City of FRESNO

"Neighborhood Partners"

Housing and Community Development Division Presents

January 2003

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE

Mayor
Alan Autry

City Council Members

Tom Boyajian . . . . . District 1
Brian Calhoun . . . . . District 2
Cynthia Sterling . . . . . District 3
Brad Castillo . . . . . District 4
Mike Dages . . . . . District 5
Jerry Duncan . . . . . District 6
Henry T. Perea . . . . . District 7

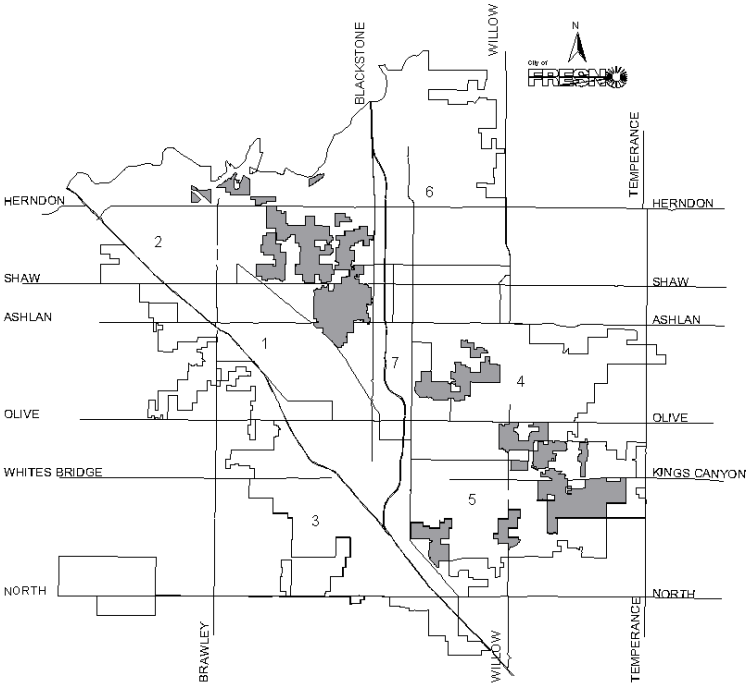
To contact the Mayor or your City Council Member call **621-8000** or write to:

City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3600

Housing and Community Development Division
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3076
Fresno, CA 93721-3605

Nick Yovino, Director 621-8500

Fresno Council Districts



Dear Neighbor:

Our neighborhoods are where we live, shop, play, and work. They are an extension of our homes . . . and, just as we take care of our homes, we also need to take care of our neighborhoods. "Our Neighborhood Guide" was developed to assist you in understanding City ordinances and knowing who to call to obtain a particular service or receive additional information. Working together we can revitalize our neighborhoods!

Sincerely,

Nick Yovino, Director
Housing and Community Development Division

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

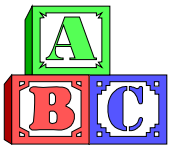
ANIMALS

Farm animals such as rabbits, ducks, chickens, pigs, goats, sheep, cows, and horses are not permitted in residentially zoned districts. Call **621-8400.**

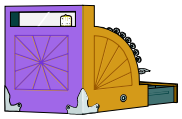
Animal neglect or loose dog complaints should be referred to the SPCA at **233-7722.** Animal bite complaints should be referred to the County of Fresno at **445-3385.**

Regarding barking dogs, please see the section on **Noise.**

BLOCK PARTIES



The City encourages people to organize block parties because they are a good way to get to know your neighbors. If you're interested, please call the City Council Office at **621-8000** for more information. You can get official permission to temporarily close the street in front of your home and arrange for a visit from the Police Department and Fire Department staff.



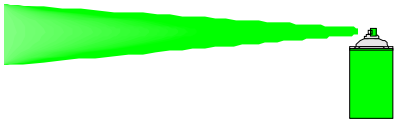
BUSINESS

You may not operate a business out of your home for the repair, manufacture, process, sale, display, or trade of goods, materials, or objects. There are strict rules regulating running a business out of your home. Very few professions comply with the provisions of the home occupation code. Call the Planning and Development Department at **621-8277** if you are interested in more information.

FENCES

There are rules for building a fence. Backyard and side yard fences cannot be over 6 feet in height. A front yard fence cannot be over 3 feet in height. For more information, call the Planning and Development Department at **621-8277.**

Pool Fences: Fencing is required around swimming, wading and bathing pools that have a depth of 18 inches or more. Please call



Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400.**

GRAFFITI

For assistance in graffiti removal, to volunteer for a graffiti removal program, or to provide "tagger" information to the Police Department, please call *Get Magic* **(GT MAGIC or 486-2442).**

HOUSING PROGRAMS

The City of Fresno is committed to following the law when it comes to ensuring equal housing opportunities for all people. The City aims to provide resources to accommodate persons with disabilities and special needs. For information regarding the City's housing repair programs, please call the Department of Housing, Economic, and Community Development at **621-8514.**

Housing Assistance

The Fresno Housing Authority offers a number of housing assistance programs, e.g., Section 8, Public Housing, MRR. For more information, or to find out if applications are being accepted, please call the Housing Authority at **443-8400.**

Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) Program: For information on the MCC, please call the Fresno Housing Authority at **443-8400.**

New Home Buyers: The Downpayment Assistance Program (DAP) is designed to assist low-income, first-time home buyers with the cash requirements of a home purchase. There are no monthly payments, however, the loans are typically due when the property is sold. Loans of up to $4,000 are available. For more information call **621-8515.**

Housing Problems

Property Owners: The City of Fresno has a program that can help low-income families repair their home. Some of the improvements this program will finance are: new roof, exterior painting, plumbing, electrical and any other health and safety problems.

A similar program can also assist in the rehabilitation of rental properties. For further information call Housing and Neighborhood Services at **621-8514.**

Renters: Assistance is available in the following areas: tenant/landlord disputes, evictions advice on substandard housing complaints. Please call Fresno County RentSense at **488-3500,** the Better Business Bureau - Dispute Settlement Center at **222-8111,** Central California Legal Services at **441-1611,** or Centro La Familia at **237-2961.**

Minimum standards for dwellings are required by the Uniform Housing Code and the California State Health and Safety Code. These standards include such items as requiring adequate heat, plumbing, and electrical systems. If repairs are needed, tenants are encouraged to first work with their landlords to have repairs made. However, if assistance is needed, please call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400.**

Public Nuisance: Any abandoned buildings which may attract malicious mischief activity or trespassing should be reported by calling **621-8400.**

Health Hazards: Lead-based

paint poisoning is especially dangerous to children under the age of seven. If you suspect your child or another member of your household has ingested lead-based paint, paint chips, or dust particles containing lead, contact the Fresno County Health Department at **445-3330.**

NOISE

Excessive noise can detract from the quality of life in a neighborhood. It is important that neighbors work together, privately, to solve minor problems, like barking dogs. The City of Fresno does not get involved in these disputes and, if courteous communication is not successful, you should contact a private attorney. For other more serious or persistent problems:

Loud Parties - Call the Fresno Police Department at **498-1414.**

Construction Noise - Call the Fresno Building and Safety Division at **621-8104.**

Industrial or Commercial Noise/Activities - Call **621-8400.**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

District Policing Offices:

Central	**621-6200**
Northeast	**621-6400**
Northwest	**621-6500**
Southeast	**621-6300**
Southwest	**621-6100**

Neighborhood Watch

Enhance your area's positive sense of community by forming and maintaining a Neighborhood Watch Program and cooperatively working out general neighborhood problems. Call the Crime Prevention Community Service Officer at your District Policing Office (numbers listed above).

Problem Oriented Policing (POP)

The Fresno Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Program is one of the main components of the community-based policing. It was established to "decriminalize" a specific target area. This program utilizes assistance from other city departments, public and private sector providers, community organizations, business, schools, property owners, and residents to remove the criminal element and stabilize the area. The program identifies target areas based on the number of calls for service or evidence that criminal activity is occurring. For more information, call your District Policing Office at the number listed above.

Care Fresno

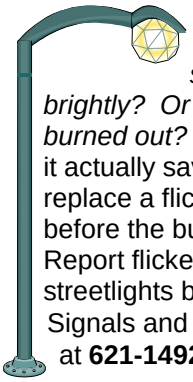
Care Fresno is an extension of Problem Oriented Policing (POP). It is the intent of the Care Fresno Program to prevent criminal elements from returning to neighborhoods. Care Fresno builds partnerships with local schools, churches and businesses for the purpose of training volunteers and developing resources to promote programs that will help restore and maintain safe neighborhoods. Programs include reading/tutoring centers, recreational activities, job training, ESL classes and parenting classes. For more information about this program contact the Care Fresno office at **244-0105.**

SIGNS

Signs play a vital role in identifying businesses. However, signs which are abandoned, illegal, or block public rights-of-way, have a blighting influence on the City. If you want more information regarding our existing sign ordinance, please call **621-8400.**

STREET FLOODING

Heavy rain brings much needed water to our beautiful valley. Sometimes it fills our streets and roadways so that passage is difficult. Regarding urban drainage problems call the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District at **456-3292.** To report illegal dumping into the storm drainage system call **456-3292.**



STREETLIGHTS

Is the streetlight burning brightly? Or is it flickering? Is it burned out? Did you know that it actually saves money to replace a flickering streetlight before the bulb burns out? Report flickering and burned out streetlights by calling the Traffic Signals and Streetlights Section at **621-1492.**

STREET SWEEPING

For questions regarding street sweeping, please call Community Sanitation Division at **621-1447.** For rubbish or trash in the street, please call the Street Maintenance Division at **621-1492.**

TIRES

It is unlawful to store or dump tires on residential or vacant lots. City of Fresno residents wishing to dispose of tires at the City operated tire disposal facility may call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400** to arrange for an appointment. A disposal fee is charged. **To help solve this problem, please remember to leave your old tires with your dealer!**

TRASH & DEBRIS

"Operation: CLEAN-UP" is designed to assist residents within the City limits in the removal of excess debris, trash, and rubbish **(please no pool acid)**, not normally removed

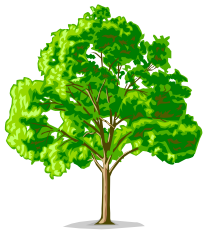
through solid waste disposal service. This service is provided twice a year.

It is important that residents not place their discards out more than seven days in advance of their scheduled pickup. Please call the Community Sanitation Division at **621-1447** for the scheduled time in your area.

Solid Waste Management Division: For questions regarding your weekly garbage pickup or trash around the container, please call **621-1452**.

The accumulation of garbage, trash, appliances, car parts, old furniture, scrap materials, and overgrown vegetation is considered a public nuisance. To file a complaint call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400**.

TREES



Are the branches from trees along the street blocking your view? Has a branch from a tree fallen into the street? For questions regarding trees which are located in City parks or in medians call the Parks and Recreation Division at **621-2903**. For questions regarding trees located along streets call the Public Works Department at **621-1492.**

VEHICLE PARKING

Vehicles parked on private residential property must be parked on driveways, in a garage, or a carport. Vehicles cannot be parked on dirt, lawn, or landscape areas. Call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400**.

Inoperable vehicles cannot be parked on the street or stored on private property unless fully enclosed within a legal structure, i.e., garage. Car covers are not acceptable. For inoperable vehicles on private property, call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400** and for inoperable vehicles on the street, call your **District Policing Office** at the number listed under the **Police Department** section.

Recreational vehicles may be parked or stored on private property as long as: 1) they are enclosed within a legal structure; 2) they are within a side or a rear yard enclosed by a solid wall or fence between 5 feet and 6 feet in height; and 3) they are not used for human habitation. The parking of recreational vehicles is regulated by the Code Enforcement Division if on private property, call **621-8400.** If the recreational vehicle is parked on the street, call your **District Policing Office** at the number listed under the **Police Department** section.

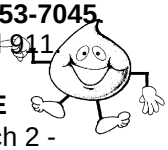
VEHICLE REPAIRING

Open repair of vehicles is prohibited in residentially zoned districts. You may add fluids, change a flat tire, jump start, and repair your own personal vehicle **inside** your garage. Call **621-8400.**

VEHICLE THEFT

The Fresno Police Department and the California Highway Patrol have formed an auto theft task force, "Fresno H.E.A.T." (Help Eliminate Auto Theft).

If you feel you have active auto thieves operating in your neighborhood or possibly have a chop shop operating nearby, please call Fresno H.E.A.T. at **253-7045**. If it is an emergency, call 911.



WATERING SCHEDULE

Summertime (March 2 - November 30) - ODD numbered addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. EVEN numbered addresses may water Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Trees, shrubs, flowers, gardens may be watered anytime during the scheduled watering day.

No watering permitted on Mondays, or any day during the hours of 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wintertime (December 1 - March 1) — ODD numbered addresses may water anytime on Saturdays. EVEN numbered addresses may water anytime on Sundays.

For more information on the watering schedule or to report water abuse call **621-5480.**

WEEDS

The accumulation of tall, dry grass on vacant lots is prohibited. Property owners are required to maintain their lots **year around**. During the weed abatement season, generally April through October, property owners are required to ensure all weeds that constitute a fire hazard are cleared or the land is turned with a disc. For further questions or to file a complaint, please call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400.**

YARD SALES

You may have two yard sales at your residence in any calendar year. They must conform to the following conditions: 1) each sale is limited to no longer than 72 hours; 2) no items may be displayed on the public right-of-way; 3) all items sold must have been used and no longer needed by the occupants of

the residence; and 4) no signs are to be posted on public property. Call **621-8400.**