

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Fremont Residents to Unite by Joining Hands Around the Lake on September 9 Public Participation Event Will Kick Off Anniversary Celebration**

**Fremont, California, July 13, 2006**—Celebrate Fremont, the community-based planning organization for Fremont's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, announced today that a one-of-a-kind event, Hands Around the Lake, will mark the beginning of Fremont's two-day 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, "Celebrate Fremont @ the Park," on September 9, 2006 in Fremont's Central Park. Approximately 3,500 participants wearing orange t-shirts will link hands to completely encircle Lake Elizabeth, a circumference of 1.8 miles. Local groups, families, and individuals are invited to register and participate.

"We wanted something that the citizens of Fremont could be a part of," says event organizer Doug Tinney. Tinney took his inspiration from two sources, the 1986 Hands Across America, in which people linked hand-in-hand across the United States to join the East Coast with the West Coast, and from the artist Christo's orange gate that wound its way through New York's Central Park in 2005. "This is an historic event that people will be proud to remember," he continues. "It will be a highly visible expression of our unity and pride in our city, and we sincerely thank Fremont Bank for their generous donation to support this event."

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Registration is open now and will continue until the maximum number of participants—3,500—is reached. Those who would like to participate should download the registration form from the

Celebrate Fremont Web site at [www.celebratefremont.org](http://www.celebratefremont.org) and follow the instructions. Those without Internet access may ask a friend or leave a message with the Celebrate Fremont office at 510-790-9352. The registration fee is \$5, which includes the commemorative orange t-shirt. Registration is recommended by July 31, 2006 but will close when full registration is reached. If space is still available on the day of the event the registration fee will be \$7.

The event will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 9 at Lake Elizabeth in Central Park. All participants must arrive and check in by 8:00 a.m. to allow time to walk to a position on the path. Wheelchair-bound participants or those that cannot walk long distances will receive priority for placement on the near side of lake near check-in area. All participants are requested to wear the orange event t-shirt to form a solid line of color around the lake. Anyone who wishes to participate but must wear a head scarf or clothing associated with their religious belief is asked to wear a shade of orange if possible.

“This event will be a visible representation of our vision to reinforce Fremont’s connectedness,” observes Anu Natarajan, event chair for the two-day Celebrate Fremont @ the Park. “It will serve as a dramatic start for the anniversary celebration!”

### **About Celebrate Fremont**

Celebrate Fremont is a dynamic, inclusive, grassroots volunteer planning organization for the

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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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 committed to provide funding for the celebration are:

***Diamond Sponsors—\$50,000***

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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](http://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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