



News AND Views

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

Recycling Center Celebrates Opening

ON EARTH DAY, April 22, 2012, the City marked the opening of the new El Cerrito Recycling and Environmental Resource Center with a ceremony and open house. Over 250 people attended the celebration.

The City is unique in operating its own drop-off Recycling Center to support residents and businesses wishing to reduce their landfill waste to the greatest extent possible. The new Center includes the business office for the City's Environmental Services Division and is designed to serve as an environmental sustainability hub for El Cerrito and provide a place to:

- recycle a wide range of items, both conventional and hard-to-recycle
- exchange reusable items, and
- obtain information about environmental concerns and projects.

In 2010, through a competitive process, the City of El Cerrito selected Noll & Tam Architects and Pankow Builders to design and build the project. Construction began in May, 2011. It is anticipated that the new facility will attain LEED® Platinum



On opening day, over 400 users dropped recyclable materials at the new Center.

level certification, the highest possible level, from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Noteworthy sustainable features at the Center include 10kW of solar photovoltaic panels, an 11,000 gallon rainwater cistern, native landscaping, rain gardens that filter stormwater runoff, a long list of energy efficiency measures, a net zero energy Administrative Building, reuse of materials from the former Recycling Center, and exemplary wayfinding and interpretive information.

The Center is located at 7501 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito, CA 94530. For hours and to find out what you can recycle, visit www.el-cerrito.org/recycling/center or call 215-4350.

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Summertime Fun in El Cerrito

THE EL CERRITO Swim Center is one of the best pools in the East Bay! The Center offers year-round lap and recreational swimming, swim lessons, aqua aerobics, water polo, and a special night swim for teens during the summer. For the Swim Center schedule and rates, call 559-7011 or go online to www.el-cerrito.org/recreation/swim.

But did you know that the City Recreation Department offers a wide selection of summer programs in addition to those at the Swim Center? There are half- and full-day camps for pre-school and school-aged children, special teen programs, and classes for adults and seniors—adventures, learning, fun, and surprises for everyone.

Dates, times, locations, fees and descriptions are included in the Spring/Summer

Recreation Brochure, available at City facilities and online.

To register for recreation classes:

- Sign up for some programs online at www.el-cerrito.org/recreation
- Mail or hand-deliver completed registration forms with payment to:
El Cerrito Community Center
Attn: Summer Day Camp Registrar
7007 Moeser Lane
El Cerrito, CA 94530

For more information about City summer programs, call the Recreation Department, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration forms are available at the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, or online at www.el-cerrito.org/recreation.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Saturday, May 26 CERT BOOT CAMP TRAINING

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Boot Camp is a non-certified, one-day training that introduces participants to all CERT program areas. To register, call the Fire Department at 215-4450 or complete the online form at www.el-cerrito.org/fire/cert.

When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave, Kensington

Monday, May 28 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Join the Richmond Museum of History and the El Cerrito Garden Club at the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker Dedication. Light refreshments will be served. Tour the SS Red Oak Victory Ship. Limited lunch on Ship (\$15 per person; reservations required). For more information, contact Esther Sergeant at 524-7232.

When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: SS Red Oak Victory Ship
337 Canal Blvd., Richmond

Tuesday, June 5 ELECTION DAY

Polling Place information is printed on your voter information pamphlet and is also available by calling the City Clerk at 215-4305, the County Elections Office at 925-335-7800, or at www.cocovote.us.

When: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 31 OHLONE GREENWAY NATURAL AREA COMMUNITY MEETING

Give your input on plans for grant-funded improvements to the portion of the Ohlone Greenway between Brighton (in Albany) and Fairmont (in El Cerrito). Plans include creek improvements, rain gardens, interpretive and recreational elements, better pedestrian access and lighting & safety components. Call 215-4339 for details.

When: 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Where: Castro Clubhouse, 1420 Norvell

Sunday, June 10 BIKE THE BRIDGES

The El Cerrito Police Department is a proud presenter of this family-friendly bicycle ride to benefit Special Olympics Northern California. For details or to register, call 215-4435 or visit www.BiketheBridgesSpecialOlympics.org

When: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Martinez Waterfront Park
Joe Dimaggio Dr., Martinez



Saturday, June 16 CPR/FIRST AID CLASS

The El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department offers CPR and Basic First Aid classes to the general public with priority registration for Kensington and El Cerrito residents. Other dates are also available. Visit www.el-cerrito.org/fire/cpr for more details.

When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Arlington Community Church
52 Arlington Ave., Kensington

Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10 TASSAJARA POTTERY STUDIO CERAMICS SHOW & SALE

Come see works by artists and students of the Tassajara Pottery Studio and watch a clay demonstration. Sale benefits the City's Tassajara Pottery Studio.

When: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane

Tuesday, July 3 DJ DOUG WENDT'S ALL WORLD BEAT

Get ready for the 4th of July Festival at this great concert in Cerrito Vista Park. Free!

Bring your own blanket/chair and picnic dinner. Dancing encouraged.

When: 5 to 7 p.m.

Where: Cerrito Vista Park
950 Pomona Avenue

Wednesday, July 4 CITY OF EL CERRITO & worldOne 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

For details, see the story on the next page or visit www.el-cerrito.org/july4festival.

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Music until 7 p.m.

Where: Cerrito Vista Park
950 Pomona Avenue

Saturday, July 21 EL CERRITO RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay For Life is a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and raise money for the American Cancer Society. For more information on this 24-hour event, visit www.relayforlife.org/elcerritoca or contact Laura Gonzalez at 510-697-0422 or elcerritorelay@gmail.com. The City is a proud sponsor of this event.



When: Relay starts at 10 a.m.
Overnight campout through
Sunday, July 22, 10 a.m.

Where: Cerrito Vista Park
950 Pomona Avenue

Tuesday, August 7 EL CERRITO'S ANNUAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out is a unique, annual, safety event highlighting crime, drug, and violence prevention across the country. El Cerrito's Night Out provides a unique opportunity for El Cerrito residents to connect with each other and with the El Cerrito Police Department to learn about safety and crime prevention. For more information, or to host a block party on your street, contact Detective Sergeant Scott Cliatt at 215-4418 or visit scliatt@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

When: Sundown

Where: Your neighborhood

Celebrate Independence Day

EL CERRITO'S ADMISSION-FREE, family-friendly, annual Fourth of July celebration is full of fun, food, and entertainment.

A tradition for the past 24 years, the City of El Cerrito's annual July 4th Festival in scenic Cerrito Vista Park is a fun event for the whole family. For the past 14 years, the City has partnered with worldOne to provide live entertainment on the main stage. Main stage performers this year include:

- Calafia
- PC Munoz
- Gamelan Sekar Jaya
- Elijah Rock
- Earth Amplified
- Tito + Sun Son De Cuba
- Dhol Rhythms

Other festival events include:

- Children's fun area with carnival games, jump houses, and rides
- Circus Imagination
- Arts and crafts vendors
- El Cerrito Art Association Art Show & Sale
- Lots of great, tasty food
- Vendor booths by local business and service groups

Festival activities will take place in Cerrito Vista Park as well as on Pomona Avenue. There is limited street parking so carpools, walking, and cycling are

encouraged. The City is once again partnering with Richmond Spokes to offer secure bike valet parking during the event. The bike parking will be on Moeser Lane.

BOOTH SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

Is your business or non-profit organization interested in selling items or promoting services to thousands of area residents? If so, consider having a booth at the July 4th Festival! Applications for non-food vendors will be accepted until **Friday, June 1**. Discounted rates are available to non-profit organizations and local, home-based businesses. Call the Recreation Department at **559-7000** for more details. For online information, or to download a non-food vendor application form, go to **www.el-cerrito.org/july4festival**.

July 4th Festival

**Wednesday, July 4
10 a.m.—6 p.m.
(music until 7:00 pm)**

**Cerrito Vista Park
(Moeser at Pomona)**



PHOTOS: TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT: FLETCHER OAKES, WWW.FLETCHO.COM
ALL OTHERS: CITY OF EL CERRITO

Join the New Tree Committee

THE CITY COUNCIL is currently seeking interested residents to serve on the City's Tree Committee. The Tree Committee will advise the City Council and educate residents in the stewardship and care of City trees and the Community Forest.

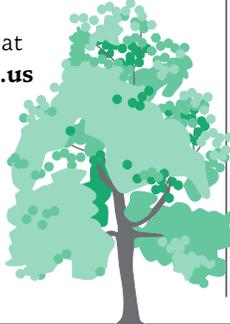
The Tree Committee will:

- Coordinate with Urban Forestry staff regarding management and maintenance consistent with the City's Urban Forestry Management Plan
- Promote and foster public awareness, education, and support for urban forestry efforts
- Foster volunteer, grass-roots campaigns for tree planting and irrigation along City streets and in front yards
- Work with the Park and Recreation Commission on park trees
- Educate residents regarding tree selection, planting, and maintenance

The Committee will not mediate issues on private property but rather recommend programs, policies and ordinances to implement and promote the proper management of the City's Community Forest.

The Council currently seeking applications from El Cerrito residents to fill seven empty committee seats. The applications can be downloaded from the City's website or you can request that an application be sent to you by calling the City Clerk's office at **215-4305**. Thank you to those residents who have already applied—a second application is not required.

An informal public information meeting about the roles and responsibilities of the Tree Committee will be held on **Wednesday, June 20** at 7 p.m. at City Hall (10890 San Pablo Avenue). Contact staff liaison and City Arborist, Stephen Prée at spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or **215-4333** for more details.



Updated Housing Element Certified

THE HOUSING ELEMENT is part of the City's General Plan and sets forth policies and programs to meet the housing needs of all of the different types of households in El Cerrito. The State recently certified the City of El Cerrito's updated Housing Element.

The 2007–2014 Housing Element was adopted by the City Council in February 2012 and certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development in March of this year. The updated Housing Element is the City's blueprint for future housing. It includes goals, policies, and programs through 2014 that direct decision-making for housing issues, including development of new housing and upkeep of existing housing. The update

included a needs assessment to understand local demographics and housing conditions, as well as constraints on housing production in El Cerrito, development of measurable targets for meeting housing needs, and an inventory of potential sites where housing may be constructed in the future.

El Cerrito is a "built-out" community. Existing homes include single family, duplex/triplex/quadplex and apartment buildings. 63% of housing units are owner-occupied, and 37% are renter-occupied.

For more information on the 2007–2014 Housing Element, contact the Planning Division at **215-4330** or planning@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or go to www.el-cerrito.org/planning.

New Bike Lockers at BART Stations

OVER THE LAST six months, BART has installed new electronic bike lockers at 19 stations including 24 at the El Cerrito del Norte station. Systemwide, BART now has more than 500 electronic lockers provide secure, weather-protected BART parking for bicyclists. (For the complete station list, go to www.bart.gov/guide/bikes.)

BART anticipates installing more electronic lockers in 2012–13. Stations likely to receive new lockers include: El Cerrito Plaza, Lake Merritt, North Berkeley, Pleasant Hill, Rockridge, South Hayward, Union City, and Walnut Creek.

In addition to lockers, BART offers hundreds of bicycle racks where cyclists can lock their bikes for free. Cyclists can bring bicycles on most trains and folding bikes are allowed on all trains. The Quick-Planner at www.bart.gov and BART's printed schedules identify the trains that allow bikes. Non-folding bikes are not usually permitted during busy, rush hours.

HOW E-LOCKERS WORK

To use an electronic locker, a cyclist needs a BikeLink Card, available at retail locations or at www.bikelink.org. The card works like a debit card. The cyclist inserts the card at an available locker, estimates how long the bike will be stored there, backs the bike in, and closes the door. To pick up the bike, just insert the card again. The rental fee is deducted from the card (the current rate is 3 cents per hour and unused time is refunded), the door opens, the cyclist retrieves the bike . . . and they're on their way! For more information visit <http://www.bikelink.org>



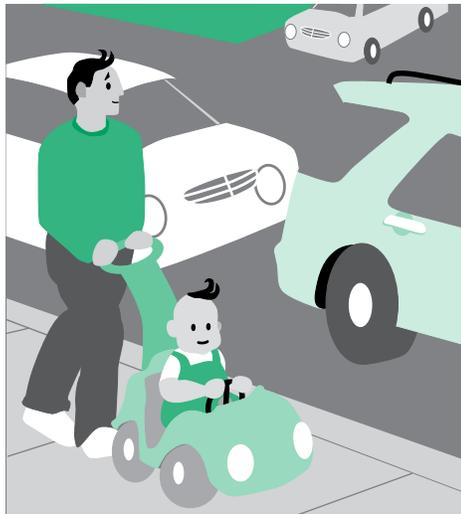
Planned Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvements

THE CITY HAS a number of projects planned to improve the safety of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. The following projects will begin construction later this year:

Potrero Avenue between 55th and 56th Streets

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Project improvements will reduce roadway conflicts that might lead to collisions between motorists and bicyclists; make sure the intersection conforms to the latest ADA requirements; and make accommodations for pedestrians and



bicyclists. Construction is due to begin Summer 2012.

90% of this project is funded by a federal grant of \$584,910 from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The 10% local match of \$64,990 is funded by Measure J and Proposition 1B.

Arlington Boulevard at Madera and Brewster Drives

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

This project will make Arlington Boulevard safer for students walking to Madera Elementary School. Construction is due to begin Summer 2012.

A federal grant of \$230,470 from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program is fully funding this project.

Central Avenue and Liberty Street

STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

This project is intended to improve walking and biking routes to public transportation, support high-density infill development, and enhance the sense of place and quality of life in the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station Area. Construction is due to begin Fall 2012.

The project will be funded by two separate grants provided by the Transpor-

tation for Livable Communities Program. The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality federal grant will fund \$816,000 and Measure J, a countywide half-cent sales tax grant, will fund \$204,000.

Moeser Lane and Ashbury Avenue

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

This project will make improvements to the Moeser Lane and Ashbury Avenue corridors by closing sidewalk gaps and installing pedestrian safety and traffic calming measures. Bicycle lanes and/or markings will also be installed along the length of Ashbury Avenue and along a portion of Moeser Lane. Construction is due to begin Fall 2012.

A federal grant of \$977,000 from the State Transportation Improvement Program—Transportation Enhancement (STIP-TE) Program is fully funding the capital construction costs. The planning, design, and engineering costs will be covered with local funds.

For a more detailed description of the projects listed above, contact the Public Works Department at **215-4382** or go online to **www.el-cerrito.org/cip**.

Earth Day 2012 Celebrates Environmental Stewardship

THE THEME OF this year's Earth Day event was "Celebrate Environmental Stewardship" and hundreds of El Cerrito residents did just that. On Saturday, April 21st, over 25 work parties were held in locations all over the City. Groups helped to help pull weeds, removed invasive broom from the Hillside Nature Area and along Moeser Lane, and collected litter along the Ohlone Greenway and in city parks. Then, about 350 people gathered at the El Cerrito Community Center for the annual volunteer appreciation lunch.

El Cerrito Natural Grocery donated a free 2012 Chinook book to all attendees. The look includes valuable coupons

for local green businesses and services. The 2012 Earth Day celebration was also supported by donations from individual donors and local businesses including Lucky, Subway, Pasta Pomodoro, El Cerrito Natural Grocery (additional donation), The Unicorn Mining Syndicate, Children's Dentistry, Bushwacker Brush Removal Service, The Glen Price Group, Olivero Plumbing, Sunset View Cemetery Association, Fairmount Electric and R&R Auto and Towing Services.

To see Earth Day photos or provide feedback on the event, visit

www.el-cerrito.org/earthday. You can also contact the Environmental Services Division at **215-4350**.

PHOTO: A. ROMERO, ECHS MEDIA ACADEMY STUDENT



Control Weeds to Reduce the Risk of Wildfires

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES HAVE experienced devastating fire loss from out-of-control fires occurring in places where urban housing shares space with wild land areas. Each spring, the rapid growth of weeds and vegetation creates an extreme fire risk for the City. The City of El Cerrito contains



areas within Very High Fire Hazard Severity (VHFHS) zones and property owners must take special precautions on their properties, including managing vegetation, to reduce the risk of fire.

While many factors combine to create a fire hazard, three basic methods can reduce risk by managing vegetation: firebreaks, fuel breaks and ornamental landscaping. By implementing vegetation management standards, you can dramatically increase the chance of your home surviving a wildfire and reduce the possibility that a small fire will grow into a catastrophic event.

The three main goals of the El Cerrito Fire Hazard Reduction Program are:

1. Keep all fires small. Small fires generally are cooler than large fires and are more easily extinguished.

2. Limit the speed with which a fire will grow by reducing available fuel. Fires need fuel to burn; if fuel is available, fires will grow rapidly. Fuel must be limited or made unavailable to a spreading fire.

3. Make it difficult for fires to ignite and spread. Small fires can ignite progressively larger fuels.

The El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department has developed guidelines that address most situations found on private property in El Cerrito. If you would like more information about protecting your home, or need guidance in resolving a fire hazard notice on your property, go online to www.el-cerrito.org/fire or call the Fire Prevention Officer at **215-4450**.

Remember to Vote in the June 5th Primary

THE 2012 CALIFORNIA presidential primary election is June 5. This election will also offer voters the opportunity to cast a ballot for U.S. Senator, Congress, State Candidates, and to vote on state and district measures. Information relating to the June 5 election, including links to the state and county voter pamphlets, polling place locations, and voter registration is available from the County's website at www.cocovote.us.

The voter registration deadline is always 15 days prior to an election. Voter registration forms are available at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, and the Registrar of Voters Office located in Martinez, 555 Escobar Street, Martinez. Forms are also available at all City Clerk's Offices, the El Cerrito Library, post offices, and the Secretary of State's website at www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm.

Any registered voter may vote by mail. Voters may request a vote-by-mail ballot by completing a request form and mailing or faxing it to the County Registrar of Voters. Your request must state your name, residence, the address to which

the ballot is to be mailed (if different than your residence), your signature, and the date of the election. A vote by mail application can be obtained from the County Elections Office in Martinez or from the County elections website at www.cocovote.us. You also have the option of becoming a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter and can have a ballot for each election automatically sent to you. This includes all local elections and statewide elections. Once you become a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter, you will retain that status as long as you vote in all *statewide* elections.

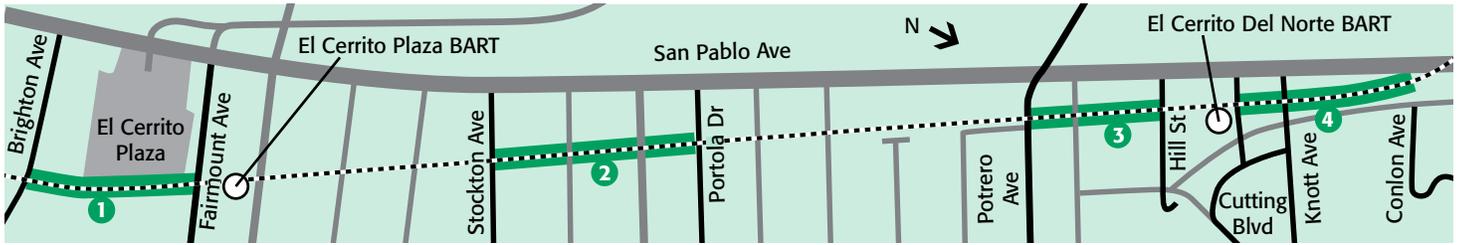


Alternatively, polling place information can be found in your voter pamphlet, on the County Election Department's website, or by calling the City Clerk or County Elections Division.

El Cerrito's next regularly scheduled election will be held on November 6, 2012. At this election, El Cerrito's voters will elect three City Council members. More information on the election will be posted on the City Clerk's website in June.

Additional information regarding elections can be obtained by calling the City Clerk at **215-4305**, County Elections Division at **(925) 335-7800**, www.cocovote.us, or by referring to the following websites:

- Easy Voter Guide
<http://www.easyvoterguide.org/>
The Guide is a joint project of the California State Library, the California Secretary of State's Office, and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund.
- Office of the Secretary of State
www.sos.ca.gov/elections/



Improved Ohlone Greenway Under Construction

THE EL CERRITO Ohlone Greenway is a 2.7-mile, multi-use trail that traverses the City of El Cerrito, running underneath the elevated BART tracks.

BART is in the process of upgrading portions of their system throughout the Bay Area to improve system safety. The upgrade will also ensure that BART can resume operation shortly after a major earthquake. Due to construction while the upgrade is in progress, BART has temporarily closed the following sections of the Ohlone Greenway in El Cerrito.

- 1 Greenway between Brighton and Fairmount: closed through November, 2012
- 2 Greenway between Stockton and Portola: closed through February, 2013
- 3 Greenway between Potrero and Hill: closed through August, 2012
- 4 Greenway between Cutting and Conlon: closed through September, 2012

Please note that these dates are subject to change and that other sections of the Ohlone Greenway will be closed in the next couple of years.

The City has been working with BART to keep the greenway restoration consistent with the goals of the Ohlone Greenway

ATTENTION GREENWAY USERS:

For suggested detour routes for pedestrians and cyclists, paratransit information, and a construction schedule, visit the BART Earthquake Safety Program page on the BART website at www.bart.gov/earthquakesafety or call BART's Program Information Line at 510-412-5546. Look for orange signs with construction and detour information. BART also has pamphlet boxes along and near the Greenway with notices and detour maps.

Master Plan (adopted in 2009). Other improvements in the Master Plan will be pursued separately from BART's Earthquake Safety Program restoration.

Additionally, in 2012, the City plans to begin a process to revise the Circulation Plan for Bicyclists and Pedestrians (adopted in 2007). This Plan is part of El Cerrito's efforts to create a walkable, bikeable, and sustainable City through

identification and prioritization of non-motorized transportation infrastructure improvements. If you would like to sign up to receive Bike/Pedestrian workshop notices, please complete the online form at www.el-cerrito.org/bikepedupdate or contact City Engineering Manager Yvetteh Ortiz at 215-4345 or online at yortiz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Arrive Alive—Avoid Distracted Driving

DID YOU KNOW that driver distractions have joined alcohol and speeding as leading factors in fatal and serious injury crashes? Using cell phones while driving is now the number one source of crashes due to "driver distraction" in California. In response to the growing concern about the dangers of distracted driving, the El Cerrito Police Department and other California law enforcement agencies are increasing public education and enforcement of laws intended to minimize the very real danger of distracted driving.

Drivers using cell phones are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to result in injuries. Talking on a cell phone while driving is very different than having a conversation with a passenger in your vehicle. Passengers are part of the driving experience and normally react to whatever happens on the road. However, drivers engaged in cell phone conversations experience inattention blindness—that's when your brain can't see what's right in front of you because you are too busy with your call. Studies have also shown there is little difference in risk between hand-held and hands-free devices—the distraction comes from the conversation, not from holding the phone. It's not where your hands are. It's where your head is!

Using a cell phone while driving, whether hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver's reaction time by as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent.

Young drivers are particularly susceptible to the dangers of distracted driving and, as a result, teens are more likely than other age groups to be involved in a fatal crash involving distraction. Teens are the most inexperienced drivers, the most likely to use cell phones, and are also more likely to text while driving.

HELP MAKE OUR ROADS SAFER!

Make a personal commitment not to text or use your cell phone while driving a vehicle or riding a bicycle. Share that commitment with your colleagues, family, and friends—and encourage them to do the same.

IT'S NOT ONLY CELL PHONES

Eating and drinking, using a PDA or GPS, reading, applying makeup, shaving, other kinds of grooming, and getting too involved with your passengers are other kinds of driver distractions. The best advice is to do one thing at a time and focus on the road.

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

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):
 Monday, May 28—Memorial Day
 Wednesday, July 4—Independence Day**

City Council meetings:

**May 1 and 15
 June 5 and 19
 July 16
 August 21**

Regular Council meetings are now held on the first and third **Tuesdays** of each month. 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 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>.

Services for Vets and their Families

HELTER, INC. OF Contra Costa County has been awarded a federal grant to help fund case management services to local veterans and their families. Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) assists low income, veteran families. Case managers will work with these families to identify and access VA and other public benefits.

Participant Requirements:

- Someone who served in the military and was not discharged dishonorably
- A single person, head of household, or the spouse of a head of household
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness but seeking permanent housing
- Income is less than 50% of Area Median Income (AIM)
- Able to sustain permanent housing after short term, intensive case management, and/or financial assistance
- Currently lives in Contra Costa County

Shelter, Inc. is an independent, charitable, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1986 to alleviate homelessness in Contra Costa County. Their mission is to prevent and end homelessness by promoting self-sufficiency among low-income county residents.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying for SSVF services, please contact Shelter, Inc. at **(925) 957-7579** or go online to <http://shelterincofccc.org> and click on **Programs and Services**.