



CITY OF FOLSOM  
**Newsletter**

## CITY OF FOLSOM FACES FISCAL CROSSROADS

The Folsom City Council recently directed staff to begin a public education effort to inform the community about the city's finances, projected structural deficit, and potential future impacts on the Folsom community. While the City of Folsom currently has a stable financial status, an Aa2 credit rating, and reserves in the rainy-day fund, significant fiscal challenges lie ahead.

At issue is the city's financial future, which relies heavily on the strength of its largest operating fund, the General Fund. That fund faces a financial shortfall that could impact public services and Folsom's local quality of life. The Folsom City Council continues to weigh options to address the city's structural deficit.

Amidst the projected structural deficit, the city faces compounding infrastructure and building maintenance needs that require a dedicated funding source. There is an estimated \$20 million annual shortfall in funding for public safety, street repairs, infrastructure improvements, park and facility repairs, equipment maintenance and replacements, trail maintenance and repairs, and staffing needs.

The city's General Fund no longer covers the cost of providing city services or maintaining the city's aging infrastructure. Even with Folsom's current sales tax, which makes up about 25% of the General Fund revenue annually, the city's five-year projection predicts its structural deficit will grow as the cost of delivering services outpaces revenue growth.

Learn more about the city's financial challenges at [www.folsom.ca.us/FinancialChallengesFAQ](http://www.folsom.ca.us/FinancialChallengesFAQ).

### SUMMER OF MUSIC JULY CONCERTS

The free Friday evening concert series continues July 12 with R&B band Innersoul and wraps up the season July 26 with rock band Modern Relics. The bands play from 7 to 9 p.m. in Folsom City Lions Park. Bring a picnic or purchase food and treats from a rotating selection of food trucks. Stay up to date on all concert details at [Facebook.com/FolsomParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/FolsomParksandRec). The Summer of Music series is presented by Folsom Parks & Recreation.

## AT A GLANCE

### NEW WASTE COLLECTION ROUTES

Starting the week of July 22, some Folsom households will have a new waste collection day.

### FOLSOM WATER VISION MEETING

The public is invited to attend the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 16.

### SUMMER FUN AT THE FOLSOM PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library hosts the Summer Reading Challenge and summertime programs and events.



The Folsom Fire Department offers these important tips to stay safe this Fourth of July:

- ▶ Be sure to purchase “Safe and Sane” fireworks that display the State Fire Marshal’s seal.
- ▶ Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- ▶ Always read the directions and warning labels on fireworks. If a device is not marked with instructions and a warning label, do not light it.
- ▶ When using legal fireworks, only set them off outdoors in a clear area that is away from homes, dry leaves, grass, and other flammable materials.
- ▶ Always supervise children around fireworks.
- ▶ Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- ▶ Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.
- ▶ Fireworks are prohibited in all city-owned properties and parks except at the Lembi Community Park parking lot. The use of fireworks on all trails and open spaces in the City of Folsom is prohibited.

### **KEEP IT SAFE, KEEP IT LEGAL**

The City of Folsom enforces stricter penalties for illegal fireworks usage. The Folsom City Council adopted a social host ordinance that levies \$1,000 fines against property owners that either use or allow the use of illegal fireworks on their property. Calls for service increase dramatically on July 4, and emergency response resources are stretched extremely thin. During the holiday weekend, use 9-1-1 for emergencies only, like an active fire, injury, or an immediate threat to people or property.

### **TO REPORT ILLEGAL FIREWORK USAGE**

- ▶ Email [fireworks@folsom.ca.us](mailto:fireworks@folsom.ca.us)
- ▶ Submit a Request via [SeeClickFix.com/folsom](https://SeeClickFix.com/folsom)

## **NEW WASTE COLLECTION ROUTES BEGIN IN JULY**

The City of Folsom Waste and Recycling Division is implementing new waste collection routes to operate and deliver services more efficiently. Beginning the week of July 22, some Folsom households will see their waste collection day change. Affected residents will receive a notification by mail. Updated collection schedules will also be available on the city’s waste collection app. Search “Folsom waste collection” in the Apple App and Google Play stores to download the app and view the schedule. For more information, visit [www.folsom.ca.us/wastecollection](http://www.folsom.ca.us/wastecollection).



## **VOLUNTEER FOR FOLSOM COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY**

The 11th Annual Community Service Day returns Saturday, September 21. Thousands of volunteers will complete dozens of service projects to make a positive, lasting impact throughout Folsom. The event is organized by the City of Folsom, local businesses, and community organizations. The annual event is made possible thanks to generous sponsorship support from Dignity Health, Lennar, Folsom Times, Lakeside Church, Style Media Group, and other members of the business and service community. Volunteer registration opens Friday, July 26; early registration is encouraged as project teams fill quickly. Learn more and register to volunteer at [folsomcommunityservice.org](http://folsomcommunityservice.org)

### **Neighbors Helping Seniors Initiative**

Supporting our neighbors is part of what makes the Folsom community special. The Community Service Day Neighbors Helping Seniors initiative aims to help local seniors in need of a helping hand. Projects can include gutter cleaning, weeding and pruning, exterior window cleaning, touch-up exterior painting, fence repair, and other similar light maintenance and repair tasks. Submit a Neighbors Helping Seniors project application by Friday, August 9 if you or a loved one need assistance. Find the online application and more information at [folsomcommunityservice.org](http://folsomcommunityservice.org).



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RETURNS AUGUST 6

National Night Out will be celebrated throughout Folsom and in cities around the country on Tuesday, August 6. It may look like potlucks and ice cream socials, but National Night Out events bring neighbors and first responders together to help build a safer community.

Want to participate? Get a group of neighbors together and gather on your driveway or street. Neighborhoods hosting celebrations are encouraged to register their National Night Out event by Wednesday, July 17 at [www.folsom.ca.us/police](http://www.folsom.ca.us/police). For more information, contact Police Volunteer Coordinator Jessica Hess at [916-461-6516](tel:916-461-6516) or [jhess@folsom.ca.us](mailto:jhess@folsom.ca.us).

## SUMMER SAFETY AND RULES OF THE ROAD FOR E-BIKES, E-SCOOTERS, AND E-MOTORCYCLES

Summer has arrived, which means more Folsom residents, including local students on summer break, are out enjoying the season on electric scooters, e-bikes, and electric motorcycles. Because these two-wheeled vehicles are self-propelled, they are subject to the California Vehicle Code.

Here are a few key rules to help riders stay safe. Failure to comply with these rules may result in citations and vehicle impoundment.

### All riders:

- ▶ Helmets are recommended for everyone and required for riders under 18.

### E-scooters:

- ▶ Riders must be 16 or older, have a California driver's license or instructional permit, and only ride solo.
- ▶ Stay off the sidewalks, and follow a speed limit of 15 mph.

### E-bikes:

- ▶ Class 1 and 2 e-bikes have no age restriction. Speed must be kept under 15 mph on trails and streets with 25 mph or lower limits.
- ▶ Class 3 riders must be 16 or older.

### E-motorcycles:

- ▶ Any electric-powered self-propelled device faster than 30 mph is considered an e-motorcycle.
- ▶ Riders need a California driver's license with an M1 or M2 endorsement and vehicle registration to ride on the street.
- ▶ No riding on trails, bike lanes, or sidewalks.

Let's make it a safe summer for everyone in Folsom! Find more information about these vehicles and the rules of the road at [www.folsom.ca.us/ebikes-escooters](http://www.folsom.ca.us/ebikes-escooters).

## FOLSOM RESIDENTS PUBLIC SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE QUALIFIES FOR NOVEMBER 2024 BALLOT

At its May 28 meeting, the Folsom City Council approved Resolution No. 11207, a legally required action to place the citizen-led Folsom Residents Public Safety and Quality of Life Initiative on the November 2024 ballot, allowing voters to decide on a special sales tax to fund city services and other critical needs.

Ballot Measure G, titled the "Folsom Residents Public Safety and Quality of Life Act," seeks to increase the sales tax rate in the city by one percent (i.e., one cent on every dollar spent). All funds generated by the proposed measure would stay in Folsom to provide essential city services, programming, and infrastructure improvements.

Measure G proposes a 1 cent sales tax increase where all funds would be deposited into a special city account separate from the General Fund for the city to use only for the following specific purposes:

- ▶ Police and crime reduction.
- ▶ Fire, rescue, and emergency medical services.
- ▶ Parks, recreation facilities, and trails.
- ▶ Traffic mitigation and environmental water quality.
- ▶ Community enhancement and economic development.
- ▶ Major capital improvement projects.

To pass, Measure G must receive approval from a majority of Folsom voters (50% + 1) who vote on the measure in the November 5, 2024 Election. Learn more about Measure G at [www.folsom.ca.us/elections](http://www.folsom.ca.us/elections).



## JOIN THE FOLSOM COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Volunteer with the Folsom Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and become vital to our community's emergency response efforts. During major incidents in Folsom and the surrounding areas, CERT volunteers support firefighters, police, and other first responders. Additionally, CERT volunteers provide essential community training on disaster preparedness and response.

### How to Join

The first step to joining the team is to attend CERT training. This comprehensive program covers:

- ▶ Assisting family members and neighbors before emergency responders arrive.
- ▶ Disaster preparedness.
- ▶ First aid.
- ▶ Search and rescue.
- ▶ Emergency response plans.

Upon completing the training and passing a background check, participants may be eligible to volunteer for CERT.

### Upcoming Training

The Fall 2024 CERT Basic Academy begins August 29.

### Eligibility

The CERT training course is free. Participants must be age 18 or older, and preference is given to applicants who live or work in Folsom. For more information and to register, email [contact@folsomcert.org](mailto:contact@folsomcert.org).



## 2024 SUMMER READING PROGRAM CONTINUES

There's still time to join the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge! Sign up to read or listen to five books through July. Kids and teens completing the challenge win a free book, a book bag, and entry into a drawing for a \$100 gift card. Adults reading five books earn a book bag and an entry into the drawing. Participate by picking up the challenge's bingo-style game card at the library or track your summer reading using the library's Beanstack app.



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Pokémon Party

Thursday, July 11, 2 to 4 p.m.

Join the Library for Pokémon themed games, crafts, and a card swap!

#### Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Thursday, July 18, 4 to 5 p.m.

Bring a stuffed animal to the Library for an overnight stay, and pick it up the next morning!

### ONGOING SUMMER ACTIVITIES:

**Family Movie Matinee:** Every Friday in July at 11:30 a.m.

**Kids Crafter-Noons:** Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. Ages 5-12.

**Summer Dance Parties:** Every Wednesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. Ages 2-6.

#### Daily Storytimes:

Tuesday and Wednesday: 10 and 11 a.m.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: 10:30 a.m.

Learn more at [www.folsom.ca.us/library](http://www.folsom.ca.us/library).

## FROM THE ARCHIVES: FOLSOM'S FIERY PAST

Throughout the 19th century, Folsom was plagued by frequent fires, which were particularly devastating to Sutter Street and the surrounding areas due to the lack of a water supply until the 1890s. In 1886, a significant fire razed a block of buildings in Chinatown, leading to widespread destruction of shops. Reconstruction efforts focused on using brick and stone to prevent future blazes. The Folsom Hook and Ladder Company, formed in 1857, initially protected the Sutter Street area and later evolved into the town's official fire department. Their base, Firemen's Hall, stood on the corner of Sutter Street and Wool Street. To learn more about Folsom's rich history, visit the Folsom History Museum at 823 Sutter Street or at [folsomhistory.org](http://folsomhistory.org).



The city's General Plan calls for the preparation of a River District Master Plan to activate Folsom's expansive waterfront for improved access, recreation, and economic development.

Since August 2023, a citizens advisory committee appointed by the Folsom City Council has been meeting regularly to identify numerous opportunities to fulfill the General Plan objectives. Priorities include:

- ▶ Preserve and protect cultural, environmental, and historical resources.
- ▶ Increase interpretive and wayfinding amenities.
- ▶ Expand and connect trails.
- ▶ Enhance resident and visitor experiences.
- ▶ Ensure improvements are sensitively planned and designed.

For upcoming meetings and more information, visit [www.folsom.ca.us/RiverDistrict](http://www.folsom.ca.us/RiverDistrict).

## FREE FAMILY SWIM AND MOVIE NIGHT AT THE AQUATIC CENTER

The Steve Miklos Aquatic Center hosts an evening of family fun from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, August 3. Guests can cool off before the movie from 6:30 to 8 p.m. with free access to the pools, diving boards, water slide, play structure, and inflatable obstacle courses. The outdoor screening of a family-friendly movie begins after dark (approximately 8:30 p.m.). The Aquatic Center is located at 1200 Riley Street; call **916-461-6640** for more details.

## PLANNING A RESILIENT AND RELIABLE WATER FUTURE

The Folsom Water Vision project is a planning effort to guide the management of the city's water resources over the next 50 years. The project will help the city evaluate water supply alternatives to proactively plan for increased droughts, flood events, rising temperatures, and other challenges.

The community is encouraged to attend the third in a series of meetings to learn about the project and share needs, interests, and goals for creating a resilient water future.

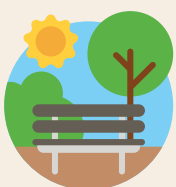
### Folsom Water Vision Meeting

Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Folsom Police Department Training Room  
46 Natoma Street, Folsom

For more information, visit

[www.folsom.ca.us/watervision](http://www.folsom.ca.us/watervision).



## JULY IS PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER! MONTH

The month of July is designated as a nationwide celebration recognizing the importance of parks and recreation for residents, communities, and the environment. Folsom residents can join the celebration by taking time to enjoy the city's abundance of outdoor spaces, waterways, parks, trails, and recreational programs. Find information about summer day camps, events, and programs for all ages in the digital Rec Guide at [www.folsom.ca.us/recguide](http://www.folsom.ca.us/recguide).



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DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE



The City of Folsom residential Green Bin Program, introduced in 2022 to comply with SB 1383, has reached a milestone as the city recognizes the program's second anniversary.

Since the program's inception, participation has steadily increased. Since July 2022, Folsom residents and businesses have collectively diverted over 25,000 tons of organic material from the landfill!

Residents are encouraged to continue the progress by collecting food scraps and food-soiled paper in a clear plastic or compostable bag and tossing it in their Green Bin, along with loose yard trimmings for weekly pick up. This diversion not only provides a valuable feedstock for compost production but also helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Folsom residents can benefit from the city's commitment to sustainability. Free compost and mulch are available year-round at two locations: behind City Hall at 50 Natoma Street and at the Hinkle Creek Nature Trail, next to Fire Station 36 at 9700 Oak Avenue Parkway.

Thank you for helping make the City of Folsom Organics Recycling Program a success!

Learn more at [www.folsom.ca.us/organics](http://www.folsom.ca.us/organics).



## LEAD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM: CHECK YOUR WATER PIPES

The City of Folsom is asking residents to check their drinking water pipes as part of a nationwide effort to locate and remove lead service pipes within water systems. The city is completing the service line inventory to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

### Why does the city need this information?

- ▶ The survey will allow the city to document the presence or absence of lead service pipes in the water system.

### About your drinking water.

- ▶ Your drinking water is free of lead when it leaves the water treatment plant. However, water can absorb lead if it travels through lead pipes on your property.
- ▶ The city only maintains a portion of the service line, and each homeowner is responsible for the other portion that goes into your home's structure.

### Who should complete the survey?

- ▶ Residents living in homes built before 1986 should complete the survey.
- ▶ Residents living in homes built after 1986 do not need to fill out the survey. The EPA banned the use of lead materials (pipe and solder) for drinking water distribution in 1986.

### How do I complete the survey?

Complete the survey at [www.folsom.ca.us/waterpipesurvey](http://www.folsom.ca.us/waterpipesurvey).