



CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

# L&L Monthly

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2009  
Issue 16

Lorraine Poggione-City of Folsom-MLS Manager-355-7207 Office  
Dan Rivers, City of Folsom- MLS Supervisor-351-3529 Office, 307-2100 Cell



## Special Interest Articles:

### ❖ **Fall/Winter Tree Pruning**



### ❖ **October in the Garden**

## SPECIAL NOTE:

**Oak Ave. Parkway  
Water Conservation  
Project is saving over  
50% of the water used  
in prior years!!!**



**...Next L & L meeting  
there will be a full  
presentation, don't  
miss it!**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
ENDS....**

**Sunday, Nov. 1st  
at 2am**



## Fall is here!

You can feel it in the air! As things get cooler it's time to prepare our gardens and outdoor areas for rain, wind, and cool weather! See the second page for tips on Fall and Winter tree pruning. In the L&L Division we stay busy during the fall and winter season. First here's an update on what we've been doing in the last month.

In last month's newsletter we provided a long list of projects that we already completed or started to work on. New projects that we started in late September and early October include:

- Painting walls in Natoma Station
- Painting walls in Cobble Hills Ridge
- Painting the trellis and guard house in Hannaford Cross
- Starting repair and paint on fence in Prairie Oaks(Grover)
- Replacing plant material in Cobble Hills Ridge
- Replacing plant material in Willow Creek East (Oak Avenue)
- Replacing plant material in median on Glenn Drive (near Folsom Blvd.)
- Replacing plant material in Los Cerros-Riley, Cruichshank
- Cobble stone project at corner of Iron Point and Grover
- Replacing 26 lights and copper wiring in Broadstone Unit 3

This fall and winter we will be working on the following:

- Tree removal and trimming where necessary
- Irrigation Controller map inventory and replacement
- Irrigation checks and repairs
- Minor plant replacements
- Tree inventory in all L&L's and parks



Of particular interest is what the new Municipal Services team has accomplished in its first 6 months! For the most part these are items that are over and above what would normally occur in the L&L's and/or may occur at a different with a different set of priorities. We've estimated that the services and work performed below equates to about \$191,000 worth of service. Commensurate with this are costs for materials, but no additional labor costs. This work has essentially been completed with no increase to any of the L&L districts assessments.

**Irrigation Checks/Correspondence** -each week a thorough and aggressive list of repairs is prepared and sent to the contractor. This has decreased the amount of calls and issues we've had to resolve on short notice and/or that has gone un-noticed or unreported in the past.

**Response to Residents**-our ability to respond to residents on general items of concern and irrigation issues has greatly improved. The team is able to complete fence repairs, tree limb removals, shrub pruning, minor irrigation repairs, backflow repairs, and provide more comprehensive customer service such as going to a house and talking with a resident about certain issues or concerns.

**USA marking**-probably one of the more thankless tasks but has to be done is the marking of our electrical wires from our streetlights and irrigation controllers along with our irrigation water lines. There's been a huge increase in this task with the recent water meter installations and the ADA compliance work.

**Tree Care and Education**-with Ken Menzer part of our team we've enhanced our outreach and education to residents and developers about tree management and care. Our tree care program is just developing and overtime we'll be providing more comprehensive tree care services to all city-owned trees.

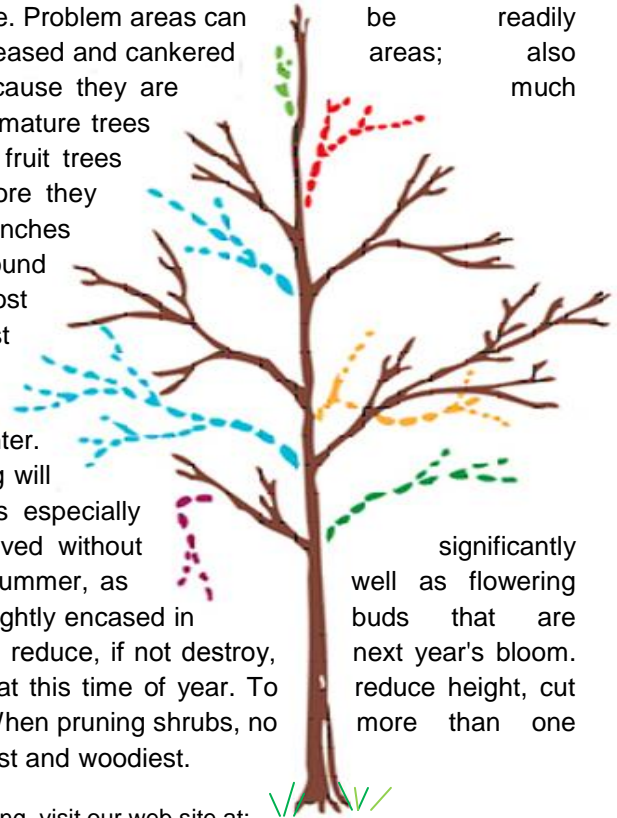
**General Care and Repairs**-the MLS Division has done many small and some larger projects in our L&L's in the last 6 months. Such improvements include rock repair in ARCN, major stair repair in ARCN, irrigation system repair, mapping of irrigation systems, upgrades for controllers, path repairs, tree removals, fire hazard responses, trail repair and clearing, etc Many of these items we would have contracted out for and instead we have used team skills to repair and respond to-thus saving tax payer monies.

**Assistance to others in the City**- the MLS team is a "go-to" group. We have talented individuals respected by others from other departments such as Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Utilities to troubleshoot, coordinate, and assist with irrigation issues, tree issues, accidents, etc. The team's recent help with the repairing of irrigation along Folsom Boulevard and the preparation of a replanting plan will go a long way with improving the entry way into Folsom.

# Fall/Winter Tree Pruning

The end of summer means the end of the gardening season for most, but smart folks will use this time to have some shrub and tree problems corrected. Pruning is done to shape young trees and to improve the structure and health of mature trees. Fall or winter are ideal times to prune, as disease and insect problems are less likely to infect pruning wounds. Once the tree has dropped all its leaves, the structure or growth pattern is easy to see. Problem areas can be readily identified. Remove crossing or rubbing branches. Look for and remove diseased and cankered areas; also remove dead and damaged limbs. Prune out tight-angled crotches, because they are much weaker than wide-angled crotches. Avoid removing healthy branches on mature trees since they will not rejuvenate very quickly. Opening up the centers of fruit trees improves air circulation and light penetration. Remove lower limbs before they become a hazard to foot traffic. It is better for the tree to remove small branches than to wait until limbs are large, leaving large pruning wounds. Wound dressings are not necessary if trees are pruned during cold weather. Most trees will benefit from light pruning and mid-to-late fall is ideal for the vast majority of trees.

Overgrown shrubs can also be successfully pruned during fall and winter. They should, however, be thinned rather than sheared at the top. Thinning will reduce the plant's size without affecting its overall shape. Thinning is especially important for flowering shrubs. Some stalks or branches can be removed without reducing spring flowering. Shrubs which flower in the spring and early summer, as trees, have already formed their flowers for next year. These flowers are tightly encased in frequently near the end of the plant's branches. Shearing such plants will reduce, if not destroy, That's why only dead, dying or interfering branches should be removed at this time of year. To some major canes completely without pruning the remainder of the plant. When pruning shrubs, no third of the total canes should be removed, with focus on removing the oldest and woodiest.



significantly well as flowering buds that are next year's bloom. reduce height, cut more than one

## Reasons for Pruning

- Improve safety.
- Improve the health of the plant by removing dead wood, diseased wood, broken branches, crossing or rubbing branches and sucker growth.
- Affect fruiting and flowering.
- Increase air circulation or light penetration.
- Direct the shape or form of plant.
- Temporarily manage the size of the plant.
- Define garden spaces (hedges).
- Create special effects such as topiary or espalier.
- Reveal colorful or decorative bark or enhance winter silhouette.

For more info on pruning, visit our web site at:

[http://www.folsom.ca.us/depts/community\\_development/arborist.asp](http://www.folsom.ca.us/depts/community_development/arborist.asp)

## October in the garden...

- ✦ Prune Oleander in October, before next season's flower buds have formed.
- ✦ Plant cool season annuals such as African daisy, foxglove, Iceland poppy, larkspur, lobelia, pansy, petunia, phlox, snapdragon, stock, sweet alyssum, sweet pea, and viola. Keep them well watered, especially if the temperature warms.
- ✦ Feed and water roses, but don't prune now.
- ✦ Plant warm climate bulbs, like those from South Africa (ixia, ornithogalum, sparaxis, tritonia), for early blooms.
- ✦ Pre-chill cool climate bulbs (daffodils, crocus, hyacinth and tulips) before planting. You can also purchase already chilled bulbs.
- ✦ Sow cool season vegetables like beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, onions, parsnips, radishes, spinach and turnips.
- ✦ Feed azaleas, camellias, hydrangea and rhododendrons with a fertilizer for acid-loving plants.