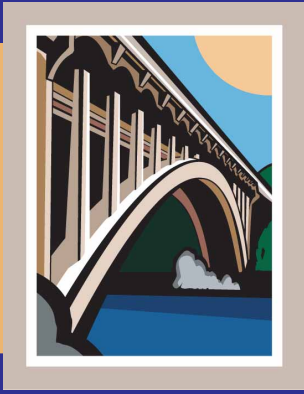


DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE



City of Folsom Newsletter

March/April 2009



Mark and Luke Powers, ages seven and eight, take in a view of Folsom Lake Crossing while on break from a bike ride with their father.

Gear Up for Folsom Lake Crossing

Shorter commute times and improved traffic flow are just weeks away for thousands of residents and visitors. Folsom Lake Crossing, the city's newest bridge, celebrates its grand opening on March 28. The bridge will open to vehicular traffic at 4 p.m. that day.

Folsom Lake Crossing reestablishes a vital connection from Folsom to Placer and El Dorado counties that has been missing since 2003 when Folsom Dam Road was closed to traffic as a security measure.

Completing the bridge so quickly was no small feat. It required unprecedented cooperation among several agencies, detailed planning, prompt communication and the delicate balance of many priorities.

"We are grateful to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and project contractor Kiewit Pacific for helping us achieve this accelerated schedule," said Rich Lorenz, Public Works Director. "We also are very appreciative to residents for their patience during construction of the bridge."

Residents are invited to a community festival to celebrate the opening of Folsom Lake Crossing on March 28. The formal program begins at 10

Continued on next page

Folsom Lake Crossing Grand Opening

Saturday, March 28

10 a.m.

Program & Ribbon Cutting

Speeches by elected officials and other dignitaries, Police and Fire Color Guard, music by the Folsom High School Marching Band.
(Bridge closed to public during program.)

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Bridge Open for Festival

Walk across the bridge. Entertainment, exhibits and food vendors.

Parking will be available along both sides of Folsom Lake Crossing Road off East Natoma Street. Free shuttle service from the parking area to the bridge.

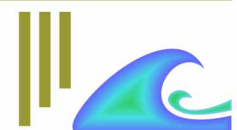
The Folsom-Auburn Road bridge entrance will be closed until the bridge opens for traffic.

4 p.m.

Bridge Opens to Vehicles

More information at
www.folsom.ca.us.

FOLSOM
LAKE CROSSING



- City Declares Stage 3 Water Warning. What it means to you on page 3.
- This City Newsletter is going digital. How to get your copy on page 5.
- Read highlights of the mayor's State of the City address on page 4.



Scott Farquhar

Bragging rights for naming the new bridge belong to Scott Farquhar. The 10-year Folsom resident submitted "Folsom Lake Crossing" in the City of Folsom's bridge-naming contest that drew more than 800 entries. City Council members voted in favor of Farquhar's submission.

He will help cut the ribbon at the grand opening celebration of the new bridge.

New Bridge Opens March 28 (continued from page 1)

a.m. with speeches by elected officials and other dignitaries, and a ribbon cutting ceremony. However, families with young children may want to wait until 11:30 a.m. for the festival and the day's first opportunity to walk across the new bridge. There will be food, exhibits, as well as music provided by the Folsom High School Marching Band and a local band that calls itself *Dam Road Closed*.

Those attending the opening festivities may access the bridge site by turning onto Folsom Lake Crossing Road from East Natoma Street near Briggs Ranch Drive. Volunteers will direct guests to parking along both sides of the road. Continuous shuttle service will be available between the parking areas and the festival. The Folsom-Auburn Road bridge entrance will be closed until Folsom Lake Crossing opens to vehicular traffic at 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.folsom.ca.us.

Exhibits Illustrate Beauty of Bridges

Two commemorative exhibits are planned at the Folsom History Museum and Gallery at 48 Natoma honoring the opening of Folsom Lake Crossing.

The Folsom History Museum presents *Celebrating Folsom's Bridges* from March 21 to May 10.

The exhibit features seven local historic and modern bridges using fine art, photographs, unique artifacts and maps. The museum is open every day except Monday, from 11a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 985-2707.

The Gallery at 48 Natoma will feature an exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, *Covered Bridges: Spanning the American Landscape*, from May 22 to July 15. The exhibition includes reproductions of a number of stunning photographs and drawings of surviving covered bridges, models of bridge trusses, and other objects. The Folsom Art Association will also display paintings of local bridge scenes in a separate exhibition in the art center. All exhibits are free and open to the public. For more information, call 355-7285.



"The Orangevale Avenue Bridge," by Theresa Fike, is one of the paintings to be featured at the Folsom History Museum.

City Hall Furlough Dates Scheduled for 2009

Folsom City Hall will be closed on the following dates as part of a furlough program to help address the City's budget shortfall:

March 13, April 17, May 15, June 12, July 17, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 16, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

The Folsom Public Library, Senior & Arts Center, Sports Complex, Zoo Sanctuary and Aquatic Center will remain open. Police, fire and trash services will not be impacted.

City of Folsom Stage Three Water Warning Now in Effect

The City of Folsom has declared a Stage Three Water Warning in response to California's continued water shortage. Folsom City Manager Kerry Miller declared a Stage Two Water Alert last August that followed the governor's June proclamation of a statewide drought. The upgraded Stage Three Warning imposes additional restrictions on residential and business water use.

The state is facing its third consecutive year of drought. Folsom Lake is at less than 25 percent capacity, and snow pack and rainfall totals continue their downward trend.

"The situation has become dire," said Ken Payne, Utilities Director. "We're calling on Folsom residents and business owners to comply with all mandated water restrictions and to rethink how any amount of water is used."



The City offers programs and assistance to help residents conserve water. Information is posted on the City's website at iconserve.folsom.ca.us. Free consultations on indoor and outdoor residential water use may be scheduled by calling 355-7252.

Protect Landscaping During Drought

Don Smith, Folsom's Water Management Coordinator, provides some useful tips to help your lawn survive the drought. For questions, call 355-7252.

Question: What are the best ways to care for my lawn during a drought?

Answer: The average homeowner normally overwaters by 200 to 300 percent. Brown spots in a lawn are usually due to incorrect watering, not too little watering.

- Evaluate your sprinkler system. Immediately make any repairs or adjustments. Correct any over-spray of paved surfaces, fences or buildings.
- Don't set your sprinkler system to run for long periods. An effective run time for most Folsom properties is around three to five minutes. If your timer doesn't allow you to use multiple run times, replace it.

Question: Will it help to adjust the blades on my lawnmower?

Answer: Set the blades as high as you can stand it— at least 75 percent higher than the lowest setting. Maintaining your lawn grass at a taller height will help it develop deeper root systems, which makes the grass more tolerant of drought.

Question: What is the proper way to fertilize?

Answer: Use organic or slow release fertilizers rather than high nitrogen "quick green" formulas. While the high nitrogen fertilizers increase the top growth, they damage the soil, do nothing for root development and will increase your lawn's need for water.

New Restrictions and Penalties

- Landscape watering is now limited to 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. two days each week. Residents with even street numbers water on Wednesday and Sunday. Those with odd number addresses water on Tuesday and Saturday. No watering is allowed on Monday, Thursday or Friday. Water runoff is not allowed.
- Free-flowing hoses are prohibited for all uses including landscape watering and vehicle washing.
- Do not hose down driveways, sidewalks or buildings unless necessary for health or safety. Hoses must be equipped with control valves.
- Restaurants will serve water only upon request.
- Repair leaky pipes or sprinklers within two days.
- Pools, spas and ornamental fountains should be re-circulating and leak-proof. Draining and refilling is permitted only for health, maintenance or structural reasons.

Penalties: When voluntary compliance is not achieved, the following penalties for violations may be issued:

- 1st violation: Personal or written notification.
- 2nd violation (within three months of first violation): Written notification and issuance of a Notice to Correct. However, a second warning within a month is cause for discontinuance of water service.
- 3rd violation (within six months of first violation): Penalties of up to \$100; mandatory installation of a water meter for flat rate service customers with costs borne by the water customers; billings at twice the metered rate for metered customers; and possible discontinued water service.

A full list of restrictions and penalties is available at iconserve.folsom.ca.us.

Looking Ahead: Mayor Delivers State of City Address

Mayor Steve Miklos presented his State of the City address to the City Council in January. Highlights of his speech follow:

It would be impossible for Folsom to remain unaffected by the struggling economy. We are certainly feeling the impacts. However, there is a silver lining for us. During brisk economic times, we resisted over-spending. As a result, Folsom still maintains a solid reserve fund. The City's new 18-month budget reflects the conservative use of some of these reserve funds.

We have worked hard through the years to promote Folsom as an ideal place to live, work, and play. Those labors paid off with businesses like Intel, Cal-ISO, Kaiser, Mercy, and many more companies locating and even expanding here in our community.

Folsom's unemployment rate, now at 3.6 percent, is approximately half of the national average. In addition, property values in Folsom have declined at a slower rate than the national average and far less than our neighboring cities.

This all goes to show that there is still good news to report in Folsom, including the following.

New Development

- Construction of the **Palladio mall** is proceeding. It will have phased openings beginning in December of this year and continuing through the end of 2010.

- Plans for the **area south of Highway 50** continue to move forward. Environmental documents were issued in October. These documents were prepared following the guidelines outlined in the voter approved Measure W charter amendment and the LAFCO approval.

- California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO)** will construct a new 280,000 square foot campus, which will eventually employ between 500 to 700 employees.

- Revitalization of the city's **Historic District** remains a high priority and commitment. Construction level drawings are complete for the private development portion of the **Historic Folsom Station** project, including the Granite House development. This project will include ground level retail and second level residential. The first phase of the Sutter Street streetscape project is underway, focusing on sidewalk, landscaping, and accessibility improvements.

- The **Folsom Power and Electric** project, which will include a restaurant, new retail, and parking, should be complete this calendar year.

- Our new bridge, **Folsom Lake Crossing**, opens to traffic on March 28. (See details on page 1).

Public Safety

- Folsom's **crime rate**, which includes homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft, was down 2.5 percent in 2008, with an overall nine percent reduction over the past four years.

- The **Police Department's** extensive crackdown on D.U.I. drivers resulted in 437 arrests through the end of 2008.

- Police Department dispatchers now handle **cellular 9-1-1 calls**. Residents can register their cell phones or voice-over IP phone numbers for reverse 9-1-1 calls by logging on to the Police Department web site at www.folsompd.com.

- This City Council is committed to building **Fire Station 39** in Empire Ranch in the near future.

Public Works and Utilities

- The Public Works Department will soon embark on its annual **pavement management** plan, including pavement overlays and slurry seals throughout the city. This work is funded by Measure A sales tax dollars.

- Several **storm drain improvement** projects have recently been completed, including the first phase of a significant storm drain system in the Historic District.

- The **water meter** implementation program is well underway, and the City will achieve its federally mandated time schedules for this metering effort.

- Water conservation remains a top priority as drought conditions continue to worsen. The City of Folsom has declared a Stage Three Water Warning. (See story on page 3.)

Parks and Recreation

- The department was awarded a \$249,000 grant from the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation fund to go towards the construction of a bike/pedestrian over-crossing at the new Folsom Lake Crossing. This grant is in addition to a grant received the previous year from SACOG for an additional \$575,000.

- Phase four of the **Livermore Community Park** project that includes two new lighted softball fields with a soccer overlay is nearing completion.

- Folsom's first dog park, **FIDO Field**, at Cummings Family Park, was completed by the City in August with the help of the Folsom Independent Dog Owners (FIDO) organization.

- The **Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary** finished construction of the new Zoo operations center in September 2008.

See next page

Mayor Miklos' State of City Address (continued from page 4)

•The **Folsom Sports Complex** saw an increase in total participation by about 16 percent in 2008. We saw a tremendous 54 percent increase in youth sports participation, which includes leagues, camps, and classes.

•The **Senior and Arts Center at 48 Natoma** completed its first full year of operation and attracted some 28,000 participants to programs offered at the center.

Looking ahead to ensure Folsom's economic stability, the City Council directed staff to develop a five-year economic development plan. This plan was

approved and adopted by the City Council this last October. The plan emphasizes five key areas for economic development: Business Retention and Expansion, Business Attraction, Tourism Development, Workforce Development, and Capital Projects. This plan and its strategies will be used to organize and coordinate economic development efforts over the coming challenging years.

Editor's Note: The full text of Mayor Miklos' State of the City address is available on the City's website, www.folsom.ca.us.

Budget Focuses on Fiscal Stability in Uncertain Times

The City Council recently adopted an 18-month budget designed to offset an anticipated \$8.6 million revenue shortfall and help the City maintain fiscal stability during the current economic crisis.

The new budget includes the elimination of 55 permanent positions, of which approximately 39 are occupied, as well as some cutbacks in non-essential programs and services.

"We faced some very challenging decisions in our effort to achieve significant budget savings without impacting or interrupting essential services," said City Manager Kerry Miller. "The decision to lay off valued employees was especially difficult, but unfortunately unavoidable given the dramatic drop in sales tax and other revenues." Please note the following changes:

Folsom Public Library: Library patrons will have access to library services seven days a week with the continuation of popular story times and other children's programs. See the sidebar for new library hours.

City Newsletter: Beginning in June, you will find the City Newsletter online rather than in your home mailbox. This eliminates contract editor, printing and postage costs. A small quantity of newsletters will be available at public locations.

To view the complete 2009-10 budget document, visit www.folsom.ca.us.

Receive City Newsletter Via E-Mail

Beginning in June the newsletter will no longer be mailed to homes. Residents may log onto the City website and sign-up to receive an e-mail notification and link to the newsletter and other City publications. Visit www.folsom.ca.us to complete the simple sign-up process.

New Library Hours Begin March 23

Georgia Murray Building

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Wed/Thurs: Noon-8 p.m.

Friday-Sunday: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Norman R. Siefken

Mon-Wed: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tues-Thurs: Noon – 8 p.m.

City Bond Rating Reaffirmed

Folsom recently received some positive financial news from bond rating service Standard & Poor's (S&P). The credit rating agency reaffirmed the City's AA- general obligation bond rating. This outstanding rating is just two notches below the highest AAA credit rating.

S&P cites Folsom's stable economy, historically stable tax base growth, and good financial management as reasons for the high rating. The agency also noted Folsom's new balanced budget and that the City does not plan to spend the unreserved fund balance below 13.7 percent.

Registration in One Location

The Folsom Sports Complex and Folsom Parks & Recreation have consolidated registration operations at 48 Natoma. The registration counter is open 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Residents also can view the Activity Guide online at activityguide.folsom.ca.us and access the WebTrac online registration system at webtrac.folsom.ca.us. For more information, call 355-7285.

City Calendar

Spring Book Sale

March 14 and 15, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

The annual Friends of the Folsom Library Spring Book Sale will be held on March 14 and 15 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. A special preview sale is on March 13 from 5-8 p.m. Preview admission is \$5, admission is free for the general sale. All proceeds benefit Friends of the Folsom Library. For more information, call 355-7374 or e-mail friends@friendsofthefolsomlibrary.org.

Eggstravaganza

April 11, 8-11 a.m.

Join the City of Folsom for a pancake breakfast, free kiddie carnival, entertainment, vendor displays, and egg hunt at Lembi Park. The festivities begin at 8 a.m. and the egg hunt starts at 10 a.m. sharp! This is a free event, however the pancake breakfast is extra.

Spring Polar Plunge

April 11, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Enjoy an early spring swim after the Eggstravaganza. The Folsom Aquatic Center will open the giant 165-foot waterslide and the instructional pool for your swimming and sliding fun! The waterslide won't be heated, so the water will be cold. But you can take a dip in the instructional pool to warm up – it will be heated to a comfortable 80 degrees.

Trails Day

April 18, 9 a.m.-Noon

For 16 years, the City of Folsom has celebrated both Arbor Day and Earth Day with one big event: Trails Day. Trails Day volunteers help build bridges, create paths, or plant trees in Folsom's parks and open space areas. Please roll up your sleeves and join us for some hard work and fun in the great outdoors. Volunteers receive a free lunch and commemorative T-shirt. Must be age 16 or above to participate. Event is free, but you must pre-register by calling 355-7285 or 984-2850.

Folsom Community Yard Sale

May 2, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Get some great deals at the Folsom Community Yard Sale at Lembi Park on May 2. Participants enjoy convenient parking, easy access, high visibility, and free advertising. Yard sale benefits families and community organizations. Call 355-7285 to reserve your space; if you would like to select a specific space, visit the registration counter at 48 Natoma. Early Bird Registration--pay on or before 4/1: \$37 / \$30 resident discount. Pay on or after 4/18: \$41 / \$35 resident discount. Reservations will be taken until spots are filled.

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

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

March/April 2009

www.folsom.ca.us

Folsom Radio Station: 1500 AM

50 Natoma Street Folsom, California

Folsom City Council

Steve Miklos, Mayor

Jeff Starsky, Vice Mayor

Andy Morin, Kerri Howell, Ernie Sheldon

Kerry Miller, City Manager

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