



City Newsletter

March 1, 2013

Got questions for City Council? Get answers March 20!

Here's a great opportunity to chat informally with City Council members and senior management – stop by the City Hall Open House between **5 and 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20**. Meet the mayor in his office, enjoy light refreshments provided by Folsom High School's ROP Culinary Arts Program and check out some displays and exhibits. City Hall is located at 50 Natoma St. and the doors will be open for you!

You are master of your water bill! Conserve today to save money

State law requires that all local residents pay metered rates for the water we actually use, rather than the flat water rate we paid in the past. Smart water users can lower annual water bills by taking simple steps to conserve. Water wasters will pay more.

What you should know

- There is a two-month lag time between your water consumption and the bill you receive for payment. For example, the water you consume this month (March) will be measured by a meter reading in the first week of April. That reading will be processed and mailed to you during the first week of May.
- The bills you received in January and February were lower than last year. That was a transition period as we moved from flat to metered rates. The bill you receive this month will be for the water you actually consumed in January, plus a service fee.

- A typical residential water user will receive lower winter water bills and higher summer water bills.
- You are now paying a service fee, plus a per unit commodity charge based on the amount of water you actually use (similar to your gas & electric bills).
- Water meters can help customers detect leaks and stop waste.
- The average water consumption for a Folsom household is 22.5 CCF (a CCF is 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons).
- The largest percentage of water use is landscape irrigation. The best way to capture water savings is to adjust your watering schedule with the weather. Turn off your sprinklers during the winter. In the spring, begin watering with a modest watering schedule after the rains have stopped. Gradually increase irrigation, building up to a full summer schedule as temperatures rise.

Help is available

- Visit the City's website – www.folsom.ca.us – for tips on ways to lower your water bill and detailed responses to frequently asked questions.
- Email waterconservation@folsom.ca.us or call (916) 355-7252 to request a FREE in-home consultation by a water conservation expert.
- If you have questions about your water bill, email billingwebmail@folsom.ca.us or call (916) 355-7295.

Share your views on future development

You can help craft the vision that will guide future development in Folsom. City officials invite you to attend the first community workshop for the Folsom 2035 General Plan Update, from 5 – 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 2.

Folsom 2035 Community Workshop #1 Opportunities, Challenges and a Vision for the Future

5 – 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 2
Folsom Community Center, 52 Natoma St.

Folsom's General Plan, the long-term framework for future development, was last updated in 1988. Since then Folsom has transformed from a small community into a vibrant mid-sized city. As we look forward, we must balance growth in our new annexation area, while preserving and maintaining distinctive Folsom characteristics.

The new General Plan will address these changes and help the City move forward with plans and improvements that enhance our quality of life.

We invite your involvement and input!

- ✓ Visit the General Plan website – www.Folsom2035.com – and join the email list.
- ✓ Participate in the On-line Town Hall Forum – <http://townhall.Folsom2035.com>.
- ✓ Attend the April 2nd Community Workshop

Overall crime in Folsom down

Any way you look at it, Folsom is a safe place to live, work and play. As Police Chief Cynthia Renaud recently reported to the City Council, we continue to enjoy a low crime rate despite media reports that crime is increasing in the region and state.

The following commentary appeared in the Folsom Telegraph on February 27:

Public Safety: It Takes a Community by Evert Palmer, City Manager

Any way you look at it, Folsom is a safe place to live, work and play. As Police Chief Cynthia Renaud recently reported to the City Council, we continue to enjoy a low crime rate despite media headlines that crime is increasing in the region and state. It is notable that Folsom's overall crime dropped 15 percent in the past year.

All City departments partner to ensure public safety and provide the great quality of life we enjoy in Folsom. Police respond to crimes and focus on crime prevention. Firefighters and paramedics handle fire prevention and suppression, as well as emergency medical response. Public Works keeps our streets well maintained. Parks and Recreation provides beautiful parks that are highly utilized.

Maintaining a safe community is not exclusively local government's task. Our community partners also play key roles. The Folsom Cordova Unified School District creates a safe environment for our youth at our highly esteemed schools. Local businesses and corporations provide jobs and share resources. Residents keep a watchful eye on their neighborhoods. Volunteers participate in the Citizens Assisting Public Safety (CAPS) program, and many service groups.

Statistics show that Folsom is overall a non-violent community, with property crime far more prevalent than violent crime. While the incidence of property crime is low, we should still take basic preventive measures to avoid becoming a victim. Remember that thieves look for easy targets. They break into cars when shopping bags, purses, cell phones and laptops are left in plain sight. They target homes with windows and doors left unlocked, or cars in the driveway with easily accessible garage door openers.

The Police Department encourages residents to become partners in crime prevention. Secure your valuables. Participate in Neighborhood Watch programs. Remain watchful and vigilant, and immediately report suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1.

You should know that our 9-1-1 dispatchers respond to 97 percent of calls in 10 seconds or less. That is a phenomenal rate within the industry and a source of local pride. Each year Folsom dispatchers answer approximately 100,000 calls, speeding help to those in need.

Traffic safety is another high priority for our community. The Police Department works closely with the City's Traffic Engineer to study physical factors that may contribute to collisions. And, the City obtains grant funding for programs to reduce the number of alcohol-involved and speed-related collisions.

This year the Police Department is placing a renewed focus on family and youth, as well as the business community. They are continuing to build solid relationships with local youth and bolstering efforts to disrupt criminal behavior and drug or alcohol use before it starts in the teen population. Police will also launch a community outreach program targeted to local businesses in the coming months.

You can help ensure that our community remains safe by participating in programs such as the Citizen's Academy, CERT disaster preparedness, Neighborhood Watch, and other volunteer programs listed on the City's website. Together we can enhance the overall quality of life that reflects the "Folsom Experience" -- a source of much pride for us all. I welcome your comments at epalmer@folsom.ca.us.

New Historic District Bike Parking

Cyclists have a new option to secure their bikes when taking Light Rail or visiting the Historic District. The "Pedal Stop", located in the Historic District parking garage, offers convenient and secure temporary parking for a nominal fee. Sign-up for your BikeLink card today!

The City is partnering with BikeLink to provide secure, on-demand parking in Historic Folsom. Users pay for time, similar to a parking meter. The BikeLink card serves as your cash and your key. Users pay approximately five cents per hour, with the rental fee deducted from the BikeLink Card.

Log on to www.bikelink.org to get a card, which will work in Folsom as well as at all BikeLink locations.

You will find Folsom's Pedal Stop bike parking facility on the first floor of the Historic District parking garage (corner of Leidesdorff and Reading) across from the Light Rail Station. The new facility can accommodate 60 bikes and there are lockers to store clothes and shoes.

"This is a great option for light rail riders who use their bikes for transportation to the station," says Jim Konopka, Folsom's Senior Park Planner and cycling advocate. "BikeLink is a win-win solution and we are very excited to offer it for local cyclists, as well as those who use regional bike trails to visit Historic Folsom."

March Events

City Hall Open House, 5 – 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20. Meet Mayor, Council Members and the City's senior management team at City Hall, 50 Natoma St. Refreshments, displays and tours.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 11:30 a.m. Friday, March 15 at Folsom Senior Center, 48 Natoma St. RSVP at (916) 351-3510.

"Wild Blue Yonder: The Art of Aviation" opening reception, 6 – 8 p.m. Friday, March 15. Refreshments and entertainment. New exhibit at the Gallery at 48 Natoma includes art by American Society of Aviation artists. (916) 355-7285

Italian for Travelers Class, beginning March 27 at Folsom's Murer House and continuing on Wednesday nights from 7 – 8:30 pm. Reserve your seat at (916) 985-3250 or Folsomite@aol.com.

Spring Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt, 8 – 11 a.m. Saturday, March 30. Egg hunt starts at 10 a.m. sharp. Free event includes a kiddie carnival and entertainment. Pancake breakfast available for small fee. Lembi Community Park near Aquatic Center.

Looking ahead . . .

Second Saturday in Historic Folsom, April 13 on Historic Sutter Street.
www.historicfolsom.org

Spring Antique Fair, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday, April 21, Historic Sutter Street.
www.historicfolsom.org

Earth Day, Trails Day, Arbor Day & Creek Week, 9 a.m. – noon Saturday, April 20. Call (916) 355-7285 for details and to register.

Sports & Recreation Expo, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Free event at Folsom Sports Complex includes activities for kids, music, health screenings, demonstrations and exhibits.