



*Wishing You Peace, Love and
Joy This Holiday Season and
A Very Happy and Healthy 2018*



HOLIDAY POTLUCK & GIFT RAFFLE
Thursday, December 21, 2017
Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall

Season's Greetings to all El Cerrito residents, business owners and their employees. You are invited to our Holiday Potluck so come and join us for the festivities.

This year our December meeting is during the week before Christmas – perfect timing to take a break from the running around and enjoy El Cerrito Community Holiday Cheer.

No time to cook? Please bring your favorite takeout or a store prepared dish you like. Variety makes it fun!

We provide a turkey main dish, beverages and water, plates and utensils – you bring the sparkle and fun.

Join the gift raffle so many delight in and the don't pass up the chance to win the split-the-pot raffle.

The ECCC Board thanks all the residents of El Cerrito for their support and interest in our wonderful, vibrant community during the past year.

We have had quite a few successes and our endeavors next year will be just as demanding.

**DECEMBER & JANUARY – A GREAT TIME
TO EXPLORE THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

The SDSU students are on winter break during most of December and January, so this is a great time to get out and try the restaurants and shops in the area. There are many new eating and drinking locations and

old favorites, all getting rave reviews. With all the hustle and bustle of the season, you probably do not want to cook as much, so try something nearby.

With less traffic in the area, now is a great time if you have been thinking you would like to visit the new Trader Joe's location on College Avenue, so give it a try. There is parking behind the building, free for the time you will spend shopping. The parking garage is a multi-level structure with elevators big enough for you and your cart plus another, so it really is an easy trip. Make your first few visits now and you will barely notice the extra traffic when the students are back.

There are many businesses you really should try in just the El Cerrito Corridor of El Cajon Blvd. We recommend all of the eateries: Smashburger, Pesto Italian Craft Kitchen, Bistro Sixty, Tea Station, Crab Pub, RB Sushi, The Living Room, Scrimshaw Coffee, Crispy Donuts, Sang Dao, Minato 3 Ramen & Sushi. Hope we see you out and about indulging soon!



DONATIONS! DONATIONS! DONATIONS!

A Big **THANK YOU** to all of you who thought about the El Cerrito Community this month. We thank you all for your donations! And Thank You to all who contribute at the monthly meetings. We received the following through November 2017:

\$200 Anonymous "In Memory of Jan Riley"
\$100 Anonymous Trojan Avenue
\$100 Delbert & Kay Hasselhorst 59th Street
\$100 Alex & Lorna Zukas Spartan Drive

We were able to make a nice donation to Blessed Sacrament Church this month from the donations collected the last few months at our meetings and are passing on their THANK YOU too.

We do 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.

EL CERRITO LOVES COMMUNITY CLEAN UP & RECYCLING EVENTS

El Cerrito would like to send out a big **THANK YOU** to the City Environmental Services Department and Georgette Gómez for the December 2nd Curbside Recycling Event. This was really a wonderful service.

The streets in the neighborhood were busy all morning with trucks picking up recyclables, appliances, old furniture, electronics, mattresses and much more. Many, many things that just needed to go.

If you drove around on the neighborhood streets you noticed a lot of items placed at the curbs for pick-up. Every street had some participation. We really kept the trucks busy. We do not have the numbers on how much was collected, but will report back when we hear more. For those of you on the north side of El Cajon Blvd, we will see if we can get a pickup organized soon.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FOLLOWING ECCC EVENTS

December 21st El Cerrito Holiday
Potluck Dinner & Raffle.

January 18th – El Cerrito Resident Landscape Architect to help with planning your best yard yet.

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

March 15th – Home security, including new, interactive systems.



FREE TREES ARE AVAILABLE NOW

You can now get involved in the effort to increase the City of San Diego's urban canopy by participating in its "Free Tree" program. This program allows residents to partner with the City for the mutual benefit of creating a more livable and beautiful environment.

San Diegans can get a new tree in the area of the yard considered the "public right-of-way" free of charge.

All you have to do is (1) identify a space in that could benefit from a new tree; (2) request a tree either by emailing tsw.freetrees@sandiego.gov or calling 619-527-7500 and (3) agree to water the tree.

City horticulturists will evaluate the space and determine appropriate tree selections. This is a great deal. You can get a newly planted neighborhood tree appropriate for the community's character for no charge and all the City asks in return is that you sign a watering agreement vouching to water the tree for three years while it grows. The trees will likely need

water for more than 3 years, so do keep that in mind when you participate. Tree experts say a tree requires about a bathtub's worth of water once a month, at low flow, so it can soak in. That is very little water for a lot of enjoyment from the shade, oxygen and habitat the tree provides.

Troy Murphree, one of our local tree experts, will attend the February 15th meeting (yes, it is almost 2018!) and help with details for anyone who is interested in a free tree from the City.



HOLIDAY FUN IN SAN DIEGO

WHALE & DOLPHIN WATCHING ADVENTURES

Hornblower Cruises & Events

Dec 9, 2017 – Ongoing

FRI/MON \$42 ADULTS; SAT/SUN \$47 ADULTS
619-686-8715

HOLIDAY BOWL MARCHING BAND SHOWCASE

Dec 27, 2017

HORTON PLAZA PARK

An exciting night filled with live music as marching bands and cheer teams from both Holiday Bowl teams face off in a battle of the bands.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CREDIT UNION HOLIDAY BOWL

Dec 28, 2017

This year #18 Washington State will take on #16 Michigan State in the 40th annual SDCCU Holiday Bowl. Don't miss the pageantry, excitement and football thrills this year!

SDCCU Stadium

9449 Friars Road

San Diego, CA 92108

\$35 - \$175

619-283-5808

SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

The San Diego International Auto Show features the widest variety of new vehicles under one roof.

Dec. 28, 2017 - Jan 1, 2018

San Diego Convention Center

111 West Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

ADULTS - \$15, SENIORS & ACTIVE MILITARY - \$12

CHILDREN 7-17 - \$11, UNDER 6 - FREE WITH PAID

ADULT

858-550-0080

WINTER CAMPS ON SAN DIEGO BAY

Living Coast Discovery Center

Dec 27 – Dec 29, 2017

Wildlife Day Camps are a fun way for kids to learn during school breaks.

Registrations begins Dec 1. All registrations before Dec. 5 get Early Bird Discount!

Register Here:

<http://www.thelivingcoast.org/programs/day-camps/>

619-409-5900

[SAN DIEGO ZOO](#)

Jungle Bells through January 1, 2018

Northern Frontier's Holiday Forest

Trek through our specially designed, lighted trees to visit some of the Zoo's winter-loving animals.

It's a great place for an evening holiday photo!

Animal Encounters

Santa's Igloo

Gingerbread Landing

Reindeer Games

[SEAWORLD](#)

Christmas Celebration through January 6, 2018

All-New Live Nativity Musical

Santa's Christmas Village

Meet Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer™ and friends

Dolphin Island Christmas

Clyde and Seamore's Christmas Special

Snow Globe Photo

Breakfast With Orcas and Santa

Telephone: 858-694-7000 (for general information)

PLEASE BE CAREFUL THIS TIME OF YEAR

At the risk of being a bit of a downer, we want to remind everyone about fire safety during the holiday season so we are all around to enjoy next year. The following facts and tips are from the American Red Cross in conjunction with the U.S. Fire Administration & National Fire Protection Association.

- Nearly 47,000 fires occur during the winter holidays claiming more than 500 lives, causing more than 2,200 injuries, and costing \$554 million in property damage.
- On average, one of every 22 home fires started by Christmas trees result in death.
- Candle fires are four times as likely to occur during the winter holidays.
- During the winter holiday season, an average of 40 home fires per day are caused by children playing.
- The number of home fires the American Red Cross has responded to has risen 10% since 2000.
- **Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half.**

Preparedness Tips

- Place Christmas trees, candles, and other holiday decorations at least three feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles.

- Purchase flame retardant metallic or artificial trees. If you purchase a real tree, make sure that it has fresh, green needles that aren't easily broken. Keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water.

- Make sure that light strings and other holiday decorations are in good condition. Do not use anything with frayed electrical cords and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

El Cerrito Community Council, P.O. Box 151268, San Diego, CA 92175-1268 & elcerritocommunitycouncil.org

- Always unplug tree and holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.

- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree. Always extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to bed.

- Use only sturdy tree stands designed not to tip over. Keep curious pets and children away from Christmas trees.

- Keep anything that can catch on fire—pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains—away from your stove top.

- Designate one person to walk around your home to make sure that all candles and smoking materials are properly extinguished after guests leave.

- Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm near your kitchen, on each level of your home, near sleeping areas, and inside and outside bedrooms if you sleep with doors closed. Use the test button to check it each month. Replace all batteries at least once a year.

- Visit www.redcross.org/homefires for more information on how to keep your home fire safe during the holidays.



RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Curbside collection (For residents with yard waste collection only).

Manual container - customers using their own bins should place trees on the curb for collection on your regular greenery recycling pickup day. Trees over four feet in length should be cut in half.

Automated container - customers using the large, green 96-gallon bin provided by the City should cut their trees to fit into the automated container for pickup on collection day.

Christmas Tree Recycling Drop-off – Oak Park

Address: 6350 College Grove Drive;

Link: <https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/events/christmas>

Landfill: Self-dumping vehicles until 4:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, most holidays: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
The Landfill is closed on New Year's Day, Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.



Carolyn Bowhay Whalen
 President & Broker-Owner
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NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
Thursday, December 21, 2017
7:00pm to 8:30pm



**Holiday Pot Luck,
 Gift Raffle and
 Split The Pot Raffle**
 (bring a dish to share and
 money for Raffle tickets)

**Joe
 Foty**

**Your Neighbor
 & Realtor**



WWW.JOEFOTYGROUP.COM
 JFOTY@ASCENTREALESTATE.NET
 (619) 847-3894
 BRE# 01338639

ASCENT
 Real Estate, Inc.

Blessed Sacrament Parish Church
 4540 El Cerrito Drive
 El Cajon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive



ECCC Monthly Meeting Every 3rd Thursday

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

Go to elcerritocommunitycouncil.org and use our PayPal account