



El Cerrito Historical Society

*P O Box 304, El Cerrito, CA 94530
elcerritohistoricalsociety@yahoo.com*

Vol. 26 No. 1

The Forge

Winter 2009-10

The Official Publication of the El Cerrito Historical Society, Copyright © 2007

ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 1:00 PM at the Senior Center, behind the Library on Stockton Avenue. Snacks and drinks will be served.

OCTOBER MEETING: We met for a picnic at Huber Park, but the weather was cold, so the small group crowded into the park building. Rich gave a brief bio of William Huber: war vet, attorney, sub-divider, judge, Councilman & Mayor, and pioneer Director of Stege Sanitary District.

A G E N D A

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS: We will vote on and elect five members to our Board of Directors. It may be that one or two current Directors won't seek re-election. Please look around, and be ready to nominate members who have leadership qualities, (but remember to get the consent of your nominee before submitting his or her name).

PROGRESS REPORTS; On the issues below, etc.

PROGRAM: "El Cerrito's Architectural Heritage". David Weinstein, author of "Signature Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area" and a member of the Society's Board, will present a lively, illustrated talk about El Cerrito's wonderful but often ignored architecture, from bungalows and Storybook fantasies to the city's surprisingly strong collection of mid-century modern homes.

DUES: Members who pay dues annually will receive a Notice of Renewal of Dues for 2010 with today's Forge. Please include the notice with your check, so that your payment will be credited properly, and mail to Ruth Kibby, Treasurer, El Cerrito Historical Society, P. O. Box 304, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE CITY OF VIEWS:

1.) Photos: Hearty kudos to our immediate past president, Tom Panas. He arranged the photo and artistic exhibit at the Senior Center. The reviews have been terrific, and the show has been held over a few more weeks.

2.) Survey: The long-sought Historic Resources Analysis may be back on track. We feel the first step is a meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office, but as of this writing, City staff has not yet met with SHPO. The goal of the Society is to have a historic context statement prepared, have the City Council adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance, and then create a Register of Historic Resources in El Cerrito.

3.) Archives: The Shadi History Room in City Hall is now furnished. We have been working with the City Attorney for a license to occupy it, and for us to have access to it.

4.) Creeks: In December, the Creeks Committee walked the creek which flows through Arlington Park. Members and guests noted where the creek exits from under Rust Summit, past the tunnel under Arlington Boulevard, by the Ken Smith Memorial Grove, all the way to Navellier. Along the way stories were told of the quarry, horse stables, Camp Herms, Les Simonsen, and George Friend. Should this creek have a name? (Some refer to it as "Arlington Park Creek").

5.) Tradeway: The Tradeway property and the former Chamber office next to it are now owned by the City's Redevelopment Agency. They are the subject of a contract to market the parcel for development. This Society has weighed in on the historic aspects, and will be watching what happens next.

6.) The Avenue: The Society was also asked to correct and enhance the History section of the San Pablo Avenue draft Specific Plan, and has done so.

7.) Mayors: If memory serves, the last time we had a Mayor who served three years was Ira Scott, back in the old days; his terms ended in 1942. We now have another, as Janet Abelson was selected this month to serve a third year in the middle chair. It's been 67 years! Even past Society president Leo Armstrong, who served 5 times as Vice Mayor, only got the gavel twice.