



El Cerrito Community Newsletter

Volume Twelve: Number 2 February, 2018

CELEBRATE FEBRUARY 19, 2018



JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 15TH – IT'S ALL ABOUT HELPING YOU DESIGN YOUR FAVORITE YARD

We all have an idea for how we would like our yard to be, whether we want it simple or lush, with a fountain, raised vegetable beds, fruit trees and everything in between. At our February ECCC meeting, neighbor Jose Aguila, Professional Landscape Architect, will discuss what makes a successful landscape design and help you work on basic planning to get started on achieving landscaping goals and bringing your ideal yard to life.

Topics will include design, planning, hardscape, planting, irrigation, and drainage. He will also be discussing selecting the best plants for your garden plans and help you consider plant needs, such as sun, water and fertilizing. Some plants are native to the area and some are exotics from other places – all with differing requirements to thrive. The choices are numerous from grasses to annuals to shrubs and trees. Learn to consider some of the basics such as color, height variation and textures to create your favorite yard ever. Bring your ideas, questions and join us!

BEST WISHES TO KERYNA JOHNSON IN HER NEW CITY POSITION

Many of us in El Cerrito have become fond of Keryna Johnson, our Community Representative from Georgette Gomez's office since her election in December 2016. We look forward to Keryna's reports and updates at each meeting, always presented with her positive energy and care to details regarding our community concerns. At our last meeting Keryna announced that she will be leaving us to be the

Consultant for City of San Diego's Smart Growth and Land Use Committee, for which Georgette was recently named as the Chair. We will miss her, but it's hard to not be happy that she is moving up, as she deservedly should. The ECCC sends Keryna our best wishes, though a little sadly. Keryna also introduced us to our new representative from District 9, Christopher Vallejo, who we look forward to getting to know.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FOLLOWING ECCC EVENTS

February 15th – Learn about landscape design with ECCC resident, Jose Aguila, Professional Landscape Architect.

March 15th – Meet with people experienced in gardens and yards, products, equipment and systems.

April 19th – Home security, including new, interactive systems.

HAWK CROSS WALK COMING TO 58TH AND EL CAJON BLVD

The City has included plans for a HAWK (**H**igh-Intensity **A**ctivated **C**ross**W**alk **B**eacon) traffic signal for the crosswalk at 58th and El Cajon Blvd in a recent round of funding. The current continuously-flashing amber light at this intersection can too easily be overlooked by drivers and crossing at this location continues to be dangerous. A HAWK is a pedestrian activated signal that stops traffic with red lights only while pedestrians cross and otherwise allows for much longer uninterrupted traffic flow than a regular traffic signal. This is one of three such traffic signals planned for El Cajon Blvd between I-15 to 73rd Street. If you drive on Mission Center Road where it crosses the San Diego River, you have likely already seen these signals at work and know they are good making crossing safer.



HEARTFELT HELPINGS, AN EL CERRITO NON-PROFIT

Heartfelt Helpings, a non-profit that provides meals for those in need, was founded in July 2014 here in El Cerrito by local neighbors Elaine Therrien and Jerry Meunier. By partnering with organizations that provide shelter and transitional services, the organization is able to focus resources and maximize its impact. Some of its partners include PATH Connections, Alpha Project, Father Joe's Villages, Doors of Change and the Wesley Community Services Center.

Jerry and Eliane are also proud of their partnership with Feeding San Diego which is a main conduit to their Food Rescue Program. The organization currently receives food from many stores and schools including our local Vons, Smart & Final, Grocery Outlet and Crawford High School, has "rescued" over 85,000 pounds of food in the last 18 months and served over 36,750 meals to date.

Elaine and Jerry are grateful to be part of the hunger solution and know they cannot do it alone. They know it takes the effort of many volunteers and organizations to address the needs of our homeless population. The organization currently has over 200 Volunteers which include many amazing and generous El Cerrito neighbors. Heartfelt Helpings also partners with businesses and organizations including San Diego State University Residence Halls and the SDSU Student Nutrition Organization with volunteer opportunities.

You can get involved with Heartfelt Helpings by volunteering or donating. They are able to transform 50 cents into a nutritious meal. Visit their website at HeartfeltHelpings.org and follow them on Facebook.



DONATIONS! DONATIONS! DONATIONS!

A Big **THANK YOU** to all of you who donated to the El Cerrito Community the last few months. And Thank You to all who contribute at the monthly meetings. We received the following since December 2017:

\$200 Anonymous Berting St
\$50 Melissa Garrison Corinth St.
\$50 Randy Tindell (Address Unknown)
\$50 "Shadow Greybeard" Alma Place

We do continue to need donations - big or small - for publication of the newsletter. Donations can be made to the P.O. Box 15268 or you can go to our web page, elcerritocommunitycouncil.org and use our PayPal account. The average monthly cost of printing 2200 copies is around \$250.



22ND ANNUAL ROLANDO STREET FAIR IS SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2018

Mark your calendars for the 22nd Annual Rolando Street Fair happening Sunday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be over 100 vendor booths for unique shopping, culinary experiences, beer tastings, award-winning bands and rides for the kids!

The Rolando Street Fair is located between towering Silk Oak trees on Rolando Blvd. between El Cajon Blvd. and Solita Avenue. Organized by a team of selfless volunteers, the Rolando Street Fair attracts nearly 15,000 people and gets bigger and better every year! For more info: www.rolandocc.org.

THIS YEAR'S MUSIC LINE-UP IS SPECTACULAR!

10:30am - Lee Coulter
12:00pm - Len Rainey & the Midnight Players
1:30pm - Voices of our City Choir
3:00pm - Funks Most Wanted
5:00pm - Viva Santana

Lee Coulter returns to our Street Fair a second time! Coulter's soulful acoustic performances and powerful songwriting have landed him opening for Tom Jones, Chuck Berry and Martin Sexton, on stage with Jason Mraz, and had Sirius XM's Coffee House channel dub him "the discovery of the year." Originally from Brisbane, Australia and he is now based in San Diego.

Len Rainey and the Midnight Players are back! A Rolando Street Fair crowd-pleaser for more than 10 years, Rainey mixes R&B, Rock & Soul, but makes it his own. More than just a dynamic bluesman, he's played cities all over the world and is known for bringing a bit of that town to wherever he plays. So, come on out all you street fair fans, and GET READY TO DANCE!

Voices of Our City Choir is transforming the perception and experience of homelessness. Founded in 2016 by San Diego musicians Steph Johnson and Nina Deering, Voices Of Our City Choir was created in response to the current housing crisis showcasing abilities and potential of every individual. Singing reduces stress, empowers minds and strengthens bodies. Rolando Street Fair fans will feel the love!

Funks Most Wanted is San Diego's Funkiest Funk band! Get flashy and groove to the songs you love! FMW is known for getting street fair fans out of their lawn chairs and up on the dance floor! FMW prides itself on being able to take an audience down memory lane with tunes familiar to all ears. They play everything from Funk and top 40, to Jazz, Soft Rock as well as R&B. You are guaranteed to have a Blast!

Viva Santana closes out the Street Fair with amazing talent, high energy and dedication to Carlos Santana. Lead vocalist, Thomas Connor hails from Rolando Village and congas/vocalist, Pat Buono is from the College Area. Viva is the original Santana tribute act originating in 1990 in Southern California. Each player loves what he is doing and it shows every time they are on stage. Get ready for a soulful experience!

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY OPTIONS

Just a reminder that if you would like to get your newsletter online only and opt out of a hard copy delivered to your door we are collecting information. Email us at elcerritocommunitycouncil@gmail.com or fill out an Opt-out form at a meeting.

COUNTY NEWS FROM DIANNE JACOB

A group of about 25 people meet with Dianne Jacob at Scrimshaw Coffee on January 26th and got the latest on the County and the services it offers to us City dwellers. One of the attendees was ECCC Board Member, Tom Silva, who provided the following:

The two largest county departments that used by the various incorporated cities are Health and Human Services and Animal Control.

The homeless issue is a very high priority countywide, It is coordinating efforts with all its cities, including the City of San Diego. \$23 Million Dollars has been set aside in a special fund to help finance cities' efforts.

The county has a "Tell Us Now" app for smart phones which is similar to the "Get It Done SD" app. Supervisor Jacobs urges people to use that app to report County infrastructure problems that need to be addressed.

The County has initiated the Senior In Crisis program. It is operated by the Health and Human Services, and provides a comprehensive list of services for seniors. For example, Scam Alerts, Medical programs, and the identification of distinguished assisted living facilities.

The following are considered by Dianne Jacob to be important: The Choose Well program, focusing on assisted living facilities; Human Trafficking; Business incentives to reduce licensing and red tape.

REMINDERS

- If you have unused sports equipment sitting around your home and garage, neighbor, Lorna Zukas, would like to help you donate it to Crawford High School – give her a call at 619-286-3890 with questions and to make arrangements.

. If you notice things at the new Crawford sports fields that do not seem right, lights on past 7:00 too many nights, people hanging around on the fields after organized games and events are over, etc., please contact Mark at markesolo@hotmail.com. He is helping the El Cerrito neighborhood track bad activity to help the schools keep control over their property and the neighborhood be better for all of us.

ADVERTISE HERE!

GIVE YOUR BUSINESS LOCAL EXPOSURE IN THE ECCC NEWSLETTER

The ECCC Newsletter is going to start taking advertising again, which is great news for those wanting to get the word out about your business or services. Reach 2,000+ of your neighbors by advertising in this newsletter. The Cost is very reasonable at \$60 per month (one month free if you pay for six months in advance).

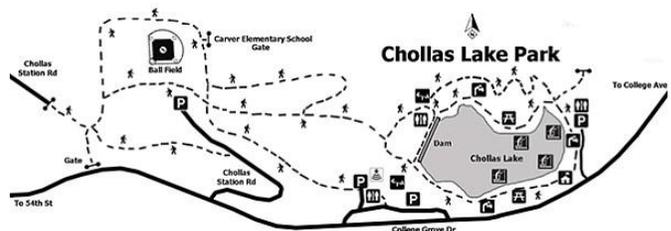
To make arrangements, please contact us at elcerritocommunitycouncil@gmail.com. We require camera ready art in a peg format. If you are unsure about what you have, please contact and we will figure it out with you. We look forward to helping you broaden your exposure and expanding your business.

GET INTO NATURE - TRY CHOLLAS LAKE

Researchers are finding that getting into a nature setting helps your mood, memory and cognitive function and are recommending you get out of the gyms and off the machines a little more and instead get yourself to a park or other place of nature to walk, jog and just enjoy being in nature. They are also recommending that for maximum benefit you leave the phone behind!

If you want to give nature a try, El Cerrito is very close to Chollas Lake which, in addition to a trail around the lake has a variety of other walking trails. Give yourself a chance to interact with nature, to hear the water and the ducks, smell the trees, feel the breeze.

The distance of one lap around the lake is about 8/10ths of a mile and combining it with the other trails can total about 3 miles.



The lake path around the lake is for walking, jogging, and bicycling.

If you would like to do more than walk, jog, bike or hike, the park has picnic tables with barbecue grills, children's play equipment, a small basketball court, and a multi-purpose ball field AND KIDS CAN FISH.

Only children 15 years of age or younger are allowed to fish at the lake. The lake has warm water species, largemouth bass, bluegill, and catfish and is also stocked with rainbow trout by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife during the winter months giving kids a fair shot at catching something!



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NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
Thursday, February 15, 2018
 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Design Your Best Garden Ever!



**With help from neighbor,
 Jose Aguila, a professional
 landscape architect**

**The ECCC Monthly Meeting
 Is Every 3rd Thursday
 Blessed Sacrament Parish Church**

**4540 El Cerrito Drive
 El Cajon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive**

**The El Cerrito Website is getting
 better all of the time— give it a try
 At elcerritocommunitycouncil.org**

Get monthly updates from our elected officials' representatives, the Police Department, the Fire Department, City Attorney's Office, College Area Business District, learn all kinds of information, meet interesting people, and have fun!

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.

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