

January 2025 Newsletter  
Volume 54 #1

# ECO-LOGIC

The Official Newsletter of the Tri-City Ecology Center



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## **Fremont Capital Improvement Program**

We're entering an important time for Fremont when our activism is critical. Fremont has started the planning process for the biannual Capital Improvement Program (CIP). CIP is the budget that determines how Fremont will transform and maintain our City. Examples of projects typically funded in the CIP are new parks and trails, sidewalk repair and improvements, planting trees, upgrading City buildings to be carbon free, maintaining the pavement on our streets, building infrastructure to aid the unhoused and many more.

No city has the funding needed to move forward with all of the projects residents would like and this is especially true in Fremont for the next two years. In Fremont, not only is revenue projected to decrease, but Fremont historically allocates over 70% of general funds to operate the police and fire departments. There simply isn't much left to fund anything else. This is why parks and trails take decades to build.

For those that want to develop our city in an ecologically sustainable way that future generations can use, we must work diligently to communicate priorities so that ecology-focused projects obtain funding over projects that maintain wasteful and harmful endeavors.

When looking at where to invest funds, it's important to look at what assets the City has and what funds are needed to maintain them since the CIP includes replacement of assets that have reached their end of life. Dollar wise, the largest asset in Fremont are the streets within the City. Streets also have a huge maintenance cost since they wear out quickly and need some type of pavement maintenance at least every 10 years. The cost to maintain city streets is close to \$100 million dollars a year. By contrast the funds to support the 50/50 tree planting program are \$150 thousand a year. We could plant the densest canopy in the country if we spent anything close to what we spend on maintaining streets on planting trees instead. Most of the pavement maintenance funds come from gas tax, which are dedicated to maintaining streets. However, some funds typically used for streets have some flexibility and some of the funds can be used for maintenance or upgrading areas next to the streets such as sidewalks, bike lanes and planting trees next to streets and in medians. Thus we have ability to ask City leaders to prioritize projects that will have a lasting ecological impact along streets. Also, some general funds are used for capital improvements and we need to make sure those are used primarily on ecologically focused areas.

There are a couple ways we can influence our city leaders. First and foremost is to fill out the CIP priority survey on <https://www.my.fremont.gov/> and list a high priority for projects that support sustainability, safe mobility and support for the unhoused. Second is for all sustainability-minded organizations to write their Council Members and let them know your priorities and that you will be reviewing the CIP. The CIP survey closes Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Council goes on an annual retreat with staff in February and this is where Council and Staff discuss their priorities. We need to have communication to Council before they go on their retreat. Staff will then draft a CIP and present it to Council in the middle of the year.

Next steps. First, go to the appendix on the next page, review the CIP survey and fill it out at my.fremont.gov. Then share the link with friends and others in the ecology/sustainability community. Next is to write a letter to your Council Member listing your priorities.

<https://www.my.fremont.gov/>

By Steve Skala



CNHP Orchard Winter Time

### **Getting to the CORE of the situation**

At the Historic California Nursery Historic Park , in the back southeast corner, there is a decrepit little orchard with a legendary past. Right now, it doesn't look like much. A couple rows of aging apricot trees fill about a third of the roughly acre bit of land sitting quietly in the corner of a historic nursery that has now been transformed into a park. What came out of that bit of land changed lives, and the history of nurseries and orchards for the past 100 years or so.

This orchard was the Experimental Orchard for the California Nursery. It was the golden age of individual innovators in fruit varietal development. One of the stars was Albert Etter, who developed some fantastic varieties of apples. Also, there was Luther Burbank, and many others. Mr. Shinn was instrumental in

making introductions to the Roedings at the nursery, and facilitating some varieties to try. The “new” varieties were planted in the Experimental Orchard to test them for the market. The ones that made the cut, were then offered in the catalog, and planted all across the west. It was the launchpad for many varieties of fruit that transformed the fruit tree industry, and the expanding orchards of the bay area, Salinas valley, and then the central valley. Many of these fantastic varieties are no longer found in the grocery stores, and only found in some historic orchards, if someone knows the history of where they came from. Many of these fruits that were offered in the Ca. Nursery catalog, are now very rare to find anywhere.

After many missteps and false starts over the past years, there now looks to be a path forward to restore the Experimental Orchard to some of its historical significance. TCEC is sponsoring a new group called CORE. California Orchard Restoration Experiment. CORE is working with the city of Fremont to take over the management of the orchard and bring back some of the historical significance.

CORE’s objectives will be:

- Restore the current orchard to a functional orchard by pruning up the current trees, repairing the irrigation system, and start to build the soil.
- Operate the orchard in a sustainable agriculture manner using organic methods, and trying to innovate some methods to operate without the use of fossil fuel.
- Plant rare and historical species of trees that were in the orchard in the past. We have records of what was planted, and can still find some of the species through the Rare Fruit Growers, and the connections of Janet Barton. ( A plant historian extraordinaire)

- Make the orchard a resource for education on the significance of the Ca. Nursery, and a resource for scions of rare fruit tree growers going forward.
- A training location for proper tree care, and pruning.

We are still in negotiations with city of Fremont, so the project is gaining steam as we approach the starting line. In the future we will be looking for donations to help fund the operation and purchase of some equipment. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with the irrigation system, pruning, cover crops and general operations of a small nursery. We hope you can join the effort to bring back the rare and historic fruit trees to where they first were developed and contributed to the history of Ca. Nursery, and California.

Stay tuned to further developments of CORE, the California Orchard Restoration Project.

## 2024 – UFF History

### 15 Tree Plantings

- First two **school** tree plantings!
- 3 Tabling Events
- 1 Tree Walk

### **163 Trees!!!**

**Fremont: 98, Newark: 65**

**564 volunteers**

**Nineteen Events!**

1. Jan 20th: Lake Elizabeth Tree Planting - 16 trees
2. Jan 27th: Warwick neighborhood Tree Planting - 6 trees
3. Feb 10th: Glenmoor neighborhood Tree Planting - 7 trees
4. Mar 2nd: North Fremont neighborhood Tree Planting - 3 trees
5. Mar 8th: Warwick Elementary Tree Planting - 10 trees
6. Mar 16th: Glenmoor neighborhood Tree Planting - 10 trees
7. Mar 30th: Last Glenmoor trees planted by JTS - 4 trees
8. April 6th: Silliman Center Tree Planting - 12 trees
9. April 14th: Cabrillo neighborhood Tree Planting - 20 trees
10. April 20th: Fremont Earth Day Tabling
11. April 20th: Newark Library Tree Walk
12. April 27th: Jerry Raber Ash St Park Tree Planting - 13 trees
13. May 24th: Durham Elementary Tree Planting - 7 trees
14. June 8th: Newark Community Center Park Tree Planting - 15 trees
15. Sep 22nd: Newark Days Tabling
16. Oct 12th: Newark Community Center Park Tree Planting - 12 trees
17. Oct 15th: Newark on the Move City Council candidate event Tabling
18. Oct 26th: Mayhews Landing Tree Planting - 13 trees
19. Nov 9th: Lone Tree Creek Park Tree Planting - 15 trees

### Partners in Volunteering

Tri-City Interfaith Council

BSA Scouts

NMHS Puente Club

Cellotape



Google  
Promotores  
Lam Research  
Buddha's Light International Association



The UFF Team





Lynn Miller receiving the 2024 Unsung Hero Award from Alex Lee

## 2025: Potential Partnerships

- Mission San Jose HS Leadership LEO Club (30-40 students)
- Newark Memorial HS Puente Club (20-30 students)
- BSA Scouts (~10 scouts)
- Fremont Body'n'Brain Yoga/TaiChi Studio (~10 adults)
- Kaiser Permanente (~60 adults)
- Cargill Salt

2025 upcoming events

Newark Library League tabling event?

Fremont Tree Walks with Park Ranger Patrick O'Connell?

The December 17 City Council meeting introduced a Camping Ordinance with the following details

Camping. It is unlawful for any person to camp or to maintain an encampment in or upon any public property, including any street, sidewalk, park, open space, waterway, or banks of a waterway, or any private property not designated and equipped for such camping. Additionally, it is unlawful for any person to camp or maintain an encampment in or upon any land designated as a high fire risk area. This section is not intended to prohibit camping on private residential property by friends or family of the property owner, so long as the owner consents and the overnight camping is limited to not more than three consecutive nights.

### **A Christmas Tale for the Homeless**

The February Ecologic newsletter will outline more of the encampment ordinance. The same week an unusual letter to the editor by this editor appeared in the Tri City News that focused on the ordinance. So far Scrooge has not embraced Tiny Tim



## A Christmas Tale

It was the week before Christmas and Fremont had business. Council posted an ordinance with 5-day notice, were they hoping, just hoping, that no one would notice? They were making a choice, just giving their voice. Should new council members and the old city management, have a first meeting together and be rid of encampment. They voted on a ordinance spanning municipal coordinates, to take 612 homeless to make them now hopeless. No camping, no cars, no RVs no bars, just pick up your tent if you can't pay your rent. it's time to move on you people are gone, take your trash and spare cash, it's the end of your song.

It's been tough to enforce, help police reinforce. Give them rules to dispel these "encampments" of hell. So, businesses are happy, the streets are not crappy, and what if it's you, your neighborhood too? 72 hours not enough, 24 – now that's tough! Newark, Union City, San Jose, even Hayward, just keep moving along so long as you're wayward.

But alas, a ghost of those soft-hearted repliers, show up to protest including old timers. They warn of a graveyard, the words gotten out, and plead for a continuance, and they continue to doubt. Just delay so they say, don't vote, there's some hope! But the vote goes ahead, City votes four to two, spoken to homeless and that's it for you.

The ghosts will return, next year's coming term. Scrooge will listen again and decide who will win. Compassion or fashion, whatever the cause, the council will settle, there's not too much pause. Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchit, you're facing the end, less street people find some new way to mend. They're leaving this city, and won't get much pity, don't have a home, and they're destined to roam. Score one Mr. Scrooge, you may feel alright, but look out for the ghosts, they'll return for a fight.

Add your voice to defeat the City Council Scrooge. Use this [Letter template to Council](#) link to access a form letter written by Fremont For Everyone and send it to the Fremont Mayor and Council Members.

## **TRI CITY ECOLOGY BOARD**

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### **WANT TO JOIN TCEC?**

If you want to become a member please click [HERE](#) to fill out this form and mail a check to 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. To know more about TCEC please visit our website at <http://www.tricityecology.org>

Board meets on the first Thursday of each month on Zoom due to Covid-1. Please call to verify. If you wish to speak on a subject, please call 510.793.6222 or 510.790.1685.

If you have any suggestions or want to contact us, please fill out [THIS](#) form.

