

North police substation to move

The police substation in the Ashland Station shopping center is moving to the old firehouse on Baldwin Dam Road. The officers use the substation for report writing and office work and do not regularly staff it.



Inside

The Folsom Zoo encourages residents to share their world responsibly with native animals. Zoo staff gives tips on page 4.



City of Folsom

Newsletter

Published bimonthly for the residents and businesses of Folsom

February/March 2002

Finally, farewell to hyacinths



Water hyacinths look pretty, but these pernicious plants from Brazil are filling up our creeks, causing flooding and destroying habitats. Now help is at hand: The city has received a \$260,000 grant to begin removing this pest. Biologist Ken Davis will head the effort, which includes pulling up plants by hand and releasing a weevil that eats the plant without harming the environment. Total eradication is expected in three or four years. A community water hyacinth cleanup day will be held April 13. To volunteer, call 355-7285.

Folsom: No longer a Sacramento suburb?

Expert predicts Folsom will become the center of a prosperous economic region

He admittedly doesn't have a crystal ball, but when Dr. Robert Fountain peers into Folsom's future, what he sees is good: a city without boundaries, the economic leader of an area of major employers, financial and social diversity, a mix of arts and culture, a transportation system, even a private four-year university – or two.

In short, a node.

In economics, a node is the "place where many paths come together."

Fountain, who holds a Ph.D. in housing real estate and urban land economics and is the research director of the CSUS-SACTO Sacramento Regional Research Institute, uses the term for cities that are hubs of areas with a wealth of services and employment beyond their boundaries.

The traditional view of an economic area, Fountain says, is one node – a "central city" – with a network of suburbs. But most of the world's successful economies, including the Sacramento area, no longer function like that. Today's com-



See **Node**, page 5

From the Council Chambers

Mayor's community gathering scheduled for Feb. 23

Mayor Jeff Starsky will hold his first Saturday Morning With The Mayor community gathering on Feb. 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in his office at City Hall. Residents are invited to share their ideas and concerns with the mayor over coffee. No reservations are required. If you have a specific question you'd like answered, leave a message at City Hall at 355-7220. Starsky plans to hold the Saturday morning meetings several times a year.

Starsky was unanimously elected mayor by the council on Dec. 11, and Kerri Howell was chosen as vice mayor.

Starsky won his council seat in November 2000. Howell has been a councilwoman for three years.

As provided in the city charter, Starsky took the gavel immediately. He identified four issues he plans to focus on: infrastructure, with schools a priority; economic development; community outreach; and "smart growth" and the preservation of open space and the American River.

The Folsom mayor is elected by the council every December to serve a one-year term. Starsky succeeded former Mayor Steve Miklos, who served four terms.

Residents are invited to give input on next year's budget

Residents are invited to participate in the budget process again this year at several workshops from now until May. This is the opportunity for Folsom citizens to express their views to the City Council before the preliminary budget is developed. All workshop dates are tentative and all except the first one will be at regular council meetings at 6:30 p.m. This information will be updated on the city's Web site.

A City Council Strategic Planning Workshop is being planned at Video Product Distributors, 150 Parkshore Drive.

Feb. 12: Administration, Redevelopment Agency,

Information Services budget presentation.

Feb. 26, Police Department master service plan presentation.

March 12: Public safety budget presentation.

March 26: Recreation, library and PIP presentation.

April 9: Public Works presentation

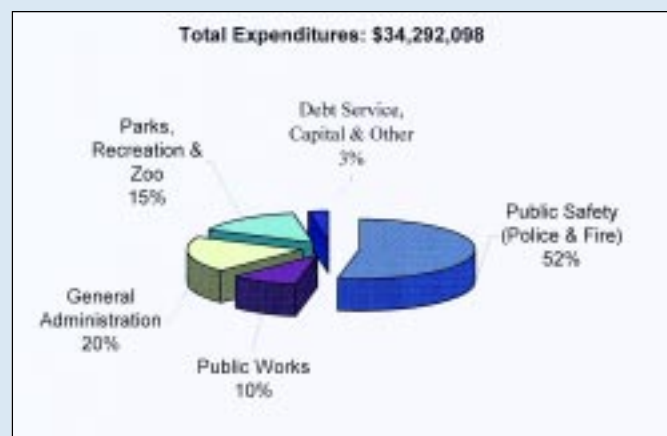
May 28: City manager presents the FY 2002/03 preliminary budget to the City Council.

June 11: The City Council is scheduled to adopt the final budget for FY 2002/2003.

Shop in Folsom and return your \$\$\$ to the community



As the pie chart above shows, by far the largest single source of revenue to the city is sales tax. Every time you make a purchase in Folsom, a portion of the sales tax you pay is returned to the city's general fund and used for such services as public safety, recreation, streets and roads, water and sewer (above, right). The total dollar amount of sales



tax revenue the city projects for fiscal year 2001/02 is \$12,350,000. Expected property taxes are \$6,300,000. Total expected revenue is \$34,300,714. Projected expenditures include \$18,152,740 for public safety, \$3,262,979 for Public Works, \$6,704,833 for general administration, and \$5,186,964 for Parks and Recreation and the city's zoo.

News Roundup

Sharon Roloff wins state award

Sharon Roloff, the Folsom Police Department's crime prevention specialist, was named Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year by the California Crime Prevention Officers Association.

Roloff, who joined the department in March 2000, is responsible for crime analysis and community outreach, including Neighborhood Watch and the police volunteer programs.

"She exemplifies the role of community advocate," says her supervisor, Lynn Bowler, who nominated her. "She has added a lot to our department's services."

One of those additions is volunteers. Roloff expanded the police volunteer program from five volunteers, all doing office work, to more than 40, many of whom assist officers on patrol. All the volunteers are trained through a 12-week academy that Roloff started.

Roloff also has built the Neighborhood Watch program to 90 active groups, including participation in National Night Out, and is now expanding it to include businesses.

True to her title, Roloff's passion is crime prevention. Folsom has a low crime rate, but, she says, citizens still need to be careful. "If people would just lock their doors and windows, they would prevent a lot of crime."



Roloff, right, with Bowler.

Four arts groups win 2002 grants

Four Folsom arts organizations have received grants for 2002 through the city's Cultural Arts Grants program. The City Council makes grant funds available to support the arts in Folsom. The Folsom Arts and Cultural Committee reviews the applications and selects the recipients.

Grant winners must be nonprofit, meet high artistic standards, show fiscal accountability and respond to the interests and needs of the community.

This year's winners are the Folsom Band Boosters jazz festival Jan. 26, \$5,000; Folsom Lake Community Concert Association Joe Burstaller concert April 25, \$2,500; Carl Sundahl Foundation for art education in school, \$2,550; and Live Oak Theater drama at Fol-

som Middle School, \$2,000.

For information on applying for grants, call Parks and Recreation at 355-7285.

Student art shows 'American Pride'

Eight Folsom students who participated in former Mayor Steve Miklos' Art in the Mayor's Office program were honored at the Nov. 27 City Council meeting. Their drawings are displayed at City Hall.

The students, who interpreted the theme "American Pride," are: Maude Van Der Elst and Sahana Sarkar of Theodore Judah; Emily Storer of Phoenix School;

Carley Howard of Blanche Sprentz; Rachel Cabrera of Natoma Station; Tiffany Ajax of Folsom Middle; and Laura Landon and Tom Cowan of Folsom High.

New directory lists city's artists

Looking for art pieces or music lessons? The new Arts & Cultural Resource Directory is a quick reference to find artists, artwork, art instruction and art organizations in Folsom.

The handbook, published by the Folsom Arts and Cultural Committee and the Folsom Patrons of the Arts, covers literary art,

Plans move forward for new library

With the June 14 deadline for applying for state library funds on the horizon, city staff is moving



forward with the plans for the new library. A new sign, graced with a new logo, marks the future site at the main fire station on Natoma Street.

Consultants Kathryn Page and Joan Frye Williams are developing a building plan and expect to present it to the City Council at its first meeting in February. Page and Williams will determine the space needs for the library programs and whether one large main library, or a smaller main library with a branch, would better serve the community.

Negotiations are still under way with BSA Architects of San Francisco to construct the building. The architects' contract was scheduled to be approved by the council Jan. 29.

The city also will have the site appraised – a requirement for the Proposition 14 application – and will conduct an environmental review.

News Roundup

Folsom Prison is a 'good neighbor'

When Trails Coordinator Jim Konopka wanted to build the trail at Glenn Drive, he knew the city didn't have a budget for the labor costs. Never one to let that stop him, he turned to another source: workers from Folsom Prison.

It was a crew of 13 minimum-security prisoners who, at no cost to the city, cleared the trail and built the bridges across the creeks.

Prison crews can often be seen working about town in their required orange vests and lime-green jump suits, but residents may not realize how much these men contribute to the community. Last year, the value of the prisoners' community service totaled \$2.2 million, says Tip Kindel, prison community resources manager. The crew on the Glenn Drive trail worked there an aggregate of three months of full time hours.

In Folsom, two 13-man crews are assigned to the Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments. Crews also work with the state Department of Parks and Recreation. Among the inmates' tasks are street and equipment cleaning, landscaping, rattlesnake abatement, and clearing parks and trails. The Parks and Recreation crew preps the trails before the city's Trails Day.

When there's time, the crews also work for other government agencies such as schools and the post office.



A Folsom Prison crew builds a support for a bridge on the Glenn Drive trail. The men had to use a sledge hammer and jackhammer to complete the task.

All prisoners are prescreened, minimum-security inmates who live in a "camp" outside the prison wall, Kindel says. They have not committed violent crimes and are so close to parole there is no incentive to walk away. No inmate has ever left a work crew, and each day of community work reduces the time served by a day.

"This is a great community service the prison can provide the host community," says Kindel. "We're neighbors and we're trying to be good neighbors."

performing arts, visual art, art resources, art businesses, and art organizations. The directory is planned for publication each October.

Copies are available at the Parks and Recreation Department and in some Folsom galleries and frame shops. To be included in the next directory, call Parks and Recreation at 355-7285.

How to live with Folsom wildlife

As Folsom grows, the habitats of native wildlife are shrinking. That makes it more and more likely you could encounter native

animals around your yards and nearby parks.

Part of the mission of the Folsom Zoo is to educate residents on responsibly sharing our space with the local animals. The Zoo's staff, under Superintendent Terry Jenkins, offer these suggestions:

- Don't feed wildlife.
- Feed your pets indoors or bring pet food in at night.
- Never approach or pick up a wild animal, even if it acts "tame." Tame behavior may mean it's sick or injured.
- Keep pets on a leash when they're out and bring them in at night. This keeps

wildlife safe, too.

- Keep dog or cat doors locked at night; raccoons, skunks and opossums can learn to use them, too.

- Plant indigenous plants and shrubs that wildlife, such as rabbits, snakes and birds, can use as cover, food, etc.

- Drive slower between dawn and dusk and watch for animals.

- Pick up litter. Litter can be a hazard for wildlife.

- Appreciate the joys of wildlife watching. A beautiful king snake can be a welcome guest in your yard – but don't pick it up.

- Sign up for wildlife

classes at the zoo or buy the book "Wild Neighbors" at the zoo gift shop.

- Educate yourself about your own wild neighbors, from bugs to cougars.

Restrictions begin on Dam Road

Effective Feb. 2, only passenger vehicles and pickups will be allowed on Folsom Dam Road. Commercial trucks, trailers, motorhomes and buses will be prohibited. Passenger vehicles and pickups may pull boats but no other trailers. The changes have been made for security reasons. For more details, call 989-7261.

Node (from page 1)

munities are organized into regions, Each region has several nodes that are interconnected, like a web, and each node functions as the “downtown” for many smaller communities in its own “nodal service area” outside its boundaries. Developing services and growth within one node enhances the economic well-being of the whole region, Fountain says.

The Sacramento region has several nodes. The city of Sacramento is a node, of course, as is Roseville/Rocklin. He predicts Sacramento International Airport and McClellan will one day be nodes. San Jose is a node of the San Francisco region, but its story has a lesson for Folsom.

To ensure the city’s long-term prosperity, Fountain recommends Folsom adopt the goal of becoming a node by 2020.

“Folsom fits perfectly into the definition of an emerging urban economic node,” Fountain says. It is no longer just a suburb of Sacramento but is poised to become the economic center of the region that encompasses the Highway 50 corridor – eastern Sacramento County, Rancho Cordova, El Dorado Hills, western El Dorado County – as well as parts of South Placer County. The area already has a larger employment base than downtown Sacramento.

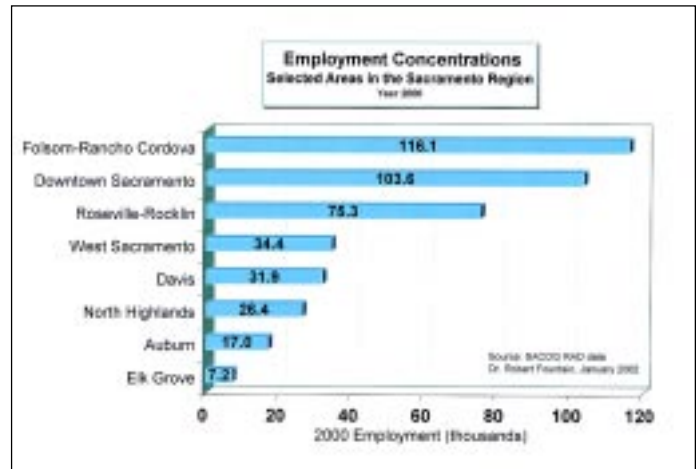
To qualify as a node, Folsom and its nodal service area must meet several criteria: a city population of 60,000 to 70,000 people (Folsom’s present population is 57,000; at buildout it’s projected to be 69,000); a dynamic economic base with a larger labor force and several more employers of the caliber of Intel; a diversified infrastructure, including transportation, quality public education and extensive arts and entertainment; at least one institution of higher learning; and the commitment of being part of a greater whole.

“The importance of Folsom does not stop at the city limits,” Fountain says.

As a node, the city must think of itself not as a stand-alone economy but as the central core of a much larger service area. With that perspective, the council would work to bring new employers, more recreation and entertainment, and higher education into its entire nodal service area, not just within city limits. Wealth created anywhere in the service area benefits all the residents within it, and in the region, Fountain says.

For example, he says, a new employer in Latrobe, in El Dorado County, will bring in people who will buy cars at the Folsom Auto Mall and attend college at a new university Fountain proposes the city pursue.

Higher education is one piece of infrastructure the Sacramento area lacks. Fountain sees a need for several more universities. “Sacramento State and UC Davis are wonderful,”



In Sacramento County, Folsom and Rancho Cordova – the Highway 50 corridor – now employ more workers than downtown Sacramento. Folsom is expected to become the node of the corridor.

he says, “but they are not enough. Sacramento does not produce its educated workforce. We must bring them here.”

In contrast, the San Francisco region has the “big thinkers at Berkeley and Stanford. They have an intellectual infrastructure that Sacramento doesn’t have.”

If Folsom thinks of itself as a node rather than as just a small city, then, suddenly, it becomes big enough to support a university, he says.

Transportation is another of the area’s drawbacks. Folsom has taken a good first step by bringing in light rail from Sacramento, expected in two years, but it still needs a means of getting people to Placer and El Dorado counties on mass transit.

Transportation turned out to be a thorn in San Jose’s progress. The San Francisco region has a transportation network in BART, but San Jose opted not to join BART 30 years ago because of the tax increase. As a result, San Jose’s success has been constrained by lack of access to the Bay Area.

Today, Fountain says, San Jose is “trying desperately to buy into BART. ... It’s just killing San Jose. Let us not reinvent that particular experience.”

The arts, culture and entertainment also must be improved, Fountain says, if the area is to attract good employers. “Some executives would never move to a place without that.”

One element that doesn’t have to be expanded is retail. “We have enough retail in Northern California,” he says.

The current looming recession is not a deterrent to taking action, Fountain says. Recessions are always a time for restructuring. That makes this downturn a great opportunity for the city to move forward.

“Nobody thinks about changing when things are just fine,” he says.

Special Events

Feb. 12 – **Sewer System Presentation.** Ken Payne, the city’s wastewater engineer, will detail the city’s sewer issues at council meeting. 6:30 p.m. City Hall.

Feb. 15-May 15– **Rice Bowls & Teacups: Folsom’s Chinese Archaeology.** Cultural history of Chinese settlers. From Rainbow Bridge dig. With Chinese American Council, PAR Environmental. History Museum. 985-2707.

Feb. 16 – **Valentines Day at the Zoo.** Make a valentine for your favorite zoo animal. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Folsom Zoo. \$2. 351-3527.

Feb. 19 – **Music Mike Family Concert.** Fun hour of music and movement for children. 7 p.m. Community Center. \$6; \$18 family of four. At door: \$8/\$24. 355-7285.

Feb. 23 – **Saturday Morning With The Mayor.** Community meeting to share your ideas, concerns with Mayor Jeff Starsky. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mayor’s office in City Hall. For more information, call 355-7220.

March 6 – **Irrigation System Basics.** Introduction to landscape fundamentals workshop. 6:30-9 p.m. Community Center. Free but registration is required. 355-7252.

March 7-May 23 – **Police Department Citizens Academy.** Training for police volunteers, who must take entire series; others welcome to attend individual classes. Thursdays 6-8 p.m. Classes are free and held at the Police Department. For more information or to register: 355-7367.

March 16 – **Plants for a Water-Efficient Landscape.** Includes tour of City Hall grounds. 9-11 a.m. Community Center. Free; registration required. 355-7252.

March 16 – **MOWER. Program Workshop.** Learn benefits of backyard composting, recycling. Receive free compost bin or mulching mower rebate. 9-10 a.m. Lew Howard Park. Free. Future workshops: April 6, 20; June 8, 27; Nov. 2. 355-8394.

March 16 – **America Works Career Fair.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community Center. 737-0903.

March 16 – **Celtic Fiddle Festival.** 7:15 p.m. Community Center. \$14/\$16 at door/\$8 students 18 and under. Tickets on sale at Community Center or Cloud’s Porcelain on Sutter Street. 355-7299 or 985-3411.

March 20 – **Understanding Drip Irrigation.** Workshop on designing, installing, maintaining drip system. 6:30-9 p.m. Community Center. Free but registration required. 355-7252.

March 23 – **Wild Women of the Wild West.** Honoring Women’s History Month. Four women who challenged society’s definition of womanhood in the old West. Silent auction. 2-4 p.m. Folsom History Museum. \$15 adults/ \$10 children. 985-2707.

March 23 – **Ride the Folsom Trails.** Discover the extensive network of bike trails in Folsom. Enjoy scenery, wildlife. Learn bike safety tips. Space limited. Riders must wear helmet. \$10 person/\$15 family. 355-7285.

March 30 – **Annual Spring Eggstravaganza.** Annual egg hunt at Lembi Park, this year with an egg tossarama at the aquatics center. Pancake breakfast, carnival, entertainment. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Egg tossarama – dive for eggs in inner tubes, win prizes –10:30-11 a.m. Lembi Aquatic Center. Admission free. Dive is \$1 per diver. 355-7285.

Coming Up

April 2 – **Music Mike Family Concert.** Community Center. 355-7285.

April 13 – **Water Hyacinth Cleanup Day.** Volunteer to help get rid of this pest. 355-7285.

April 20 – **Folsom Trail Day.** Build a Folsom trail. 355-7285.

April 28 – **SIDStep 2002.** 5K walk to benefit Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Folsom City Park. 877-938-7437.

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 7 p.m. the first Monday, Folsom Library.

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

Historical 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 Committee meets 7 p.m. the second Thursday, City Hall

Utility Advisory Committee meets 7 p.m. the third Tuesday, City Hall.



City of Folsom Newsletter

Volume V, Number 6
February/March 2002

Folsom radio station: 1500 AM

50 Natoma Street Folsom, California 95630 • (916) 355-7200 • <http://www.folsom.ca.us>

Folsom City Council

Jeff Starsky, Mayor
Kerri Howell Vice Mayor
Steve Miklos, Cyndi Dow, Eric King
Martha Clark Lofgren, City Manager

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Expert manages city's sewer system

Engineer Ken Payne leads effort to find and tackle wastewater problems

Ken Payne looks at the rains differently from the rest of us. We see gray skies and think of shelter. Payne sees storm drains filling and thinks of pipelines.

Payne, a civil/environmental engineer, is the city's consultant wastewater engineer, here on a leave of absence from Malcolm Pirnie, a 100-year-old environmental engineering company. He was the project manager on the recent upgrade and expansion of Folsom's water treatment plant, and he now heads the city's effort to rehabilitate and manage its sewer collection system.

In the face of recent publicity about the city's sewer system, and recent vandalism to a manhole in Lexington Hills, that would seem a daunting task. Not so, Payne says.

"Folsom's not alone," he says. "A lot of cities are in the same situation. Every sewer system has spills. Any kind of underground construction has maintenance issues."

That's true throughout the country. A recent Environmental Protection Agency study determined the nation's wastewater systems need \$1 trillion – that's \$1,000,000,000,000 – for new sewer projects and

adequate repairs of older ones.

"I don't know of any city in the country that doesn't have flooding or spillage occurring," Payne says. "It's very common when you have a community that's trying to stay ahead of the growth curve." And in older communities, he says, aging systems may need replacing.

"Even the EPA's Clean Water Act recognizes that well-operated systems may have occasional blockages or pipeline failures," he says.

The city paid a \$700,000 fine for a spill



two years ago at Folsom Boulevard between Blue Ravine Road

and Natoma Station Drive. The administration elected to pay the fine rather than contest it so the time and money saved could be allocated to the sewer program.

February 2000 was the last time any spill flowed into any waterway in Folsom. That spill occurred at a point where Folsom's lines transfer to Sacramento County's lines – a transition the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District is responsible for. At the

time, the county was building a new line to the transition point and was scheduled to complete it six months earlier. But construction was delayed, the heavy rains came, and the old line couldn't handle the flow.

"Everything happened at once," Payne says. The work was done about two weeks after the spill.

The city is cooperating with the sanitation board to make sure the sewer system is adequate for its needs now and at build-out. Payne is scheduled to make a detailed presentation to the City Council at the Feb. 12 meeting on the progress of this work.

City's wastewater: From here to Sacramento

Folsom does not treat its sewage. The city's wastewater flows by gravity through pipelines to the county's treatment plant in south Sacramento. The city does operate four major lift stations – at Oak Avenue Parkway, Broadstone, Folsom Boulevard and the Lake Natoma Crossing. These stations process the effluent and release it into the pipelines. The Broadstone station will be replaced by the county's sewer expansion project, known as the FE3 interceptor, now under construction. Smaller lift stations scattered throughout the city handle smaller service areas. All stations are monitored and have backup equipment and power for unexpected failures.

The wastewater generated north of

the river flows through a pipeline inside the Lake Natoma Crossing to the lift station just south of the bridge.

What goes through the sewer system? Essentially, whatever is connected to the plumbing. The flow is generally steady throughout the year but can increase when it rains. Rainwater can leak into joints or cracks or seep under manhole lids. That inflow is normal, but it can be a source of a lot of additional water during heavy rains. Another source of possible inflow is through plumbing left open during construction.

The water that flows into street drains does not go through the sewer but into a storm drainage system that takes it directly to the creeks.

Payne used “worst storm event” for sewer hydraulic studies

Managing sewer infrastructure is two jobs, Payne says: maintaining the existing infrastructure; and ensuring there is enough capacity to meet growth needs.

As part of its agreement with the sanitation board, the city conducted hydraulic capacity and inflow/infiltration studies of the sewer system. The hydraulic study revealed three areas that needed to be addressed: manholes that required repairing and insufficient pipeline capacity at Folsom Boulevard and Blue Ravine Road; capacity problems at School Street and Montrose Way; and capacity problems at Blue Ravine and Oak Avenue Parkway.

The inflow/infiltration study, which involves snaking a computer-operated camera through the pipes, found several spots to be repaired. That’s normal in any sewer system, Payne says. All of those repairs have been made and the pipes have been cleaned.

In conducting the hydraulic studies of the pipelines along Blue Ravine Road, the city used a computer model to simulate a “worst storm event,” with conditions that are unlikely to happen here, Payne says.

Under this model, the current pipeline would not spill but could come

within two to three feet of street level, the arbitrary safety margin engineers designate as the “hydraulic grade line.” This is the water level estimated to ensure there will be no overflow regardless of the variations of the terrain above it.

“The worst that can happen (as determined by the computer simulation) is the water reaches the borderline,” Payne says.

At Folsom Boulevard and Blue Ravine Road, the city increased the flow capacity by installing an additional line, known as an intertie, to handle overflows if the wastewater levels rise. The city also sealed a manhole there with a new pressurized cover that prevents spillage into the system and wastewater from leaking out.

Interties, Payne says, reduce water levels, and sealing manholes is an extra precaution.

Sealing manholes has no adverse impact on the sewer flow, he says. The wastewater still flows normally to the Sacramento County treatment plant.

City crews also installed an intertie to handle overflow at Montrose Way and School Street. The pipes are in an older neighborhood and are considered undersized.

The Numbers

Miles of sanitary sewer lines in Folsom: **194**

Miles of storm sewer lines: **113**

Number of pump stations: **13**

Number of service connections: **16,812**

Daily average flow in gallons: **7.3 million a day**

Maximum peak flow in gallons during rain events: **18 to 29 million a day**

At Blue Ravine Road and Oak Avenue Parkway, the city installed about a dozen bolted, pressurized manhole lids, as a precaution, and constructed an intertie to take wastewater from the Blue Ravine Road lift station to the Oak Avenue lift station, which has extra capacity.

Public Works crews also have bolted down other city manhole covers, including all of them along Hinkle Creek and Willow Creek. A few days before Christmas, in an act of vandalism, someone placed large boulder-size rocks into a manhole in Lexington Hills, causing the wastewater to back up and spill. The Police Department is still searching for information on the vandals.

The city’s Sewer Division, part of the Public Works Depart-

ment, runs the wastewater system with 10 employees. The crews clean an average of 1,500 feet of sewer lines a week. Two computer systems monitor the sewer system and

the flows. If a problem is found or if the water levels rise, the systems automatically notify the work crews, even after hours.

The city now has 14 monitoring points and plans to add three or four more each year for the next five years.

This year, the city also is reassessing the entire wastewater system as part of its scheduled assessment rotation. The survey is meant to identify improvements that need to be made or projects that should be constructed and will include an inflow/infiltration study and capacity analysis. Payne says it may be necessary to replace some of the older parts of the sewer system.

When the study is completed, the city will update its master plan to reflect the new recommendations.