

Talking points for Celebrate Fremont presentations

Celebrate Fremont: An independent volunteer organization of about 200 community leaders assembled to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of Fremont working in partnership with the city of Fremont, the Fremont Unified School District and the Fremont Chamber of Commerce.

Mission statement: Creating a legacy for tomorrow by cherishing our past and connecting with our present.

Committees: Five committees organized to plan, promote and finance events and activities

Teams: Five subcommittees working to integrate the 50th anniversary theme into regularly scheduled community activities and to support Celebrate Fremont special events.

Heritage Team: The Heritage Team supports and coordinates anniversary year efforts to preserve, document, and celebrate the history of Fremont

Creative Engagement Team: Raising awareness of the wide range of arts, sports-oriented activities and fine dining available locally and to encourage participation in these activities during 2006.

Education Team: Coordinates the participation of students at the pre-school through adult school levels in events and activities associated with Celebrate Fremont and provides opportunities for educational institutions in Fremont to showcase learning and training opportunities.

Business and Neighborhoods Team: Coordinates and acts as liaison with the existing business and neighborhood associations.

Future Team: Developing a vision of the future of Fremont and a concept of how the legacy of current residents will affect that vision.

Gala: January black-tie kick-off fund raiser planned for giant tent in Central Park. Set to coincide closely with actual date of incorporation (Jan. 23, 1956) 700 people expected. Tickets on sale now; \$175 per person.

Celebrate Fremont @the Park: Two day festival planned for Central Park Sept 9-10, 2006. Entire Park to be occupied with special display areas for art, performances, food, vendor and provider displays related to past, present and future of Fremont. Participation in tens of thousands predicted.

Student projects:

Fall: Art: Students are encouraged to submit fine or performing artwork in any medium, including but not limited to drawings, paintings, photographs, sculpture, ceramics, musical compositions, plays, choreography, videos or multi-media productions. The best work will receive prizes and will be displayed at schools, in businesses, at City Hall and at the FUSD Education Center. The theme of the work may be related to the past, present or future of Fremont, which could be a historically significant site, a favorite present location or a vision of the city in years to come.

Winter: Writing: Students may submit reports on historic or contemporary subjects such as original inhabitants, early settlers, commerce, agriculture, business, education, family life, cultural diversity, environmental changes or expectations for the future. The writing may be in the form of poetry, prose or script. It may be presented as hard copy, recitation or recorded media. It may focus on any of the subjects listed above or less concrete issues such as personal impressions or experiences. Work will be presented on local television and radio stations, may be printed in area news publications and will be displayed at the Celebrate Fremont festival.

Spring: Oral histories: Students may submit audio or video tape interviews of conversations with family members or other individuals who are interested in sharing memories or impressions of their lives in

Fremont. Although oral histories often are done with family members and long-time residents of communities, the cultural diversity and recent dynamic demographic changes in Fremont suggest some special opportunities. Students could interview very recent immigrants, for example, to get a perspective on the differences between life in Fremont and their country of origin. It also might be possible for students to interview or visit with members of other families whose experiences, traditions and customs are different from their own. Training available.

Sample projects: Fremont Education Foundation Celebrate Fremont Grant recipients 2005-06

Our School History Quilt

Kristy Leo, Hirsch Elementary School - \$300.00

Every student will help in designing a class square showing history of Fremont after researching and finding historical data. These squares will be put together to form a quilt representing historical events and fact about their school in Fremont during the past 50 years.

Wes Gordon Fossil Hall Science Trip

Pat Gordon, Maloney Elementary School - \$700.00

Students will go on a walking field trip to the Wes Gordon Fossil Hall at the Math/ Science Nucleus in Fremont. They will study specimens unique to the Fremont area and apply this study to ecosystems, geology, animal adaptations, and paleontology compared to archaeology. Students will learn about the fossil discoveries made in the Bell Quarry during the late 1940's and 1950's. Hearing about young scientists who advanced science and local fossil history in their own community will be inspiring.

Heart of a the School Community Service Project

Michelle Snowden, Maloney Elementary School - \$1,000.00

Students will be engaged in beautifying the library/media center and the currently-underdeveloped garden areas around it. Fifth graders will research native plants to attract butterflies and birds. They will design the garden, plant it with the help of first and second graders. The kindergarten students will grow butterfly larva to observe and release in the garden. Third graders will create 50 stepping stones commemorating Fremont's 50 years. Fourth graders will create five quilted wall hangings showing different aspects of Fremont's history and geography. Sixth graders will plan a culminating celebration, keep a database of community helpers, provide publicity releases, and maintain ongoing documentation and records. Each grade level will write letters inviting community members to help. They will follow up by writing thank-you notes.

A Look at the Past

Jennifer Purnell, Brier Elementary School - \$1,000.00

Purchase twenty copies of Washington Township: a Pictorial History, to share among the three fifth grade classrooms at the school. Using these books, along with the textbook adopted by Fremont Unified School District, students will learn about the Ohlone, Mission San Jose, the Rancho Era, the area's agricultural past, Ardenwood, pioneer families (including the Patterson's, Shinn's, and Vallejos) the history of Niles, and the building of the bridges across the bay. They will then take a field trip to the Fremont History Museum, Ardenwood, or Shinn House. Families will be encouraged to visit these places as well.

Education Team Grants for teachers and more information available at www.celebratefremont.org

Information on teacher grants awarded from Fremont Education Foundation at www.fremont-education.org

Volunteers are needed for planning, outreach, program development, coordination with planned community events and many other tasks. Contact Moina Shaiq at moinashaiq@yahoo.com or Gary Leatherman at 659-2594 or gleatherman@fremont.k12.ca.us for further information.