

Shape Our Fremont

Where Fremont residents can learn about shaping proposed housing developments...



Are We Better at 60?

Ten years ago, when The City of Fremont turned 50, it still had historical town centers, neighborhoods with character, and had yet to become urbanized.

Irvington Town Center had no 4-story buildings, Osgood Rd. had no plans for 5-story urban-density housing, tall housing didn't fill the fields along the railroad tracks, and The Connolly Center had not been "pruned" to make room for townhouses.

Mission San Jose had the old Brown barber shop building and the Tiny Tots building and not stucco office complexes right at its center.

Centerville's Central Ave. and Peralta Ave. were not yet fully lined with 3-story stucco townhouses right at the street.

Niles was not yet dreading the industrial-modern townhouse complex to be built at its Gateway.

The Ardenwood area did not have 500 houses being built at Patterson Ranch without the new school that had been in the initial plans.

Sabercat Neighborhood Center on AutoMall/Durham at 680 with its 158 condos in a 6-story mixed-use complex had not yet been approved.

Warm Springs still had a model-airplane field rather than a BART station and parcels desperately awaiting companies offering jobs.

Ramirez Family Farm's produce stand sold corn grown on the Guardino land on Walnut Ave. where a giant apartment complex is now proposed.

D&G Flowers and Produce market in north Fremont was busy at the corner of Fremont Blvd. and Beard St. where 45 of the 63 approved units are now under construction.

Nagata Brothers had just closed its produce stand on Mission Blvd. at Stevenson Blvd. where 77 townhouses will go up only 5 feet from the sidewalk.

Across the street, the Stevenson Place fields near Central Park had not yet been changed from Open Space to Residential where 80 Affordable Housing units are now planned.

When you hiked the Three Canyons Trail - that is now Sabercat Historical Park - you could look up at a wide pasture with its bright red 1920's dairy barn which is now replaced by 33 houses packed together on the hillside.

The InRoads Church on Washington Blvd. at Olive, the Church of Christ on Driscoll Rd. were places of worship in low buildings. They've now been replaced by tall townhouses that loom over the streets.

Historical Palmdale was a place filled with trees and was not going to be packed with stucco townhouses.

Apartments were affordable even though house prices approached record highs.

Most children could attend their neighborhood schools. Parents didn't have to drive their children to schools far across town. High school students could take the AP courses they were qualified for.

Traffic throughout Fremont was not so congested that you had to plan your day around it.

Parking was available for those from the suburban Fremont neighborhoods who drove to the center of town to shop or dine.

Infrastructure was in step with the level of new development.

Hundreds of trees had not yet been cut - or torn - down including heritage Canary Palms and Cedars.

The 1991 General Plan had not yet been replaced by the strategically urban 2011 General Plan.

Are we really happy with where The City of Fremont is headed? Do we really want to be a crowded city of tall townhouses, congested streets, and impacted schools? Are we really better off at 60?

To learn more about proposed residential developments in Fremont, go to www.ShapeOurFremont.com