

Plans Unveiled for Fundraising Gala to Support Fremont's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Fremont, California, September 28, 2005—The steering committee of Celebrate Fremont, the community-based planning organization for Fremont's 50th anniversary celebration, received a preview last week of the blueprint for the January 20, 2006 gala, a fundraising dinner that will help defray the expenses for next September's admission-free main event. The main event, a two-day celebration called "Celebrate Fremont @ the Park," is scheduled for September 9-10, 2006 in Fremont's Central Park. Planners of the January gala revealed that the black tie-optional fund raiser will take place at Central Park as well, in a spacious carpeted tent to be erected near Stevenson Blvd. The tent—complete with a French door entry, windows, and a cathedral ceiling—is intended to impress and stimulate attendees to support the Celebrate Fremont effort generously.

"We can guarantee a lot of 'Wow!' as people arrive at the party," says Fran Stone, co-chair of the event with Maria Rogers. "Because the primary purpose is to raise funds and acknowledge our sponsors, we knew we needed to design a unique experience. This will be a real departure from the familiar banquet formula. A milestone occasion inspires creativity. This will be unlike any event Fremont has ever before experienced."

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A major consideration was the ability to accommodate a large number of participants. In the interest of creating and sustaining a party atmosphere, organizers wanted to avoid the need to divide party-goers among multiple rooms. The tent will be capable of accommodating as many as 700 attendees, who will enjoy an elegant meal and entertainment for an anticipated ticket price of \$175. The tent will be situated in a level area of the park between the police administration building and the tennis courts. Restrooms with running water will be brought on site, and attendees will be protected from any inclement weather by canopies. There will be parking immediately adjacent, as well as shuttle service to remote parking.

The unveiling of plans for the gala came on the heels of a meeting held on September 15, 2005 at the Center Theater, at which interested members of the community learned of the progress in developing the yearlong 50th anniversary observance. "Celebrate Fremont @ the Park," the signature event, will be an inclusive, family-friendly, community-wide event. From the beginning, community members have indicated that they want it to be affordable, representative of all parts of the community, and reflective of Fremont's special qualities. More than 200 people attended the community meeting, and many of them promptly filled out volunteer forms to become involved.

"The theater was filled with an atmosphere of tremendous engagement, buy-in, and electricity," observed Irene Koehler, chair of the Celebrate Fremont steering committee. "Planning a celebration that is open to everyone in Fremont and reflects all that is special about the community is a huge task, one which cannot be accomplished without broad participation."

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“We want to have an observance worthy of the city,” added Ms. Stone. “The gala will provide meaningful funding to underwrite the celebration and keep it affordable and inclusive so that the entire community can be touched in some way by activities throughout the year.”

About Celebrate Fremont

Celebrate Fremont is a dynamic, inclusive, grassroots volunteer planning organization for the celebration of Fremont's 50th anniversary. It formed and began planning in January 2005 with public meetings held at Fremont Main Library that were attended by hundreds of residents. Since that time, a steering committee and a complex of teams and sub-committees have formed and met regularly. Based on ideas originally generated by the community, plans for celebrating the city's 50th anniversary have been designed to build and strengthen relationships between and among individuals, community groups, the City of Fremont, and the local business community. The admission-free signature event, "Celebrate Fremont @ the Park," is slated to take place September 9-10, 2006 in Fremont's Central Park. Major sponsors who have already committed to provide funding for the celebration are:

Diamond Sponsors—\$50,000

Ardenbrook, Inc.
Fremont Bank
ProLogis
Santa Clara Development
SummerHill Homes
Dale Hardware

Platinum Sponsors—\$25,000

Cal Coast Financial
The Saddle Rack
Washington Hospital

Gold Sponsors—\$10,000

Atwal Real Estate Investments
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Beretta Property Management
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City of Fremont
Fremont Automall
Gonsalves & Kozachenko
Men's Wearhouse
MURCO Management
New United Motor Manufacturing (NUMMI)
Palo Alto Medical Foundation
Pan Pacific Bank
Riding Group LLC
The Mission Peak Company
Warm Springs Station LLC

Silver Sponsors—\$5,000

Frisbie Planning Company
Sobrato Development Companies
Townsend Management, Inc.

More volunteer and sponsorship opportunities are currently available. Those who would like to volunteer and receive periodic updates can add their contact information to the distribution list on Celebrate Fremont's Web site, www.celebratefremont.org or call Celebrate Fremont's headquarters at 510-790-9352. The Celebrate Fremont office is located in Fremont at 4589 Eggers Drive.

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