



Mayor Autry Delivers Final State of the City

Mayor Autry delivered his final State of the City this year to a crowd of more than 800 business leaders, family and supporters—which included a surprise guest, Governor Schwarzenegger. His message touched on what he had been able to accomplish in the past eight years as well as the qualities that the next Mayor of Fresno would need to possess in order to continue moving this community and region city forward.



The Mayor noted that in the past eight years, Fresno has seen a rebirth of downtown, public/private investment in diverse businesses, the airport becoming truly 'international,' and effectively addressing the issues of crime. A strong focus on becoming a sustainable green community was highlighted. Other successful programs, such as the Parks Department's collaboration with local schools system to provide structure and needed activities to keep children engaged in positive and healthy lifestyles, were also discussed.

In closing, Mayor Autry acknowledged that he did not adhere to a 'typical' mayoral model. However, he added that fighting for greater attention by the state and federal agencies, advocating for education and healthy children, and bringing faith in God, country, and humanity into every moment of every day was a role that he would never regret bringing to the citizens of the great city of Fresno.

City Receives New Enterprise Zone Designation

Continuing forward to increase economic growth, one of the four cornerstones of the Mayor's administration, the Economic Development Department (EDD) celebrated the new designation of Fresno's Enterprise Zone on May 7th. The Enterprise Zone (Zone) is a state tax benefit program offering business owners several advantages such as sales and use tax credits, business expense deductions, net operating loss carryovers, and net interest deductions for lenders. More than 100 business owners attended a workshop conducted by EDD as part of the new Zone designation process.



Entrepreneur Challenge Brings New Ideas



In fiscal year 2007, an estimated \$72 million in hiring tax credits were awarded to 240+ businesses in the City of Fresno Enterprise Zone. The original 20-year Enterprise Zone designation was awarded in October 1986. This new 15-year Enterprise Zone designation is effective retroactive to October 2006 and will expire in 2021. For more information, and to see if your business is located within the designated area, contact Kelly Vaughan Trevino with EDD at 621-8426 or click the Zone icon to the left.



Proposed Budget Offers Fiscal Balance

In contrast to 2001's "A Tale of Two Cities," the Mayor's Proposed Budget for 2009 speaks to "A Story of One Community." Partnering with the City's leadership team, Mayor Autry has proposed a budget that remains committed to three ideals: to return tax dollars in essential services, invest in the future, and maintain an emergency reserve for a rainy day.

Highlights of this year's proposed budget continue to focus on Public Safety, Economic Development, Smart Growth, and Education Reform. Collectively, the last eight budgets that the Mayor has proposed will result in: 1) an \$18 million dollar reserve; 2) a Police department that has grown by 137 sworn positions, the creation of a nationally recognized Gang Enforcement and Prevention and Graffiti Abatement programs; 3) expanded and improved infrastructure for the Fire Department which has also grown by 106 sworn positions, 4) PARCS programs that unite the community by providing positive programs for our youth and seniors by increasing green space; 5) a Public Works Department that is successfully revitalizing neighborhoods, reduced tree trimming cycle by 7 years and continues to plan, implement and maintain our streets and streetlights; 6) expanding Utilities to address the current and future growth in population; and finally, 7) a core team of staff that have developed a culture of identifying the challenges who continue to work together to bring forth solutions and moving to take prompt and appropriate action.

World's First Hybrid Trash Truck

The City of Fresno demonstrated another first in the Administration's determined focus on green initiatives when on May 15th, Public Utilities introduced the world's first CNG plug-in hybrid refuse truck. The vehicle represents one more step toward improving air quality in the Valley while continuing to provide for the growing needs of City customers.



The brightly colored hybrid truck boasts several economic and environmental benefits: an estimated 40% improvement in fuel economy utilizing a hybrid electric drive system; the capability of operating in all-electric mode for more than 10 miles; and an impressive 90% reduction in smog-forming emissions!

Driven by an electric motor, the natural gas engine is only required to power the hydraulic system for collection. By plugging the vehicle in to recharge, clean and economical electricity is substituted for more expensive vehicle fuel; reducing emissions and increasing fuel efficiency. The current estimated \$1,400 per year in fuel savings is part of a citywide energy conservation strategy, which will also serve to improve Fresno's air quality.

The addition of this new truck, added to the hybrid SUVs, CNG powered FAX buses and other City vehicles already in use, gives Fresno one of the cleanest, greenest, and quietest fleets in the country



Digital Radar Signs Slow Drivers

On Tuesday, May 6th, seven pairs of Digital Radar Signs were installed throughout the city near Fresno Unified Schools. A pilot program sign installed at Olmos Elementary has enjoyed such terrific success at slowing traffic near the new school's crosswalk that Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) and the City of Fresno Traffic Engineering Division were encouraged to install the additional signs.

Pedestrian fatalities account for a significant percentage of all vehicle-caused fatalities. The Public Works and Police Departments identified schools with the highest priority for locating the signs. Council members Cynthia Sterling and Larry Westerlund contributed district infrastructure funds to purchase a pair of signs each to be installed at schools in their districts. FUSD purchased the remaining digital signs. The signs are powered by solar rechargeable batteries and cost approximately \$15,000 a pair.

The signs, in conjunction with increased Police motor officers, are a critical step in increasing awareness of motorist speeds through school zones and to improve pedestrian safety. PTAs and other individuals are encouraged to partner with this program by contacting Traffic Engineering at 621-8800.

The following are the schools for which the signs have or will be installed:

- Burroughs Elementary on Tulare Street
- Muir Elementary on Palm Avenue
- Hamilton (k-8) School on Clinton
- Gibson Elementary/Bullard High on westbound Barstow
- Tenaya Middle School on eastbound Bullard
- Robinson Elementary on Fresno Street
- Pyle Elementary on Ashlan Avenue



Oak Park Provides Affordable Senior Rental Community

A new affordable senior rental community opened in southeast Fresno this month. Located at Willow and Jensen and built in partnership with OPS Villas, L.P., Ashwood Construction, Inc., and Centerline Capital Group, the City celebrated the grand opening of Oak Park Senior (OPS) Villas on May 8, 2008.

The OPS Villas Senior complex provides Fresno's independent seniors 65 new low-cost one and two-bedroom units that incorporate both Universal Design features and ADA accommodations. In addition, the first-of-its-kind community incorporates lush green open space, walkway paths, a recreational facility, swimming pool, outdoor garden area with a photovoltaic solar power generator and environmentally-friendly interior design and finishes.

The City of Fresno supported this much needed senior housing project with \$4.8 million dollars in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program funds.



Upcoming City Events

June 4, 2008— Drug Free Fresno Meeting

In February, Mayor Autry hosted a summit to discuss a new initiative entitled *Drug Free Fresno*. This second summit will bring together treatment programs, law enforcement, education, elected officials, and members of the business, faith and general community to discuss treatment programs available locally and to provide momentum for the community to move forward with the Drug Free Fresno initiative.

June 10, 2008— Southeast Growth Area (SEGA) Workshop

This public workshop on Specific Plan Alternative Scenarios for the Southeast Growth Area will take place from 6-9 pm at the Fresno Convention Center New Exhibit Hall. For information, contact Trai Herr at 559-621-8003.

June 13, 2008— Central California Mayors Conference

Mayor Alan Autry will be host at this year's Central California Mayors Conference in Fresno. At the conference to be held at Fresno Convention Center New Exhibit Hall, mayors, council members, city managers, county supervisors and county administrators from eleven counties will gather to discuss issues relevant to California's central region.

June 27, 2008— The 3rd VIBE at Sports Town on Kern Street

This popular family event will tie in with the Grizzlies Baseball 2nd game against the Las Vegas 51s at Chukchansi Park. Food, drinks, children's activities, and music will punctuate the excitement downtown with entertainment—all on Kern Street at the VIBE! The fun begins at 5:30pm. Check the City of Fresno website for details on this event.

Honors and Awards

City Engineer Named Outstanding Civil Engineer

City of Fresno Engineer Scott L. Mozier, PE, TE was named Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Public Sector by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The City Council designated May 20, 2008 as Scott Mozier day to mark the honor!

Woodward Park Named #1 Recreation Area

Central California Parent Magazine named Woodward Park the Central Valley's #1 family-friendly park and recreation area in their June issue. This is the third consecutive year the park has received this designation!

Public Utilities Selected For 2008 National Environmental Achievement Award

In May, the Department of Public Utilities was selected by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies to receive the Award for Excellence in Public Information & Education for their *Seriousness of Salt* Project. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on July 18th in Anchorage, Alaska.



Mayor on the Move

- 5/1/08 Served as Keynote Speaker at the Tulare Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast.
- 5/1/08 Participated in the annual National Day of Prayer service in front of Fresno City Hall during the lunch hour.
- 5/7/08 Attended a reception honoring Governor Schwarzenegger at the home of Tom Richards in Fresno.
- 5/9/08 Hosted and welcomed attendees to the “Bank on Fresno” summit.
- 5/10/08 Participated in the NAMI Walks for the Mind of America walk at Woodward Park.
- 5/20/08 Unveiled the Mayor’s Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 during a press conference at City Hall.
- 5/21/08 Met with the Fresno Bee Editorial Board to discuss the Mayor’s Proposed Budget.
- 5/25/08 Participated in a Memorial Day Service at Oak Grove Cemetery in Laton.
- 5/29/08 Spoke at Fugman Elementary School to congratulate the school for receiving the California State Distinguished School Award.
- 5/30/08 Delivered his final State of the City address during a luncheon hosted by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Summer Watering Schedule



Call 559.621.5480



Recycle TIP From City of Fresno Recycling division:

By replacing one regular incandescent light bulb with a Compact Fluorescent Light bulb (CFL) you would save 282 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity, which equates to at least \$26 over the estimated life of 6,000 hours. Better still? Over 410 lbs of greenhouse would be avoided.

Partnering with PG&E, the City has distributed over 12,000 light bulbs, representing a reduction of over 490,000 lbs of greenhouse gases!



City employment