



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

**Special Interest
Articles:**

- ❖ March in the Garden
- ❖ L & L Financial Savings



Did you know that the L&L's deliberate changes to save water have resulted in a savings of about 23% water usage between 2008 and 2009. More to come on that in March....



L&L Monthly

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It's been a busy month! We've had lots of busy weather causing our creeks to swell, trees and limbs to come down, and fences leaning. We even had a street light fall (causing no damage or injuries except to the pole its self).

Highlights in the L&L's

- Folsom Boulevard-planting has started on Folsom Boulevard
- Will kick-off work with SCI for Folsom Heights and Blue Ravine Oaks in February. Staff will report back on schedule and public outreach efforts.
- Working on Engineer's Reports budgets and discussing budgets with Committee members
- Awaiting funds from two awarded State grants to inventory all City street trees and plant new trees along E. Bidwell and adjacent streets
- Implementing AB1881-state Water Conservation ordinance (Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance)-impacts most new development
- Tabulating water use and savings when compared to prior years (Details March presentation and newsletter)
- Identifying water meter issues that require name changes and/or billing instruction changes to reflect accurate usages.
- MLS is installing complete irrigation system along Morrison Homes Trail.



Leidesdorff and Folsom Blvd.



Morrison Homes Trail

Budgets and Engineers Report

It is a very busy time with the City asking each Department to create budgets that reflect a 5% cut from approved budgets in FY 2009-2010. The City wide budget processing occurs simultaneous with the Engineer's Report process. In the Community Development Department which is where the Landscaping and Lighting Districts reside, our department is looking closely at how we can continue to work smarter and more efficiently. We are looking at sharing administrative assistant help and securing alternate funding sources (such as grants or other sources) to pay salaries and/or allowable expenses.

Staff will be working with each L&L Advisory Committee that has questions or input on their district budgets in the next several weeks.

The Engineer's Report Schedule is as follows:

- March 9, 2010 City Council to allow Engineer to proceed with preparing Engineer's Report (consent item)
- June 8, 2010 City Council to review and consider Preliminary Engineer's Report (consent item)
- July 13, 2010 City Council Public Hearing to review and consider Final Engineer's Report

The following services were completed by in-house staff during normal business hours thus saving funds (approx. \$200,000 in the first 6 months) that would have been used for contracting:

- Completed over 595 Utility Service Alert (USA) requests for the L&Ls between April and December-a new task never done in this division until this year
- Pruned over 400 city trees pruned within vehicular and pedestrian traffic clearance areas
- Pruned and cared for over 80 hours spent on specialized care and pruning preserved protected trees
- Removed 25 trees within public right of way posing dangerous conditions to paths, roadways, or travel ways.
- Repaired faulty landscape lighting in 3 L&L districts-performed minor electrical work in all cases
- Painted light fixture covers in 2 L&L districts
- Maintained over 500 mitigation trees (installed and/or worked on irrigation)
- Replaced 4 irrigation controllers in one L&L district-minor electrical and programming tasks
- Upgraded 8 Rain Master Evolution DX controllers to communicate with centralized computer system to improve water use in those districts
- Daily inspections and repairs to all L&L irrigation systems where practical

March is the month when many of the beautiful spring flowering perennials begin to flower. Aubrietia, Candytuft, Rock Cress, Bergenia, Snowdrops, Witch-hazel and many others will be brightening your days. With Spring just around the corner, it is time to get serious and get the garden ready.

SHRUB and TREES

•In most areas it is still possible to do dormant spraying of fruit trees until the 15th, after that date dilute the spray by 1/2. Spraying should be done on a still day with the temperature above 40 degrees F.

•Late March and early April is a good time to transplant shrubs and trees. As soon as the soil is workable, but before buds have swelled or broken open, you can move shrubs and trees.

•Fertilize shrubs and trees if this wasn't done in February. Use an acid type rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly.

•Finish pruning fruit trees this month - before the buds swell.

FRUITS and VEGGIES

•Take a little time to prepare the vegetable garden soil for planting. The addition of well-rotted manure, processed manure, peat moss or compost are good additives for building compost humus in the soil.

•Peas and sweet peas may be planted right now as well as perennial vegetables like Asparagus, Rhubarb, Horseradish and artichokes.

•Eggplant, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celery, leeks, onions, early potatoes, and radish seeds may be planted in the garden about mid month.

•Spinach, Chard, Cabbage, Cauliflower, and other hardy vegetables can be seeded or set out late in the month.

•Plant Strawberries, Blueberries, Currants, Loganberries, Boysenberries, Grapes, and fruit trees.

•Add some steer manure around your Rhubarb.

•Time to start tomatoes, lettuce, and many other vegetables from seed.

PERENNIALS, ANNUALS and BULBS

•Removing winter mulches from your flower beds- pull the mulch off gradually as the plants show signs of new growth. The purpose of winter mulch is to act as a protector from sudden changes of temperature and

chilling winds, so keep in mind that it is still winter. Acclimatize your plants by removing the mulch over a period of days, allowing the light and air to reach the new growth slowly.

•Roses can be pruned this month. Severe pruning results in nicer long stemmed flowers and more compact bushes. Begin to spray roses for black spot. •Feed roses.

•Sow seeds of summer blooming annuals indoors.

•Seeds that were started indoors last month may be transplanted from the flats into peat pots and given dilute fertilizer.

•If you have a greenhouse, it is time to take cuttings of 'wintered over' plants such as Coleus, Chrysanthemums, Geraniums, and other perennials.

•Alternating thawing and freezing can tear plant roots and even force the plant right out of its hole. If you notice any plants that have heaved, push them back into the earth, and tamp lightly with your foot.

•Divide and transplant summer blooming perennials and fertilize established ones as soon as new growth appears.

•Plant tender bulbs and tubers (gladiola, lilies and dahlias). You may continue planting additional bulbs every two weeks until mid June to ensure a continuous source of bloom.

•Prune winter Jasmine after flowering; cut honeysuckle back to 3ft.

•Cut back established penstemons. Divide snowdrops while in leaf.

•Remove all dead blooms from bulbs.

•Fertilize any bulbs that have finished blooming with bone meal or bulb booster.

•Plant Primroses and Pansies

•Pinch off tips of Sweet Pea seedlings and Mums, when they are 4 inches tall.

•Water all bulbs during times of growth and especially during foliage and bloom development. Irrigate summer-flowering bulbs during dry weather. Keep water off foliage and blooms.

•Fertilize tulips as foliage appears and make another application after flowering. Fertilize all other spring-flowering bulbs after flowering. Apply 2 pounds of 5-10-10 or 6-12-12 per 100 square feet. Daffodils and tulips should be fertilized again in early to mid-August.