



Drug Free Fresno

On Thursday, February 21, 2008, Mayor Autry hosted a summit with law enforcement, educators, faith based organizations and drug rehabilitation experts at Fresno Pacific University to gather information and ideas on how to create a drug free community.

As illegal prescription drug use continues to rise among adults and adolescents, Mayor Autry and Police Chief Jerry Dyer stated that, "together they are on a mission to eliminate drugs in Fresno." Police Chief Dyer further stated: "The underlying cause of most crime has something to do with drugs."

Speakers at the summit ranged from a teenage girl whose addiction to methamphetamine began with a cigarette and a social drink to a typical adult neighbor secretly strung out on prescription drugs that nearly cost him his life.

The shared stories, backed by statistics on crime, confirmed that legally prescribed and illegal drugs are readily available and are a catalyst that destroys individuals, families and communities.

This was the first in a series of fact finding meetings with a future goal of opening up a drug rehabilitation center similar to the well known Betty Ford Clinic for teens in Fresno. Ultimately, the Mayor intends to lay the foundation of a drug free Fresno by initiating five key steps:

1. Education
2. Prevention
3. Intervention
4. Recovery
5. Suppression

Mayor Autry reiterated: "Drugs are the silent killer, growing with more strength everyday. We're fighting for the independence from dependence. Drugs take away your will to fight for righteous goals. It's not about me, it's about us."

Fresno Budget Department Wins Prestigious Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) announced that the City of Fresno has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for it's FY 2008 budget. This is the 5th consecutive year that the City of Fresno has achieved this honor.

Less than 2% of governmental agencies in North America received the award this year.

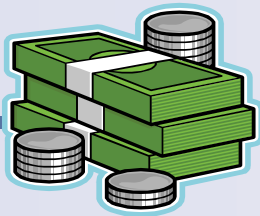


Fresno Airport Rated As Top Performer

Fresno Yosemite International (FYI) is one of the few California airports with a Category III(b) Instrumentation Landing system, a sophisticated system that provides aircraft with the ability to land at FYI in conditions of reduced visibility, such as the seasonal fog we experience in the Valley.

This high-tech instrumentation technology played an integral role in the recent ranking of FYI as 2nd out of 100 continental U.S. airports for on-time flights, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Air Travel report.

While airports across the nation struggle with weather-and crowding-related delays, the lack of congested airspace at FYI allows fuel-sensitive airlines the ability to record safe and timely landings and take-offs. pleasing both business and leisure air travelers alike.



Give Our Local Economy a Boost

The best way to boost our local economy is for citizens to spend their dollars locally. One way that qualified individuals can get additional spending dollars is by applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Even people who work but don't earn a lot of money may be eligible.

A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of taxes owed or used to reduce the tax obligation to the point that an individual would receive a refund rather than owing any additional taxes.

The new maximum credit is \$4,716 for a family with two or more children, \$2,853 for a family with one child and \$428 if there are no children. The Earned Income Tax Credit is the federal government's largest program benefiting working families.

For application assistance for the EITC and for information about other available services, join Governor Schwarzenegger and Mayor Autry at Manchester Center, 2nd floor across from the food court, on Wednesday, March 5th from 2:00 until 7:00pm.

Come prepared with the following documents:

- ⇒ All W-2's, 1098T's and 1099's for 2007
- ⇒ Social Security Number or ITIN for each family member
- ⇒ Your last telephone bill
- ⇒ Recent electric bill
- ⇒ Proof of identity – photo identification

Find out how to put more money back into your pocket by taking advantage of the on-site services.



A Safer City

On Tuesday, January 15th, Mayor Autry joined Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer in announcing a historic year for the Fresno Police Department.

According to the recent crime index report, the City of Fresno's crime rate is at a 43-year low. The index highlighted the decrease in violent crime by 15.3% for this year compared to 2007.

Chief Dyer also announced that more than 2,100 gang members were referred to the Mayor's Gang Prevention and Intervention program, which continues to gain national media attention and inquiries from other cities looking to take positive approaches toward eliminating gangs.

Call 621-CITY For Pot Hole Repairs



It happens to us all - while driving, you hit a pothole or notice that the streetlight in front of your home is out or that a tree limb has fallen on your sidewalk or yard. Who should you call to get things repaired? You should call the City of Fresno One Call Center at **621-CITY**.

As our community continues to grow, so does the need to maintain our streets and other forms of infrastructure. The City of Fresno Public Works Department is charged with maintaining public improvements by performing a variety of repairs that include not only pot holes, but problems with street lights, traffic signals, fallen tree limbs and other infrastructure concerns.

Public safety is the first concern for all City departments. A call to 621-CITY starts the process for the initial safety assessment. The Call Center records essential information such as location, exact problem or concern, and forwards it on to the correct City of Fresno Department for repairs.

Once a call for service is received, a supervisor makes an immediate assessment to determine if the service request is a public safety hazard. If safety is at risk, crews from the appropriate department are dispatched to make immediate repairs. When the request for service does not pose an immediate danger, City crews take the steps necessary to ensure that the work is included as part of their daily repairs.

Currently, there are approximately 174 staff within the Streets Division that work daily to repair and beautify our City. So whether it's a pot hole, street light or problems with your storm drains, one call to **621-CITY** is all that is required.



Upcoming Economic Development Events

Train Your Workforce for FREE

The Employment Training Panel (ETP), a state agency that provides funds to California businesses for providing customized job training, is hosting a FREE orientation in Fresno.

- **Thursday, March 6, 2008**
- **10:00am to 12:00pm**
- **City of Fresno Exhibit Hall, 848 M Street, Fresno**

FREE Workshop May Save Your Company Money

Get important information on business incentives that the City of Fresno offers such as the Enterprise, Empowerment and Municipal Restoration Zones (MRZ)

- **Tuesday, March 18, 2008**
- **9:30am—11:00am**
- **Fig Garden Regional Library, 3071 W. Bullard Avenue, Fresno**

Honors and Awards

Idea\$ Pay at the City

The City of Fresno rewards staff for their innovative ideas that are incorporated to improve customer service, fiscal accountability and internal processes. The following employees were presented with a monetary reward, valued at a percentage of the total fiscal improvement to the City, for the implementation of the following ideas:

1. Lighting Retrofit at the Convention Center Plaza - Steve Crandall, General Services Department/Facilities Management Division - \$100.00.
2. Recycling equipment from retired patrol cars- Robert Ascencio, John Steinhauer, George Hobbs, Arnolfo Ray Flores, Felipe Martinez, Richard Jufiar, General Services Department/Fleet Management Division and Al Shepherd, Information Services Department/Communications Services Division - \$500.00 each.
3. Excise Tax Rebate - Roberta Cope & Joseph Oldham, General Services Department/Fleet Management Division - \$100.00 each.

Above and Beyond

The City of Fresno Department of Transportation/FAX acknowledged the exceptional observation skills of Darryl Smith and Michael Ramos, FAX Bus Operators, with a proclamation for involving themselves in a precarious situation for the safety of a citizen that was well above and beyond their daily work assignments.



Mayor on the Move

- 2/1/08 Hosted a Valley-wide forum to discuss California’s water supply crisis.
- 2/5/08 Presented the Sportstown project to the City Council during their weekly meeting.
- 2/5/08 Welcomed Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for a private meeting at Fresno City Hall.
- 2/5/08 Hosted a Truth on the Table Tour meeting at Saroyan Elementary School.
- 2/6/08 Hosted a Truth on the Table Tour meeting at Woodward Park Library.
- 2/8/08 Attended and participated in the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley quarterly meeting held in Fresno.
- 2/8/08 Held a press conference to discuss the City’s mid-year budget.
- 2/12/08 Presented the Key to the City and a proclamation jointly with the Fresno City Council to Pastor G.L. Johnson honoring him upon his upcoming retirement at the weekly City Council meeting.
- 2/12/08 Participated in the “We Connect You” event hosted by First Lady Maria Shriver at the Caesar Chavez Adult Education Center in Fresno.
- 2/12/08 Hosted the last of the Truth on the Table Tour meetings at the Hinton Center.
- 2/13/08 Traveled to Sacramento to attend a meeting with the Mayors of California’s ten largest cities to discuss water issues.
- 2/13/08 Attended a luncheon hosted by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in honor of His Excellency Felipe Calderon, President of Mexico, and Margarita Zavala.
- 2/13/08 Attended a meeting of the California Air Resources Board in Sacramento.
- 2/21/08 Hosted the “Drug Free Fresno” Summit at Fresno Pacific University.
- 2/27/08 Attended the Fresno County Transportation Authority’s regular meeting.
- 2/28/08 Traveled to Sacramento to speak at the California Air Resources Board hearing regarding the allocation of Proposition 1B funding.
- 2/29/08 Participated in a Dr. Seuss Day celebration at American Union Elementary School.

Summer Watering Schedule Begins March 2nd



Call 621-5480 For Odd and Even Schedules



Recycle TIP From City of Fresno Recycling division: Take Back the Tap

- Bottled water costs more than tap water
- Bottled water is not safer than tap water
- Plastic water bottles hurt the Environment. Many more end up in the landfill than in recycle bins.



City employment