

CITY NEWS

DECEMBER 2018 / JANUARY 2019 FOLSOM NEWSLETTER



FOLSOM, CALIFORNIA — INCORPORATED 1946



SANTA'S SLEIGH RETURNS TO FOLSOM

Get into the holiday spirit with friends, neighbors, and Folsom police and fire personnel! Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit neighborhoods throughout Folsom December 9–13. Santa's elves will collect non-perishable canned goods to help stock the Twin Lakes Food Bank for the holidays. Follow Santa's route at www.facebook.com/FolsomPOA.

FOLSOM ICE RINK NOW OPEN

It's that time of year to lace up your ice skates and glide around the Historic Folsom ice rink. The ice rink is open daily from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., including Christmas Day. The ice rink encircles the historic railroad turntable and a tall, decorated Christmas tree. Skate, shop, dine, and enjoy the holiday magic in the heart of Folsom. Parking is free and SacRT light rail is close and convenient. Learn more at www.folsomicerink.com.

CITY OF FOLSOM

Holiday Lights at the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary

A magical winter wonderland awaits guests at the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary's ninth annual Wild Nights and Holiday Lights event. Many hours of hands-on work by volunteers and city staff go into installing the lights, decorations and displays. Thousands of feet of bright and colorful lights, sparkling ornaments and trees, and seasonal displays transform the Zoo Sanctuary with holiday spirit. The very talented technical theater students in the Folsom High School drama department created a Sierra snowscape to enhance the canid deck for the event.

The new Barnyard Experience serves as the entrance to the

event this year. A special seat awaits Santa, who will drop by as his busy schedule permits.

The Folsom Valley Railway miniature train provides special nighttime rides for kids and adults.

The holiday event is open from 5 to 8 p.m. December 1, 7, 8, 14-23 and 26-30 (weather permitting; heavy rains will cancel). Admission is \$7/person; free for ages two and under; train tickets are \$5/person. Purchase tickets at <http://webtrac.folsom.ca.us>, or at Fisher's Beastro café across from the main zoo entrance. Call 916-461-6601 or visit www.FolsomZooFriends.org for more information.



HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE FOLSOM SENIOR CENTER

Wear your most festive holiday sweater to this fun celebration from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, December 21. Bring your own brown bag lunch or reserve a hot lunch from Meals on Wheels by calling 916-461-6622 (deadline to place a hot lunch order is December 10). The Senior Center's very own "Off-Key Singers" will provide musical entertainment, light refreshments will be served, and a raffle will be held. The party is free and open to anyone age 55 and older. The Folsom Senior Center is located at 48 Natoma Street; call 916-461-6601 for more information.





JOIN THE FOLSOM ZOO SANCTUARY DOCENT PROGRAM

Do you have a passion for animals and want to make a difference? Consider joining the volunteer docent team! Docents serve a vital role in helping to promote the zoo sanctuary's educational mission of teaching responsible behavior toward all animals. Docents host school tours, interact with the public at community events, help with youth camps, and assist at special events. The docent training class begins February 11 and continues through March 19. Docents must be at least age 21 and pass a pre-registration telephone interview; class fee is \$40. To learn more and schedule your interview, contact Sue at 916-715-8610.

FOLSOM ZOO SANCTUARY JUNIOR ZOOKEEPER CAMP

10 a.m.-3 p.m. December 26-28

Caring for animals is a fun, rewarding and sometimes messy job! Junior Zookeeper Camp provides kids ages 8-11 with hands-on experience helping to prepare meals for the animals and clean enclosures just like the zookeepers do. Campers also make enrichment for the animals, like a piñata filled with snacks. Campers meet some of the zoo sanctuary's outreach animals, including a hedgehog, skunk, ferrets, tortoise, and gecko.

Camp fee is \$174 for Folsom residents (\$198 non-residents) register online at <http://web-trac.folsom.ca.us> or call 916-461-6601 for more information.



Holiday Toy Drive for Folsom Families in Need

Help make the holidays special for Folsom families in need by participating in the annual holiday toy drive. The Citizens Assisting Public Safety (CAPS) volunteers, in partnership with the Folsom Police and Fire Departments and the Folsom Police Foundation are collecting items for the annual toy drive. Toys and gifts collected are delivered to Folsom families in need by police and fire personnel days before the holidays. Here are two ways to help:

1. Make a wish come true. Select an ornament from the trees in the lobby of either the Folsom Police Department or Folsom Fire Department Station #35 to fill the specific wish of a child.

2. 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 Police Department or Folsom Fire Department Station #35 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Gifts will be collected through December 7. The Folsom Police Department is located at 46 Natoma Street and Folsom Fire Department Station #35 is located at 535 Glenn Drive. For more information contact Jessica Hess at 916-461-6516 or jhess@folsom.ca.us.



FOLSOM PLAN AREA UPDATE

An 18-month schedule of infrastructure, road, and safety improvements that started south of Highway 50 in the spring of 2017 is now complete. That first phase of work included sewer, water, streets, streetlights, and utilities as well as the reconstruction of East Bidwell Street between the first portion of the new Alder Creek Parkway and White Rock Road. More than 3.5 miles of sewer pipe were laid and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District built a substation to serve the area with electrical power.

Work on landscaping bordering the streets and pedestrian paseos is continuing and uses a wide variety of water-efficient native plants. The irrigation systems for those areas include "purple pipes" which will transport reclaimed water once it is

available to the area. Many areas are being seeded with bee- and butterfly-friendly flowering plants.

The first residents of the Folsom Plan Area have moved in and more than 96 homes have been sold. After the initial few weeks of home sales, builders reported that 90 percent of the first buyers were existing Folsom residents with all but one of those moving from rental housing to home ownership.

The Folsom Cordova Unified School District is now planning the first new elementary school for the site, with groundbreaking scheduled for 2019 and opening in 2020.

Learn more about the Folsom Plan Area at www.folsom.ca.us/FolsomPlanArea.



Public Safety Volunteer Opportunities

The City of Folsom Police and Fire Departments are looking for volunteers to help make a difference in the community and keep Folsom a safe place to live, work, and play.

The Folsom Citizens Assisting Public Safety (CAPS) volunteers are a diverse group of community members committed to the safety of the Folsom community. Volunteers support Folsom's police and fire departments and assist with various public safety functions. Volunteers conduct vacation checks and patrol parking lots as extra eyes and ears for the Police Department. They also help with public education and safety fairs, work at the front counters, assist with traffic control during parades and DUI checkpoints, and leading the city's Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch, and Dog Walker Watch programs.

CAPS volunteers must complete the Citizens Academy and pass an extensive background check. The Citizens Academy is an annual 11-week academy from January to March that provides an in-depth look at the Folsom Police and Fire Departments and other city services.

For more information about the CAPS program or the Citizens Academy, visit www.folsompd.com or call the Police Volunteer Coordinator at 916-461-6516.

NEW TEXT TO 9-1-1 SERVICE



If you need to contact 9-1-1 for emergency services, you can now do it by text anywhere in Sacramento County, including Folsom. This means all 9-1-1 public safety dispatch centers are now equipped to receive and respond to mobile phone Text-to-9-1-1 messages from citizens.

The benefits to citizens are significant, especially in cases when the caller cannot communicate verbally. Individuals who are deaf, hearing- and speech-impaired, or those in a situation where it is too dangerous to dial 9-1-1, will have another option to call for help in an emergency. Even where Text-to-9-1-1 is available, standard voice calls to 9-1-1 are still the recommended method of contacting emergency services for help. Find more Text-to-9-1-1 guidelines at www.folsom.ca.us/police.

LEGO® BUILDING CONTEST AT THE FOLSOM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Put your LEGO® building skills to the challenge in the 2nd Annual Folsom Public Library LEGO® Building Contest. LEGO® maniacs are invited to submit their best original creations for competition, or visit the library to see the creations and vote for their favorites.

Participants are asked to deliver completed projects to the library beginning Tuesday, January 22 through Saturday, January 26 at noon to enter the contest. Judging will take place 2 p.m. Saturday, January 26 by a team of LEGO® enthusiasts. The public is also invited to view the entries and cast votes for their favorite in each age group. For more information and to see the rules for the LEGO® competition, visit the library at www.folsom.ca.us/library.



Holiday Recycling

Help manage the extra waste this holiday by recycling what you can, and keeping prohibited items out of the blue recycle bins.

RECYCLE

- Non-metallic wrapping paper and tissue
- Non-metallic cards and envelopes
- Food and beverage containers
- Cardboard boxes (flattened and cut to about 12"x12" pieces)

PLACE IN YOUR TRASH CAN (OR EVEN BETTER, REUSE THESE!)

- Metallic paper (including tissue with metallic trim)
- Vinyl or Mylar wrapping
- Styrofoam
- Ribbons and bows
- Plastic bags and plastic film/wrapping



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The City of Folsom will hold its annual Christmas Tree Recycling Drop-off event Saturday, January 5. Trees will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rodeo Park (at the end of Stafford Street). All ornaments and stands must be removed before dropping off trees. Boy Scouts will assist residents with unloading trees, as well as collecting trees around the city for fundraising.

Christmas trees can also be cut up and placed in green waste carts as long as the lid is completely closed.

Place collection carts out on your normal collection day—the City of Folsom collects garbage, green waste, and recycling on all holidays.



SANDBAGS AVAILABLE FOR STORM PREPARATION

Folsom residents should prepare their homes and properties in advance of the rainy season. Here is an easy checklist:

- Clear rain gutters of any debris to allow water to flow smoothly.
- Remove all excess yard materials, such as leaves and ground cover bark—both can shift significantly during storms and cause gutter and storm drain blockages.
- If you have a storm drain by the curb of your home, keep leaves/debris cleared from the grate and the area surrounding it.

- Have sandbags ready to place in flood-prone areas on your property.

Sand and sandbags are available for Folsom residents and business owners at no charge. The city's two self-serve sandbag stations are next to Fire Station 36 at 9700 Oak Avenue Parkway and behind City Hall at 50 Natoma Street. Learn how to fill a sandbag and find other useful information at www.folsom.ca.us/sandbags.



Trails Update

NEW TRAIL UNDERCROSSING

Work to connect the Oak Parkway Trail to the Johnny Cash Trail near East Natoma Street and Prison Road started in early October 2018. This project creates a tunnel directly under East Natoma Street and provides a seamless and safe route for cyclists and pedestrians to transition between the two trails. The Oak Parkway Trail undercrossing is scheduled to open for public use in spring 2019.

LAKE NATOMA TRAIL GAP CLOSURE

This project wraps up at the end of December and includes a new sidewalk for pedestrians, and a 12-foot-wide dedicated bike path in Folsom's Historic District along Leidesdorff Street between Reading and Wool streets. The project also extends the trail to the intersection of Riley and Scott streets, and fills the gap in the Lake Natoma Trail, providing for a continuous path around Lake Natoma with connections to the Johnny Cash Trail, Folsom Lake, and American River Parkway trails.

FUTURE TRAIL ADDITIONS

The environmental analysis and preliminary engineering preparation is underway for a new 2-mile Class I Trail that begins behind Mercy Hospital and parallels East Bidwell Street to Iron Point Road. Funding is secured with a \$1 million State of California Active Transportation Program grant, and construction is expected to begin in early 2020. The trail will make a direct connection to the Folsom Lake College campus and is planned to include a bike/pedestrian overcrossing that connects to the Palladio.

Jim Konopka, the City of Folsom's "Trail Guy" retires from his position as Senior Trails Planner at the end of December. In his 21-year tenure, Jim has secured \$18 million in state and federal grants to help fund the construction of Folsom's trail system, with an additional \$5.8 million grant pending to fund a future trail overcrossing at Folsom Blvd.

When Jim started with the Folsom Parks & Recreation Department in 1997, there were less than 5 miles of trails in the city. Today, Folsom residents have access to just over 50 miles of beautiful paved recreational trails that include a number of landmark bridges, and access points at nearly every neighborhood and major business center.



"FABRIC MESSAGES" EXHIBIT RECEPTION

The Gallery at 48 Natoma hosts a free public reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, January 25 for the new exhibit featuring art quilts by Linda Waddle and Lin Schiffner, and 3-dimensional fiber sculptures by Susan Heller. An exhibit of work celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Folsom's Rainbow Bridge by members of the Folsom Arts Association will be on display in the Community Exhibition Gallery. The evening includes live jazz guitar music by Peter Morgan and light refreshments. The professional art gallery is located in the 48 Natoma Senior and Art Center; the gallery's regular hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.



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Winter Holiday Safety Tips from the Folsom Fire Department

Here are a few simple holiday fire safety tips to keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Keep flammable items, including curtains and holiday decorations, at least 3 feet away from lit candles. Consider using battery operated candles.
- Water your Christmas trees every day since dry needles and wood catch fire more easily.
- Unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving the house or going to sleep.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect, and consider a power strip instead.
- Remember, some lights are intended for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Use clips—not nails—to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Young children are at high risk of being burned by hot food and liquids. Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of 3 feet around the stove.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or cooking food.
- Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, dish towels, wooden utensils, and food packaging—away from your stovetop.
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.

The Folsom Fire Department wishes you a happy and safe holiday season. Learn more at www.folsom.ca.us/fire.

HOLIDAYS ARE NEAR, KEEP SEWER LINES CLEAR

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

Sewer blockages and backups caused by improper disposal of fats, oils, and grease



— also known as FOG — typically increase during the holidays. Food items such as butter, gravy, meat fats, cooking oils, lard, baked goods, sour cream, ice cream, and salad dressings are considered FOG.

The City of Folsom's Environmental and Water Resources Department reminds residents to dispose of food properly this holiday season.

- **Can it.** Once cooled, pour leftover oils and grease into a sturdy container, like a coffee can.
- **Scrape it.** Before washing dishes, scrape all fats, oils, and grease from pots, pans, and dishes.
- **Trash it.** Put fatty and greasy food scraps in the garbage, not down the drain.

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