

Two 'Visioning' workshops set for September

You can offer your ideas and concerns on potential development south of Highway 50 at two Visioning workshops this month: Sept. 8 at the Community Center, 6:30 p.m.; and Sept. 11 at Folsom High School, 9:30 a.m.



Inside

A new park offers spectacular views and its name honors a Folsom family, page 2.



City of Folsom

Newsletter

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September 2004

Get fresh



Fresh-picked corn is a popular item at the certified farmers market now open each Sunday morning from 8 a.m. to noon behind the Chamber of Commerce on Wool Street. The market offers locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables as well as bakery goods, plants, herbs and homemade soaps. It is planned to continue through December.

Many cooperate on asbestos find

The discovery of naturally occurring asbestos at the future Lago Vista High School site in Empire Ranch has spurred a cooperative effort to determine the extent of the presence of asbestos in Folsom.

The City of Folsom, along with the Folsom Cordova Unified School District, Elliott Homes, geology experts and state and county agencies, began working together immediately to ensure the well-being of residents after the asbestos-containing rock was discovered at the site in July.

"We're taking a very conservative approach to protect the health of the citizens of this city," says Michael Johnson, the city's community development director.

Naturally occurring asbestos is not known to be a health hazard unless it gets into the lungs. It is only when the rocks are crushed or broken, or erode from weather, that the microscopic particles are released into the air as dust and can be breathed.

The most effective way to keep asbestos particles out of the air is by wetting them. Whether a construction site or a back yard being landscaped or dug out for a pool, the ground should be heavily watered to control dust. Indoors, you should dust with a wet rather than a dry cloth.

"The best defense any property owner can have is to heavily water any soil that is moved," Johnson says.

Keeping work sites watered is a prominent requirement in proposed new procedures for construction that Johnson has submitted to the county Metropolitan Air Quality

See Rock, page 5

New zones for big item pickup program

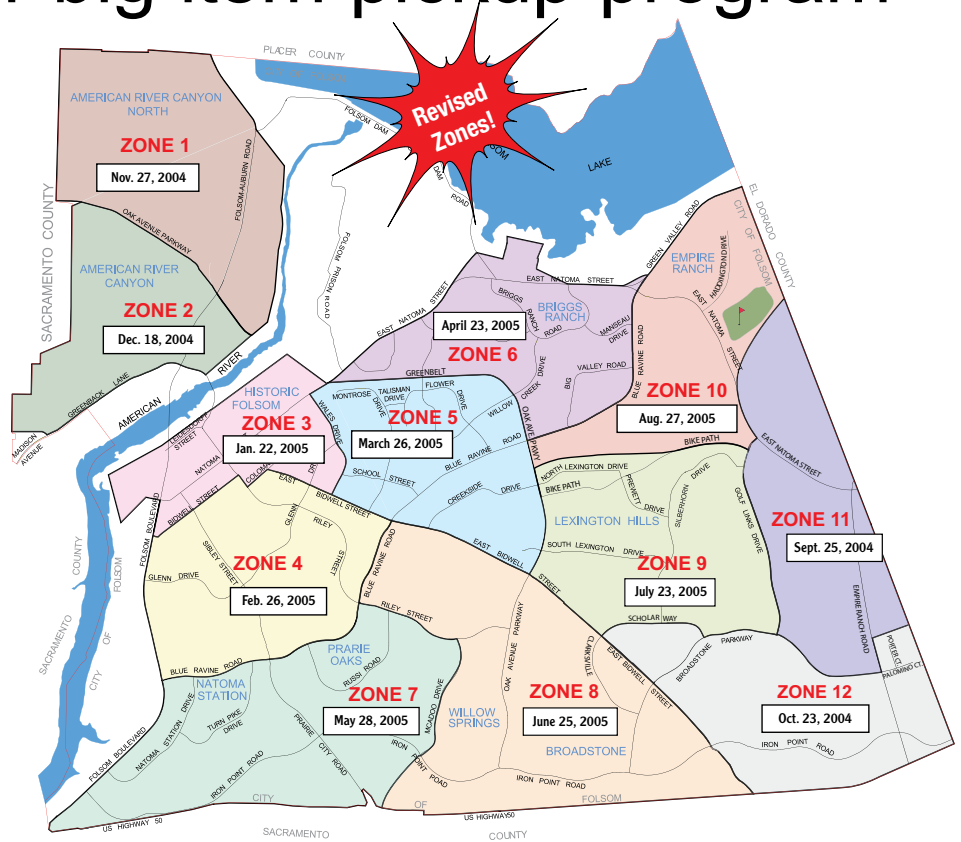
Beginning with the September pickup, you'll see some changes in the Neighborhood Cleanup program.

To make collection more efficient, instead of six large zones, there now will be 12 smaller ones, and each zone will be covered once a year.

To have items picked up, you must make an appointment no more than 30 days before your scheduled pickup date and no later than the Wednesday before. Items must be out by 6 a.m. the day of the pickup; the total pile may not exceed five cubic yards. You also may not have any single item, such as fence posts or pipes, longer than six feet.

Pickups are free. For an appointment or information, call 355-8398.

To have hazardous waste material picked up for free, call 355-8397.



Arts, senior center will serve two community needs

The city's Community and Cultural Services Division is new, but its acting superintendent, Sandy Hilton says her career has come full circle.

Hilton, who started her new job July 1, brings a unique blend of education and experience to the program.

Community and Cultural Services, in the Parks and Recreation Department, will handle the city's cultural and arts programs as well as offer services for Folsom's seniors.

Hilton, a college art major, worked 14 years in Southern California in both arts programming and senior outreach programming. In her 11 years with the City of Folsom, she has put on the Renaissance Faire and other community events and staffed the Arts and Cultural Commission.

In Burbank, she helped build an



Sandy Hilton shows a vase she made

arts center, "a wonderful facility still being used today." Now she will lead the project to convert the old main fire station on Natoma Street to an arts and senior center.

The double focus will enhance services to both groups, Hilton says. "We see an opportunity to combine the

programming into a dynamic center that addresses both needs," she says.

As the independent baby boomers age, today's seniors – "people from 55 to 105" – seek everything from hiking and biking to meals and just some company, Hilton says. She hopes the new center can provide it all.

A consultant will develop the concept for the building, but Hilton expects to offer classes, art displays, and services and a social venue for seniors.

"We want to create opportunities for seniors who want to stay active and to take care of seniors that are really in need of help," Hilton says.

The public's input will play a major role in the building design. The city will hold public workshops on the new center Sept. 27 and Oct. 6 and 9. See the calendar on page 6 for details.

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Efforts continue to reopen dam

Although the project to build a new bridge across the American River is on schedule, the city is continuing its efforts to open Folsom Dam Road at least part time until the new structure is completed.

In a move that may bolster its position, the city has associated the Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Laboratory to help with its presentation. The Livermore Lab will work with the city to analyze possible security measures that could reduce any downstream risks that may be related to opening the Dam Road.

In the past, the city has offered to provide beefed-up security during the times the road would be kept open.

No decision on the status of the road will be known until at least March, when the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental impact study on the closure is finished.

The bureau, which controls the dam, closed the Dam Road in February 2003, citing security reasons. About 18,000 cars a day traveled the road.

The new bridge is still on track for a late-2007 opening, Kempton says. The House of Representatives recently authorized the next phase of funding for the project.

Early this summer, CH2M Hill and URS Corp. were hired as a joint

venture to design the bridge and approach roads. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is building the bridge, but the City of Folsom maintains an active role.

City to plant 1,000 oak trees

The city will plant 1,000 valley oaks throughout Folsom this fall to help replace the trees that were removed to make way for light rail.

Valley oaks are one of three species of oak tree native to Folsom. They are more adaptable than blue or live oaks, says the city's arborist, Joe Benassini.

Many of the trees will be planted along Oak Avenue Parkway at East Bidwell Street. The goal, Benassini says, is to create a canopy over the street.

Prewitt East Park, across from the kids park in Lexington Hills, will get 150 trees as part of a nature interpretive area planned there, and some trees will be distributed among other parks.

Trees provide the community more than just beauty and shade, Benassini says. They improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen. A single mature tree can remove 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide from the air each year and produce 260 pounds of oxygen, enough to sustain two people.

Trees reduce storm water runoff and cool buildings by as much as 20 degrees



This several-hundred-year-old valley oak near Prewitt Park will no longer stand alone after 150 new trees are planted nearby this fall.

in summer. The shade from trees also can double the life of asphalt roads.

With today's small yards, most homeowners cannot plant large shade trees, Benassini says, so it's important to put them in public places.

"Trees," he says, "are long-term investments."

Project to renew historic Folsom

The Sutter Street Merchants Association is no more. As it embarks on an exciting project to remake downtown Folsom, the group has changed its name to reflect its new mission. It is now the Folsom Historic District Association.

With the new identity comes a new goal: to revitalize the historic district from the corporation yard to Natoma Street.

"We want to feel some vibrancy down here," says association president Dan McNeil. "It's got so much potential."

The group, which is working with the Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism

Bureau and the city, is following the guidelines of the Main Street Project, a national program that has helped improve 1,500 towns across the nation. Among them are Nevada City, Grass Valley, Pleasanton and Walnut Creek.

All the work is being done by volunteers through four committees: design, promotions, economic restructuring and organization. The last is the group that solicits funds and keeps everybody else organized.

McNeil envisions a downtown area with upgraded facades, more restaurants, perhaps a brewery, longer shopping hours, residential lofts, office space and a greater focus on the area's history.

"Most of us moved here, to a degree, because of the ambience of Sutter Street and Folsom's past," McNeil says. He predicts that within five years, "you're going to see a whole different downtown."

The group will present its plan to the City Council on Sept. 14. To join the

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project as a volunteer, call the chamber at 985-2698.

City will hold 9/11 ceremony

On Sept. 11, the Police and Fire departments will hold their third annual memorial ceremony to honor the people who died in the attack on Sept. 11, 2000.

The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at the old main fire station, 48 Natoma Street. The schedule includes an honor guard, flag-raising, 21-gun salute, traditional ringing of the fire bell, and speeches by dignitaries.

The public is encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

“We felt it was important for the community to honor those who lost their lives on Sept. 11,” fire marshal Ron Phillips says, “and we wanted to do it.”

Conserve water beyond summer

Summer may end in September, but the Valley heat – and its demands for extra water – hangs around for a month or two more.

The Utilities Department is asking residents to continue reducing their water usage 20 percent through the dry season.

Conserving water is especially important this year, Water levels at Folsom Dam are low because extra water was released to help dilute the Sacramento River Delta when a levee broke there.

Here are a few painless ways to conserve:

- Don't let water run when you brush your teeth, shave or load the dishwasher.
- Fix leaky faucets – a steady drip can waste 20 gallons of water a day.
- Run full dishwasher and clothes washer loads.
- Reduce sprinkler times by 20 percent.
- Install low-flow showers.

Register now for October fun run

It's time to register for the city's 21st annual Run With Nature Oct. 2. The race follows Folsom trails through The Parkway and includes 5K run and walk, 10K run and free youth run.

If you're not a runner, you can still be involved by volunteering. All volunteers receive a race t-shirt.

For more information, or to register or volunteer, go to www.folsomrunwithnature.com or call 355-7285.

Learn the trails on a bike ride

If you'd like to learn more about Folsom's trails, join a guided bike ride Sept. 18. The ride is a perfect event for the whole family to experience the views and wildlife on a segment of Folsom's 25 miles of trails. This year's route is along Humbug-Willow Creek.

Rides are tailored to ability and registration is limited. Everyone gets a trail map and safety tips. Call 355-7285.



Travis Segebart, an associate park planner, checks the vista from a “treehouse” at the new Handy Family Park, opening Sept. 10.

New park honors Folsom family

On a clear day in the new Handy Family Park you won't see quite forever, but you may spy Sacramento or Mt. Diablo. The 10-acre park with sometimes-spectacular views will open Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. with speakers and refreshments. The hilltop park is on Cavitt Drive at Broadstone Parkway.

The park provides climbing structures, covered picnic area, soccer field, lighted basketball court, walking path and benches.

The Handy family – parents Everett and Marge and their three sons and daughters-in-law Dean and Jo Ann, John and Sandi, and Tom and Debbie – have been contributing to Folsom for more than half a century.

Everett, the son of a prison guard, came to Folsom as a child in the 1920s. After serving in World War II, he became a prominent butcher and was active in the Rotary and Lions clubs.

Marge made Folsom history in the 1950s as the first woman elected to the

City Council. She also was a founder of the Gaslight Theater on Sutter Street.

All five graduated from Folsom High School. Dean was the first alumni association president (and the city's last volunteer fireman.) The parents have died, but the brothers are still active in Folsom sports organizations and events.

When the Handy sons were growing up, Dean Handy recalls, the town had 2,000 people “and we knew everyone one way or another.” When he was about 10, his mother gave him \$10,000 in cash to deposit at a bank on Sutter Street. He and a friend carried the sack of money on their bikes. “Tell me you could do that today,” he quips.

Everett Handy, his son says, had a large following for his quality meats. Kids would stop in after school for free hotdogs – “the kind you could really sink your teeth into and enjoy.”

The park opening will serve hotdogs, too – and Dean Handy vows they will be “the best available,”

“Anything else,” he says, “would dishonor my father.”

Rocks (from page 1)

Management District, the local lead agency for issues associated with asbestos. The new protocols would apply to current projects as well as future ones.

Another asbestos control measure is to eliminate dust or dirt from being tracked out of the site, such as on shoes or truck tires.

The city's proposal would require that property owners applying for a grading or building permit provide the city with a plan for controlling dust on their sites and agree to allow the city to monitor their projects. The property owners may instead opt to have a geotechnical engineer evaluate their soil for asbestos-containing rocks; they then would file the dust-mitigation plan if the rocks were found.

In the longer term, the city will work with the Air Quality District and local property owners to test areas where asbestos rock could be present. These tests won't be conducted on individual lots, Johnson says, but at larger geologic formations in the city.

Asbestos rock is abundant in mountains and foothills of California; in fact, it has been found in 45 of the state's counties, including El Dorado County. Sacramento was the 45th: The discovery at the Lago Vista site was the first known asbestos in this county.

The surprising find came at the dismay of school district officials. "It was so disappointing," says Debbie Bettencourt, deputy superintendent and chief financial officer. "We just could not believe it."

The work to clean up the site will push the completion date for the future high school out a year, Bettencourt says. The school was to open to students in the fall of 2006. Now it will be 2007. A joint-use library planned at the high school site also will be delayed until 2007.

Bringing the site into compliance with state asbestos laws will mean developing a work plan, conducting a public hearing and getting state approval. The work could include "encapsulating the asbestos" by covering it up with landscaping, new soil, even fabric shields. Planting can be done through the covers.

"We won't occupy the site until we know it is safe," Bettencourt says. "We are going to go through every process that's required."

Meanwhile, Folsom students will remain at the present high school for an additional year. The school, built for 2,000 students, could house as many as 3,000 in 2006.

The presence of asbestos at the school site should not alarm nearby homeowners, says geologist David Sederquist with Youngdahl Consulting Group Inc. The laws are far

stricter for school sites than for other properties, Sederquist says, because of the concentration of children there.

Asbestos, he says, "is ubiquitous in our environment. The situation is not unique to Folsom."

Consultant John Youngdahl draws a distinction between naturally occurring asbestos and occupational asbestos – the material used in such products as roof shingles and floor tiles. "Naturally occurring asbestos," he says, "does not have the high concentrations you get with occupational asbestos in a room or building you're tearing apart."

Nevertheless, Elliott Homes, which is developing several neighborhoods in the area, immediately hired experts, including Youngdahl, to test the soil in all its new projects. If excessive asbestos is found, says Russ Davis, Elliott Homes vice president, the company will employ mitigation measures, including encapsulating ground, if necessary.

Elliott already heavily waters its sites and, after paving and landscaping, little ground remains exposed, Davis says.

The company immediately closed a rock-crushing plant it had set up in Empire Ranch to make aggregate from the rocky landscape.

How to minimize your exposure

Asbestos fibers are released when rock is crushed or broken or erodes through natural weathering. Some of your routine activities could break rocks and create asbestos dust. These include:

- rototilling, plowing or digging in your soil;
- installing a pool or doing other construction;
- using a leaf blower to clean sidewalks;
- driving over areas surfaced with asbestos-containing rock;
- riding horses or moving livestock.

To help reduce the amount of potential asbestos dust in the air around your home, you can:

- wet garden soil before digging in it;
- remove your shoes before entering the house;
- close your windows on windy days or when there is construction nearby;
- dust with a wet rag and wet-mop your floors.
- pave walkways, driveways or roadways that may have asbestos-containing rock or soil;
- cover suspected asbestos-rock areas in your yard with clean soil or landscaping;

(Source: California Air Resources Board)

Special Events

Continuing through Sept. 30 – **24th Annual Antique Quilt and Vintage Clothing Show.** Theme, “A Daughter’s Trousseau,” featuring history of double wedding ring quilt. 40+ antique quilts plus vintage trousseau fashions. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. History Museum. 985-2707.

Sept. 8 – **Visioning Workshop.** Help plan development south of Highway 50. 6:30 p.m. Community Center.

Sept. 10 – **Handy Family Park Dedication.** New park opens in Talus Ridge on Cavitt Drive at Broadstone Parkway. 6 p.m. See page 4 for story. 355-7285.

Sept. 10-12 – **Friends of the Folsom Library Book Sale.** Bargain books; sale benefits library. New: preview night with raffle Friday 7-9 p.m. \$5 admission. Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission both days. R.G. Smith Clubhouse on Montrose Drive. 355-7374.

Sept. 11 – **Visioning Workshop.** Help plan development south of Highway 50. 9:30 a.m., Folsom High School Learning Resource Center.

Sept. 11 – **Public Safety and Community Recognition Awards Banquet.** Honors accomplishments of public safety officers and citizens. 5:30 no-host bar, 6:30 dinner. Community Center. \$35. 984-2280.



The Folsom Lake Civic Ballet will perform “Alice in Wonderland” at the new Folsom High theater in September.

Sept. 18 – **Ride the Folsom Trails.** Guided rides along Humbug-Willow Creek. \$10 person, \$15 family. 355-7285. See page 4.

Sept. 18-26 – **Alice in Wonderland.** Folsom Lake Civic Ballet. 9/18 and 9/25, 7 p.m.; 9/19, 9/25 and 9/26, 2 p.m. Folsom High School theater. \$15. 984-9898 or www.folsomballet.org.

Sept. 20-Oct. 27 – **City Hall Art Exhibit: Italian Sister City, Crespano del Grappa.** Public areas of City Hall. 351-3506.

Sept. 25-26 – **Gourd Festival.** Gourds, supplies, food, entertainment. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. City Park. Free/parking \$4. 431-3139.

Sept. 26 – **Friends of the Library Art Auction.** Original art. Benefits new libraries. 5 p.m. preview, 6 p.m. auction. Community Center. \$10 advance, \$12 at door. 353-1847.

Sept. 27 – **Arts and Senior Center Workshop.** First of three to take public input to help plan future Arts and Senior Center. 10 a.m. at Recreation offices in old fire station, 48 Natoma Street. 355-7285.

Coming Up

Oct. 2 – **Annual Run With Nature.** 5K and 10K walk/run, 1/2-mile youth run. Volunteers needed. Call 355-7285.

Oct. 6 – **Second Arts and Senior Center Workshop.** 7 p.m. at Recreation offices at 48 Natoma Street. 355-7285.

Oct. 9 – **Third Arts and Senior Center Workshop.** 10 a.m. at Recreation offices at 48 Natoma Street. 355-7285.

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 7 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 7 p.m. the second Thursday, City Hall.

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

Unless otherwise noted, all activities are in Folsom and all area codes are 916.



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