



CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

# L&L Monthly

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## Special Interest Articles:

❖ *PROTECTING  
PLANTS FROM  
FROST*

❖ *WINTERIZING  
IRRIGATION*



## FREE WORKSHOP!

### Choosing All- STAR Plants for Water Conserving Gardens

Learn how to select the best plants for full sun or shade at a free workshop from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22.

You could win several door prizes including "All-Star" plants. Light refreshments will be served.

Call the City's Water Management Program, 355-7252, for reservations as seating is limited.



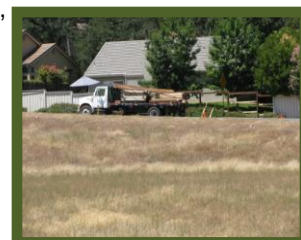
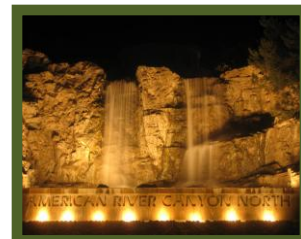
## Welcome Back L&L Advisory Committee!



It's been a busy summer. Hope you all had a great summer break. While only two months since we last met, the L&L Division has been busy working on irrigation controllers, replacing sprinkler heads, implementing improvements, performing weed abatement, and working with many of the L&L representatives on various projects and community issues.

### Here are some of the L&L projects completed or started within the last few months:

- ARCN-Waterfall Lights replaced and repaired, Baldwin Dam path repaired, brick veneer replaced
- Briggs Ranch-fence replacement on Blue Ravine
- Blue Ravine Oaks-backflow cages ordered
- Broadstone-tree removals and small median work
- Broadstone-Unlt 3-tree removals and re-vegetation work
- Cobble Hills Ridge-Mini Park Renovation-new plants and bark, wall painting Glenn, upgraded landscaping on Glenn and Lembi
- Cobble Ridge-new bark and plant replacement on Oxborough
- Hannaford Cross-Paint Trellis and guard house; replace backflow cages
- Lake Natoma Shores-backflow cages replaced
- Los Cerros-irrigation repair, bark, and landscaping on E. Bidwell, Riley, Cruickshank/Woodsmoke and 3 medians
- Natoma Station-wall painting and repair
- Prairie Oaks-painting fence on Russi
- Silverbrook-add new trees in Glenn Drive median
- Steeplechase-repair path and repair turf in median
- WCE-working with L&L rep and residents on sign outreach
- Willow Springs-median plant replacement and corner work on Riley and Iron Point



### Extra Things done by the MLS Team:

- Light covers repaired and painted in Briggs Ranch, Los Cerros
- 3 sets of steps repaired in ARCN
- Trees removed in Prairie Oaks, parks, and along streetscapes
- More irrigation repairs noted than usual
- Inventory and painting of bollards (there are over 250 in our L&L's)
- Performed 358 USA markings (May through August)
- Structural pruning on City Trees



### Weed Abatement/Fire suppression is a Big Deal in our L&L's!

Did you know that there are over 200 acres of open space in the L&L's? This open space either requires complete weed abatement or the provision of adequate set backs from private property boundaries. To achieve this, the L&L devotes several days to weed eating, mowing, and debris removal in June and July. The L&L's are in the process of pricing out and assessing the practicality of utilizing goats for weed abatement, especially in difficult terrain areas. Empire Ranch homeowner's association began utilizing them this year and have found their work to be efficient and slightly less expensive. It's also provided a fun public viewing experience!



## What is the Best Way to Protect Plants from Frost?

In areas where a late spring frost or even an early hard frost can threaten garden plants, homeowners struggle with the best way to protect them. The weather is unpredictable even in those areas where plants suitable for their growing zone have been planted. You can protect plants from frost if you are both prepared and aware of the pending weather.

The plants most vulnerable to frost are soft woods, actively growing bloomers, and potted plants. The greatest threat of frost usually occurs overnight when the temperature drops enough to freeze the moisture on plant leaves and buds. The signs of frost damage are usually visible within two to three days and are included blackened leaves or mushy leaves and buds. To protect plants from frost, you will need to cover them to keep the moisture from freezing.

Many people mistakenly use plastic to protect plants from frost and while this can be effective, it is a practice that some expert gardeners warn against. Plastic or vinyl materials do not breathe, but rather trap moisture inside. If the temperature drops low enough, the increase in moisture presents a greater threat to the plants if it should freeze. Instead of plastic, try using burlap, linen, or newspaper as a covering to protect plants from frost.

A fabric covering will allow moisture to escape, but will still protect plants from frost by preventing the freezing air from coming into direct contact with the moisture. Bed sheets are an excellent choice for covering large plants and shrubs as well as tender sprouts. Newspaper can be used on low-growing sprouts, but obviously won't work well for larger plants.

In a pinch, you can use plastic to protect plants from frost, but be sure to remove the plastic covers early in the morning to let the increasingly warmer daytime air reach the plants. If the threat of frost is prolonging and temperatures remain low during the day, be sure to use a fabric covering. When there is a threat of frost, cover your plants before sunset.

You can also purchase commercial coverings designed to protect plants from frost and though these may be more aesthetically pleasing than other methods, in most cases, bed sheets and burlap work just as well. If your efforts to protect plants from frost fail or you simply forget, you will have to allow nature to take its course. Early spring flowers like the daffodil, tulip, and crocus, may be damaged for the current season, but should return unscathed in subsequent springs.

Depending on the weather, some plants may peek out earlier than normal only to be threatened by a late frost. In some cases, they will bud again but many times they will die and you'll have to start over. Typically, the more established a plant is, the better it will fare. If you have vulnerable plants that would be expensive to replace, it's best to try to protect them if you can.



## Winterizing Irrigation Systems

Winter is the time to pay attention to your irrigation systems to preserve the pipes and valves and enhance the likelihood of your vegetation weathering the cooler season! "There's not much to the winterizing process, really," says Chris Davey, marketing administrator for Champion Irrigation, Los Angeles, California. "It's all a matter of going back to the system and making sure there's no water left in the pipes. Despite all the caution that must be exercised, winterizing is a relatively simple four-step procedure.

**Four basic steps** - There are four steps that must be performed in order to properly winterize an irrigation system:

Turn off the water ~ First things first. You can't drain the pipes if there's still water flowing inside of them. Go to wherever the source of the water is and turn it off at the valve. Sometimes, sites have it set up so the water can be turned off remotely. However, the vast majority of the time, the water will need to be turned off manually.

Make sure the controller is off ~ Do not forget to turn the controller off. If the controller is left on, the watering schedule will continue as normal, and if the valves try to run without any water inside, this can ruin the solenoids and cause massive damage to the irrigation system.

Open the valves ~ Go to each zone and manually open each valve. The reason for this is because if you try to use an air compressor on a closed valve, you risk bursting the line or sending the spray heads flying.

Drain the pipes ~ Just because you've turned off the water and released all the pressure, that doesn't mean that it's gotten rid of all of the water. Water will always find its way to the lowest point in its path, so expect there to still be shallow pools of water inside the pipes. There are a few different methods out there when it comes to draining the remaining water.