

ECCC



El Cerrito Community Newsletter

Volume Six; Number 1

December, 2010



Happy Holidays

Thursday, December 18, 2010 ECCC's Meeting Holiday Pot-Luck & Get-Together

The ECCC would like to invite every resident of El Cerrito to come and join your neighbors for the annual Holiday Pot-Luck. Anyone living or working in El Cerrito is welcome to attend. If you own a business or manage one, please come by and say Hi. Don't know your neighbors? How about walking over to their home and inviting them to join you at the Pot-Luck? Family members coming into town? Bring them with you. No excuses for not joining in this annual community event. It is a great opportunity to meet other community members and neighbors. Need a ride? Call Jan Riley at 619-287-2460 and we'll arrange for someone to pick you up and take you home.

We have an enormous turkey donated by Laura Riebau. All we ask is that you bring a dish to share – it can be home made, from the supermarket, bakery, your favorite restaurant or take-out. The ECCC will provide the water, sodas and ice. Main dishes to go with the turkey would be great, together with salad and desserts. We start serving the pot-luck at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Blessed Sacrament (entrance on the west side of the church). Let's have some fun and enjoy each other's company and conversation. We look forward to seeing you there!

We will hold two raffles. One for some really nice items and the other for our popular "split-the-pot." One winner takes home half of the total cash the ECCC gets from this raffle. Last year it was around \$70.00.

We still need donations for the raffle. If you have any unwanted new gifts you received, bottles of wine, spirits, books, CD's, etc., just phone Jan Riley at 287-2460 and she will pick them up.

Ms. Susan Rosenberg, who lives on Soria, has very kindly volunteered to make the centerpieces for the tables this year. One lucky person at each table gets to take the centerpiece home! Susan works for PETCO Foundation.

The PETCO Foundation has served as a voice for companion animals across the country since 1999. Each year, they help animal-welfare organizations find lifelong, loving homes for millions of orphaned pets, as well as fund spay and neuter efforts, animal assisted therapy programs and humane education.

The Foundation donates about \$8 million a year to assist companion animals across the country. The organization is funded through donations raised during seasonal fundraisers conducted in PETCO's 1,000 plus stores in all 50 United States, as well as from PETCO associates, vendors and corporate contributions. The majority of the funds raised remain in the community in which they were raised, but the PETCO Foundation is also involved in many national animal welfare efforts. The PETCO Foundation's mission is to raise the quality of life for pets and people who love and need them. The PETCO Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation (#33-0845930) that supports other IRS (Internal Revenue Service) designated non-profit pet related groups as well as municipal/governmental agencies and educational institutions involved in animal causes.

Jim Westheimer Accepts Invitation to Join ECCC Board

I am pleased to be once again representing our community as a member of the ECCC board. Previously, I served for four years from 2002-2006 on the original board and found the experience enriching and rewarding. It is a wonderful way to give back to the community that my wife Elaine and I have called home for 21 years, 18 of which as homeowners. During my hiatus, I have kept apprised of our organization's developments by maintaining the membership lists and personally delivering the newsletter to over 200 doors south of the boulevard. I could use some volunteers to help me on this healthy task, let me know!

I want to personally encourage as many of you to get involve with ECCC by attending our meetings and joining our board - we still have some vacancies to be filled. We

all bring opinions, insights and talents that can be brought to bear to maintain the serenity of our residential streets, enhance the business environment and promote the El Cerrito brand beyond our borders. Hope to meet and get acquainted with many of you. A good start would be to come to our annual Holiday Potluck Party. Always a lot of fun. Thanks. Jim Westheimer

Printing of ECCC's Newsletter Starts its Sixth Year!

By: Jan Riley, Editor

My original thoughts, when I started writing this newsletter six years ago, was to inform the community of what was happening that affects the quality of our lives, not only in El Cerrito but the surrounding communities. Over the years, I believe we have achieved that goal. I strongly believe in the empowerment of communities and hopefully this newsletter gives us that voice. Without your support and generous donations, over the years, this newsletter would not be possible.

Last year we started the El Cerrito Community Blog, thanks to Carl Luster. This is an excellent source of information and goes into detail we are unable to do in the newsletter. Check it out at:

<http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/>

I look forward to many more years of serving this community, not only as Editor of this newsletter, but by serving our on the College Area Community Council. I look forward to seeing you at the annual community get-together on the 16th. If you are new to our community, please come along and introduce yourself. My telephone number is 619-287-2460 or jan.riley@cox.net.

Facility Improvements Planned for Mann Middle School and Crawford High School

By Carl Luster

The San Diego Unified School District is making long range plans to upgrade facilities at Horace Mann Middle School & Crawford High School. Three meetings in November and December gathered community input and presented site layout options for both campuses. These long range plans will help to guide Proposition S bond funding for projects on both campuses over the next 5 years.

Planning for Prop S projects at Crawford and Mann will take place in a series of meetings that begin in January 2011. Times and locations for these meetings will be sent to the ECCC email list when they become available. If you're not already on the ECCC email list, you can ask to be included by sending a message to ECCC@cox.net.

At the third master planning meeting on December 2, architects presented 4 site layout options based on community input at previous meetings. These options included the possibility of relocating the football and baseball fields. Improvements at the football field include the possibility of installing lights. To view the Master Plan site layout options, visit the School District website at <http://www.sandi.net/sandi/site/default.asp> and follow the links for "Proposition S" and the "School

Facilities Project Map." From the pages for Mann Middle School or Crawford High School, select the link for the "Master Plan 2010." Residents can express their viewpoint about projects at school facilities by attending upcoming meetings and by contacting the San Diego Unified School District.

For more information or to submit comments, contact the Prop. S Communications Office:

Proposition S Communications Office

4100 Normal Street, Room 2153

San Diego, CA 92103

Phone: (619) 725-7252

Fax: (619) 725-7021

Email: PropSInfo@sandi.net

You may also contact the Project Manager, David Grant

Email: dgrant@sandi.net.

Submit comments to School District E Board

member: Shelia Jackson, Board of Education Office, San Diego Unified School District, 4100 Normal Street, Room 2231, San Diego, CA 92103. Phone : (619) 725-5550. Email: sjackson@sandi.net

The School District and Prop S websites include complete contact information.

Get Regular Announcements for Community Meetings and Events

It's not easy to keep up with all of the meetings and events in your community, but joining the El Cerrito Community Council e-mail list can help you keep track of what's going on. In addition to monthly announcements for ECCC meetings, the ECCC e-mail list receives 1 or 2 messages each week with announcements & news for meetings and events of interest to residents of El Cerrito.

Announcements include community planning and development, government programs, business events, police activity, school facilities, social events, and more. These messages can help you learn about what's happening in your community and lets you follow the topics that interest you. If you're not already on the ECCC e-mail list, you can ask to be included by sending a message to ECCC@cox.net. The e-mail list is kept strictly confidential and is not used for any other purpose than contacting you from the ECCC.

ECCC Blog

Another way to find out what is going on is to visit the ECC Blog site at:

<http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/>

Redevelopment "101"

The Topic of the ECCC November Meeting

Residents attending the November ECCC community meeting on November 18, learned about redevelopment and how it will affect the residents of El Cerrito as it pertains to El Cajon Boulevard, University Avenue and College Avenue. Our guest speaker was Mr. Tracy Reed, Project Manager, Redevelopment Agency. Mr. Reed's responsibilities include working with the local Project Area Committee (PAC) as the Project Manager for the

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

Crossroads Redevelopment Area. The Crossroads Area includes commercial zones in El Cerrito and the College area.

Mr. Reed's presentation explained the Redevelopment Zone's use of rising property tax revenues to eliminate blight, revitalize properties, and provide affordable housing. The presentation included a video highlighting Crossroads' funding for commercial, residential, and infrastructure projects.

This meeting also included an opportunity for the El Cerrito Community Council's input for the Crossroad PAC's spending priorities. Residents at this meeting indicated their funding priorities for commercial redevelopment, residential redevelopment, transportation, utilities, infrastructure, parks, open space, public space, and schools.

Learn more about the Crossroads Redevelopment Area by visiting the Redevelopment Agency website at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/redevelopment-agency/crossroads.shtml>. This page includes minutes and agendas for the Crossroads PAC.

El Cerrito Neighborhood Patrol

By Patti Saraniero

In previous years, there have been attempted and successful burglaries in El Cerrito in December. A number of neighbors have reported losing plants & lawn decorations in the last few weeks. If you see suspicious behavior please call the **police at the non-emergency number - 531-2000**. Sometimes it is not clear what is suspicious. Here are some behaviors that SDPD identifies as suspicious:

- 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
- Looking into parked vehicles
- running other than for exercise
- Carrying property at an unusual time and place
- Offering goods for sale at ridiculously low prices
- Making a quick change of vehicles

Sees Candy Drive

A big "thank you" goes out to all our residents who participated in the ECCC's Annual Sees Candy Holiday Drive." We delivered \$1,336 worth of candy from chocolates to truffles to lollipops to peanut brittle!

Important Mid-City Community Court Changes

By Kristin Beattie

"Dear Mid-City Community Members and Important Partner Agencies: I'm writing to inform you of some important changes to Mid-City Community Court (MCCC) that were announced at the November 15, quarterly MCCC Community Court Advisory Board meeting.

For some time now, our Office has been evaluating community court processes in San Diego and across the country. We were on the brink of testing some changes to MCCC court-process when the California State Legislature

passed SB 1449, making possession of less than an ounce of marijuana an infraction, effective January 1st. (See <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-marijuana-20101002,0,7445690.story> for a summary of that bill).

Misdemeanor marijuana possession makes up the overwhelming majority of the cases we currently process in MCCC, and because this charge will no longer exist, changes to MCCC need to be made immediately. We have suspended Court sessions and dedicated personnel to evaluate the necessary restructuring.

This will be a comprehensive set of changes, that may include: (1) Changing the "Community Court" sessions to "Community Impact" panels (ideally, these will include an alcohol/drug education component, law enforcement perspective, and self-assessment tools for offender participants), (2) Expanding the kinds of cases MCCC handles (to include some infractions), (3) Changing the timing of how those cases are handled between the Court and our office (moving to a post-filing model for misdemeanors), and (4) Requiring community work service hours to be a part of every case.

These are changes we have been considering, but there is one substantial change that will need to be addressed first: (5) The City Attorney's Office is actively seeking a community-based organization to take on coordination of the Community Impact Panel and Sanction (Community Work Service) Monitoring for program participants. Some of the most important benefits to this new structure will be a renewed focus on community needs in relation to the Court, increased connection with community service opportunities, and program coordination would be immune to the various case load and job-duty pressures that are part of the current coordination structure. At last night's meeting, we had a fruitful discussion about potential groups that could take the lead in coordinating this program.

We hope to secure a community-based coordinator by the end of this year, conduct trainings by February-March, and launch the revised program by April. There will not be any MCCC sessions or MCCC Advisory Board meetings until further announcements are warranted.

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about MCCC and the announcements made in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Kristin Beattie, Deputy City Attorney, Neighborhood Prosecutor and SDPD Vice Liaison, San Diego City Attorney's Office. 619-533.5508 kbeattie@sandiego.gov

Holiday Home Safety Tips

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even if you will only be gone for a few minutes.
- If you're out for the evening: Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home. Don't display gifts in view of your windows or doors.

- When going on trips or just out for the evening, use automatic timers to turn indoor lights on and off to make it appear you are home.
- Consider informing your neighbors if you will be away from your house for an extended period of time; ask them to watch your house and to park in your driveway occasionally.
- Don't forget to have mail and newspapers stopped – or have a trusted neighbor collect them.
- Immediately after Christmas, mark all new gifts with your California Driver's license or I.D. number.
- If you have house guests, familiarize them with your security precautions and make sure they follow them.
- Be sure any holiday decorations are child-proofed (secure trees, double check the safety of electrical decorations).
- Don't advertise what you got for Christmas by putting the boxes out on trash day. Break the boxes down and put them in dark trash bags or take them to the dump yourself.

It's All About Kids – Toy Drive

CHEBAHUT SUBS is collecting NEW toys to be donated to 13 local charities in a partnership with ITS ALL ABOUT THE KIDS. Starting December 7th, visit CHEBAHUT at 6364 El Cajon Blvd. with a toy and you will get a chance to spin the wheel of prizes. Each spinner is a guaranteed winner of at least a free drink or dessert. Other prizes include \$25.00 gift card, free lunch, free food for a year and party trays for the holidays.

Newsletter Donations

The ECCC received four donations in the month of November, for a total of \$175. Pat Stockfisch on Berting gave \$25, and there were anonymous donations of \$25 from Trojan Avenue, \$25 from West Overlook Drive and \$100 from Corinth Street. As always the ECCC thanks you for your generous contributions to the printing of the newsletter. We realize that at this time of year money is "tight", but anything you can donate would be greatly appreciated. You can also donate using our Paypal link on the ECCC blog at: <http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/>



COMMUNITY HOLIDAY POT LUCK DINNER

Thursday, December 16, 2010

7:00pm to 8:30pm

Blessed Sacrament Church - Parish Hall
El Cajon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive

(Enter the Parish Hall on the West-56th St. –side of the church)

**Bring a Favorite Dish and Join With Neighbors
For Food, Fun, and Conversation**

PLEASE HELP US KEEP PRINTING THE NEWSLETTER THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS

I/we donate \$ _____ to the printing of the
El Cerrito Community Council Newsletter.

Name(s) or
Company Name (if corporate
sponsor) _____

Address: _____

Phone #(s): _____

Do _____ Do Not _____ print our name(s) in the
newsletter.

Your advertisement/announcement:
(Please write a separate note.)

Send donation to
ECCC, P.O. Box 151268
San Diego, CA 92175-1268

Local Area Meetings & Committee Groups

ECCC Meeting - Third Thursday at 7:00 pm, Parish Hall, Blessed Sacrament Church, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito Drive

ECCC Board Meeting - First Thursday at 7:00 pm, Library, Blessed Sacrament School, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito Drive

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, 4747 College Ave.