



# 1000 FRIENDS OF FRESNO

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Winter 2008

## Meeting the Challenges of the Future with Citizens Involvement

*Dear Interested Citizen:*

*As we near the end of this tremulous year, we are reminded of the most important things in life: family, friends, health and a caring Community. 1000 Friends of Fresno believes that a vibrant downtown benefits all communities and we will continue to focus our efforts in that direction.*

*Have a wonderful holiday season and the best to all in 2009.*

*--Bob Dwyer*

### AN INVITATION

The Downtown Fresno Coalition meets on the second Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Fresno Arts Council office at 1245 Van Ness Avenue. If you support our goals, as stated below in our mission statement, we invite you to join us. We can be reached at [downtownfc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:downtownfc@sbcglobal.net)

**Mission Statement:** The Downtown Fresno Coalition is dedicated to promoting responsible revitalization of downtown Fresno while adhering to the two goals which prompted its formation: 1) to preserve and maintain Fulton Mall as originally designed; and (2) to complete the Eaton Plaza Master Plan.

### IN MEMORIAM

The death of Robin Gay McCline on September 24 meant a great loss to Fresno's arts community as well as to 1000 Friends of Fresno and the Downtown Fresno Coalition. Gay played an active role in the Coalition, in particular contributing to our efforts to preserve Fulton Mall and make Eaton Plaza a park.

As an architect, water colorist, and Fresno City College instructor, he made a tremendous contribution to the cultural life of Fresno. He will also be remembered for his kind, gentle nature. Both Jim Oakes, Gay's partner for many years in an architecture firm, and Corky Normart, Gay's painting companion for many years, assert that he never said an unkind word about anyone.

### FULTON MALL UPDATE

As readers of the newsletter are aware, the Downtown Fresno Coalition has nominated the Fulton Mall for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. To understand the implications of what is to follow, it is important to understand that a property owned by a public entity, for example a city, can be listed despite the entity's opposition after being reviewed at the state and national level. A privately-owned property cannot be listed without the consent of the owner.

The Fulton Mall nomination was placed on the agenda of the July 25 meeting of the State Historical Resources Commission, but was removed as requested by the City of Fresno and placed on the agenda for the Commission's November 7 meeting.

As part of the prescribed nomination process our local Historic Preservation Commission must make a recommendation in support or opposition.

During the summer and early fall our local commission was concerning itself in certain respects with the nomination but delayed making a final recommendation.

In mid-October Karana Hattersley-Drayton, Fresno's Historic Preservation Project Manager, announced by email that a title search prompted by a question raised in an earlier commission meeting concluded that the city does not own the Fulton Mall in fee simple. Here is an excerpt from her email message:

As some of you may recall, at the August HPC meeting a member of the public raised the issue of actual ownership: normally cit-

ies only have easements for streets and the land itself is owned by adjacent property owners. Thus when a street or alley is abandoned, the right-of-way reverts back to the private property owners. The City then commissioned a title search which was only completed last Thursday due to the complexity of the issue (and the need to go back to early railroad records). The Title report indicated that the City did not have fee title to the actual Mall although the City obviously owns and manages the infrastructure on top. A technically [sic] perhaps but a legal one.

The Fulton Mall nomination was taken off the November agenda of the state commission, and the State Historic Preservation office is presumably making contact with the adjacent property owners on the Mall. The Downtown Fresno Coalition has not given up its goal of having the Mall listed and is looking into the matter further. We welcome any support or assistance.

Ray McKnight, Chair  
Downtown Fresno Coalition

**THOUGHTS AND IDEAS FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS:**  
Fresno needs and deserves a City Council that respects the history of the community and works to preserve the few remaining historic buildings existing.

### **Christmas Tree Fundraiser**

Support a great cause

**👏The Justin Woods Foundation👏**

**Is working to help find a cure for Muscular Dystrophy**  
And to send kids afflicted with MD to MDA Summer Camp  
Starting Date: November 28, 2008  
Location: Tackle Box Too  
29849 Hwy. 145 East of Tozer Bridge at the Y  
Madera, CA. 93636

For more Information contact:  
Sandy Smith (559) 351-4617 or (559) 674-4426

Douglas Fir, Noble Fir and Grand Fir Trees  
Priced from \$25.00 to \$90.00

A Miracle Just-In time for Justin and children like him  
Thank you, God bless and  
Merry Christmas

### **EATON PLAZA UPDATE**

Several months ago the City Council budgeted \$1.8 million for the second phase of the Eaton Plaza Master Plan. It appears that no progress has been made in putting those funds to work. Interested citizens might want to ask their Council Member and the new mayor to look into the matter.

### **Communicate!**

**Fresno County Board of Supervisors**  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301  
Hall of Records  
Fresno, CA 93721  
www.co.fresno.ca.us

**Fresno County Office of Education**  
1111 Van Ness Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 265-3010

**Fresno City Council**  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 621-8000  
(559) 621-7990 FAX  
www.fresno.gov

**Clovis City Council**  
1933 Fifth Street  
Clovis, CA 93612  
(559) 324-2010  
(559) 324-2940 FAX  
www.ci.clovis.ca.us

### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

Rick Case <i>Business Owner</i> <i>Food Processing Equipment</i>	Tou Long Lo <i>Hmong Community</i> <i>Leader</i>
Robert Dwyer <i>Certified Public</i> <i>Accountant</i>	Charles Royse <i>Retired Insurance</i> <i>Consultant</i>
Robert Dyer, AIA <i>Retired Principal</i> <i>Planner, City of Fresno</i>	Ray McKnight <i>Retired Educator</i>
FresYes <i>Website Coordinator</i>	Dianna Stansell <i>Administrator</i>



**YES,** I want to help improve our quality of life in Fresno County.  
Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution:

- \$10       \$50       \$200       \$1000  
 \$25       \$100       \$500       Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Eve) \_\_\_\_\_

(Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(E-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT** 1000 Friends of Fresno is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization.  
All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Please send this form with your check or money order to: 1000 Friends of Fresno, 4781 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726, (559) 291-2261, Fax (559) 291-4991

**THOUGHTS AND IDEAS FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY:**

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**HELPING US INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP, HELPS OUR COMMUNITY.**

Please list two (2) people (friends, relatives, business associates) whom we may send information to about 1000 Friends of Fresno.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Our Newsletters are now available by e-mail in PDF format.** Please e-mail 1000friends@sbcglobal.net to be put on the e-mailing list. This will help cut down on our postage expenses. Your addresses will not be shared with anyone.

Newsletter will be published Quarterly. We would appreciate help with copying, folding and stapling. Call or e-mail if you would like to help.

We are accepting articles for publication. Please e-mail or mail your articles to us.

- Dianna K. Stansell, Administrator