



DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

City of Folsom Newsletter

December 2008/January 2009

Join Friends and Family for a Flurry of Fun in Folsom

The holiday season is in full swing throughout Folsom with activities and celebrations for children, teens and adults. Here are some ways to begin new and exciting traditions with friends and family without leaving the comforts of your hometown.

Historic Sutter Street Ice Rink



Grab your coat and head to Folsom's newest attraction: the Historic Sutter Street Ice Rink, located in the Historic District parking lot at Sutter and Wool Streets. Daily through Jan. 25. 10 a.m.-9:30

p.m. Christmas Day 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Adults: \$8 + \$2 skate rental. Children 12 and under/seniors 62 and older \$5 + \$2 skate rental. Prices are for two-hour sessions.

The ice rink is a joint project of the Folsom Tourism Bureau, Folsom Chamber of Commerce, City of Folsom and the Folsom Historic District Association. For more information or to learn about holiday party or group rates, contact the Folsom Chamber of Commerce at 985-2698 or visitfolsom.com

Christmas Basket Donations

The Folsom Police Department is accepting donations of nonperishable food and/or new, unwrapped toys for its annual Christmas Basket program until Dec. 19. Residents wishing to receive a Christmas Basket may apply at the Police Department beginning Dec. 1. To adopt a local family, call the Twin Lakes Food Bank at 985-6232. To make a monetary donation, send your check to: Christmas Basket, c/o Folsom Police Department, 46 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630.



Donation needs are rising this season at the Twin Lakes Food Bank. Helping sort the items are Shelly Lange, volunteer; Kathy Boone, Food Bank Director; Rosie Kessell, Folsom Police Department and Tammy Thompson, volunteer.

Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration

The Folsom Chamber of Commerce presents the annual lighting of the holiday tree along with wagon rides, photos with Santa, face painting, and entertainment. The fun begins along Historic Sutter Street on Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.

See next page

Inside this Issue:

Puppy Love: Police dogs spread year round cheer to young patients. See the story on page 5.

City Forecast: Folsom's City Manager outlines the new year's priorities and challenges on page 3.

Reaching Out: Helping your community just got easier. More about volunteering on page 2.

Holiday Fun

Holiday Fun (from page 1)

Food for Fines

Library patrons may donate food or unwrapped toys to receive \$1 towards overdue fines, up to \$20 per account. The items will be accepted at the front desks of both Folsom Public Library locations until Dec. 19 and will benefit the Police Department and Twin Lakes Food Bank Christmas Basket program. For more information, call 355-7357 or 294-2415.

Library Giving Tree

Friends of the Folsom Library present the Giving Tree program at the Georgia Murray Building and the Norman R. Siefkin Library. Now through Dec. 30, library patrons may choose an item off of a Giving Tree that is available for sponsorship. For specific titles, customers may request a bookplate honoring a person, group or occasion. Each tax-deductible donation will be used to purchase items for library collections. For information, call 355-7357 or 294-2415.

Chill and Thrill Ski Shuttle

The Folsom Tourism Bureau is offering an opportunity to hit the slopes economically and safely with a free ride to Sierra at Tahoe for the price of a lift ticket. Saturdays Dec. 6 through Jan. 10. Log onto visitfolsom.com to reserve your ski/shuttle package.

Santa's Sleigh

Santa and his police and fire department escorts will make the rounds of the city to greet families and collect nonperishable food and toys. Watch and listen for Santa's Seigh in your neighborhood in the evenings between Dec. 11 and 16. For stop locations, visit www.folsom.ca.us. Rain dates are Dec. 17-20.

Holiday Wrapping Recycling

Wrapping paper, tissue, cardboard boxes, Christmas cards and paper packaging materials may be placed in your blue recycling cart which is part of the City's SmartCart Recycling Program. Foil wrapping paper and Styrofoam cannot be recycled.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Remove all ornaments and stands before dropping your tree off to be recycled in Rodeo Park at the end of Stafford Street on Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Help will be available to unload trees. For further information, contact the City's Recycling Division at 355-8359.



Holiday Party for the Zoo Animals

Join residents of Folsom City Zoo as they receive gifts and enjoy a visit from Santa on Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit the Zoo gift shop for some unique "green" gifts. For more information and to learn more about the animal wish list, visit www.folsomzoo.com or call 351-3527.

Give the Gift of Fun

Gift certificates for Parks and Recreation Department programs are now available. Select the perfect class for you or a loved one in the new Activity Guide arriving in homes in January and soon to be accessible online at www.folsom.ca.us. As a special offer, any adult mentioning this article will get \$10 off specially marked programs that they enroll in for the first time. Call 355-7285 or 984-2850 for details.

Volunteer Opportunities Just a Click Away

What better way to start the new year off on a positive note than to reach out to those in need. In partnership with Hands On Sacramento and California Volunteers, the City of Folsom is now listing its volunteer opportunities online. Posted projects include those sponsored by the City of Folsom as well as other opportunities entered by local non-profit organizations. You will see if a project is oriented toward youth, seniors, arts and crafts, recreation, or other focus areas. A number of projects also are flagged as "Good for Teams" or "Good for Families."

For a complete listing of opportunities, visit www.folsom.ca.us and click on Volunteer in Folsom. For more information, contact Elaine Andersen, Volunteer Coordinator, at 351-3315 or e-mail eandersen@folsom.ca.us.

A New Year Message from City Manager Kerry Miller

Economic Development Among Top Priorities in 2009



Kerry Miller

**Folsom City
Manager**

In the new year, the City of Folsom will focus on a number of key priorities that will benefit our residents, businesses and visitors. New development projects include the Palladio at Broadstone, the East Bidwell and Iron Point triangle, and a number of professional offices. (See the "Businesses Coming Soon" sidebar for more detail.) In addition, the City Council recently approved construction of a new California Independent System Operator campus to be located in the Lake Forest Business Park.

Attracting and retaining businesses like these are part of the City's key economic development strategy. Our success speaks well to Folsom's marketability and to the collaboration of our visionary City Council members, community leaders and new Chief Financial Officer, Jim Francis.

In 2008 we enjoyed the completion of a number of exciting projects including the Norman Siefken Library, the downtown parking structure and FIDO Park. We also experienced significant progress on the newest bridge across the American River, Folsom Lake Crossing, and are eagerly anticipating its completion this spring.

In addition to maintaining our economic vitality, public safety and recreational services, here is a

look at our investments in the future of Folsom in 2009:

Sphere of Influence:

Plans are moving forward to annex 3,600 acres south of Highway 50. The project will include 1,500 acres of residential development, over 500 acres of mixed-use and commercial development

and eventually over 10,000 homes. Construction is expected to begin in 2011.

Sutter Street Revitalization: Work will begin in 2009 to bring renewed activity and energy to historic Sutter Street. The project is now in the design and engineering phase that includes widening of sidewalks, outdoor cafes and replacement of non-historic shed roofs with attractive awnings and balconies. The historic area will eventually include a public plaza featuring an amphitheater, farmer's market area and interactive water fountain as well as residential and retail space.

Mather Over-Flight Noise: The City will continue to work with Sacramento County Airport Systems, air cargo carrier representatives and the FAA on implementing a relief program to address the over-flight noise of cargo planes at Mather Airport. In 2008, a settlement was reached between the City and County to find solutions to the problem.

Expanded Light Rail Hours: The City is working with the Sacramento Regional Transit District to possibly extend light rail hours of operation.

Prison Health Care Facility: The City and the federal receiver are in discussions regarding construction of one of seven California prison medical facilities in Folsom. The maximum security complex will employ approximately 1,600 medical professionals and correctional officers, and will have an estimated annual payroll of \$100 million. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2009.

Water Conservation: Ongoing drought conditions will call for continued water conservation this winter and throughout 2009. We declared a Stage 2 Water Alert in September and Folsom residents successfully reduced water usage by 20 percent.

Continued on page 5

Businesses Coming Soon

In-N-Out Burger: West of Costco between Old Placerville Rd., Hwy 50 and East Bidwell in early 2009

Mercury Insurance Group: 104 Woodmere Rd. in early 2009

Barnes and Noble: Palladio at Broadstone in mid-2009
Cinema West: Palladio at Broadstone in mid-2009

Fresh and Easy: Two new grocery stores to be located at 9522 Greenback Lane and 25000 Blue Ravine Rd. in 2009

Hampton Inn: West of Costco between Old Placerville Rd., Hwy 50 and East Bidwell in late 2009

Stay Bridge Suites: Opposite Costco on Cavitt Dr. in 2009



Courtesy Philip Wood/The Folsom Telegraph

Final Bridge Section Poured

Kiewit Pacific construction crews poured the final section of Folsom's newest bridge in mid-November. The next steps will be to smooth the road surface for motorists, and add lighting, guardrails and signage before Folsom Lake Crossing opens to traffic this spring. The four-lane, 970-foot long bridge soars 200 feet above the American River. It will connect Folsom-Auburn Road and East Natoma Street near the original Dam Road.

Dog Owners Urged to Clean Trails

The City is receiving a growing number of complaints concerning the amount of dog waste accumulating along Folsom's trails. The Parks and Recreation Department services approximately 30 pet waste stations with disposable bags to make it easy for dog owners to clean up after their pet. Unfortunately, said Robert Goss, Parks and Recreation Department Director, those waste stations aren't being put to good enough use.

"We strongly encourage everyone who enjoys the trails with their canine companion to be courteous to others by picking up after their pet," said Goss. "The waste stations located along the trails make it easy to dispose of your dog's mess while keeping the trails clean for everyone to enjoy."

Goss suggests grabbing a plastic bag or two for your pocket or purchasing a leash attachment that makes it easy to always have a baggie with you when you and your pet leave home.

Smart Routes to School

The Smart Routes to School program encourages elementary school students to walk, bike, take the school bus or carpool to school with other families. Students who register online can record their daily trips, play games and win prizes valued up to \$50. For more information, visit www.smartroutestoschool.com and "test drive" the site by clicking on Demo as a Smart Kid.

Think Before You Toss

Did you know that water runoff in our storm drains travels to neighborhood creeks, the American River, the Sacramento River and eventually to the Pacific Ocean? This makes it critical to properly dispose of hazardous materials at all times—especially during the rainy season. Here are some ways that the Utilities Department uses your solid waste fees to provide free services to keep our environment clear of dangerous pollutants.

Medications: Flushing unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medication down the sink or toilet can pollute the environment. Instead, arrange for the City's free monthly pick-up service of non-controlled medications. For controlled medications, call the Police Department at 355-7230.

Fluorescent lamps and tubes, alkaline and rechargeable batteries, mercury thermostats, electronic devices: All are banned from being disposed in the trash and all qualify for free pick-up. A number of retailers act as drop-off sites for fluorescent lamps and batteries. To learn more or to request a free collection of your hazardous materials, including cooking oil, visit www.folsomhazmat.com or call 355-8350.

Safe Needle Disposal: As of Sept. 1, home-generated hypodermic needles cannot go into the trash. The City supplies a number of local pharmacies and fire stations with collection containers specifically for lancets, hypodermic needles, syringes and scalpel blades. For a full listing of locations, visit www.folsomhazmat.com and click on Sharps Disposal Program or call 355-8350.

Folsom Police Dogs Bring Joy to Pediatric Patients

Folsom Police Officer Joe Leach is enjoying some of his most rewarding years in law enforcement thanks to a little help from his canine partner, Smokey. In May the 26-year police veteran volunteered at a Cops for Kids fly-in event, helping distribute toys to hospitalized children at Shriner's and UC Davis Children's Hospital.

"It was such a great experience to see the kids light up when we entered the room," said Leach. "I knew I wanted to continue to help them."

After talking with child life specialists at UC Davis, Officer Leach learned that there was a shortage of therapy dogs available to visit sick children. He knew that with a little work, the four dogs that make up the Folsom Police Department K9 Unit could fill the void.

Within months, Sgt. Robert Brown approved the idea and Smokey, Jerry, Eddie and Jake began their visits with K9 Officers Leach, Evan Fardanesh, Louis Wright and Nathan Ventioner. The officers normally make the monthly visits on their days off and bring stuffed replicas of the dogs along with autographed cards to dozens of grateful children.

"There are few words to describe how mutually beneficial the visits are," added Leach. "The look on the faces of the children and their family members says it all."

A new K9 Unit website developed by Officer Ventioner will be online by Jan. 1 to help educate the community about the dogs and offer opportunities to help support them. For more information, visit www.fpd9.com or call 355-7231.

City Manager Message (from page 3)

Folsom is better poised than many cities to endure the economic downturn, but this doesn't diminish the serious budgetary challenges ahead. For many years we reaped the rewards of escalating real estate values and double-digit growth in sales tax revenues. Recently, the decline in both of these areas along with the increased cost of doing business have chipped away at the City's once robust general fund.

As a result, we at City Hall are among the many organizations and families looking at new ways to spend less and save more. We are optimistic about increased sales tax revenue from our new businesses and encourage you to shop in town as you work to cross names off of your holiday gift list.

For more information about the City of Folsom's 2009 priorities, visit www.folsom.ca.us.



Officer Joe Leach and Smokey visit 10-year-old Sara Corbelli at the UC Davis Children's Hospital.

Sign Up Now for Folsom Citizen's Academy

Applications are being accepted for the 2009 City of Folsom Citizen's Academy that offers participants behind-the-scene police department knowledge. The 10-week program is designed to create a greater understanding and trust between public safety agencies and the residents of Folsom. Topics include use of force, crime scene investigation, identity theft and disaster preparedness.

The academy is open to Folsom area residents, 21 years and older. Classes begin March 4 on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. Reservations are required and class size is limited. Applications are available at the Folsom Police Department, 46 Natoma St. and at Fire Station 35, 535 Glenn Dr. The final filing date is Friday, Feb. 13. For further information, visit www.folsompd.com or call 351-3536.

City Calendar

December and January

Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair

Dec. 6, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Historic Sutter Street will be lined with quality arts, crafts, gifts, food and entertainment for the 41st annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. Free admission and free parking. Sponsored by the Folsom Historic District Association. Rain date is Dec. 7. For more information, call 985-7452 or visit www.folsomfairs.com

California International Marathon

Dec. 7, 7 a.m.

Motorists will want to take note that the marathon begins bright and early on Folsom-Auburn Road the morning of Dec. 7. For more information, visit www.runcim.org

Folsom Lake Symphony Orchestra

Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 21, 3 p.m.

A Holiday Spectacular with the Folsom Civic Ballet and the Valley Choral Society. For tickets call 983-4277 or visit www.folsomsymphony.com

Planning and Managing Your Home Orchard

Jan. 7, 6-8 p.m. and Jan. 10, 9-11 a.m.

A how-to-do-it class on producing great tasting fruit on trees, bushes and vines. Ken Menzer, Folsom City Arborist will discuss orchard layout, solar orientation, chilling requirements, pest management and more. Folsom Community Center. \$10 per person, with fruit tree coupons to recoup the fee. Reservations are required at the Community Development Department at City Hall. For more information, call 220-3016.

An Evening with the Tibetan Monks of Gaden Shartse

Jan. 15, 7 p.m.

A cultural evening of music, chant and debate with Monks of Gaden Shartse. The monks will demonstrate and describe the different instruments and voices used in the performance of rituals within the monastery. Audience members will be invited to take part in a monastic debate and to ask questions about life in the monastery. Folsom Community Center. Adults, \$8; children \$5. Sponsored by Take pART in the ARTs utility bill donations.

Meetings

(Held at City Hall unless noted otherwise)

City Council

6:30 p.m.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Planning Commission

6:30 p.m.

First and Third Wednesdays

Parks and Recreation Commission

6:30 p.m.

First Tuesday

Library Commission

6:30 p.m.

First Monday

Historic District Commission

5 p.m.

First and Third Wednesdays

Traffic Safety Committee

4 p.m.

Fourth Thursday

Murer House Foundation

5:45 p.m.

Fourth Wednesday

Murer House Classroom

Redevelopment Agency Citizens' Advisory Committee

8 a.m.

Fourth Thursday

Landscaping/Lighting Districts

7 p.m.

Third Thursday

Arts and Cultural Commission

6:30 p.m.

Second Thursday

Utility Commission

6:30 p.m.

Third Tuesday

Location varies

Report Mather Airport flight noise to planenoiseinfo@saccounty.net or call aircraft noise report line at 874-0800.



City of Folsom Newsletter

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www.folsom.ca.us

Folsom Radio Station: 1500 AM

50 Natoma Street Folsom, California

Folsom City Council

Eric King, Mayor

Steve Miklos, Vice Mayor

Andy Morin, Kerri Howell, Jeff Starsky

Kerry Miller, City Manager

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