



Presidents Day - February 15, 2010

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Master Gardens:

Roger English, Dora Jean Myrick, & Al Myrick

ECCC's three community Master Gardeners will provide advice & information on *water conservation gardening, rose care, and pest control and will try to answer any gardening questions you may have. If you have a sample of a leaf, etc. with pests on it, just put it in a sealed plastic bag and bring it to the meeting*

The Master Gardeners are volunteers who have been selected & trained by plant scientists & other botanical experts from UC and San Diego County systems to help the public with their gardening problems & questions. Roger English, Dora Jean Myrick, & Al Myrick all have been members of the Association since 2001 They have had many hundreds of hours working with the public on the telephone "hotline," at the County Fair, Garden festivals, and other community events.

Roger English is one of the area's premier rose experts, who has an amazing collection of roses in his garden that he tends meticulously. He has received many awards for specimens that he has entered into competition.

Dora Jean & Al Myrick grow just about everything resembling a plant, including natives, tropicals, fruit trees, succulents, conifers, orchids, & water plants. Together, the three MGs (as they are called) represent a resource that truly benefits budding gardeners & even the more experienced plant lover. Whichever you

are, we hope that you will plan to attend and be ready with your gardening questions.

**Neighborhood Meeting - at - Blessed
Sacrament Church**

Thursday, February 18, 2010

7:00 p.m. Parish Hall

El Cajon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive

**Note: Enter the Parish Hall on the West (56th St)
side of the church**

March is Election Time at the ECCC

Have you been thinking of volunteering in the community/neighborhood? You can play an important part in shaping the future of this great community of ours.

There are many ways you can volunteer and participate in community activities: help deliver newsletters (takes about 1 hour each month); write articles for the newsletter; organize a local Graffiti Patrol; serve on the ECCC Planning Committee; organize an ECCC float for the BOO Parade; chair or volunteer for the Beautification Committee by picking-up trash; help organize the yearly Neighborhood Garage Sale; help deliver Sees Candy at Christmas time - or anything else you have an interest in that you think the community would benefit from.

The more members of the community we have participating; the more our voices will be heard by the various sections of local government. The more we are seen as the strong group from El Cerrito expressing our community views, the more we will be listened to and taken seriously as a cohesive community. We need each and every one of you to stand up and say "this is what we, the community members of El Cerrito, would like."

How do we achieve this? By you taking the time to devote a couple of hours per month to your community. How? By becoming a member of the ECCC Board of Directors. Here's how you can apply:

The Board of Directors Elections will be held on Thursday March 18, 2009. Any active member of the ECCC is eligible for election to the Board. An active member is a resident, property owner, business owner or representative who has attended at least 1 general community meeting in the previous 12 months.

By attending the next ECCC meeting on Thursday February 19th, you would meet the requirements of membership & attendance

Requirements: The geographic area [of El Cerrito lies] within the City of San Diego bordered by 54th/Collwood Street (East side only); University Avenue (North side only); College Avenue (West side only); and south of Baja Canyon. (The canyon South of Baja Drive).

3. Membership in the ECCC Council shall be open to any individual at least 18 years of age and residing or owning property within the El Cerrito community or any business owners whose place of business is within the El Cerrito Community. Membership shall be granted upon receipt of an application verifying qualification.

4. No absentee or proxy voting is allowed. Only active members may vote at any meeting. An active member is any member who has attended at least one prior meeting within the previous 12 months. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for maintaining updated attendance records, members' rolls and any other voter eligibility records.

As a Board Member you would need to attend two meetings a month:

1. The Board of Directors meets the first Thursday in the month between 7:00-9:00 PM in the Blessed Sacrament Library.
2. The Community Meeting is the third Thursday in the month at 7:00 PM in the Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall.

***Last Month's Meeting
ECCC Amends Bylaws and Requests a
Trader Joe's at College Grove***

At its January 21 meeting, the ECCC amended its bylaws through a vote of the active membership. The Bylaws were last amended in June 2007, and these amendments bring them into line with current practice. The main differences with the 2007 version are changing the notification requirements for decision items from two weeks to one week, establishing a process for creating standing committees, and requiring the Board of Directors to adopt standing rules. A vote to adopt a set of Standing Rules is scheduled for the March 4 Board of Directors meeting.

Residents attending January's meeting also expressed their interest in having a Trader Joe's market at the College Grove Shopping Center. For many years, residents of El Cerrito have included Trader Joe's as one of the businesses they would like to have in the College Area. Based on this continuing interest, the ECCC Board of Directors is sending a letter to the Trader Joe's Corporation, recommending a Trader Joe's at College Grove. With this letter, the ECCC Board adds its support to the same recommendation made by the Redwood Village Community Council.

El Cerrito Community Council, P.O. Box 151268, San Diego, CA 92175-1268. (ECCC@cox.net) 619-287-2460

To view the amended Bylaws, proposed Standing Rules, and Trader Joe's letter online, type:
<http://www.elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com> into the address bar of your web browser and scroll down to the February 6 postings.

**Mark Your Calendars
Upcoming ECCC Meetings**

We thought we should jazz-up the **ECCC March Elections** by having a **Chili Cook-off**. Whip-up your favorite Chili dish and let's see who comes up the winner! The Winner will get a framed certificate, and if the recipe is not an old family secret, we would ask for your permission to print it in the April Newsletter. Even if you are not a winner, we would ask you to run off 10 copies of your recipe to share. Good luck and may the best chili win!!

**Crossroads Redevelopment Project Area
Committee Recommends Funding for Two
New Traffic Signals on College Avenue.**

At its January 28 meeting, the Crossroads Redevelopment Project Area Committee (PAC) voted to recommend funding up to \$400,000 for 2 new traffic signals on College Avenue, north of El Cajon Boulevard. With final approval by the San Diego Redevelopment Agency, signals will be installed simultaneously at the intersection of College Avenue and Arosa Street and the Intersection of College Avenue and Adams Avenue. The public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, chaired by 7th District Councilmember, Marti Emerald, is scheduled to hear this item at its upcoming meeting on February 17.

Before its vote, the Crossroads PAC heard residents and representatives of community organizations from both sides of College Avenue express support for signals at both intersections. Representatives of Beth Jacob Congregation, the College Avenue Older Adult Center, Bethel Seminary, and College Avenue Baptist Church spoke about the need for safer access for cars and pedestrians going to and from these institutions on the east side of College Avenue. The Chairman of the ECCC and residents of El Cerrito emphasized the need for a signal at Adams Avenue to make access to College Avenue safer from the west and to reduce the amount of traffic diverted through Soria Drive by a signal at Arosa. Councilmember Emerald, also attended the meeting, expressing support for the proposal to install both sets of signals and offering \$50,000 of discretionary funds toward the project.

In the weeks leading up to the vote by the PAC, the El Cerrito Community Council, the College Area Community Council, and the College Area Business Improvement District each voted to support installing traffic signals on College Avenue at Arosa Street and at Adams Avenue.

The section of College Avenue north of El Cajon Boulevard has a history of accidents, including one death. The City Traffic Department approved, but did not fund, signals for the intersection of College Avenue at Arosa Street in 2001. Installing this signal was later set as a condition for redeveloping the old Aztec Budget Inn site at 60th Street

and El Cajon Boulevard, but this project was not funded. With the possibility of redevelopment funding, a second signal was proposed at College Avenue and Adams Avenue in order to reduce the traffic diverted down Soria Drive in El Cerrito. The Traffic Department approved signals at the Adams Avenue intersection in December.

To read an information sheet and the ECCC letter of support for traffic signals on College Avenue, type <http://www.elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com> in the address bar of your web browser and scroll to the "College Avenue Traffic Signals" posting. You can also *read a news release from Councilmember Marti Emerald's office* by visiting the District 7 web-site at: <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7/news/newsreleases.shtml>.

Update El Cerrito Neighborhood Patrol

The El Cerrito Neighborhood Patrol welcomes new volunteers. Volunteers patrol once every 6-8 weeks for two hours. There are day and evening patrols. For more information and to volunteer please contact Patti Saraniero at ecpatrol@gmail.com.

Newsletter Donations

The ECCC received donations totaling \$45 in December. Our anonymous donors, who live on Adelaide & Vale Way gave \$20 and \$25. Again, we can't thank you enough for your generosity. We truly appreciate your donations.

Opportunities for Active Participation in Community Groups

There's a lot happening in and around El Cerrito, and there are many ways to become involved. At the end of the ads page, you'll find a schedule of meetings for local community groups, and attending one or two of these meetings each month is one way to participate in community affairs. You can become even more involved by joining one of these groups. This newsletter includes information on March elections for the El Cerrito Community Council Board of Directors, and the article on "Empty Lots and Student Housing" encourages Readers to attend meetings of the College Area Community Council.

The CACC includes the College Area Project Review Board; the city planning group for communities north of El Cajon Boulevard, and this group is also holding elections in March. If you're interested in community planning and would like to participate in evaluating new development projects, you can learn more about becoming part of this group by contacting cacc@collegeneighborhoods.com or calling **619-286-5571**. If you're concerned about code compliance, noise or parking, the CACC also includes the Code Compliance and Nuisance Rental Property Committee. For more information about this group, contact cenrp@collegeneighborhoods.com.

The Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee is the city planning group for communities south of El Cajon Boulevard, and the Crossroads Redevelopment Project Area Committee is the community advisory group for redevelopment in and around El Cerrito. Both of these groups will be holding elections in the next few months. For more information about the EACPC, email joakley@sandiego.gov or call **619-235-5204**. For more information about the Crossroads PAC, email treed@sandiego.gov or call **619-236-6543**.

Any way you participate in community affairs is sure to make life more interesting and rewarding for you in and around El Cerrito.

Empty Lots and Student Housing

By Ann Cottrell, CACC Board Member from College View Estates Gazette

Do you wonder what is going on, or not going on, at the former Albertsons mini-mall on El Cajon? It has been empty for years. Or the vacant lots on Montezuma which have been empty for even longer. You may also be curious about housing to accommodate students when SDSU growth resumes and surpasses earlier enrollment. Here are answers to these questions and information on projects you are probably not aware of.

Empty lots

Center Point (former Albertson's center on El Cajon at 63rd). The mini-mall was demolished in 2007 for market rate condos on top of a small commercial area. That developer sold and the new owner planned a large private student housing complex. The site remained fenced with piles of concrete because standard construction practices and LEED certification call for the rubble to be used in the new construction. Eventually the rubble was deemed a health and safety issue and removed. The property is again for sale. Because the sale includes existing entitlements this is likely to be developed for housing of some kind.

Vacant lots on Montezuma (between Rockford & 63rd). An apartment project has been approved and remains on hold pending financing.

Site of former Aztec Budget Inn (El Cajon west of College, across from Blockbuster) There are currently no plans for this site which is up-for-sale

Mesa Commons (between Cactoctin Dr & El Cajon). Townhouses have been approved but there are no immediate building plans.

More New Student Housing:

Stirling Collwood. (East side of Collwood near Montezuma) 264 new student apartments housing about 600, replacing 163 unit complex will be completed by September. Plans may be seen at:

<http://www.sterlinghousing.com/California/San-Diego/Sterling-Collwood/Home-1706.html>

Aztec Court. (3 lots on Montezuma immediately east of vacant lots). Four story apartment building; 25 apartments for 92 residents. Construction planned for spring.

55th & Hardy (55th St from Lindo Paseo to Hardy). Four story apartment building for 190 residents. Hope to begin building in spring.

- **Village Lindo Paseo** (6 lots on south side of Lindo Paseo between 55th & Campanile). Four story apartment building with beds for 386. CACC voted not to recommend this project because the area is reserved for fraternities and the plan was not thought sufficiently convertible to fraternity use. The City has approved it,
- **Alvarado Apartments**. (Alvarado Road west of Alvarado Hospital) Two five story buildings with 650 units to house about 900. Rezoning has been approved and demolition of medical office buildings is planned for spring.
- **55th Street Village**. (55th Street peninsula north of Remington) CVEA was consulted on plans to redevelop these properties, but the owners have sold to SDSU's Aztec Shops. There are no redevelopment plans and the same management will operate the apartments.

Plaza Linda Verde. (West side of College Ave. Between Montezuma and Aztec Walk on the south edge of campus). This scaled down version of the long discussed Paseo project will be built entirely by SDSU. Phase I will house about 600 upper division students above retail space. Plan approval is pending.

For more details see:

<http://advancement.sdsu.edu/plazalindaverde/>

SDSU on-campus residence halls.

The SDSU Master Plan calls for approximately 3,000 new beds on campus. New halls will be built when enrollment and demand increase.

Do these plans excite you? Or anger you? If you have opinions and especially if you would like to have a voice in what is going on around us, you are encouraged to get involved with the College Area Community Council, especially the Planning Committee. CACC meets at the College-Rolando Library at 7 pm. on the second Wednesday of each month.

Reporting Non-Emergencies to the Police Department:

The SDPD's 24-hour number for non-emergency calls and general information is **(619) 531-2000. (PLEASE USE (858) 484-3154 IF YOU LIVE IN THE 858 Area Code)** Crimes and suspicious activities that fall into this category are: (a) those that don't involve serious personal injury, property damage, or property loss; (b) ones in which there is no possibility that the suspect is still at the scene or is likely to return to the scene; and (c) ones for which an immediate response is not needed. If there is any doubt as to whether the situation is an emergency, it is always better to be on the safe side and call **9-1-1**.

The SDPD response to non-emergency calls will depend on the relative seriousness or priority of the situation, the likelihood of making an arrest at the scene, and the

availability of an officer. Response times are the longest for so-called "cold crimes" like home burglaries where the perpetrator has fled the scene, no suspects exist, and the victim is in no further danger.

Some example situations that may not be emergencies are:

- Hit and run accidents with no injuries
- Minors violating curfew
- Loud parties—the person calling must be willing to sign a complaint
- Road hazards that don't require immediate attention
- Past instances of graffiti or other vandalism
- Past instances of child or elder abuse
- Runaway juvenile or missing adult who does not need special care
 - Car or building alarms
 - Underage drinking

Persons who are:

- Disturbing the peace, i.e., loitering, panhandling, noise making, and harassing others
- Soliciting without a license, not displaying a valid registration card, or operating between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- Going door-to-door, or into side or back yards in a residential area
- Loitering near a business or home, especially if the business is closed or the residents are away
- Loitering near schools or parks
- Looking into parked vehicles
- Running other than for exercise
- Carrying property at an unusual time and place
- Entering and leaving property on daily or regular basis, or in large numbers, especially at night
- Drunk in public but not in any immediate danger
- Exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms but not a danger to themselves or others
- Offering goods for sale at ridiculously low prices
- Making a quick change of vehicles

The ability of the police to locate and arrest criminals often depends on the thoroughness and accuracy of the report you submit. The following information checklist should be used for reporting both emergency and non-emergency crimes:

- Type of crime
- Location: exact street address and nearest cross street
- Time of occurrence
- Weapons used
- Number of persons injured and types of injuries
- Vehicle information: type, license number, color, year, make, model, unusual characteristics (e.g., dents, bumper stickers), number of persons, etc.
- Suspect information: race, gender, age, height, weight, hair color, hair length and style, eye color, facial hair, clothing type and color, other characteristics (e.g., tattoos, missing teeth, scars, glasses), direction of flight, etc.