

ECCC

EL CERRITO
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

El Cerrito Community Newsletter

Volume Five: Number 4

March, 2010



Chili Cook-Off Contest – Bring Your Favorite Dish

If you love cooking and consider yourself a gourmet chili maker, we invite you, your friends and family to our Annual Chili Cook-off at March's ECCC Meeting. Make enough chili to share with about 20 people. We will award a Certificate as "Best Chili Maker in El Cerrito" to the winner! Something to boast about to your neighbors! We would suggest you use a crock pot, if possible, as there are very few outlets available in the Parish Hall to keep your master recipe warm. Don't feel like making a Chili? Well some cornbread, rolls or crackers would be welcome or a wonderful dessert. Either home made or from the store is just fine. Hate cooking? That's okay too, just come and enjoy yourself. We look forward to seeing you all there.

It's Election Time at the ECCC
You've Read the Newsletter!
You've attended the Meetings!
Now, Take a Leading Role in Your
Community!
Join the ECCC Board of Directors!

At the general meeting on Thursday March 18, the El Cerrito Community Council will hold its annual election for the Board of Directors. The current Board encourages any active member of the ECCC to run for a seat on the board. (An active member is any resident, property owner, business owner, or business representative in El Cerrito who has attended at least 1 general meeting during the past 12 months.) Six current board members have declared their interest in serving another year:

**Neighborhood Meeting – at – Blessed
Sacrament Church
Thursday, March 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**

Carl Luster - Chair
Jan Riley - Vice-Chair
Teri Nystrom - Treasurer
Scott Lewis,
John Stende
B.J. Nystrom

The minimum number of board members is **five**, and the maximum is **nine**, but there is really no limit to your opportunity for participation and service with the ECCC Board of Directors. **Whatever your interest in the community, you can pursue it as a member of the ECCC Board.**

Declare your interest in serving on the ECCC Board of Directors with an e-mail message to ECCC@cox.net, by mail at El Cerrito Community Council, P.O.Box 151268, San Diego, CA 92175-1268, with a call to 619-287-1864, **or by nominating yourself at the March 18 meeting.**

We extend our thanks to Justin Hawks, for his service on the board this last year, and wish him the best of luck in his new home in Del Cerro.

This Year with the El Cerrito Community Council **By Carl Luster**

With elections coming up this month for the ECCC Board of Directors, current Board members are looking back at what they've done this past year. They've continued some annual social events like the pot-luck dinners in August and December and with Laura Riebau organizing skills, the community garage sale in September together with the popular Sees Candy Drive in December.

NEW EVENTS

The ECCC has also sponsored some new events. In cooperation with neighboring community groups and

community historian, Jim Newland, the ECCC hosted the College Area Communities History Day in May. At this event, local residents shared photos, stories and memorabilia about life in the College Area for the past 75 years. At its November meeting, the ECCC held an event where residents had a chance to meet their local businesses and learn about products and services available in and around El Cerrito.

COMMUNICATION

The ECCC has further developed its relationship with local businesses by adding an advertisement insert to the newsletter. These ads give local businesses a chance to contact the 2,200 residents who receive the newsletter, and the income is a significant addition to the revenue we receive from donations.

Recently, the ECCC has expanded its web presence with a **Blog page**, where anyone can read about recent developments and access the newsletter and other documents online. To view this page, type <http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com> in the address bar of your web browser.

ADMINISTRATION

Revised ECCC Bylaws and newly adopted Standing Rules are among the documents you can access from the **ECCC Blog**. Changes made this year bring the Bylaws into line with current practice by reducing notification requirements from two weeks to one week, providing the authority to create standing committees, and requiring the Board of Directors to adopt a set of Standing Rules. The Standing Rules state policies and procedures for the month to month operation of the ECCC.

TRAFFIC

Traffic has been a big issue in El Cerrito this year. The ECCC has worked with a group of residents to get approval for traffic circles on **60th Street and Vale Way, south of El Cajon Boulevard**. This traffic calming measure still needs funding, but traffic circles should help to deal with reckless driving and street racing that have been a problem on these streets. Along with communities west of College Avenue, the ECCC has supported installing traffic signals on **College Avenue at Adams Avenue and at Arosa Street**. This approach to improving safety on College Avenue north of El Cajon Boulevard should have the smallest possible negative impact on residential streets in El Cerrito.

There's always more to do, but considering these accomplishments, the El Cerrito Community Council can look forward to another productive year following this month's Board of Directors election. Why not come join us – you too can help make a difference in our community!

February's Community Meeting Featured El Cerrito's Master Gardeners

At the February community meeting, Roger English, Dora Jean Myrick, and Al Myrick answered residents'

questions about topics ranging from irrigation to plant care to pest control. The discussion with these three Master Gardeners from El Cerrito included information about water conservation, drought tolerant landscaping, native plants, rose care, and non-toxic methods for eliminating garden pests. In addition to all this useful information, there were lots of pamphlets and flyers and even some packaged seeds for people to take home.

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained and supervised by the University of California Cooperative Extension. On March 27, the San Diego County Master Gardeners' Association will hold its Spring Home Gardening Seminar at the University of San Diego. Proceeds from the seminar are used to support Master Gardener public education activities.

In San Diego County, more than 200 Master Gardeners provide home gardening and pest control information free to the public. To learn more about Master Gardeners and the Spring Seminar or to get answers to your home gardening questions, visit the San Diego County Master Gardener Association website at:

<http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org> or call the **Master Gardener Hotline at (858)694-2860**.

ECCC Board Adopts Standing Rules

In accordance with the amended Bylaws approved at the January Community meeting, the ECCC Board of Directors adopted a set of Standing Rules at its meeting on March 4. The Standing Rules implement the Bylaws with policies and procedures to guide the month to month operation of the ECCC, its Board of Directors, and Standing Committees. Provisions of the Standing Rules include the order of business for Board meetings, financial policies, community participation, political forums, membership lists, the newsletter, and committees. The new Standing Rules and the amended Bylaws are available online at the **ECCC Blog** page. Type <http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com> in the address bar of your web browser and select the links in the March 6 posting.

Traffic Signals on College Avenue Move toward Final Approval

At its February 25 meeting, the Crossroads Project Area Committee recommended approving additional funding for traffic signals on College Avenue. This funding is in addition to \$400,000 recommended for this project in January and it replaces a \$50,000 contribution that was expected from Council District 7 discretionary funds. This project comes up for consideration by the City Council Public Safety and Neighborhood Services committee on Wednesday March 10.

Update El Cerrito Neighborhood Patrol By Patti Saraniero

Two quick items from the neighborhood patrol. Thanks to everyone for volunteering!

First - I have set up a patrol page on: SeeClickFix.com.

Our page is:

http://www.seclickfix.com/watch_area/5629.

Seclickfix allows us to post issues in the neighborhood that need attention, such as graffiti, damaged/missing traffic signs, etc. This site is subscribed to by many city departments, so they will be notified of our posted issues. We will be able to keep on eye on issues and it provides another reminder to city services about our concerns. I'll be posting but please post things you are concerned about! The site is simple to use and there is an application for I-phone users.

Second: Lt Chuck Kaye of the Mid-City Police Division sent out the following e-mail. Good news in regards to the increase in residential burglaries we had last fall!

"Hello All,

I wanted to drop a note to all of you and thank you for working so closely with Officer Dean Thomas. I know he works hard to keep us all communicating.

I do not get the opportunity to speak with many of you. I did want to try and send out some information regarding burglaries in the area over the past several months. We were experiencing 10-15 per weekend and as a result of some hard work by the officers and detectives, the number has been greatly reduced. There were only three last week across the entire service area. (I know that is three too many.)

If you did not see the news on our "Operation Pawn Star" please take a look. This was an operation that involved most of Mid City's personnel.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/feb/25/city-heights-businesses-caught-fencing-phones-jewe/>

I would like to extend an invitation to you and your neighbors to attend a line-up here at Mid City to meet the officers who work in your neighborhoods. For those of you, who are members of a neighborhood watch or patrol, please do not hesitate to call us regarding suspicious activity (619-531-2000) or 911 for any crimes in progress.

As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call.

Chuck Kaye

**810 Service Area Lieutenant
619-838-7739"**

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.

Sewer & Water Upgrades

Doug Case, Chairman of the CACC received the following Letter from Bijan Shakiba, City of San Diego

Engineering and Capital Projects Department, Right of Way Design Division, 600 'B' Street, Suite 800 MS 908A, San Diego CA 92101-4502:

"Sewer and Water Group 780 Project Description

Project Location: The limits of this project include two major areas. The first area is located north of El Cajon Blvd, within the College Area Community and includes **Baylor Dr., Austin Dr., Atlanta Dr., Gilbert Dr., and Berting Street**. The second area is located south of El Cajon Blvd. within the City Heights Community, and includes 54th St; 53rd St; 52nd St; 51st St., and three alleys in the area as shown on the location map.

Project Overview:

Originally installed in the 1950's, the sewer and water lines installed in the area are nearing the end of their service. The Sewer and Water Group 780 project will replace approximately 12,900 linear feet (2.4 miles) of existing 6-inch and 8-inch sewer mains with 8-inch PVC pipes. The project will also include the replacement of 2,825 linear feet (0.5 miles) of cast iron water mains with 8" PVC pipes. The majority of the project's construction work will be within the public right of way, with the exception of a few segments that run in private easements as shown in the location map. The open trench method will be utilized to replace the existing pipes and in certain conflict areas pipe rehabilitation will be applied.

Project Schedule:

This project is currently in the 90% design phase. Construction is anticipated to begin in July of 2011, and will take approximately one year to complete. Notification letters will be sent to the property owners and the residents by the City one month before the start of construction.

Traffic and Safety:

While precautions will be taken to minimize noise, debris, traffic and parking disruptions, residents may experience some temporary inconveniences. A traffic control plan will be approved by the City of San Diego Traffic Engineering Section for the contractor to implement. The plan will help minimize traffic impacts and ensure public and property safety. Construction noise will not exceed limits established by the applicable laws and regulations.

Working Hours:

The majority of the project will have normal work hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. However, the hours may be adjusted according to the traffic control plan requirements. For example, work on 54th Street, and El Cajon Blvd will most likely take place at night.

Project Cost:

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$6,662,620.

To view the Project Location Map and this Project Description online, visit the ECCC Blog page by typing <http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com> in

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

the address bar of your web browser and select the links from the March 7 posting.

Newsletter Donations

The ECCC received donations totaling \$65 in January & February. Again, we can't thank you enough for your generosity. We truly appreciate your donations as it allows us to **deliver the newsletter to your front door each month.**

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Blessed Sacrament Church for the use of the Parish Hall for community meetings and the library for the ECCC Board of Directors meetings.

Requesting Information on Sidewalks that Need Repair

Councilmember Emerald would like your assistance in locating **sidewalks** in need of repair. The Street Division is putting several contracts out to bid to fix a backlog of damaged sidewalk locations city wide. Please help us spread the word to alert the City to any damaged sidewalk, curb and gutter locations the Street Division may not know about.

Residents can report these locations by calling the Street Division Maintenance hot line at **619-527-7500** or submitting a service request online at www.sandiego.gov/street-div. This is the fastest way to have the location logged into the City's system and the damage evaluated and scheduled for repair. To help the Street Division. Please be advised that **residents should be able to provide a specific location with an exact address when they call.**

Please note that the Street Division maintains and repairs improvements that already exist (they would not, for example, install a brand new sidewalk on an entire block where it did not previously exist and which would be addressed through the City's Engineering & Capital Projects Department). **Potholes may also be reported by calling the hotline.**

Homeowners May Qualify for Free Inspection/Installation of Security Devices

Councilmember Emerald would also like your assistance in spreading the word on ways to make neighborhoods safer. Neighbors may qualify for inspection and free installation of security devices such as dusk to dawn lights, smoke detectors and deadbolt locks:

Security Screen Doors
Deadbolt Locks
Motion Sensor Lights
Dusk to Dawn Lights
Wide Angle Viewer
Sliding Door Locks
Minor Repairs
Window Locks
Carbon Monoxide/Smoke Detectors
Fire Extinguishers

Please Contact:

San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(619) 283-5411 Ext. 109
Charles Espinosa, Program Coordinator

This project is funded in whole or in part with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in conjunction with Council Member Marti Emerald's Neighborhood Fight against Crime

Explore SDSU during SDSU Month

This event is part of the 8th annual SDSU Month, a celebration throughout March of the university's dynamic and enriching relationship with the San Diego community. SDSU Month will feature 31 days of fun and stimulating academic, arts and athletic events, as well as offers from local businesses and organizations for SDSU's growing family of friends and colleagues. A complete listing of SDSU Month events and other special discounts will be available in the coming days at www.sdsuonth.com.

What is Explore SDSU? March 20, 2010 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. www.SDSUMonth.com Explore SDSU Open House is a free all-campus event. Held to provide an opportunity for students to get a feel for the campus as they consider which university to attend, Explore SDSU also serves to inform and entertain neighbors and alumni. Presentations, workshops, tours & information tables will be available for all audiences. Discover how SDSU connects with the San Diego community. Learn about College Area businesses & special events. Bring the family for entertainment for children, including kayak painting, hat making, coloring, an inflatable slide and jump-house, and story time.

Local Area Meetings & Committee Groups

ECCC Meeting - Third Thursday at 7:00 pm, Parish Hall, Blessed Sacrament Church, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito
ECCC Board Meeting - First Thursday at 7:00 pm, Library, Blessed Sacrament Church, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito
Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee - Second Tuesday 7:00 pm, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 2725 55th St.
College Area Community Council - Second Wednesday at 7:00 pm, College/Rolando Library corner of Montezuma & Reservoir
College Area Project Review Committee - First Wednesday at 7:00 pm, College/Rolando Library - Corner of Montezuma & Reservoir
Crossroads Project Area Committee (PAC) - Fourth Thursday at 6:30 p.m. College Avenue Baptist Church, 3rd floor, Administration Bldg, College Ave.