablo, as described above, on upper Moeser Lane, and at a mid-block crosswalk on Colusa Avenue behind El Cerrito High School.

Enjoy your El Cerrito walks and keep them safe. For more information regarding pedestrian safety in El Cerrito, please contact: El Cerrito Public Works Department at [engineer@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:engineer@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or call (510) 215-4382.

## 15th Annual Dynamo Golf Scramble

**T**HE 15TH ANNUAL Dynamo Golf Scramble will be held on Monday, September 26 at the Tilden Park Golf Course in Berkeley. This is a new location for 2011 only. The Mira Vista Country Club is unable to host this year due to scheduled course maintenance.

All levels of play are welcome. Shot-gun start is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Goody bags, lunch, and cart are included in the entry fee.

Early-bird entry fee is \$100 before August 15. The regular entry fee after this date is \$140. The deadline to register is Friday, August 29. Space is limited, so register yourself or your team early!

Registration forms are available online at [www.el-cerrito.org/recreation](http://www.el-cerrito.org/recreation) or at the Community Center.

The Dynamo Golf Scramble is the City's largest fundraiser for both the David

Hunter Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund and the Open House Senior Center Trust Fund.

This event would not be possible without the support of local businesses. We are still welcoming 2011 sponsors—contact Acting Recreation Director Chris Jones at [cjones@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:cjones@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or 559-7005 to become a sponsor.

The city would like to thank the 2010 Dynamo Sponsors: Ball Chiropractic Center, East Bay Sanitary, El Cerrito Electric, Gary Hale, D.D.S., Honda of El Cerrito Marvin Collins Construction, The Mechanics Bank, Meeta M. Doshi, DDS, PDC, Meyers Nave, Mighetto Electric, Olivero Plumbing, Pastime Ace Hardware, Philip Services Corporation, Prospect Sierra School, Ransome Company, Two Brothers Pool and Spa, and the Washington and Wittenberg families.

# Making A Safer Intersection

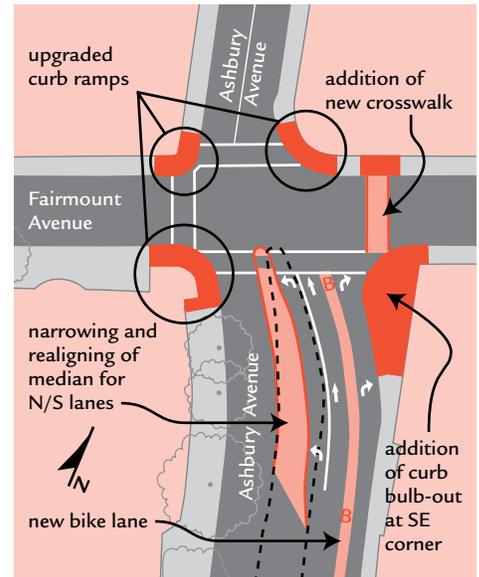
THE INTERSECTION OF Fairmount and Ashbury Avenues (where Harding Elementary School is located) has an unusual and confusing configuration. After many years of traffic planning in response to community input on the entire Upper Fairmount area, construction of several improvements is set to begin this summer. The new intersection will be safer for both pedestrians and automobiles and will include:

- Addition of a curb bulb-out at the southeast corner (and elimination of the detached right-turn lane)
- Narrowing and realigning the median on Ashbury Avenue to restripe northbound travel lanes on the south leg
- Addition of a new north-south crosswalk on the east leg of Fairmount Avenue

- Addition of a bike lane on northbound Ashbury Avenue, and bicycle detection on all intersection approaches
- Upgrade to all traffic signal equipment, signing, striping and pavement markings
- Accommodations that meet the latest requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including curb ramps and accessible pedestrian signals; and
- Minor modification of vegetation.

The City received a federal grant from the Highway Safety Improvement Program, and additional funding from the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency for improvements to this intersection

The project should be completed by Fall. The contractor will be required to minimize disruptions to the school and to the



residential communities adjacent to the project site. If you have any questions regarding the project, contact Yvettah Ortiz, Engineering Manager at **215-4345** or [yortiz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:yortiz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

# When do I need a Permit?

MOST PROPERTY OWNERS envision themselves improving a home or business. Did you know that a permit from the City is required for most improvements to buildings or land, such as additions, repairs, or a fresh coat of exterior paint? There are typically three types of work on your property that require a permit from the City:

1. improvements to any structures;
2. improvements to the land, and
3. improvements within the public right of way.

A building permit is required for most home improvement projects with the exception of interior, non-construction work such as painting, changing fixtures, or laying carpet. Any exterior changes to commercial properties, including painting, require Design Review approval from the Planning Division.

Permits are required for many relatively small jobs, such as replacing windows. They are also required for improvements made to the land, such as building driveways, installing retaining walls, changing drainage or grading, laying a cement patio, or building a deck.

Improvements made within the public right of way (typically from a few feet behind the sidewalk to the curb) requires an encroachment permit from the Public Works Department and possibly a building permit from the Building Division. Planting a new tree next to the curb, installing a new driveway approach, or installing a permanent base (cement, bricks, etc.) in the landscaping strip between the sidewalk and curb will require a permit.

Building or encroachment permits require plans to be submitted. In order to ensure that all work complies with the relevant codes and requirements, plans must be reviewed by the City. Depending on the complexity of the work, plans may be drawn by the property owner, designer, licensed architect, and/or engineer. Typically, plans include a site plan, elevations, a floor plan, and detailed construction plans. Please ask the City what plans are needed for your proposed improvement.

A permit will reassure an owner that a proposed improvement is in compliance with all relevant local and state rules and regulations and is therefore a sound and safe plan. Permits are issued to protect the health, safety and welfare of our community.

If you are unsure whether a building permit is required, we encourage you to contact the Building Division at **215-4360** or the Public Works Department at **215-4382**.

TOP 5 BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2011	
TYPE OF PERMIT	NUMBER
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	
Repair	19
Tenant Improvements	9
New Signs	8
Fire Sprinklers	7
<b>Total Commercial Permits</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	
Repair	550
Reroof	143
Remodel	133
New Decks	35
Additions/Remodel	18
<b>Total Residential Permits</b>	<b>1,037</b>
<b>Total Building Permits Issued 7/10 to 6/11</b>	<b>1,122</b>

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

PRSR STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 OAKLAND, CA  
 PERMIT #3729

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL:  
 PLEASE DELIVER BY JULY 25, 2011



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

## July 4th Sponsors

THE ANNUAL JULY 4th Festival was presented by the City of El Cerrito and worldOne with support from the community, including our wonderful sponsors.

### GOLD SPARKLER LEVEL

- ★ El Cerrito Honda

### FIREWORKS LEVEL

- ★ East Bay Sanitary Company

### SPARKLER LEVEL

- ★ Tehiyah Day School

### BLUE LEVEL

- ★ Prospect Sierra School
- ★ The Natural Grocery Company
- ★ Salisbury Vineyards
- ★ Sierra Nevada
- ★ Fletcher Oakes Photography
- ★ Claudia Taurean
- ★ Mechanics Bank
- ★ RecycleMore
- ★ Rialto Cinemas Cerrito
- ★ Clover Organic Farms
- ★ Contra Costa College

### RED AND WHITE LEVEL

Additional sponsors include Dana Martenson; Olivero Plumbing; Pastime Ace Hardware; Gary Hale, DDS; and Richmond Spokes, John De Vincenzi; Windrush School; Mike Klinger; Kister Savio & Rei, Inc.; El Cerrito Lions Club; and Michael Woldemar.

Photos from the celebration will be posted online at [www.el-cerrito.org/recreation](http://www.el-cerrito.org/recreation). If you would like to get involved next year, call the Recreation Department at 559-7000.



*The City of El Cerrito serves, leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.*

<b>EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL</b>		<b>Community Center</b>
Mayor Ann Cheng		<b>7007 Moeser Lane</b>
Mayor Pro Tem William C. Jones, III		Recreation Department 559-7000
Councilmember Janet Abelson		Park/Facility Rentals 559-7000
Councilmember Rebecca Benassini		Swim Center 559-7011
Councilmember Greg Lyman		<b>The Open House Senior Center</b>
<b>CITY WEBSITE</b>	<a href="http://www.el-cerrito.org">www.el-cerrito.org</a>	<b>6500 Stockton Ave.</b>
<b>CITY HALL</b>	(All area codes 510)	Senior Services 559-7677
<b>10890 San Pablo Ave.</b>		<b>Public Safety Building,</b>
<b>City Management</b>		<b>10900 San Pablo Ave.</b>
City Clerk	215-4305	Emergency 911
City Council	215-4305	Police/Fire/Medical Dispatch 237-3233
City Manager	215-4300	Fire Administration 215-4450
<b>Administrative Services</b>		Police Administration 215-4400
Employee Services	215-4315	<b>City Hall Holidays (office closed):</b>
Finance	215-4310	<b>Labor Day—September 5</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>		<b>City Council regular meetings:</b>
Economic Development	215-4362	<b>August 15</b>
Housing	215-4358	<b>September 19</b>
Redevelopment	215-4380	<b>October 3 and 17</b>
<b>Environmental &amp; Development Services</b>		City Council meetings are held at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. Regular Council meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable channel 28 and KECG, 88.1 FM radio. <b>To watch the meeting online, go to <a href="http://www.el-cerrito.org">www.el-cerrito.org</a></b> and click on the “Streaming Media” button. Schedules are subject to change; please check the website for updates. The City Council meeting agenda packet is available at least three days prior to each meeting at: <a href="http://www.el-cerrito.org/archive">http://www.el-cerrito.org/archive</a> .
Building	215-4360	
Code Enforcement	215-4374	
Planning	215-4330	
Environmental Services	215-4350	
<b>Recycling Center</b>		
<b>7501 Schmidt Lane</b>	215-4350	
<b>Public Works</b>		
Corporation Yard	215-4369	
Engineering	215-4382	
Maintenance	215-4369	
After-Hours Emergency	237-3233	