



**DATE:** September 22, 2006  
**TO:** Andrew T. Souza  
**FROM:** Rhonda Jorn, Public Affairs Officer  
**FOR:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**SUBJECT:** CITYWIDE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

The *Citywide Weekly Report* highlights various activities throughout the City for the week. Consistent with our mission to ensure equal access to opportunity, education, and quality of life for every man, woman and child regardless of their race, religion, age or socio-economic status, this report will work to organize our weekly achievements so that we can measure and maximize our management and performance toward reaching our goals. It is our intent that this report will help to improve communications about the programs and services provided to both the City Council and the community.

Please feel free to contact the Public Affairs Department with any questions.

## **MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

### ***Lowe's Makes Donation For Camp Fresno***

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded \$25,000 grant to Fresno Parks, Recreation & Community Services department for renovations at Camp Fresno in a press conference held at Eaton Plaza.

Larry D. Stone, Chairman of Lowe's Charitable and Educational stated, "Lowe's is committed to recognizing and supporting efforts that enrich the lives of our neighbors and customers."

## **UPCOMING EVENTS and PROJECTS**

### **Personnel**

#### **Continuing Education**

- Continuing Education *Technical Trade* Information Sessions will occur at the Municipal Service Center on October 5th and 6th. Representatives from Fresno City College, San Joaquin Valley College and the Institute of Technology will be on hand to answer questions from City employees interested in pursuing technical trade certifications and/or degree programs.

## WEEKLY NEWS

### ***KEY RESULT AREA: PUBLIC SAFETY***

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#### **Police**

##### **9/11 Memorial**

- On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the department joined with other local police and fire agencies at Pelco for a memorial ceremony to honor the police officers and firefighters who died in New York at the Twin Towers.

##### **Losing Hair to Raise Money**

- On September 16<sup>th</sup> Wish Upon a Star's "Shave the Brave" event was held at River Park. Police and Fire Fighters agree to have their heads shaved for a cash sponsorship that goes to the charity. More than a dozen Fresno Police Officers participated in this event by having their heads shaved, including Chief Dyer, whose shaved head raised \$15,000 for the organization.

#### **Robbers Caught**

- On Monday, September 11th, officers were dispatched to the Fast Cash store at West and Ashlan Avenues regarding a robbery that had just occurred. Preliminary investigation revealed that Street Violence Bureau detectives had been following two persons of interest for approximately one week in conjunction with the Rite Aid robberies involving Oxycontin. The detectives followed the suspects to the parking lot of the Fast Cash store and saw the passenger – a male in his mid-20's – exit the vehicle and put on glasses, a jacket, and hat and then enter the store. He then handed the clerk a note and simulated a gun in his waistband. Moments later the suspect left the store with money wrapped in cloth. He jumped into the suspect vehicle. Street Violence Bureau detectives followed the vehicle. Once the suspects saw the detectives the car sped away, jumping a median in the parking lot. Detectives followed the vehicle to Saginaw and Thorne Streets, where the vehicle stopped. The passenger exited the vehicle and ran on foot, but was overcome and taken into custody. The driver of the vehicle was taken into custody without incident and the money recovered.

#### **Fire**

- The Chamber of Commerce released its Review of Public Safety Services Volume 2. The report contains a significant amount of information regarding county islands and merger of services.
- Thirteen members completed the fire captain exam. Congratulations to all.

### ***KEY RESULT AREA: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT***

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#### **Public Utilities**

##### **Safe Drinking Water Eligibility**

- The Water Division is pleased to report that another Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application has been deemed eligible for a Source Water Protection loan in the amount of \$1,537,106 at a rate of 2.2923%. These monies

will be used for improvements along the Enterprise Canal to prevent potential source water contamination and provide improved water quality.

### **Wastewater Reduces Chemical Costs**

- After one year of service the numbers are in! Last year, an effort to reduce the large amount of maintenance, wastewater staff began looking for alternative equipment for adding polymer to various solids handling processes. In September 2005 a new polymer dosing system was installed on one process unit. The cost of the new system was approximately \$12,000. After one year maintenance cost for the dosing system has been reduce ten times from approximately \$4,000 per year to \$400 per year. The big payoff was the 30% reduction in polymer usage. This equates to a savings in chemical cost of approximately \$70,000 annually. Wastewater staff plan to purchase and install similar units in the other solids handling processes.

### **Personnel**

#### **Drop In Dialog Series**

- On September 21st, the Personnel Services Department presented another segment of the Drop In Dialog series. The program was entitled "What is Meet and Confer?". Line staff, supervisors and managers received tips on when they need to be talking to recognized employee organizations about changes in the workplace.

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### ***KEY RESULT AREA: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

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### ***KEY RESULT AREA: ONE FRESNO***

### **Planning and Development**

#### **Housing and Community Development Division**

#### **Low Income Housing Credit**

- A City sponsored affordable housing project was awarded \$9 million in competitive Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the State of California. The project is comprised of 68 affordable rental units and is located in southwest Fresno (Jensen/Elm). The City is providing \$1.25 million in HOME funds to AMCAL Housing for this \$13 million development. Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2007.

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### ***KEY RESULT AREA: CUSTOMER SERVICE***

### **General Services**

#### **In the Spirit of Christmas and Teamwork**

- This week Public Works, Public Utilities and General Services Departments as well as corporate sponsors worked together to place a Christmas tree stand in front of City Hall, 10 days ahead of schedule. The steel stand, fabricated by Fleet personnel and Harris Rebar, was placed in a footing excavation, designed by Public Works personnel and private engineering firms. The 6 foot diameter footing was excavated by Big Bore Inc and the Streets Division. After excavation, Wastewater crane operators hoisted the metal stand structure into place, where it was secured by Fleet fabricators. Facilities Electricians placed the rough

electrical service. The footing was backfilled with concrete donated by Triangle Rock using a massive concrete pump donated by Allied Concrete Pumping, LLT.

### **Central Printing at Your Service!**

- This week Central Printing produced the brochures for the Trolley Route Expansion that FAX announced on Monday. Central Printing printed 5,000 of the brochures and will adding 2,000 wallet sized route cards. Central Printing also produced the brochures and presentation folders for the upcoming Mayor's Jobs Initiative presentations being done through the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department. A third project was the printing of the Fire Department's report to the Utility Commission.

## **Public Works**

### **Street Maintenance**

- Responding to a council request and citizen complaint, Streets crews graded an undeveloped lot at Van Ness Avenue and Alluvial Avenue and created a drainage ditch to remedy a water flow problem. Great innovation was used to solve the issues!
- Streets crews painted and placed reflective markers on Perrin Avenue near Champlain Avenue in Northeast Fresno upon completion of Street repair crews slurry seal road work last week.
- Streets' Electricians completed installation of 15 new poles for Streetlights in No Neighborhood Left Behind Area #29. This work has been completed in advance of the work to be performed by a contractor.
- Streets' Forestry crews trimmed West Avenue trees in preparation of paving project next week on West Avenue from Shaw Avenue to Bullard Avenue.
- At the recent Congress in Kansas City, Ken Nerland, General Services Director and Mike Kirn, City Engineer presented the No Neighborhood Left Behind (NNLB) - Equalizing Infrastructure in the Urban Core program.

### **Tow Sweep**

- The Parking Services Tow Team conducted a sweep for abandoned and inoperable vehicles in the area of Dwight Avenue & Cedar Avenue.
- Bids were opened on 9/19 for a 36 inch sewer main construction project on Marks Avenue from Whitesbridge Avenue to Nielsen Avenue. The bids are scheduled to go to council for award of bid on 10/3. Construction is to begin by the end of October. This project is part of the City's responsibilities for preparation of Highway 180 expansion to the west. Randy Bell, Professional Engineer in Public Works worked closely with Caltrans staff to meet all their requirements for utility relocations.

### **Stopping Copper Wire Theft**

- Public Works staff was able to resolve a non-approved evening hours traffic control plan utilized by a private security company to protect a construction area

from copper wire theft. The contractor has now installed an approved traffic control plan.

### **Street Impact Fees**

- Public Works staff met internally this week with Economics Department and Planning Department to discuss the Street Impact Fees and discuss the concerns from the stakeholders and council. The next meeting with the stakeholders is on Friday, September 29. At that time staff will be presenting many alternatives that were discussed in past meetings and addressing some key concerns from the stakeholders. We will also be discussing the number of trips assumed in the denominator of the fraction that creates the cost per average daily trip.

### **Parks and Recreation**

#### **Job Fair**

- The Mayor's Job Initiative sponsored its first ever job fair mixer on Wednesday evening this week and was very successful in connecting local employers, city staff and volunteers. The mixer allowed employers the opportunity to gather more information about the Mayor's Job Initiative as well as network with other area businesses. City leaders shared the success of the first job fair last April and the exciting plans for the upcoming job fair October 12<sup>th</sup> which has over 100 employer vendors already registered.

#### **Softball Tournament**

- The Recreation Division's Adult Sports program hosted a very successful and unique softball tournament this past weekend. The I.B.E.W. electricians union played hard at the Regional Sports Complex and brought the local economy 168 room reservations. Tournament officials hope to make it an annual event in Fresno beginning in 2008.

### **Planning and Development**

#### **Housing and Community Development Division**

- Housing and Community Development Manager Michael Sigala was awarded the 2006 Latino Heritage Special Tribute Award from Assemblymember Juan Arambula at a ceremony on September 14. Michael was congratulated for his contributions to the city's affordable and downtown housing pursuits.

### **Transportation/FAX**

#### **FAX Ridership Excels!**

- Ridership continues to increase on the FAX fixed route system. For the period August 2005 to August 2006, ridership was 11.4% higher than last year, with 1,068,230 being served compared to 958,814 passengers last year. Fixed route revenues for the period August 2005 to August 2006 also increased by 8.5% to \$652,637.59 compared with \$601,280.54 last year.

## **Public Utilities**

### **Fresno Newcomers Auxiliary Speaker**

- Steve Hogg, Wastewater Manager, was the guest speaker for the Fresno Newcomers Auxiliary September 14<sup>th</sup>. Members had many questions about the utilities provided by the City of Fresno.

### **Recycling Attends Green Fair**

- On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Whole Foods in Fig Garden Village celebrated their 6th Anniversary by hosting a Green Fair. The Recycling Staff attended this event to promote recycling for our Community. Staff reached an estimated 130 people who stopped by the booth.

### **Personnel Department Tours Community Sanitation**

- September 22<sup>nd</sup>, employees from the City of Fresno's Personnel Department toured Community Sanitation. The City workers saw "behind the scenes" operations for three CS programs. They met office staff and supervisors, and were given a brief description of individual duties, shown a quick power point presentation, and then driven out to the field. They saw first hand how Operation Clean Up is run and where various types of debris are taken to be recycled and disposed. They also visited an area where Litter Control is currently hard at work beautifying Fresno. Most tours see an actual Street Sweeper in action, sweeping the residential streets. During the months of Nov – Feb. tours watch the leaf removal program. For tour information call: 621-1447.