

CITY NEWS

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020 FOLSOM NEWSLETTER



FOLSOM, CALIFORNIA — INCORPORATED 1946

CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

Folsom Pays Tribute to the Nation's Veterans

Although the traditional parade will not take place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Folsom will still pay tribute to the nation's veterans. On Wednesday, November 11, watch a Veterans Day Commemoration at 9 a.m. on www.facebook.com/FolsomParksandRec. The short video will include segments from past years' parades and brief interviews with local veterans. This



year's honorary Grand Marshal is Ernie Sheldon. Prior to his many years as a member of the Folsom City Council, Ernie served 33 years in the U.S. Air Force. He retired as a much-decorated lieutenant colonel, with a Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and an Air Force Commendation medal with five clusters. Ernie led the effort to expand Folsom's Veterans

Day Parade, making it one of the largest in the region. He also spearheaded the planning, construction, and design of the city's Veterans Memorial in City Lions Park, behind the library.

FREE COVID-19 TESTING

The Sacramento County Department of Health Services is partnering with UC Davis Health and Folsom-based biotech company StemExpress to provide Community-Based Testing Sites for free COVID-19 testing by appointment for Sacramento County residents. Test results are guaranteed a 72-hour turnaround time, and the process is easy.

- Each site has 200 – 300 test appointments per day.
- Free tests to Sacramento County residents regardless of insurance or citizenship status.
- Testing is available for children 2 years or older.
- Test results within 72 hours (even on weekends).

The Folsom COVID-19 community testing site is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Wednesday at Oak Hills Church, 1100 Blue Ravine Road. To find a testing site and schedule an appointment, visit www.saccounty.net/covid-19.

SUPPORT LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Now more than ever it is important that we support our local Folsom businesses. When we shop local, we ensure the economic impact of our purchases stays local.

Shopping locally supports the local economy, promotes a thriving community, and contributes to a high quality of life in Folsom. Dollars you spend in Folsom fund vital public services, such as police, fire, schools, trash collection and recycling, road maintenance, and parks. When you shop online, a smaller percentage of the sales tax is invested locally.

A new #WeSupportFolsom campaign encourages shopping and dining locally and promotes all the benefits of supporting our Folsom businesses. Share your Folsom pride and learn more at www.wesupportfolsom.com.





School Break Activities

Folsom Parks & Recreation provides a variety of activities for kids and teens who are out of school for the holiday breaks. A range of sports-focused camps and Junior Zookeeper Camp offer in-person supervised activities in accordance with current public health guidelines. The Folsom Skate and Bike Parks at Cummings Family Park will offer some extended hours. The Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary will be open weekends from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; advance online tickets are required. Find more information and a wide range of current programs in the November/December digital Rec Guide at www.folsom.ca.us/recguide.

CITY OF FOLSOM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The city began the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATP) process with the selected consultant, Alta Planning + Design, in August. The ATP will combine and update the master plans for Folsom's pedestrian and bicycle facilities. It will also guide the planning, development, and maintenance of existing and future bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the city, including recommended citywide active transportation network improvements and Safe Routes to School. The purpose of the ATP is to increase bicycling and walking opportunities through the creation of a safe, connected, convenient, and visible active transportation network.

A key component of the ATP process includes an extensive public outreach program with key stakeholder groups and the community. Careful analysis will help ensure the city builds a sustainable active transportation system network that best serves all bicycle and pedestrian facility users citywide, particularly around activity centers like schools, parks, and commercial areas. The ATP is a vital step to increase walking, biking, and non-motorized opportunities throughout Folsom, and to increase safety, mobility, connectivity, and access for all roadway and trail users. The new ATP will make specific recommendations

for strategies, actions, projects, and programs to improve the pedestrian and bicycle environment.

The new ATP will also assist the city in achieving the goals and policies set forth in the General Plan and Climate Action Plan. This planning process will allow the city to better align infrastructure investment with community-based projects. Folsom residents who would like to be involved with the planning process can contact City of Folsom Senior Trails Planner Brett Bollinger at 916-461-6632 or bbollinger@folsom.ca.us to receive notification of upcoming ATP events and communications.



FOLSOM WATER QUALITY EVALUATION REPORT AND ANALYSIS

The City of Folsom Environmental and Water Resources Department received the completed investigation report October 16 from consultant Black & Veatch related to pinhole plumbing leaks in Folsom. The analysis indicates the city meets all State and Federal drinking water standards; however, the purity of Folsom's water combined with a pH above 9.0 and chlorine use could contribute to pitting of copper pipe, especially at sites with impurities in the pipe material or where particulate has settled. Based on the recommendation from Black & Veatch, the city began adding orthophosphate into its water treatment process as a corrosion inhibitor.

To learn more and read the full report, visit www.folsom.ca.us/pinholeleaks.



HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS THAT HELP THE ZOO SANCTUARY ANIMALS

Although we are unable to host guests this year for our annual Thanksgiving Feast for the Animals event, each zoo sanctuary resident will still receive a special holiday feast. You can take part by sponsoring their meal! Choose your favorite animal to sponsor and receive a special photo of them devouring their feast. If you prefer to watch the action, you can choose to receive a personalized video to share with your friends and family. Find details at webtrac.folsom.ca.us.

You can help support the animals by shopping on the zoo sanctuary's new online gift shop at webtrac.folsom.ca.us. Find unique gift items for the special people on your holiday shopping list or purchase an honorary animal adoption in their name. Honor a beloved individual, your family, or a special occasion by purchasing a Legacy Leaf on the Giving Tree at the Barnyard Experience. Proceeds benefit the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary Friends, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of the animals. Visit folsomzoofriends.org/givingtree.

The Wild Nights and Holiday Lights event has been canceled out of an abundance of caution for our staff, guests, and animals. We thank you for your patience and support, and we look forward to resuming this beloved community event in 2021.

Annual Holiday Toy Drive

Help families in need right here in our community this holiday season. The Citizens Assisting Public Safety (CAPS), in partnership with the Folsom Police and Fire departments, are collecting items through December 4 for the annual holiday toy drive. The toys and gifts collected are delivered to Folsom families in need by police and fire personnel in the days before the holidays.

Here are two ways you can help:

- Make a wish come true. Select a wish to fill from the virtual Christmas Tree at www.folsomtoidrive.com. To fill the specific wish of a child, choose to receive an Amazon Wish List or shop for the item locally.
- Bring a gift of your choosing for a child, teen, or adult. New, unopened, and unwrapped toys, as well as new clothing or gift cards, may be dropped off at the Folsom Fire Department Station #35, located at 535 Glenn Drive, or other designated toy drop-off locations

For additional details and designated toy drop-off locations, visit www.folsomtoidrive.com. Contact Jessica Hess at 916-461-6516 or jhess@folsom.ca.us for more information.



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The annual Christmas tree recycling drop-off event will be held Saturday, January 9. Face masks/cloth face coverings are required, and social distancing must be maintained. Trees will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rodeo Park at the end of Stafford Street. All ornaments, tinsel, lights, nails, and stands must be removed before dropping off a tree. Community organizations will collect trees throughout the city as part of their fundraising activities. Residents may also recycle Christmas trees in their green waste bins. Trees must be cut into pieces no larger than two feet in length and four inches in diameter, and the lid must close completely to receive service.

HOLIDAY WASTE SERVICES

There is no change to waste collection schedules on holidays – if your regular garbage day lands on a holiday, continue to place your cans curbside by 6 a.m. To set up waste collection reminders or access your recycling pickup schedule, visit www.folsom.ca.us/wastecollection or download the free Folsom Waste Collection app from your favorite app store.





Folsom's Oak Parkway Trail Undercrossing Named Project of the Year

The Sacramento Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) selected Folsom's Oak Parkway Trail Undercrossing as the 2020 Project of the Year in the Parks & Trails category. The annual APWA awards program recognizes public works projects that demonstrate overall excellence in project administration, design, sustainability, community relations, and construction.

The city opened the Oak Parkway Trail Undercrossing for public use in fall of 2019. It provides a seamless and safe route for trail

users to transition between two of the city's major trailways – the Oak Parkway and the Johnny Cash trails. It provides cyclists and pedestrians traffic-free access to Folsom's rich Historic District and the regional American River Parkway corridor from the southern parts of the city.

The project also included improvements along E. Natoma Street – traffic barriers, buffered Class II bike lanes, and wide sidewalks on both sides of the street – which contribute to motorist, pedestrian, and cyclist safety.

FIRE PREVENTION WORK ALONG OAK PARKWAY TRAIL

Due to recent wildfires in California, PG&E has expanded their vegetation management programs to include increased distances between their power lines and trees. As a result, Folsom residents and trail users will

likely see an increase in tree removals within PG&E's utility corridors. This new tree removal threshold was used by PG&E in June when they removed a large heritage valley oak tree behind St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, along the Oak Parkway Trail.

PG&E has notified the City of Folsom that additional large tree removals

along the Oak Parkway Trail are planned. The city is working with PG&E to ensure disruptions and closures of trails are kept to a minimum. Residents and trails users with questions or concerns about PG&E's activities should call their customer service department at 1-800-743-5000.

REDUCE WASTE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Help Folsom reduce trash going to the landfill this holiday season.

Place in your recycle can:

- Wrapping paper, tissue, cards, and envelopes
- Food and beverage containers (clean and dry)
- Cardboard boxes (flattened, clean and dry, small enough to fall freely from the can and for the lid to close completely)

Place in your trash can:

- Metallic paper (including tissue with metallic trim)
- Vinyl or mylar wrapping
- Styrofoam
- Ribbons and bows (reuse whenever possible)

Use the online Waste Wizard to find out whether a material can be reused, recycled, composted, or placed in the garbage. Learn more at www.folsom.ca.us/wastecollection.

JOIN THE WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Winter is the perfect time to curl up with a good book. The Folsom Public Library invites you to join the Winter Reading Challenge from December 1 through January 31. Each age group of kids, teens, and adults have a chance to win a prize pack bundle of books. To complete the challenge and enter the drawing, simply read five books and log your progress on folsom.beanstack.org. The Winter Reading Challenge is for ages 5+. Learn more at www.folsom.ca.us/library.

Folsom Police Department Offers Vacation Checks

Leaving town for the holidays? The Folsom Police Department Citizens Assisting Public Safety (CAPS) volunteers will check the exterior of your home while you're away. As often as once a day, a CAPS volunteer will walk the perimeter of your home, check doors and windows to make sure they are locked, and remove any flyers or packages from the front porch. If CAPS volunteers see a problem, they'll notify you and, if appropriate, will have a police officer respond. Vacation checks are offered free of charge to Folsom residents.



For more information or to register for vacation check services online, visit www.folsom.ca.us/vacationchecks.

HELP KEEP GUTTERS AND STORM DRAINS FREE OF LEAVES

The City of Folsom Public Works Department continues to diligently work at clearing gutters and storm drain inlets of fallen leaves. When leaves accumulate on the street, it is challenging for street sweepers to pick up the leaves, which can clog storm drain inlets and cause localized flooding. Here's how you can help:

- Avoid sweeping or blowing leaves into ditches or streets.

- Clear leaves from gutters and storm drains in front of your home or place of business and place them in your green waste container, if possible.
- Keep sidewalks clear of leaves and other debris.

If there is a storm drain inlet that is difficult to clear, or you would like to report a storm drain issue, call the Public Works Street Department at 916-461-6722.

KEEP PIPES FREE OF FATS, OILS, AND GREASE

To help prevent clogged sewer pipes and backups, properly dispose of items containing fats, oils, and grease (FOG)—like fatty meat scraps, gravies, cream, butter, and oils.

- **Can It!** Pour solidified fats and grease into a sturdy container and place it in your garbage.
- **Scrape It!** Before you wash pots and pans, scrape out fats and grease into your garbage.
- **Trash It!** Put fatty and greasy food scraps in the garbage. You

can recycle cooking oil by pouring the cooled oil back into the original container and scheduling an appointment to have it picked up with the city's Door 2 Door Residential Household Hazardous Waste Collection program. Visit www.folsom.ca.us/wastecollection or call 916-461-6730 to schedule an appointment.

Learn more about how to prevent grease-related sewer blockages and overflows at www.folsom.ca.us/FOG.

DIWALI FIREWORKS SAFETY

The Indian festival of Diwali or Deepavali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is traditionally celebrated with the use of fireworks. The use of approved fireworks in conjunction with this festival may occur between noon Saturday, November 14 through 9 p.m. Sunday, November 15.

The City of Folsom Fire Department is asking the public to take the following precautions when using fireworks during the festival period:

- Make sure all fireworks have the California State Fire Marshal "Safe and Sane" seal.
- The use of fireworks for this celebration must be conducted under adult supervision at all times.
- Have a bucket of water, sand, or garden hose available where fireworks are being used.
- Read all instructions before use.
- Never alter, modify, or enhance fireworks — use only in the manner intended.
- Make sure fireworks have proper clearance from flammable materials including dry grass and brush.

The use of dangerous and illegal fireworks are prohibited within all areas of the City of Folsom. Learn more at www.folsom.ca.us/fire.



**50 Natoma Street
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GALLERY AT 48 NATOMA NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BY ADVANCE RESERVATION

The gallery features the new exhibit, "Teatime," with oil paintings by Victoria Brooks, mosaics by Martha Jones, and ceramics by instructors and students in the Folsom Art Center ceramics program. The adjacent Community Exhibition Gallery features the exhibit, "Quartz Quilters," with teatime-themed fiber arts. The exhibits continue through early January; both galleries are located in the Folsom Art Center, 48 Natoma Street.

Free, self-guided tours are available for individuals or small groups with an advance reservation only. Reservations are available for a variety of days and times; call 916-461-6611 or email cabraham@folsom.ca.us to learn more and make reservations.

The Gallery at 48 Natoma is operating in accordance with current public health guidelines; all visitors and staff are required to wear a face covering while inside the building and maintain social distancing at all times.



HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

The Housing Element of the City of Folsom General Plan identifies housing needs and establishes clear goals and objectives to inform future housing decisions in the city. The State requires that the Housing Element be updated every eight years, and that it must demonstrate the city has sufficient capacity to accommodate the number of housing units identified in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. City of Folsom Planning staff will release the Draft Housing Element for public review and comment this November, and Planning Commission and City Council public hearings will be scheduled shortly after. Visit www.folsomhousingelement.com for additional details on how you can be involved in the Housing Element update process.



YOUTH CAN RIDE SACRT FOR FREE

Sacramento Regional Transit's RydeFreeRT program offers fare-free transit for youth and students in grades TK through 12. With RydeFreeRT, youth can ride the entire SacRT transit network, including SacRT buses, light rail, and SmaRT Ride on-demand microtransit service for free! RydeFreeRT is available all day, any day of the week, all year during regular SacRT service hours. The program has been extended through September 2021. Learn more at www.sacrt.com/rydefreert.

WINTER IRRIGATION TIPS

Did you know that landscapes are our largest consumer of water? You can save a substantial amount of water by turning off your sprinklers when the rain begins.

Cooler temperatures and shorter days mean less growth and additional watering is unnecessary, and seasonal rains will provide all the water needed.

Too much water leads to shallow root growth and shallow roots lead to stressed landscapes and increased water use in the spring and summer.

Need help? Contact the city's Water Conservation Team and schedule a free Water-Wise House Call – the water conservation experts will meet with you in person and help you determine the best way to water your landscaping.

Make an appointment at waterconservation@folsom.ca.us or call 916-461-6174.

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