



City of Folsom Newsletter

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150 years of fire service

*Museum exhibit
displays history
of Folsom FD*

Capt. Steve Gedstad has long been interested in the history of the Folsom Fire Department – interested enough that he fished items out of the trash during moves to new fire stations.

He didn't have plans for the documents and photographs he salvaged, but they've now been put

See **Exhibit**, page 5

Folsom Fire Capt. Steve Gedstad checks out the restored 1920s Model T fire engine that stands as the centerpiece of a History Museum exhibit honoring the Fire Department's 150 years in Folsom. This wasn't a Folsom vehicle, but the department did have two Model Ts. This model carried a hose, which was

hooked up to a pumper truck or hydrant. Other Model Ts carried chemicals. Getting the truck into the History Museum took seven men and a jack and required dismantling the museum's reception desk. Gedstad, a 24-year Fire Department veteran, researched and curated the exhibit, which runs through Jan. 6.

What's Happening

- ◆ Reminder: The deadline to submit your **best photos of Folsom** to the Folsom Focus photography contest is Nov. 19. See www.patron-softhearts.org.
- ◆ Your favorite child can receive a **letter from Santa Claus**. Look for the form on page 6 of the Activities Guide. Deadline is Dec. 14.

Inside

- ◆ Technology hasn't replaced books at the Folsom Library, but it is **expanding the services the library offers**. See stories on page 4.



Sutter 'streetscape': Back to the future?

A conceptual "streetscape" plan unanimously approved Oct. 23 by the City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency, would spruce up four blocks of the city's historic main street to make the area more attractive, functional and economically stable.

The overriding goal in creating the proposal – which involved study groups, public input and the formation of a streetscape committee – was to maintain the street's historic authenticity and charm.

"The historic district has a special character and personality that sets it apart," says Redevelopment and Housing Director Amy Feagans. "The plan doesn't redefine the character of the street. It recognizes and honors its history."

For more than 100 years, Sutter Street was the town's primary shopping district. As businesses moved eastward, the area became a tourist destination known for its restaurants, antique stores and Gold Rush past. The community renovated the street in the early 1960s by adding a center median and shed roofs. Nearly 50 years later, the area is due for another face-lift.

The streetscape proposal suggests four major structural modifications: removing the street median; widening the sidewalks and making them more handicap-accessible; replacing the shed roofs; and adding bulbouts at Sutter and Riley streets.

The median, now bulging with the roots of 45-year-old trees, has not proved to be functional. It has few pedestrian crossings and hinders traffic flow.

Removing the median would open up space for the sidewalks to be widened from 10 feet to 20 feet, allowing outdoor dining and gathering and giving merchants flexibility for displays during street events. The sidewalks would be cut into at a few spots to allow some on-street parking and accommodate delivery trucks, which now frequently block traffic.

The shed roofs also date from the 1960s. The original



Sutter Street around 1950.

Sutter Street shops usually had individual overhangs such as awnings, canopies and balconies, Feagans says. Replacing the roofs with separate shade structures would allow each building to project its unique historic identity.

Bulbouts are sidewalk extensions at the corners of intersections. These platforms shorten the distance across the street and make it easier for drivers to see pedestrians.

The streetscape project is being coordinated with a historic district revitalization effort that features the development of the adjacent railroad block. The Historic District Commission approved the design in early October.

With the council approval of the plan, BMS Design Group now begins research on detail work, such as selecting paving materials, landscaping, pedestrian amenities and public art. The public will have opportunities for input during this phase.

Construction will begin in 2008 and will be coordinated with the work on the railroad block to keep shops open and disruptions to a minimum.

Meanwhile, Feagans says, "to help make the area a little more friendly," a few immediate improvements, such as flower pots and new trash receptacles, will be added.

Seniors, disabled may qualify for free help with home repairs

Folsom seniors who meet income guidelines may be eligible for free help with minor home repairs.

The city's Seniors Helping Seniors handyman program employs qualified senior tradespeople or licensed contractors to make minor health and safety repairs for homeowners 65 or older or disabled

homeowners 55 or older. The work can range from fixing a deck or leaky plumbing to changing a hard-to-reach light bulb or replacing a furnace filter.

The handymen do not do yard work or paving.

To be eligible for assistance, you must meet age and income require-

ments and own your own house or mobile home in Folsom.

For more information or to learn if you qualify for the program, call 355-7356.

The city also offers assistance for repairing and restoring homes in the historic area that were built before 1950. For information, call 355-7352.

Veterans Day parade Nov. 12

Four grand marshals will preside over this year's Veterans Day parade, all of them veterans of Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Tom Tully has served 20 years in the California Army National Guard, including a tour of duty in Bosnia and two in Iraq. Master Sgt. Cary Martin, a 20-year Air Force reserves veteran, served this year in Iraq.

Army Cpl. Justin Tucker is currently in Iraq but scheduled to return before the parade, and Army Sgt. Jonathon Gehweiler, a recipient of two purple hearts, is at Mather Hospital but expects to join the parade.

Veterans Day honors living veterans. Initially, it was established to commemorate the signing of the armistice that ended World War I, near Paris at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918. It's celebrated, under different names, in several countries.

There are a few changes in the parade this year. First, it will take place on the Monday holiday, Nov. 12, rather than the traditional Nov. 11.

Also, the review stand is moving to City Lions Park at Natoma Street. Parade entrants will perform for the judges there.

The route will be the same as in recent years, beginning about 9 a.m. in the Mervyn's parking lot on East Bidwell Street and

following East Bidwell, Coloma and Natoma streets to City Lions Park. Those roads will be closed during the parade. Motorists are urged to use Riley Street, Blue Ravine Road and Wales Drive as alternatives.

After the parade, the public is invited to a brief ceremony at the new veterans memorial behind the library and a free hot dog barbecue at the Community Center.

Veterans will hold a traditional Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at Lakeside Cemetery.

Police holiday basket program

The Police Department's annual Christmas Basket program begins accepting donations of food and toys on Nov. 26. The program, founded by the department, delivers baskets of toys and food, including a turkey or ham, to needy Folsom families.

The PD co-sponsors the program with the Twin Lakes Food Bank, the Police Officers Association and Scout troops. Last year, they distributed more than 400 baskets.

To help, bring nonperishable foods or new, unwrapped toys to the Police Department at 46 Natoma St.

If you'd like to receive a Christmas Basket, you must sign up in person at the Police Department between Nov. 19 and Dec. 14. Baskets will be distributed Dec. 20.



The 800-seat theater planned for Folsom Lake College is expected to attract national touring companies.

For more information, call 492-8607.

City helps fund college theater

The City Council has approved a \$500,000 contribution to help build a visual and performing arts center on the Folsom Lake College campus. The money will be paid in increments over five years.

The 79,000-square-foot center will offer students comprehensive arts education and experience, including the opportunity to work with professional artists and to exhibit their work.

The centerpiece of the complex will be an 800-seat, state-of-the-art main theater that is expected to draw regional audiences and national touring companies. This theater will become the home of the Folsom Lake Symphony Orchestra.

The complex will include a 200-seat black box theater – unadorned and often experimental – and a rehearsal theater, plus a directors studio, art gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, rehearsal space and costume and set

workshops.

The three theaters will provide performance venues for schools and local groups, such as dance companies.

Theater districts traditionally spur business investment in their surrounding communities. According to college literature, the Folsom Lake theater complex, after it opens in 2010, is predicted to generate as much as \$3.5 million in revenues to the city each year.

Palladio planned to open in 2009

Perhaps illustrating the adage that good things are worth waiting for, the Palladio regional mall is scheduled to open in 2009.

Site improvements at the Italian-themed mall – curbs, sidewalks, an additional lane on East Bidwell Street and a new access road – are now complete and the underground utilities are being installed.

Elliott Homes expects to submit plans for building permits in the next month. Although most of the tenants are on board, says Elliott Vice President

Russ Davis, the names cannot be released until the contracts are signed.

The first phase – encompassing about 75 percent of the retail buildings – will include two parking garages, retail shops, restaurants and a 16-screen theater. No department store is planned in this phase.

The mall, named for the influential 16th-century Italian architect Andrea Palladio, has been designed as a gathering place as much as a shopping center. The building façades will reflect Italian styles from classic to contemporary, and the outdoor areas will feature fountains and seating along with paved plazas and walkways.

All the structures incorporate Palladio's principles of architecture.

Trash is picked up on holidays

With several holidays approaching, the Solid Waste Division reminds residents that the trash pickup schedule doesn't change on holidays. Folsom's trash collection service operates every weekday, including holidays.

Be sure to put out your carts, according to your recycling schedule, before 7 a.m. on Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's mornings.

If you miss a pickup or need a recycling schedule for your neighborhood, call 355-8367, ext. 2.

Folsom Library: Books, yes, but much more

Indisputably, the greatest pleasure of reading is hunkering down with a good book. And there's no better place to find a book – fiction in all genres or nonfiction on any topic – than a library.

In this computer era, though, the mission of libraries to provide information has been expanded to encompass technology. You might be surprised at the resources the Folsom Library offers:

- Most basic, if you don't know how to use a computer, you can learn in a beginners class at the library. Sessions are held at 9 a.m. before the library opens. You must preregister. Call 355-7374.
- If you don't have a computer, or yours is down, you can work at a library station. The computers are loaded with standard software, such as Word and Powerpoint, and you can record, email or print your work.
- The computers also are connected



to the Internet so you can search, check your email, send email, even apply for jobs. If you don't have an email account, the library staff can help you set up a free one. (Most libraries offer

Internet service – great to remember when traveling.) Using the computers is free but limited to one or two hours. You must reserve at the library.

- If you have a laptop set up for Wi-Fi, you can bring it to the library and use it anywhere – in the reading room or outside by the fountain, for instance.

- Believe it or not, you can watch a movie at the library – if it's shorter than two hours. The computers can play DVDs or CDs – your own or the library's. You must use earphones.

- About those earphones: If you don't have your own, you can buy them at the library. You can also buy flash drives, recordable CDs and floppy disks.

Of course, if what you really want is to curl up with a book, that's easy. Just look for one of the library's quiet reading areas and find a comfortable chair.

Some library services are 'open' after hours

It's not easy to find a time you can't visit the Folsom Library – it's open more hours than any other library in the region. Even so, you may wish you could use some library services after hours.

You can.

Through the magic of computer technology and the library's Web site (www.folsomlibrary.com), you can access online library services at home or from any computer with an Internet connection – any time. All you need is a Folsom library card. Here are two ideas:

- **Online catalog:** You can request books from any branch in the Sacramento County library system. You'll need your library card number to set up or activate your account, then you

search for the books you want, request them, and they'll be delivered to the Folsom Library for pickup. This service is free.

- **Online databases:** You can research online through the library's databases. Many of these databases are costly or even unavailable to individual subscribers, but they're free to library patrons. There's something for all ages and interests: "America the Beautiful" and popular science for children; "Newsbank" with a huge collection of newspaper and magazine archives; encyclopedias; authoritative medical resources; a virtual reference library; and "Novelist" for great reading lists, plot summaries and information on books and authors.



Spectators watch as firefighters battle a blaze at Patton's Pharmacy on Sutter Street (about 1965). (The photos are from the History Museum; sepia tone was added.)

Fire (from page 1)

to good use as part of a History Museum exhibit celebrating the Fire Department's 150th anniversary. The exhibit runs through Jan. 6.

The Fire Department was formed as the all-volunteer Folsom Hook & Ladder Co. on March 3, 1857. It was the third fire company in California.

Gedstad, with the support of department and museum staff, has spent months researching Folsom's fire history and pulling together artifacts for display. He lucked out when he discovered a storage facility in one of the fire stations that contained a treasure trove of old items. "When I started going through it, I realized what I had," he says.

The exhibit features photographs and record books – inked with fountain pens – that date back to the 1800s and include familiar town surnames. Reading the log entries is like a Folsom history lesson in itself. Also noteworthy are photos of the fire station on Coloma Street, which is more familiar as – until last February – the old city library.

Other photographs illustrate the role of the Fire Department as the city's foremost social organization. Young men who weren't volunteer firefighters could join as "social" members, and they did. The annual Firemen's Ball – a fundraiser – was the prime city event for years.

Many of the items on display are from former firefighters and chiefs or their families. Mary Welch, the widow of Chief R.B. Welch, provided a case full of artifacts, including Welch's old "turnout" coat. Another case displays fire helmets across the years; clothing items include an ornate dress cap that belonged to Les Burnett, the department's first paid chief.

The most prominent item on display is the Model T fire



Elmer McBeath became a Fire volunteer in 1938, at age 14, and left as volunteer chief – stipend: \$50 a month – in 1957. McBeath is now 83. Here he reminisces in his own words:

I was in high school when I first joined the Fire Department. When the fire whistle blew, the school principal let me out so I could drive the truck. (That was the La France, which is now on display at the main fire station.)

I was appointed fire chief by Mayor Lee Miller in 1954 after an incident happened where the former chief and a city councilman took the fire truck out for a party on Sutter Street with a bunch of people. I owned a gas station next to the fire station on Sutter Street, and they moved the controls for the fire alarm system to my station. One of the other business owners came over and took care of the station when I went to a fire.

Before we had radios, we used to carry a sack of flour on the engine. When we went around the corner, we threw the flour out so the truck or car behind the engine would know where to turn. We got our first radios in the 1950s.

All the equipment firefighters have now ... we were lucky to have a coat and hat. We didn't have uniforms, just a badge. We never had air masks or breathing apparatus. They have the newest equipment now, but water still puts out fires. A tank of water and a hose – what else do you need?

engine, probably dating from the 1920s. This restored truck has been housed in the Interpretive Center on Wool Street. It was not a Folsom vehicle, but Folsom did own two like it. They were parked on hills so the firefighters could be sure they would start.

Also on the floor are 19th-century hose carts, which firefighters manually pulled to fires. In the days before public water systems, they had to connect the hoses to any water source they could find.

When the exhibit closes in January, Gedstad hopes to find a permanent place to display some of the items and preserve the rest in storage. Now that he's started this project, "the collection," he says, "keeps getting bigger."

Special Events

Continuing through Nov. 30 – **Flower Fusion.** The Gallery @ 48 Natoma art exhibit. Quilts and wearable art, watercolors. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Nov. 1-18 – **Favorite Book Awards.** National Children's Book Week activity. Vote for your favorite book or author at the library.

Nov. 3-Jan. 6 – **Up in Flames.** The 150-year history of the Folsom Fire Department, from volunteers with buckets to professionals with high-tech medical equipment. History Museum. Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 985-2707.

Nov. 13 – **Enjoy Story & Dance.** National Children's Book Week activity. The Placer Theater Ballet presents dance and story from the "Nutcracker" ballet. Ages 4 and up. 4 p.m. at the library. 355-7372.

Nov. 14 – **Wild Wednesday.** National Children's Book Week activity. Folsom Zoo animals. Ages 4 and up. 3:30 p.m. at the library. 355-7372.



Work off calories and help needy families at the Thanksgiving morning Jazzercise fundraiser.

Nov. 17 – **READ-IN!** National Children's Book Week activity. Hourlong celebration of reading inside the library. Bring your favorite book or magazine. 11 a.m. to noon. Ages 7-12. 355-7372.

Nov. 22 – **Thanksgiving Jazzercise Fundraiser.** Benefits Folsom's Twin Lakes

Food Bank. 8:30-9:45 a.m. Community Center. \$10 donation. 355-7285.

Nov. 22 – **Folsom Turkey Trot.** 5K family run/walk and 10K run to benefit Twin Lakes Food Bank. \$20 before Nov. 8; \$25 after. Register at folsomturykettrot.com or on race day.

Nov. 22 – **Thanksgiving Feast for the Animals.** Help zoo animals enjoy their annual holiday feast. Every animal gets a special treat. 11 a.m. Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary. Free with regular admission.

Nov. 30 – **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.** Traditional luminaries on Sutter Street. Children's activities, refreshments, free photos with Santa at recreated Gimbels toy store on 700 block. Starts about 6 p.m. at Chamber of Commerce, 200 Wool St. 985-2698.

Coming Up

Dec. 1 – **Sutter Street Holiday Gift Fair.** Four blocks of arts, craft, food vendors. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, too. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Historic Sutter Street. 608-4545.

Dec. 7-Feb. 1 – **Focus on Folsom.** Entries from annual Folsom photography competition. Opening reception Dec. 7, 6-8 p.m. Gallery hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Free. The Gallery @ 48 Natoma St.

Dec. 8 – **Holiday Songs of Spirit and Joy.** Folsom Lake Symphony Orchestra winter concert. 8 p.m. www.folsom-symphony.com or 983-4277.

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, City Hall.

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 fourth 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.

Report **Mather Airport flight noise** to planenoiseinfo@accounty.net or call aircraft noise report line at 874-0800.

Nov. 7 – **Open House/Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.** You are invited to review and comment on the proposed update to the Parks and Recreation master plan before it is submitted to the City Council. The update incorporates changes made since the last update five years ago and delineates the proposed future facilities at undeveloped parks and remaining phases of partially developed parks. Projected revenues also will be discussed. Parks and Recreation staff and commissioners will be on hand to answer questions. Open house format. 6-8 p.m. Senior and Arts Center at 48 Natoma St. 355-7249.



City of Folsom Newsletter

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Folsom City Council

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A Kiewit welder joins steel beams that form part of the falsework, or working platform, from which the transition – a triangular section connecting the column and pier table, or roadway – will be built. The two angled sides are called wings. Above, workers hand-link reinforcing steel in preparation for the concrete pour.



The transition

Kiewit begins topping the columns with the road

Now that the concrete for the eastern column is poured and cured, Kiewit will start the process of constructing the roadway. The road, or deck, will be built in 54 segments – hence the term “segmental bridge” – but the segments directly above the columns are the pier tables. These will be part of the future roadway, but during construction they are platforms from which the road construction will begin.

The pier table doesn't sit directly on the column. In between is a triangular concrete and steel structure called the transition. Workers build the transition from falsework – a huge steel-and-plywood platform that surrounds the top of the column. When the transition is poured and cured, that platform is dismantled and the materials are stored for use on another project.

Falsework is needed to build the pier tables, too. For this bridge, that falsework will be supported by six 5-foot-thick steel pipes rising 100 feet from the column footing, at ground level, and surrounding the column. Steel beams – three to a side – will connect the pipes horizontally.

The pier tables are not flat panels, as you might imagine a road to be. They – and the segments that will follow – are chambered boxes with diagonal sides and an overhanging deck.

Building the pier tables will progress through the winter. Rain, says Project Manager Dan Hart, won't be an issue. “We're going to work through the winter,” he says. “We can do concrete in the rain.” The only exception would be when a downpour might make working unsafe.

The company is prepared for winter with rain suits for the workers, hydroseeded slopes to keep the dirt from eroding and a base layer of rock – from the excavated granite – on the dirt service roads.



**The
view
from
the
top**

*For
now,
many
roads
lead to
the
bridge*

Birds have the best views of the bridge construction site. Here, from bottom left to top right – west to east – you can see the west abutment wall – barely – behind the tower crane. Toward the river is the west column, known on the project as pier 2. The concrete for the final lift, or vertical section, of that column is not yet poured. Across the river, the east column is complete and

workers are beginning the transition section. The first step is building a wide wood-and-steel platform to work on. Up the hill is the east abutment and, beyond it, the roadbed for the future road to the bridge. The curvy road on the right is the construction access road. It may be kept in place for emergency use after the bridge opens. The green areas are hydro-seeded, which will keep the slopes from eroding.



Noise? Smoke? Don't panic

If you hear the sounds of an explosion, and see smoke clouds near the dam, don't call 911. It's Kiewit detonating the hillsides to break up the layer of granite beneath the earth's surface. Kiewit is using a common but strong explosive, ANFO, to loosen the rock so heavy equipment can remove it. Most of the granite pieces, which can range in size from pebbles to boulders, are being reused on the site. The explosions are tightly controlled and will continue for several more weeks.

Photos: Kiewit Pacific Co.