



# EL CERRITO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume Thirteen: Number 12 December, 2019



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**El Cerrito Community Council Meeting  
DECEMBER 12, 2019 7:00PM**

**4804 55<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**MARGAUX AND THOMAS CURRIE ARE  
HOSTING THE ECCC HOLIDAY PARTY**

Instead of having our ECCC Holiday Potluck at Blessed Sacrament church this year, we are having our holiday meeting at one of our ECCC Board Members' home.

The location is 4804 55<sup>th</sup> Street, a few blocks north from El Cajon Blvd and from Blessed Sacrament.

The Board will bring turkey and ham, so please bring your favorite holiday dishes. No time to cook? Please bring your favorite takeout or a store prepared dish you like. Variety makes it fun!

There will be water and coffee and you can bring wine, beer or other adult beverages to enjoy.

There will be an area in front of the home reserved to drop off and pick up food and guests and lots of parking available on the street.

We will sell tickets for a split-the-pot raffle for cash or via the Venmo app. Half of the amount of money raised will go the prizes drawings and half goes to ECCC.

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

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 shopping in the neighborhood. 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 come back to our neighborhood to eat and support our local businesses at the same time.

With less traffic in the area, now is a great time if you have been thinking you would like to shop at Trader Joe's location on College Avenue. 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.

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

## THE ALCOVE WINE AND CRAFT BEER OPENING IS THIS MONTH

The Alcove wine and craft beer restaurant is having its grand opening on December 18th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The El Cerrito community fully endorsed this new business, patiently waiting for the opening. Located at 5540 El Cajon Blvd, next to Scrimshaw Coffee, this is a great central location for all of us.

**The ECCC Beautification Committee is taking December off for the holidays and will resume with a clean-up on January 18, 2020.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FOLLOWING

**Dec 12, 2019 - El Cerrito Community Holiday Potluck & Split the Pot Raffle Meeting.**

**January 16, 2020 - I Love A Clean San Diego.**

**February 20, 2020 - City Council District 9 Candidate Forum**

**March 19, 2020 - Farmer Bill from City Farmer's Nursery and plant/cuttings exchange.**

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## I LOVE A CLEAN SAN DIEGO COMING IN JANUARY

**I Love A Clean San Diego** is San Diego County's longest running environmental nonprofit, having celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. When it was created in 1954, the organization's main focus was litter prevention – the founding members called themselves the War Against Litter Committee. Throughout the years, this central theme has remained much the same, with I Love A Clean San Diego volunteers removing half a million pounds of debris from the County's neighborhoods, creeks, canyons and coastline every year. While these cleanups are still a fixture of their work, the organization's programs have evolved over the years to provide resources and education to help the region's residents reduce the amount of waste they send to the landfill.

In addition to clearing pollution, I Love A Clean San Diego provides recycling/disposal referrals through an online database ([WasteFreeSD.org](http://WasteFreeSD.org)) and phone hotline (1-800-237-BLUE). It also has a robust environmental and zero waste education team, which serves adults, business and school children through interactive educational presentations and workshops to more than 30,000 people annually. Through these programs, I Love A Clean San Diego aims to be an environmental catalyst – inspiring action and connecting people with each other, and the environment. Whether you want to take action to make a difference in your community, or learn about small changes you can make on a personal level, I Love A Clean San Diego is the county's one-stop resource for help.

Visit [CleanSD.org](http://CleanSD.org) to find a community cleanup or educational event near you and connect with I Love A Clean San Diego on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn @iloveacleansd.

## HOLIDAY SAFETY

Following are reminders about fire safety during the holiday season. These 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.

- **Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half.**

### Preparedness Tips

- Place Christmas trees and holiday decorations at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents candles.

- Purchase flame retardant artificial trees. Make sure real trees have 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.

- 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 pets and children away from Christmas trees.

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

- Designate one person to walk around the home to ensure all candles and smoking materials are properly extinguished each night and when leaving home

- 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. Test it each month. Replace all batteries at least once a year.

Visit [www.redcross.org/homefires](http://www.redcross.org/homefires) for more information



## 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, Chollas Lake Park, Gloria's Mesa Parking Lot;  
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.

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## JOIN THE REGIONAL TASK FORCE TO COUNT THE HOMELESS POPULATION FOR WEALLCOUNT, JANUARY 23, 2020

As you may have heard, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless conducts an annual count and survey of homeless individuals throughout San Diego County called *WeAllCount* for a one day snapshot of where the homeless population are living in San Diego.

San Diego County's annual Point-in-Time Count campaign that helps the Regional Task Force to better understand the state of homelessness in our region in order to help individuals, veterans, and families leave the streets. Next year that day is Thursday, January 23, 2020. Volunteers meet starting at 5:30 am and head out for counting 6:00 - 9:00 am.

This effort has involved 1,600 volunteers countywide in the past, but this year more volunteers are being requested for a thorough count. This is a great way to serve the community as it gives a voice to the homeless and helps direct critical funding for housing and services.

Volunteers will be assigned to a team to help count and interview homeless persons to produce an estimate of the total number of individuals living unsheltered and in shelters in San Diego County.

El Cerrito Community Council, P.O. Box 151268, San Diego, CA 92175 & [elcerritocommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:elcerritocommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

Data from the WeAllCount is used to help inform decision making at both regional and national levels and helps our community to create solutions for homelessness.

We will post contact information for interested volunteers as soon as we get it so you can sign up.

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## COLLEGE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE COMMENTS BY DECEMBER 31, 2019 FOR ITS COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

The College Area Community Council has posted its Community Plan Update Report and Executive Summary on its website, [www.collegearea.org](http://www.collegearea.org) for your review and comments.

This document shows the shape of development planned for the bound by the Eastside of Collwood Avenue/54th Street, East to the La Mesa boundary and the North side of El Cajon Blvd, then North to Hwy 8.

Comments can be made online, The comment period runs to December 31, 2019.



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## DONATIONS! DONATIONS!

A Big **THANK YOU** to all of you who thought about the El Cerrito Community the last few months. We thank you all for your donations! And Thank You to all who contribute at the monthly meetings. We received the following during the last few months:

\$200 Anonymous on Corinth Street  
\$100 from Tom Silva Consulting Company  
\$100 Anonymous

We do need donations - big or small - for publication of the newsletter. Donations can be made to the P.O. Box 15268. We are also working on getting our PayPal account up again and looking at a variety of other electronic payment alternatives.

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## Annual Holiday Pot Luck/Raffle and Get-together

Please come and join the ECCC for holiday cheer, great food and split the pot raffle fun.

**Thursday, December 12, 2019**  
**7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR**  
**4804 55<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

### 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):

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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](http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.org) and use our PayPal account