



COMMUNITY

Meet Fremont's new traffic-calming mascot

A paved utility alley in lower Fremont has quickly become one of the neighborhood's newest attractions: a sprawling mural of Jimothy, the viral Ballard raccoon. Flyers on nearby poles point visitors there with a familiar mantra, "Stay Weird."

Creator Kelsey Hoffman, who lives on the alley, said the art wasn't only for beautification; it was meant to stop people from getting hurt. She said cut-through traffic worsened after nearby lane changes backed up Fremont Ave., sending frustrated drivers racing through the alley well above its 15 mph limit. Neighbor Bill Crossman wrote that drivers "RACE down the alley with determined abandon." The city said alleys don't qualify for speed bumps or signage.

So Hoffman turned to research showing painted patterns make a street feel narrower, slowing drivers naturally. She and neighbors painted Jimothy across the pavement. "It's really meant to be a thing the community can slow down and pause and have joy around," she said.

An adjacent rock garden honors Fawzi "Benny" Benhariz, a Fremont artist known for stacking rocks, who died a few years ago.

Not everyone is happy about the project. The Fremont Vista Homeowners Association, whose wall borders the alley, said it's weighing its options and seeking legal advice.

Find the mural in the alley behind 19 Gold, or search "Stay Weird Jimothy Mural" on Google Maps.



EVENTS

Introducing the digital light pole full of flyers



Ever feel like it's hard to find out what's happening in the neighborhood? Well, Fremont Neighbor has something for you: A DIGITAL LIGHT POLE FULL OF FLYERS. We've heard from readers that they want a comprehensive Fremont event calendar. We finally think we figured it out at fremontneighbor.com/events, which has everything from book groups to volunteering to shows!

If you notice an event missing, it's probably because someone only posted it to Instagram. (Meta loves its walled gardens, and that makes the event listing process difficult to automate.) Have an event to submit? Send the details to events@fremontneighbor.com, and we'll add it to the list. Take a look and send us your feedback; this is a work in progress.

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