

# CITY NEWS

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2021 FOLSOM NEWSLETTER



FOLSOM, CALIFORNIA — INCORPORATED 1946

CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE



## Wild Nights and Holiday Lights at the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary

This annual family event returns with its popular seasonal cheer! Thousands of bright and colorful lights, sparkling ornaments and trees, lighted animal figures, and displays transform the zoo sanctuary with holiday spirit. Santa Paws, the zoo sanctuary bear mascot, will be on hand each night to welcome guests. Local caroling groups and musicians provide the merry sounds of the season, and the Folsom Valley Railway miniature train provides special nighttime rides.

Zookeepers will provide enrichment for a variety of the animals that enjoy being out in their exhibit spaces at night, and volunteer docents will share fun facts and stories about the animals. Wild Nights and Holiday Lights is open from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. December 10–12 and December 17–23 (weather permitting; heavy rains will cancel). All proceeds from the event benefit the zoo sanctuary.

To provide an enhanced experience for guests, admission is limited to 2,000 people per night of the event and tickets are date-specific. Train tickets are \$5/person and limited to the first 600 people per night and are date-specific. Admission and train rides are free for ages under 2 years.

Admission to the event is \$10/person; save time and avoid waiting in line by purchasing tickets in advance starting November 5 at [webtrac.folsom.ca.us](http://webtrac.folsom.ca.us). Advance tickets may also be purchased at the Folsom Parks & Recreation registration counter, 48 Natoma Street (open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday). If admission spaces are still available for a date, in-person ticket sales at the gate are \$10/person. Follow [facebook.com/FolsomParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/FolsomParksandRec) for daily event updates, ticket availability, and potential weather-related schedule changes. Call 916-461-6601 for questions.

## FOLSOM VETERANS DAY PARADE

The city pays tribute to the nation's veterans at the 21st annual Wayne Spence Folsom Veterans Day Parade Thursday, November 11. The parade is held rain or shine and begins at 9 a.m. on East Bidwell Street in front of the Target/Home Goods shopping center and ends at Folsom City Lions Park. This year's parade lineup includes marching bands, floats, classic cars, horseback riders, color guards, and a variety of community groups. Call 916-461-6615 with questions about the parade.





## JOIN THE FOLSOM ZOO SANCTUARY VOLUNTEER DOCENT PROGRAM

The zoo sanctuary is excited to announce the return of its long-awaited docent training class! Docents serve a vital role in helping to promote the zoo sanctuary's educational mission, host school tours, interact with the public at community events, help with youth camps, and assist at a variety of special events. The docent training class is only offered once each year; the 2022 session begins February 14 and continues through March 21. Docents must be at least age 21, complete a volunteer application, and pass a background security check. Register online at [webtrac.folsom.ca.us](http://webtrac.folsom.ca.us); contact Sue Bean at 916-715-8610 for more information.

## 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 ages 5+, teens, and adults have a chance to win a prize. To complete the challenge and enter the drawing, simply read five books and log your progress on [folsom.beanstack.org](http://folsom.beanstack.org). Learn more at [www.folsom.ca.us/library](http://www.folsom.ca.us/library).

## CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

The Folsom City Council recently adopted the 2021-2029 Housing Element, which outlines how the city will meet its growing housing demand over the next eight years. The updated Housing Element sets goals, policies, and programs that focus on expanding the housing stock and offer a wider range of housing choices for everyone in the city.

*Priority strategies include:*

- Increase the maximum number of multi-family housing units permitted in targeted areas of the city, including East Bidwell Street, the Folsom Plan Area Town Center, and near Light Rail stations.
- Facilitate affordable housing development on city-owned land.
- Encourage accessory dwelling unit (ADU) construction.
- Establish clear and measurable design standards for multi-family housing to streamline and simplify the design review process.



Learn more about the updated City of Folsom Housing Element at [www.folsomhousingelement.com](http://www.folsomhousingelement.com).

## CITY OF FOLSOM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Active Transportation Plan (ATP) will combine and update the master plans for both pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the City of Folsom. The ATP will 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 city began the process in August, and the ATP is currently in the Draft Goals, Objectives, and Policies phase. This phase will begin to develop ATP project recommendations. Residents and other interested members of the public can provide input by adding comments to the online project map at [walkbiketrailsfolsom.com](http://walkbiketrailsfolsom.com). The Goals, Objectives and Policies, and Draft Recommendations will be revised based on the public feedback and the final content will be incorporated into the ATP project prioritization and administrative draft plan.

The public can also provide input by attending a mobile workshop or public outreach event later this fall. Contact Brett Bollinger, City of Folsom Senior Trails Planner, at [bbollinger@folsom.ca.us](mailto:bbollinger@folsom.ca.us) to receive notifications and information about upcoming events and plan updates, and to submit questions or comments about the project.





# Shop and Dine Local this Holiday Season

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY IS NOVEMBER 27**

Shopping and dining locally supports the local economy, promotes a thriving community, and contributes to a high quality of life in Folsom. Dollars you spend in Folsom help fund vital public services, such as police, fire, schools, trash collection and recycling, and road maintenance, plus amenities such as parks, the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary, and the Folsom Public Library. When you shop online, a smaller percentage of the sales tax is invested locally. Make sales tax dollars work for you and your community this holiday season! Learn more at [wesupportfolsom.com](http://wesupportfolsom.com).

**I SUPPORT  
LOCAL  
FOLSOM  
BUSINESSES**



## CITY SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR FOLSOM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Help protect and enhance the historic and cultural character of Folsom's treasured Historic District. Historic District residents, historic preservationists, and Sutter Street subarea business owners in the Folsom Historic District are encouraged to apply for the commission.

The commission is responsible for reviewing the design and architecture of new or altered structures within the Historic District, as well as applications for sign permits, conditional use permits, variances, land divisions, and land mergers within the district. In addition, the Historic District Commission advises and makes recommendations to the City Council concerning matters associated with historic landmarks, sites, and structures.

Visit [www.folsom.ca.us](http://www.folsom.ca.us) to learn more and apply. Applications are due November 30.



# Folsom Tree Lighting Events

The Folsom community has two great options for family-friendly holiday tree lighting events. Palladio's tree lighting takes place 5 p.m. Sunday, November 28 and the Historic District tree lighting event begins at 6 p.m. Friday, December 3. Enjoy the spirit of the holidays in Folsom!

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The annual Christmas tree recycling drop-off event returns Saturday, January 8. Trees will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 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.

The trees will be recycled and converted into mulch, which adds nutrients into the soil and helps it to retain water.

In addition, community organizations will collect trees throughout the city as part of their fundraising activities. Residents may also recycle Christmas trees in the 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.

As a reminder, the city collects garbage, green waste, and recycling on all holidays, so place cans out on your normal collection day.

## FOLSOM HISTORIC DISTRICT ICE RINK RETURNS

Lace up your skates and enjoy the holiday magic at the Folsom Historic District Ice Rink. Folsom's beloved ice rink encircles the historic railroad turntable and a tall, decorated Christmas tree. The Folsom Ice Rink returns November 11 and will be open from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily, including Christmas Day. Learn more at [www.folsomicerink.com](http://www.folsomicerink.com).



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

The Folsom Citizens Assisting Public Safety (CAPS), in partnership with the Folsom Police and Fire departments, are collecting items for the annual 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. The program begins Friday, November 12.



*Here are two ways you can help:*

- Make a wish come true. You can select a wish to fill from the virtual Christmas Tree. To fill the specific wish of a child, choose to receive an Amazon Wish List or shop for the item locally. Visit [www.folsomtoydrive.com](http://www.folsomtoydrive.com) for more information.
- 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 Folsom Fire Department Station #35, located at 535 Glenn Drive, or the Folsom Police Department, at 46 Natoma Street, or other designated toy drop-off locations.

The annual program helps hundreds of community members annually. Visit [www.folsomtoydrive.com](http://www.folsomtoydrive.com) for additional details and designated toy drop-off locations. Contact Jessica Hess at 916-461-6516 or [jhess@folsom.ca.us](mailto:jhess@folsom.ca.us) for more information.



## REDUCE FOOD WASTE OVER THE HOLIDAYS

As we celebrate the holidays, the City of Folsom Solid Waste Division encourages residents to consider the environment when planning holiday meals and be mindful about wasting food.

More food reaches landfills than any other material in everyday trash. This wasted food contributes to landfills being the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the U.S. By reducing the amount of food wasted, together we can protect human health and the environment.

### *Holiday Food Waste Reduction Tips*

- Plan your shopping trips. Create and stick to shopping lists.
- “Shop” the refrigerator and pantry first, so that food does not go to waste and shopping needs are reduced.
- Plan an “eat the leftovers” night as a great way to use holiday meal ingredients and leftovers.
- “Befriend” the freezer. Freeze extra food such as side dishes or meat.
- Consider sharing extra food with family or donating unopened, non-perishable food items to a local food bank.

## DON'T LET FATS, OILS, AND GREASE (FOG) RUIN YOUR HOLIDAY CHEER

It's the time of year for family and friends to come together and enjoy a delicious meal. After all that meal planning and prepping, the last thing anyone wants is a messy, costly sewer backup—a guaranteed way to ruin the holiday cheer.

*To help prevent backups, properly dispose of FOG with these four easy steps:*

- **Can It** - Pour solidified fats and grease into a sturdy container and place it in your garbage.
- **Scrape It** - Before washing, scrape out fats, oils, and grease from pots and pans into your garbage.
- **Trash It** - Put fatty and greasy food scraps in the garbage.
- **Recycle It** - Place cooled cooking oil back into the original container and make an appointment to have it picked up through the City of Folsom Door-2-Door residential household hazardous waste program.

For more information, call 916-461-6177 or visit [www.folsom.ca.us/FOG](http://www.folsom.ca.us/FOG).

# New Water Conservation Rebates

The City of Folsom offers two new programs designed to help the community be more efficient with water use. Folsom is under a Stage 3 water conservation warning, and water customers are required to reduce water use by 20%.

- **The Cash for Grass** Turf Replacement Rebate Program provides incentives to City of Folsom water customers for converting water-thirsty lawns to water-efficient landscapes. The City of Folsom will rebate customers \$1 per square foot

of grass removed and replaced with a water-efficient landscape, up to \$2,000 per address.

- **A Flume Smart Home Water Monitor** works with any water meter and is easily self-installed in minutes. The corresponding app allows users to virtually view and monitor indoor and outdoor water use from anywhere, at any time. This increased visibility provides complete home protection by catching and alerting users of leaks as they happen. The city is offering

residents a rebate to purchase the device for \$75 plus tax (a nearly 63% savings). Once installed and activated, the customer will also receive a \$25 refund from Flume.

Learn more about rebates at [www.folsom.ca.us/rebates](http://www.folsom.ca.us/rebates). Contact the Water Conservation Division at 916-461-6177 or [waterconservation@folsom.ca.us](mailto:waterconservation@folsom.ca.us) for more details and assistance.





50 Natoma Street  
Folsom, CA 95630

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FOLSOM POSTAL CUSTOMER

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### KEEP GUTTERS AND STORM DRAINS FREE OF FALLEN LEAVES

Ensure the drains are clear before the rain appears! 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 residents can help:

- Avoid sweeping or blowing leaves into ditches or streets.
- Clear leaves from gutters and storm drains and place them in your green waste container.
- 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.

# Proposed Solid Waste Utility Rate Increases

SB 1383 was signed into California law in 2016 as part of the state's broader effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Organic material such as food waste, yard waste, and paper products make up half of what is disposed of in California landfills. The decomposition of this material in landfills is the third-largest source of methane gas in California.

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is working with jurisdictions, including the City of Folsom, to divert up to 26 million tons of organic material from landfills annually by 2025 to reduce methane emissions and support the state's climate goals.

The state-mandated programs required by SB 1383 will significantly increase costs.

#### *These programs include:*

- Weekly collection of all organic materials from residents and businesses.
- Community outreach and education.
- Procurement of products made from recycled organic material, such as compost and mulch.
- Edible food recovery.
- Enforcement.

In response to these new regulatory requirements, the City of Folsom Solid Waste Division conducted a comprehensive rate study to determine revenue requirements and rate structures for new operational and capital needs. An independent, third-party financial expert prepared the City of Folsom's rate study. The rate study recommends that the city increase solid waste utility rates so that the operating and capital expenses match the revenues received from customers.

Folsom residents are invited to learn more about the rate study and proposed rate schedule at a community meeting from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, November 8 at the Folsom Community Center, 52 Natoma Street.

The Folsom City Council will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 14 at Folsom City Hall, 50 Natoma Street, before taking action on the proposed rates.

In October, every property owner and customer using utility services was mailed a notice about the proposed rates, community meeting, and public hearing, as required by Proposition 218. Learn more at [www.folsom.ca.us/UtilityRates](http://www.folsom.ca.us/UtilityRates).

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