

## New City Website Offers More Online Services

**H**AVE YOU SEEN the City's website recently? In November, the City launched a redesigned website with more online services for the public. The new site connects people with government in new ways that are efficient and convenient, and allows for greater interaction between residents and City staff.

The new homepage is easy to navigate and provides different points of entry for residents and businesses. Users of the earlier site repeatedly requested a search



feature to take them directly to specific information. They will find this prominently featured on the new website. With the new website, you can also

- easily report a concern or request information online
- register for a class or program offered by the Recreation Department
- sign-up to receive an email agendas for City Council meetings or meetings of advisory bodies

"The website is an important way to connect with residents and others interested in the City of El Cerrito and provide timely information about City services and programs, news and events. The new design allows us to present timely information in a smart and efficient way, whether that information is department-based or service-based," said Suzanne Iarla, Community Outreach Specialist.

You are encouraged to visit the new website at [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org) and share your feedback. Comments should be directed to Suzanne Iarla, Community Outreach Specialist at **215-4318** or [siarla@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:siarla@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).



*View from the Hillside Natural Area of the Recycling Center under construction.*

## Recycling Center Reopening Soon!

**A**FTER NEARLY 12 months in design and construction, and 7 months in an interim configuration, the new Recycling and Environmental Resource Center is set to open in February of 2012. Environmental Services Division staff are planning a "soft" opening to allow time to adjust to the new Center. The grand opening will take place in April.

The new Center will provide expanded collection and exchange of reusable items; improved circulation, pedestrian access, and public information; and expanded collection of hard-to-recycle materials. New recyclables under consideration at the new Center include used building materials, electronics, textiles, pallets, and print cartridges.

For more information about the new Center, accepted items or the reopening event, call **215-4350** or visit [www.el-cerrito.org/lerc](http://www.el-cerrito.org/lerc).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Saturday, January 14 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) invites everyone to celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with two events this year! See a free screening of *Selma*, the true story of a young Alabama school girl who is inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to resist degradation. The story is set in 1965. The film is rated PG and is appropriate for families and tweens/teens.



**When:** 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** El Cerrito City Hall  
10890 San Pablo Ave.

### Monday, January 16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE AND RALLY

The HRC invites everyone to attend the 23rd annual parade and rally which features entertainment, singing, dances, poetry, a tribute to Dr. King, and more. For information, contact event Chair Patricia Durham at 234-2518 or visit [www.el-cerrito.org/mlk](http://www.el-cerrito.org/mlk).

**Parade:** Gather 9 a.m.  
Parade starts 9:30 a.m.  
DMV—6400 Manila Ave.

**Rally:** 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon  
at the ECHS Theater  
540 Ashbury Ave.



### Friday, January 20 CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER

The El Cerrito Police Employees Association (ECPEA) presents its third annual crab feed fundraiser. Tickets are available at the Police Station, 10900 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, during regular business hours at a cost of \$40 for adults and \$25 for kids 12 and under. Buy your ticket early! The first two events were sold out.

**When:** 6 p.m.

**Where:** El Cerrito Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane

### Monday, January 23 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY REGIONAL WORKSHOP

State legislation (SB 375) requires the Bay Area to develop a “Sustainable Communities Strategy” to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. Join the discussion and help create a better Bay Area today and for the future. Learn more at [www.onebayarea.org](http://www.onebayarea.org).

**When:** 6 p.m.

**Where:** Richmond Convention Center  
403 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond

### Monday, January 30 EL CERRITO SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

City of El Cerrito  
2012 Summer Day  
Camps run June 11 through August 17. They include traditional day camps and sport, music, science and art specialty camps. Early registration for City residents starts January 30. Open registration (including nonresidents) begins February 3 and continues until all spaces are filled.



**When:** Walk-in registration  
Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Where:** Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane

### Saturday, February 4 NEW METROPOLIS

Free local screening of a documentary about revitalization of America’s suburbs, followed by a panel discussion about the Bay Area Sustainable Communities Strategy efforts. Hosted by the Environmental Quality Committee. More details at [www.ecenvironment.org](http://www.ecenvironment.org).



**When:** 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Rialto Cinemas Cerrito  
10070 San Pablo Ave.

### Saturday, April 7 ANNUAL EGG HUNT

Kids love this traditional Egg Hunt with candy and eggs. Come early to catch the start: the hunt is over quickly! There will be a visit from a very special bunny. Event occurs rain or shine.



Special thanks to the El Cerrito Professional Firefighters, the Wittenberg Family, and the other businesses and organizations that made last year’s event possible.

Contact the Recreation Department at 559-7000 for more details or to become a sponsor.

**When:** 10 a.m. Sharp!

**Where:** Arlington Park  
1120 Arlington Blvd.

### Saturday, April 21 EARTH DAY

Register by April 9 to volunteer or to coordinate a project. We welcome suggestions regarding potential work sites. Email the Environmental Services Division at [earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or call 215-4350.



**When:** Work parties, 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch  
12 noon–1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Work parties occur citywide  
Lunch at the Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane

### Saturday, April 28 SPRING BOOK SALE

Friends of the El Cerrito Library’s annual Book Sale features a large selection of books for children and adults. Proceeds benefit library programs. The Friends happily accept donations of books, CDs, and DVDs. Please bring donations at the library during open hours. For details, visit [www.friendscerritolibrary.wordpress.com/](http://www.friendscerritolibrary.wordpress.com/)

**When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Where:** El Cerrito Library  
6510 Stockton Ave.

# City and Developer Planning New Housing for Seniors

THE CITY and Eden Housing held two community meetings last fall to introduce Eden's proposal to build affordable senior housing in El Cerrito. Eden has been selected to develop the City-owned site at 10848–10860 San Pablo Avenue—just south of City Hall, between Manila Avenue and Schmidt Lane. Their development is planned to include a health clinic and retail space on the ground floor. At the meetings, Eden presented their preliminary proposal and requested feedback from the many stakeholders who attended.

Eden Housing is a non-profit affordable housing developer based in Hayward. They are committed to creating healthy and affordable green communities and offers strong property management and social services for residents. Says Woody Karp, Eden's senior project manager, "we are excited by this opportunity to work with the City's Open House Senior Center to compliment the robust resources that will be available to the future residents of our senior housing development, as well as to add to the efforts already underway to create a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly environment along San Pablo Avenue."

Meetings were held in October at City Hall and in November at the Senior Center. Also in October, Eden Housing and Van Meter Williams Pollack, the project architect, met with the Design Review Board to receive informal feedback on

preliminary designs. In addition, Eden has undertaken several studies that are prerequisites for the development, such as a geotechnical study, a site survey, and a supplemental historic resource evaluation.

The historic evaluation, required when buildings on a site are more than 50 years old, was published in late October. It concluded that 10848 San Pablo Avenue, where the Mabuchi family lived and operated a florist business from 1935 to 1965, contains a building that may be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources for its association with the Japanese American cut-flower industry in El Cerrito and Richmond and its association with Japanese American immigration and settlement in western Contra Costa County. Both the City and Eden Housing are committed to a project that honors the Mabuchi family and the history and contributions of El Cerrito's Japanese American community.

After incorporating community input and information from site reports in its design, Eden will prepare a planning application for the City's Planning Department. This will start the formal entitlement approval process and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review process. These are required of all development applications. The entitlement process includes meetings with the Planning Commission and the Design Review Board. During that time, there will be additional opportunities for public comment through public meetings of those bodies. Depending on community interest, there may also be additional community meetings.

For more information about the Eden Senior Housing project, please contact the City's Housing Program Manager, Hilde Myall at **215-4358**.

## El Cerrito Wall of Fame

THE EL CERRITO Wall of Fame, located inside City Hall, recognizes El Cerrito residents who have made significant contributions to the community over an extended period of time through their work on special projects. In 2011, honorees Rich Bartke, Rose Lernberg, Al Miller and Roy Mespelt were inducted into the Wall of Fame. They join

- Sundar Shadi (1990)
- Louis and Bettianne Flynn (1991)
- Doreen Spellmann (1991)
- Arthur Schroeder (1992)
- Don West (1993)
- Marvin Collins (1995)
- Elmer Freethy (1995)
- Jean Siri (1995)
- Nancy Gans (1996)
- Charles and Lucy Wilson (1999)
- Miriam Wilkins (2008)

To nominate an El Cerrito resident to the Wall of Fame for 2012, you must submit your application by March 15. The application and guidelines for nomination and selection are available from the Cheryl Morse, City Clerk at **215-4305**.



## Art Schroeder

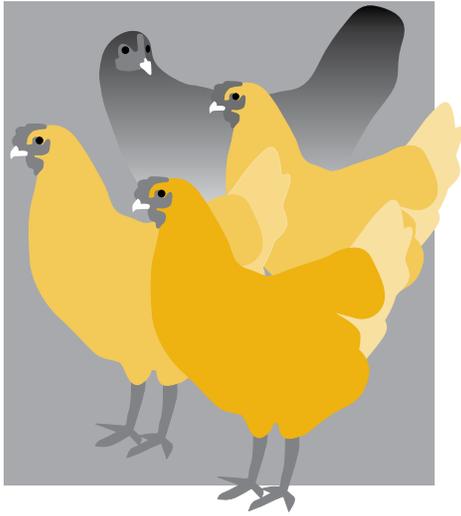
Art Schroeder was inducted into the El Cerrito Wall of Fame in 1992. Mr. Schroeder served on the Stege Sanitary District Board (for 15 years), the City's Planning Commission, and the Committee on Aging. He was active in library and park bond campaigns, worked with the El Cerrito Historical Society, and co-founded the Gray Panthers of West Contra Costa. In the 1970s, Mr. Schroeder co-organized the El Cerrito Bicentennial Celebration. He was instrumental in the creation of the Hazel Shirley Manor and served as chair of their Board of Directors for many years. Art Schroeder died in 2006 at age 99.

## Council Meetings to Move to Tuesdays

The City Council has recently discussed changing the date and time of City Council meetings from the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. to the first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m. If the City Council approves and adopts the ordinance change, Council meeting days will move to the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. beginning on February 21, 2012. For more details, contact City Clerk Cheryl Morse at **215-4305** or go online to [www.el-cerrito.org/councilmeetings](http://www.el-cerrito.org/councilmeetings).

# Keeping Animals in El Cerrito

**A**WARENESS OF SUSTAINABILITY, local food, and other environmental issues, coupled with the downturn in the economy over the last few years, has generated new interest in producing food by raising chickens, bees, goats and other animals. Based on public input over the last two years, the City Council



recently enacted changes to sections of the El Cerrito Municipal Code that regulate the keeping of animals within the City. The new Animals Ordinance takes effect in April 2012. For more information regarding the ordinance process, please see: <http://www.el-cerrito.org/animals>

## ALLOWED ANIMALS

As of April 2012, the City allows residents to keep the following animals:

- Dogs—County license required
- Cats—County license optional
- Domestic Rodents (e.g. rats, hamsters, and guinea pigs)
- Rabbits
- Fish
- Domestic reptiles and amphibians (e.g. lizards, snakes, frogs and turtles)
- Domestic Insects (other than honeybees) and other commonly kept

arthropods (e.g. ants, spiders, millipedes, and hermit crabs)

- Birds, if kept indoors and not permitted to fly freely. (Birds flying freely or birds kept outdoors require a conditional use permit.)
- Chickens (hens only), honeybees, pigs and goats (as pets, or for personal sustainability at a hobby level only). See table on the next page for requirements.

Wild or exotic animals are regulated by County and State law and shall not be permitted without a conditional use permit.

All animal-related home businesses (e.g. kennels, animals breeding, animal daycare, or selling animal products) require a conditional use permit.

## AMNESTY PROGRAM

Residents who already keep one or more chickens or other fowl, beehives, pigs,

*Continued on page 5*

# Prepare Now for Winter Floods

**E**L CERRITO RESIDENTS should keep in mind that creeks and culverts often overflow during periods of heavy rain.

The City needs your cooperation and assistance in assuring that the storm drain system functions properly. Here are some tips from the Public Works Maintenance Division:

- If you have a creek or open watercourse on your property, make sure that debris and vegetation do not block the flow of water. The City does not maintain creeks on private property.
- If you have a storm drain grate in the street near your home or business, check it frequently during heavy rains. Make sure no trash or leaves block the grate. If you observe a catch basin that is not draining or needs to be cleaned, contact the City Maintenance Division at **215-4369**.
- Make sure the gutter in front of your business or residence is kept clear of anything that could divert the flow of storm water. Do not allow soil, trash

or other materials in the gutter area. Never put or pour anything other than storm water in the drain inlet.

- If your property is flooded by water entering from the street, report the problem to the City at **215-4369**. When there are citywide flooding events, requests must be prioritized, but Maintenance will do their best to respond promptly to everyone.
- To prevent flooding from the street of your driveway, garage or home, the City provides up to ten (10) sandbags per household before a storm hits or after it has arrived. Due to construction at the Recycling Center this winter, sand is available in the 7500 block of Schmidt Lane (near the entrance to the Hillside Natural Area and across from the Stege Sanitary District Offices. You must bring proof of residency and you will need to fill the bags yourself.

Note: If flooding on your property is not caused by high flows in the public right-of-way, residents should obtain sandbags from a building supply yard, landscape supply company, or hardware store.

- Make sure your home's drainage system is functioning properly and that surface run off and roof downspouts are not directed into your neighbors' yards, causing flooding on their properties.

If you have questions about storm drain system maintenance or need additional assistance, please contact the Maintenance Services Division at **215-4369**. If there is an emergency situation after business hours, please contact the Police Department at **233-1214** for assistance.



goats, other livestock, or exotic/wild animals are encouraged to contact the City about obtaining the proper permits for existing animals. Penalties and fines will be waived for residents who voluntarily contact the City before April 1, 2012 to begin the permitting process and bring their animal keeping into compliance.

### WHO TO CALL

For more information about keeping animals in El Cerrito, to obtain clearances or permits, or to find out about placement of coops, pens, and kennels, contact the Planning Division at **215-4330**. To find out about required dog licensing or

optional cat licensing, contact the County Animal Services Department at **(925) 335-8300**. To make a complaint about a nuisance animal, contact City Code Enforcement **215-4374**. To report suspected animal abuse or neglect, contact the County Animal Services Department at **(925) 335-8300**.

NEW ANIMAL REGULATIONS, EFFECTIVE APRIL, 2012					
TYPE OF ANIMAL	LOT SIZE	QUANTITY ALLOWED with an over-the-counter permit	QUANTITY POSSIBLE with unanimous neighbor consent	QUANTITY POSSIBLE with conditional use permit (Planning Commission approval)	ADDITIONAL STANDARDS
CHICKENS (Hens only, no roosters)	< 4,000 sq. ft. single family lot	—	Up to 4 chickens	1 or more chickens	Chicken coops must be located at least 20 feet from homes on adjacent properties. Exceptions are allowed with unanimous neighbor consent or a conditional use permit. Only hens are allowed. Roosters are prohibited.
	≥ 4,000 sq. ft. single family lot	Up to 4 chickens with a Residential Chicken Clearance	5 or 6 chickens	5 or more chickens	
	Multi-family dwelling	—	—	1 or more chickens	
HONEYBEES	< 5,000 sq. ft. single family lot	—	1 beehive	1 or more beehives	Beehives must be located at least 20 feet from homes on adjacent properties and at least 5 feet from all property lines. Exceptions are allowed with unanimous neighbor consent or a conditional use permit.
	≥ 5,000 sq. ft. single family lot	1 beehive with Honeybee Keeping Clearance	2 or 3 beehives	2 or more beehives	
	Multi-family dwelling	—	—	1 or more beehives	
TYPE OF ANIMAL	LOT SIZE	QUANTITY ALLOWED with an administrative use permit	QUANTITY POSSIBLE with unanimous neighbor consent	QUANTITY POSSIBLE with conditional use permit (Planning Commission approval)	ADDITIONAL STANDARDS
PIGS (under 150 lbs., i.e. potbellied pigs)	< 5,000 sq. ft. single family lot	—	—	1 or more pigs	Pigs must be kept in a pen located at least 20 feet from homes on adjacent properties and at least 5 feet from all property lines
	≥ 5,000 sq. ft. single family lot	Up to 2 pigs	—	3 or more pigs	
	Multi-family dwelling	—	—	1 or more pigs	
GOATS	< 10,000 sq. ft. lot	—	—	1 or more goats	Goats for weed abatement allowed on lots 7,500 sq. ft. or larger once per year for up to 60 days with Goat Weed Abatement Permit. The number of goats will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
	≥ 10,000 sq. ft. lot	1 or more goats	—	—	
OTHER LIVESTOCK AND FOWL		—	—	Livestock, other than goats and pigs, and chickens, require a conditional use permit.	

# Future of Redevelopment in El Cerrito

IN 1952, CALIFORNIA voters approved a constitutional amendment to allow cities to use a portion of their property taxes for redevelopment of designated areas. The El Cerrito redevelopment project area, established in 1977, runs the length of San Pablo Avenue.

The California State Budget for FY 2011–12 abolishes redevelopment agencies statewide but allows cities that make payments to the state to continue redevelopment activities. Statewide, it would take nearly \$2 billion from local governments to make all of these payments in 2012 and about \$500 million annually thereafter. In the case of El Cerrito, the City must pay \$1.85 million in 2012 and about \$500,000 annually thereafter, through 2025 to continue local redevelopment activities.

Cities have challenged the current budget legislation as unconstitutional and expect a ruling from the State Supreme Court before the first payment is due on January 15, 2012. At the time of this writing, the outcome has not yet been determined. More recent information is available at <http://www.el-cerrito.org/redevelopment>.

While the City of El Cerrito has managed to identify sufficient funds to make the first payment to the State, the amounts necessary to make initial and ongoing payments will seriously hinder the ongoing revitalization of San Pablo Avenue. Although the City has attempted to protect local funds, many projects and programs are at risk, such as:

- Support for local and regional environmental sustainability goals, including infill development along the corridor, particularly around El Cerrito's two BART Stations
- Encouraging redevelopment of the Moeser Lane Shopping Center
- Revitalization of the remainder of the Cerrito Theater block
- Development of sixty-four units of affordable housing and medical services for seniors proposed for 10860 San Pablo Avenue
- Development of fifty-seven units of affordable housing approved for Ohlone Gardens at 6431 Portola Drive

- Continuing commercial rehabilitation loan programs for small businesses
- Providing opportunities for neighborhood improvement through partnerships with the City of Richmond along the cities' shared boundary
- Developing other properties previously purchased by the Agency

Since it was established in 1977, the Agency has implemented numerous projects and programs designed to revitalize El Cerrito and increase the availability of affordable housing in the City. Some examples include:

- Issuing of mortgage revenue bonds for single family homes in 1980
- Property exchange for the Del Norte Plaza in 1981
- Public improvements for the Nations office building in 1985
- Tenant and developer assistance for the Bank of the West Plaza in 1988
- Land assembly for the Civic Plaza Apartments in 1989
- Land assembly for the Cerrito Galleria shopping center at Stockton and San Pablo Avenues in 1989
- Land assembly for the Potrero Building in 1989
- Land assembly for the Del Norte Place complex at Knott and San Pablo Avenues, completed in 1992
- Land assembly and site preparation for the Target store in 1992
- Public improvements for the Home Depot in 1994
- Land assembly for the Del Norte Marketplace shopping center in 1998
- Public improvements to facilitate the relocation of the El Cerrito Honda dealership in 2001
- Developing a total of 188 units of affordable housing in five projects: the El Cerrito Royale in 1989, Hazel Shirley Manor in 1986, Del Norte Place in 1992, the Idaho Apartments in 1999, and the Village at Town Center in 2006

Due to the recession of the late 1990s, the Agency's over the past decade have been more focused on various public improvements to benefit the project area as a whole. Examples include:



*The El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency has worked to revitalize the theater block.*

- Streetscape improvements on lower and upper Fairmount Avenue
- Construction of portions of Civic Plaza during City Hall construction
- Creek restoration projects for both Baxter and Cerrito Creeks
- Renovation of the Cerrito Theater and business assistance to revitalize the theater block
- Business assistance and promotion, including two websites—one to encourage economic development and the other to promote shopping in El Cerrito
- Assistance to property owners evaluating the seismic safety of their buildings
- A loan program to businesses purchasing video surveillance equipment, in the wake of the tragic death of a local business owner
- Development of the San Pablo Avenue specific plan
- Property acquisition around the Del Norte Area BART Station as needed for transit-oriented development projects
- Acquisition of 10848–10860 San Pablo Avenue for future affordable housing
- Providing an acquisition loan to a local non-profit developer to facilitate the building of Ohlone Gardens, a planned affordable housing project expected to include dedicated housing for students in a living skills program for the blind

If you have questions about redevelopment in El Cerrito and the impact of the 2011–12 California state budget, please contact Lori Treviño, Redevelopment Manager at **215-4380**.

# Carbon Monoxide: What You Need to Know

## NEW LAW REQUIRES IN-HOME CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

**R**ECENT LEGISLATION REQUIRES all California homeowners to install carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas produced by heaters, fireplaces, furnaces and many types of appliances. It is a silent killer, claiming the lives of 480 people per year on average and sending over 20,000 people to emergency rooms across the nation.

### CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS DO NOT REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS.

The best way for homeowners to protect themselves from CO is to install detectors on every floor and outside each sleeping area, and to test the units monthly. A recent study found that nearly nine in ten California households did not have CO detectors. A CO detector is a small investment that could save your life and the lives of your family.

Earlier laws required CO alarms only in new homes but California State Senate Bill 183, the new Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act, requires owners of existing single-family homes (with either an attached garage or a fossil fuel source) to install the devices as of July, 2011. Owners of multi-family dwellings, such as apartment buildings, have until January

1, 2013 to comply although apartment owners must install the CO detectors upon completion of \$1000 or more of new construction before the deadline.

CO is a toxic gas that is odorless, tasteless and invisible. It is caused by incomplete combustion of fossil fuels due to insufficient oxygen. Fossil fuels include natural gas, propane, kerosene, gasoline, coal, wood, and charcoal. Sources of CO include furnaces, water heaters, gas

ovens or cook tops, gas clothes dryers, fireplaces, space heaters, portable generators, charcoal grills, wood-burning stoves, or vehicles idling in attached garages. For a free inspection of your fossil fuel appliances, call PG&E at **1-800-743-5000**.

For more information on preventing carbon monoxide poisoning, contact the El Cerrito Fire Department at **215-4450** or go online to <http://www.el-cerrito.org/fire/detectors>.

## City Launches Neighborhood Pace Car Pledge Program



**T**HE CITY RECENTLY launched the Neighborhood Pace Car Pledge Program to encourage residents to take responsibility for their driving while setting the “pace” for safer streets and neighborhoods. More specifically, the program:

- reminds drivers to drive within the legal speed limit;
- reminds drivers to safely share streets with people who are walking and biking, and encourages driver to be courteous to them

- encourages drivers to be aware of entire neighborhoods and not just the streets that run through them

Residents are asked to complete a pledge and commit to driving safely and courteously.

Participants receive a decal (static-cling sticker or magnet, as chosen by the resident) to display on their vehicle.

For more information regarding the Neighborhood Pace Car Pledge Program, please visit the City’s website at <http://www.el-cerrito.org/pacecar> or call **215-4328**.

## Residential Burglary Prevention Tips

**R**ESIDENTIAL BURGLARY—when suspect(s) enter a residence with the intent to commit a theft or other felony—is a crime that leaves its victims feeling violated and robs them of valuable and important personal belongings. The El Cerrito Police Department is committed to working in partnership with the community to prevent burglaries and to apprehend offenders.

There are many ways residents can help prevent residential burglaries. Most criminals look for the path of least resistance. You can help to prevent theft by making your home a more difficult place to enter:

- Make sure all your windows and doors (including the garage door and any pet doors) are closed and secured. If you are

able to shake a patio door or a window open, a burglar can too, so replace or repair any openings not in good working order. Deadbolt locks with metal kick plates help secure exterior doors and make forcible entry more difficult.

- Close your curtains to conceal valuables.
- Install exterior lighting in unlit areas.
- A burglar alarm coupled with signage and window decals notifying the observer of its existence is also an excellent deterrent. For more information about alarms and permits, visit the El Cerrito Police Department’s webpage at [www.el-cerrito.org/alarms](http://www.el-cerrito.org/alarms).
- Consider purchasing a safe and anchor it so that it cannot be removed from your residence. A safe is a great investment

because it provides secure storage for valuable items. Also consider engraving these items with the letters OAN and your driver’s license number. OAN stands for “Owner Applied Number” and your driver’s license clearly identifies you. An OAN helps law enforcement officers identify stolen property. Hard copy lists of your property with serial numbers are also helpful. Keep these in a separate safe location.

The Neighborhood Watch Program is a key element to crime prevention. You can find out more about Neighborhood Watch at [www.el-cerrito.org/nw](http://www.el-cerrito.org/nw) or call Detective Sgt. Scott Cliatt at **215-4418**.

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

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*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.*

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

**CITY WEBSITE**            [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org)  
**TWITTER**                    @cityofelcerrito

**CITY HALL**                    (All area codes 510)  
 10890 San Pablo Ave.

**City Management**  
 City Clerk                    215-4305  
 City Council                 215-4305  
 City Manager                215-4300

**Administrative Services**  
 Employee Services         215-4315  
 Finance                      215-4310

**Economic Development**  
 Economic Development    215-4362  
 Housing                     215-4358  
 Redevelopment            215-4380

**Environmental & Development Services**  
 Building                    215-4360  
 Code Enforcement         215-4374  
 Planning                    215-4330  
 Environmental Services    215-4350

**Recycling Center**  
 7501 Schmidt Lane         215-4350

**Public Works**  
 Corporation Yard           215-4369  
 Engineering                215-4382  
 Maintenance               215-4369  
 After-Hours Emergency    237-3233

**Community Center**  
 7007 Moeser Lane  
 Recreation Department    559-7000  
 Park/Facility Rentals       559-7000  
 Swim Center                559-7011

**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  
 Fire Administration        215-4450  
 Police Administration      215-4400

**City Hall Holidays (office closed):**  
 Martin Luther King Day—January 16  
 Presidents Day—February 20

**City Council meetings:**  
 Monday January 3  
 Tuesday January 17  
 Monday February 6  
 Tuesday February 21

*Check website for regular meeting dates in March (see article on page 3 for more details)*

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. **To watch the meeting online, go to [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org) and click on the "Streaming Media" link.** 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: <http://www.el-cerrito.org/archive>.

## New Services at City Hall

A NEW COMPUTER WORKSTATION that provides access to the City's legislative history and United States government passport services is now available at City Hall.

The new electronic document repository of legislative history contains minutes, ordinances, and resolutions adopted by the City Council from 1917 to the present. Users can search the repository and view or print any document. Instructions are provided at the workstation and assistance is also available from City Clerk staff. The computer is available during regular business hours.

The City also now offers the following passport services at City Hall:

- Processing for first-time applicants
- Expedited processing
- Information on renewals, passport changes/amendments, and lost or stolen passports

Passport services are offered by the Office of the City Clerk, (upstairs in City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Avenue). Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. and Tuesdays, 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m. No reservations are required.

Passport and travel information can also be found on the U.S. State Department's website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). For additional information, please call the City Clerk's Office at **215-4371**.