



City of Folsom Newsletter

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DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

November 2006

FFD gets first red engine

Also new: rescue boat, more heart monitors, back-saving gurneys

The fire trucks in Little Golden Books were always red, but in the Folsom Fire Department's 60-year history, the city has never had a red engine.

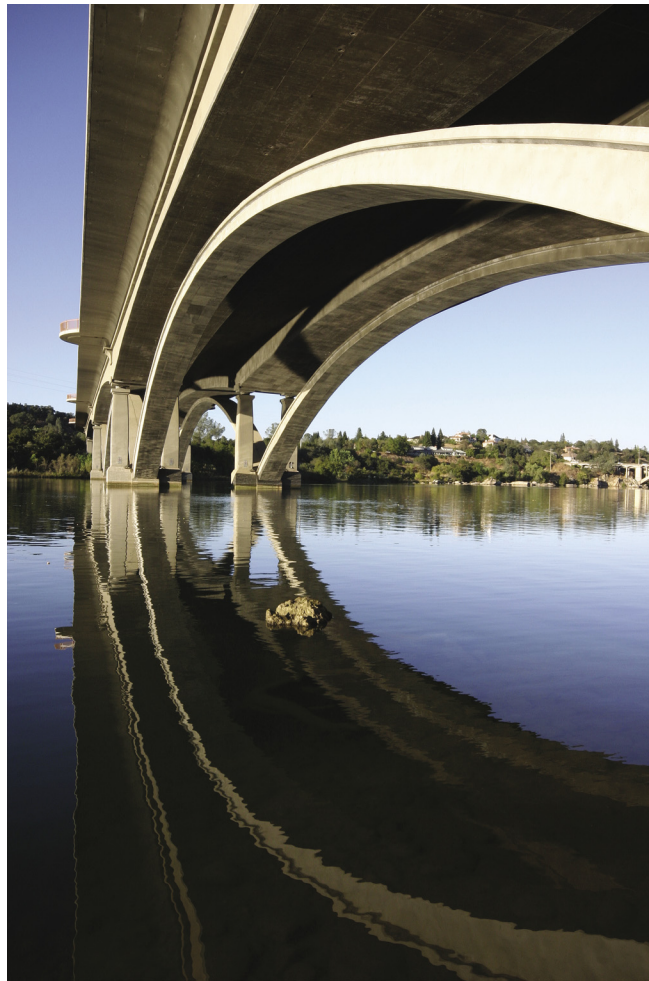
It does now.

In October, the department took delivery of a red 30-foot pumper that will replace two older (white) engines.

The light vehicles are easier to see, but, says Ron Phillips, deputy fire chief, people don't immediately recognize the white or

See **Fire**, page 5

Bridge over shining water



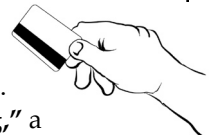
Photographer Alex Black stood in the water to capture this award-winning view of the Lake Natoma Crossing. Fortunately, the lake is only about 4 feet deep here. Black used an ultra-wide-angle lens for the shot and observes that "the arches are very graceful when you look at them at that wide an angle." The photo, "The New Bridge," won second place in the Folsom Icons category in the city's first Folsom Focus competition, cosponsored by the Patrons of the Arts and the Arts and Cultural Commission. Holly Fae Hyatt won best of show for "Peaceful Waters," entered in the Digital Art category. The contest drew 111 entries. The winning photos are on display at the Wine Gallery on Sutter Street through Nov. 10.

What's Happening

- ◆ Need a calendar of your neighborhood's pickup schedule for recycling and yard waste? Call 355-8393 or visit the city's Web site at www.folsom.ca.us (departments/utilities/recycling/collection schedule).
- ◆ Nov. 7 is Election Day. For information on candidates, polling places and hours, visit www.folsom.ca.us (City Clerk department).

Inside

- ◆ Your credit card could be used by a thief even if it's in your wallet. Learn about "skimming," a growing crime, on page 2.



New team aims at most difficult crimes

The Police Department has enhanced its criminal investigations capability with a new team that will target some of the city's most difficult crime problems.

One of the team's goals is to encourage residents to provide information and tips.

SENET – Special Enforcement Neighborhood Enhancement Team – is the department's first specialized force to focus solely on criminal activity outside the scope of the day-to-day patrol operations. The team members – Sgt. Rick Hillman and four detectives – are available to work long or flexible hours, if necessary, says Lt. Skip Rogers, who heads the program. "If that means 36 hours straight," Rogers says, "they'll do it."

SENET detectives, who generally dress to blend in with the public and may sport beards, investigate special problems such as narcotics and alcohol offenses, parole and probation violations and criminal gang activity. The detectives may, for example, ride light rail to monitor activity on the trains, set up alcohol decoy operations targeting sales to minors, or conduct surveillance, which can require long, continuous observations.

The detectives are trained to identify people who may be under the influence of drugs and to recognize mari-



Rogers (top), Hillman

juana cultivation operations and methamphetamine labs.

Many of the department's successful investigations start with tips from citizens. Rogers urges residents to be aware of activity in their neighborhoods and to report anything suspicious. For example, he says, a house with a lot of vehicle traffic that stops for only a few minutes, perhaps with hand-to-hand exchanges, could be running a drug operation. Observant neighbors also may discover a child who is being abused.

Although Folsom has a low crime rate, no area of the city is incident-free, Rogers says. "We have had criminal activity in every neighborhood."

The department suggests two means for residents to report suspicious behavior: email and We-Tip.

Email – directly to SENET at senet@folsom.ca.us – is preferred because it allows SENET detectives to follow up. All identifying information is kept confidential, but, Rogers stresses, email is not anonymous and could be traced.

You can also call the police hotline at 930-1098.

We-Tip is a national reporting service that does protect anonymity and takes tips by phone – at 800-78-CRIME – or over the Internet at www.wetip.com.

"We have had some very good experiences with citizens who were willing to come and talk to us," Rogers says. "A lot of crimes are solved by people providing us with witness accounts or insider knowledge."

SENET detectives also give talks to schools and community groups. For more information, call 351-3556.

Grant will help police ID 'skimmed' credit cards

Even if your credit card is in your possession, a thief could be using it to make thousands of dollars of purchases, warns Folsom detective Shirley Scheffler.

It's done by "skimming," a fast-growing crime in which the victim's credit card information is encoded onto another magnetic-striped card.

A recent \$600 grant from the Folsom Target store will buy a tool that police officers can use to identify "skimmed" cards on suspects they arrest or detain.

"Target has a long tradition of supporting our community," Scheffler says. "They are great to work with."

A card with skimmed data can be any type of card with a magnetic strip, even a gift certificate or a hotel key, Scheffler says.

The information can be transferred in several ways. Most commonly, store employees slide your card through a skimming device before processing your



charges, then later download the information onto other cards. Thieves also may attach devices to an ATM machine to capture both the card number and PIN, and some even install cameras to record your keystrokes. "That's how high-tech these people are," Scheffler says.

Scheffler offers several tips to thwart skimming:

- When you surrender your card to a merchant, keep your eye on it to make sure the clerk only slides it through the appropriate machine. Better yet, pay cash.
- If you see an unusual device on an ATM machine, don't use that machine. Report it to the bank or police.
- When you order online, make sure the URL address is *https//*, not *http//*, and displays a small lock icon.
- Carefully check your statements every month and your credit report once a year.

Veterans Day parade honors 'Americans standing tall'

Former Assistant City Manager Will Kempton, a retired California Army National Guard lieutenant colonel, is the grand marshal of the city's eighth Veterans Day parade on Nov. 11.

Kempton served two years' active duty in the U.S. Army, eight years in the Army Reserve and 16 in the National Guard.

Now director of Caltrans, Kempton has lived in Folsom since 1992. For several years, he was a city transportation consultant. One of his key roles was developing funding for the Lake Natoma Crossing. He also served for 10 years as a Parks and Recreation commissioner.

The parade – honoring "Americans standing tall" – begins at 9 a.m. at the



Mervyn's parking lot on East Bidwell Street and follows East Bidwell, Coloma and Natoma streets to the Community Center. The review stand is in the Pioneer Shopping Center on East Bidwell.

The community is invited to a hot dog barbecue on the Community Center patio beginning about 10:30 a.m.

About 1,000 people will march, including veterans groups, ROTC, scout and youth groups, high school marching bands, community groups, schools and, as every year, the Shriners with their little cars. An estimated 4,000 spectators are expected to line the parade route.

East Bidwell Street will be closed for the parade from 8 a.m. to about 11 a.m. Suggested detours are Riley Street to Natoma Street and Rainbow Bridge; and Blue Ravine Road along School and Wales streets to Natoma Street.

The parade and barbecue are held rain or shine.

City extends public hours

To help improve customer service, the city has extended the hours at three public counters.

Assistance is now available an hour earlier and later – from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. – at the planning and building counter and Finance Department counter at City Hall and at the Police Department.

Not all services are offered during the additional hours. At the building counter, you may submit plans, pick up approved plans, pay fees and obtain some permits. At the finance counter, you may pay utility bills and obtain business licenses.

The program will be evaluated after six months to determine if the new hours are being used.

The Parks and Recreation Department extended its registration hours in

September. You may sign up for recreation programs every day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Folsom Sports Complex and Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Community Center. You also may register online at www.folsom.ca.us.

Bridge ramp to open to traffic

The ramp that was built to take light rail onto the Lake Natoma Crossing is expected to open to vehicle traffic in late November.

The ramp, which extends from the Lake Natoma Crossing to the Leidesdorff Lid, will give southbound traffic easy access to Historic Folsom. Traffic on the ramp will be one way: Northbound motorists will not be able to access the Lake Natoma Crossing from Leidesdorff Street.

The City Council awarded the contract to modify the ramp to CTM

construction in September. The work includes adding a concrete safety rail along the sides of the ramp and modifying the entrance to a light rail park-and-ride lot.

Zoo parking lot closes till spring

The parking lot for the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary and Folsom City Lions Park will be closed for renovations until late March or April. Zoo and park patrons are being asked to park behind the Community Center and follow the colorful signs to the zoo. Special handicap spaces have been designated.

The 35-year-old parking lot is being improved and brought up to current code with new asphalt, realigned driving aisles, lighting and landscaping.

The work will not impact winter baseball or the opening of the new library, which has its own parking. The zoo lot is

expected to reopen before the 2007 Little League season begins.

Food baskets, toys help needy

You can help the Police Department make the holidays merrier for needy Folsom families by giving to its annual Christmas Basket program.

The police, working with the Twin Lakes Food Bank and local Boy Scouts, will collect unwrapped toys and canned food between Nov. 27 and Dec. 18. Bring your donations, or checks, to the department during business hours.

Baskets containing the ingredients for a holiday meal, including a ham or turkey, plus toys, will be delivered to families beginning Dec. 21.

The Police Department began the Christmas Basket program in 1988. For more information, call 355-7234.

Holiday meals bad for your ... pipes?

You already know your Thanksgiving deep-fried turkey, buttery potatoes and rich eggnog aren't good for your arteries or your girth. Now, the Utilities Department wants you to know they're not good for your sewer pipes, either.



residents and businesses to properly dispose of their fats and grease. "This holiday season is a good time to start," says Ericson.

The basic rule is this: Do not put dairy products, fats, cooking oils, grease or greasy foods down the garbage disposer or drain.

Instead, try these alternatives:

- Before washing greasy pans, scrape and wipe them with paper towels and put the grease and towels in the trash. When washing, put a paper towel over the drain to catch residual grease and particles.

- Freeze small amounts of fats, oils and grease in a container with a tight lid and put in the trash.

- Mix cooking oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place in a container with a lid and put in the trash.

- For large quantities of oil or fats, call for a HazMat pickup at 355-8397 (or use www.folsom-hazmat.com). The city picks up hazardous materials for free.

According to Sacramento County data, grease used in cooking is a main cause of sewer blockages and overflows. Our garbage disposers are not designed to handle cooking grease.

What happens, says Utilities Engineer Kyle Ericson, is that fats solidify in the pipes, stick to the sides and, over time, build up to create a blockage.

Besides being unpleasant, and maybe expensive to clean up, backed-up sewage can be a health and environmental hazard.

Folsom has joined the county and other area cities to encourage



Muralist Robert Lindsey hangs on as he paints rafters in the zoo's owl barn.

New barn, old view

Gray owl Grayson's new red barn at the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary may be tiny but it comes with an expansive view. Never mind that it's painted.

Robert Lindsey and Chuck Curtis, owners of CR Gallery of Roseville, transformed plywood walls into an old-barn interior – complete with rafters, hay, a door and a window. Peeking through the painted openings is the landscape of an earlier century.

The barn for the zoo's only gray owl was built with a grant from the estate of Patricia L. Jordan. Her weather vane whirls on top.

The two muralists donated their work. For Lindsey, who lives in Folsom, this was a special project. "I used to come to the zoo all the time when I was a kid," he says. "I like how it's grown up. It's neat to be a part of it now."

The new barn is in front of the mountain lion exhibit. Visitors can view Grayson and the barn's interior through a wall of netting from a platform next door.

Dam Bridge Update

Here is an update on the project to build a new bridge below Folsom Dam:

- **Environmental review:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is administering this project, was expected to certify its environmental impact statement and issue its record of decision in late October. Construction will begin after the record of decision is issued.

- **Schedule:** The bridge project is out to bid and the corps now expects to open the bids and select the contractor in December rather than November. The new timing will not delay the schedule. Construction should start this winter, and the bridge is expected to open by December 2008.

- **Water Education Center:** The City Council has selected a contractor to move the American River Water Education Center to a new site on Folsom-Auburn Road. The work is expected to begin in December and be completed by March.

- **Funding:** The first \$22 million from the bond sale authorized by Measure A will be released in late November. The funding will pay for the city's portion of the initial construction work. Measure A, passed by voters in 2004, allocated a total of \$28 million to the new bridge.



Folsom's new red fire engine, the city's first of this color, handles both structure and grass fires. The rescue boat, here being tested in Seattle, will be used to help swimmers and boaters in distress. The windshield is removable.

Fire (from page 1)

yellow or lime green trucks as fire vehicles, so the trend now is back to red.

Folsom's existing fire vehicles will remain white, but the blue stripes are being replaced with red ones.

The new truck was built to the department's specifications by Pierce Manufacturing of Wisconsin. It is the first for Folsom that can handle both structure and grass fires and, as a result, is replacing two older engines.

The truck has more-modern fire suppression equipment, can be driven on more difficult terrain and has a safer, fully enclosed passenger compartment.

After operator training, the engine will be put into service in early November. It will be housed at Station 38 at Blue Ravine Road and Oak Avenue Parkway.

Rescue boat: Another long-awaited October delivery is a new rescue boat, which was bought with a grant from the Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. The boat gives the Fire Department more capability to respond to emergencies in the water. Without a rescue boat, if swimmers or boaters needed assistance, Folsom firefighters could only help from the shore or rely on other agencies.

The boat will be used not only on the lakes and river but also on the creeks and smaller reservoirs, "and it would be a tremendous asset in the unlikely event we ever had a flood in this community," Phillips says.

Because of the time it takes to deploy them, rescue boats are not meant to save people who are drowning. Most commonly, the calls are for people in distress – swimmers whose kayaks have overturned or who have a medical emergency, for instance.

With the boat, firefighters can transport people to the shore and to other help, if they need it.

The 17-foot aluminum boat will perform in any environment, from rapids to shallow water. With a jet-driven motor, it can work among debris without being damaged. The boat can hold up to six adults.

Cardiac monitors: The Fire Department's new cardiac monitors add several high-tech features that have already

saved lives. Primarily, the new monitors, which have 12 EKG leads instead of four, give firefighters and paramedics more information about the patient's condition. The devices can report, for example, how effectively a breathing tube is working, the oxygen levels in the patient's blood and precise blood pressure measurements. They even tell users when to shock and when to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and for how long.

The evaluation is so thorough, says firefighter/paramedic Brian Beck, that paramedics can now make the decision to transport a patient directly to a facility with a cardiac catheterization lab, which can perform open heart surgery, if necessary. Previously, the decision to take a patient to a cath lab could be made only at a medical facility. Sometimes, the process would take several hours.

"This is a tremendous advantage to residents," Beck says. "With the heart, saving time definitely saves lives."

Cardiac monitors are carried on every piece of fire apparatus and are installed in all Folsom public buildings.

Hydraulic gurneys: Phillips calls these motorized gurneys "awesome." With a push of a button, firefighters can now easily load patients weighing 550 pounds and more into an ambulance. The gurneys also make it easier and safer to lift patients on wet or uneven terrain and provide smoother transport for the patient. The gurneys are saving firefighters' backs, Phillips says. Previously, firefighters did all the lifting with their own muscle power.

Even when in doubt, call 911

If you think you have an emergency, don't wait until it's too late to call 911, urges Deputy Fire Chief Ron Phillips. Except for ambulance billing, which may be covered by insurance, there is no charge for any Fire Department services. "People often don't realize how quickly a fire burns or how fast someone can die from a heart attack," Phillips says. "This is a business where minutes count. Don't ever hesitate to call 911. That's why we're here."

Special Events

Continuing through Jan. 7 – **Cycling Through History: Bikes, Trails and People.**

Exhibit explores invention and development of the bicycle and history of the American River Bike Trail. Antique bikes from Piece Miller Collection at UC Davis. Tuesday-Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Folsom History Museum. Small admission. 985-2707.

Nov. 3 – **Library Sneak Peek.** Senior First Friday. Slide show, exhibits on new library. 10 a.m. Folsom Library. Free. 355-7374.

Nov. 4 – **MOWER Workshop.** Learn composting, grasscycling. Free compost bin or mulching mower rebate. Preregistration, residency required. 9 a.m. Lew Howard Park. Free. 355-8393.

Nov. 16 – **SACOG Metropolitan Transit Plan Workshops.** Help determine where to invest \$30 billion in transportation funding for the region. Eight simultaneous, linked workshops at 6 p.m. Folsom's is at the Community Center. Register at www.sacog.org/mtp/2030 or 325-1634.

Nov. 17 – **Music Boosters Crab Feed.** Folsom High jazz band, choir perform 5:40 p.m. Dinner at 6:30, auctions at 7. Community



This festive table is set with a Thanksgiving feast – all for the Folsom Zoo animals. Every animal gets a special meal on this national holiday, and the public is invited at 11 a.m. to help serve.

Center. \$40/\$50 after Nov. 10. 351-9424.

Nov. 23 – **Thanksgiving Jazzercise Fundraiser.** Work out before you feast. All proceeds go to Twin Lakes Food Bank. 8:30-9:45 a.m. Community Center. \$10. 355-7285 or 608-9354.

Nov. 23 – **Thanksgiving Feast for the Animals.** Every animal receives a festive holiday meal. 11 a.m. Folsom Zoo. 355-7285. Zoo admission is charged.

Coming Up

Dec. 1 – **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.** Lighting of Folsom's traditional holiday tree, luminaries on Sutter Street, Chamber of Commerce open

house to kick off holiday season. Sutter Street shops open late. 6-8:30 p.m. Chamber grounds on Wool Street.

Dec. 3 – **Rhythms of Christmas ... Tap Into Your Holiday Spirit.** Tap dancers, members of Folsom Lake Civic Ballet, other performers from Folsom's Stages-Northern California Performing Arts present festive holiday shows. 2 and 6 p.m. Roseville High School theater. \$15/\$12 students. Tickets at www.stagesperformingarts.org.

Jan. 4 – **Youth Sports Sign-up Night.** Enroll for Little League, girls softball, Parks & Rec programs. 6-10 p.m. Folsom Sports Complex, 66 Clarksville Road.

Meetings

City Council meets 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays, City Hall.

Planning Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays, City Hall.

Parks and Recreation Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday, City Hall.

Library Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the first Monday, Library.

Architectural Review Commission meets 7:30 a.m. the second and fourth Thursdays, City Hall.

Historic District Commission meets 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays, City Hall.

Traffic Safety Committee meets 4 p.m. the fourth Thursday, City Hall.

Murer House Foundation meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday, Murer House classroom.

Redevelopment Advisory Committee meets 4 p.m. the last Thursday, City Hall.

Landscaping/Lighting Districts meets 7 p.m. the third Thursday, City Hall.

Arts and Cultural Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday, City Hall.

Utility Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday. Location varies.



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