



Community News

November/December 2021

City Manager Message



The end of the year is upon us and we have been working hard on getting the community decorated for the holidays. The Downtown has been transformed and the Christmas Parade was a success. I hope you all were able to attend. I would like to thank all those who planned, set up and participated in the Christmas Parade. It takes hard work by all to make a successful event. Job well done!!!

On the COVID-19 front, we seem to make progress only to have a new variant come to light. City Hall plans to remain open as the newest variants seem to be manageable. We would like to encourage you to continue to be vigilant and do your part to lower the chances of contracting and spreading the virus.

City Council meetings are now being held in person at City Hall on the first and third Thursday of the month here at City Hall at 6:30 PM. We would love to see you here.

Vaccinations have slowed but you still have opportunities to get yours at many locations in the County. Visit county website at <http://schsa.org/coronavirus/vaccine/> for vaccination information and locations of vaccination clinics.

I know many of you have been hit hard through lost or reduced wages. We continue to work to find ways to provide assistance. Stanislaus County continues to allocated funding for those that meet certain income requirements by offering help for those behind on their rent and utility payments. Please see more information on our website at <https://www.cityofwaterford.org/2021/02/24/emergency-rental-assistance-program/> .

Staff collected information from business and our residents as to how you would like the American Rescue funds used. Based on the survey data received and given that the County continues to support residents with various rental and utility assistance programs, City Council has directed the funds to improve our existing Water and Sewer system enhancing pressure and extend service along Tim Bell to Vineyard Road. Staff will be working to design a project for construction sometime in 2022.

For your convenience, you can pay your utility bill through the USPS, use the drop box at the front entrance of City Hall, online at <https://waterford.merchantransact.com> or pay by phone by calling (209) 874-2328 and pressing 1. Now the City Hall is open, you can also stop by City Hall and pay in person too.

The developer has started home construction at Edgewood Estates at Pecan and Pasadena. If you are in the market for a new home, you can find information online at <https://www.drhorton.com/california/central-valley/waterford#> . Homes are selling fast with over 30 purchased so far.



Michael Pitcock,
City Manager

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- City Council Regular Meetings – December 16nd, January 6th, January 20th and February 3rd at 6:30 PM – In Person.
- Planning Commission Meeting – December 28th and January 25th at 6:30 – In Person.

Public Works

- **Main Street Reconstruction -** The project has been completed and added missing sidewalk and provide reconstruction of the roadway from Church Street to G Street. Take a look if you are in the area.
- **2021 Slurry and Cape Seal -** Over the last three years, the city has made a concerted effort to improve our street network. With the completion of this project as well as earlier street improvement projects, we have now completed maintenance on approximately 42% of our streets. We continue to use your tax dollars through revenue provided by SB1 and Measure L to make these improvements. We also are using Community Block Grant funding when available and our next use of those funds will be the reconstruction of H and I Street. Stay tuned for a construction date.
- **Dog Park –** We are finishing the design and hope to go to construction on a new dog park in Spring 2022. This project will have separate areas for small and large dogs and will be located behind the ball fields at Beard Park with access off of Tim Bell.
- **Citywide Watering Schedule -**
 - Outdoor watering is prohibited daily from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm.
 - Odd-numbered addresses watering days are Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
 - Even-numbered addresses watering days are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
 - No outdoor water use on Monday.



Fall and Winter are a great time turn your sprinkler clocks off and let nature water your landscape and save you money by lowering your water consumption.

[Administrative](#)

Facebook – Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofwaterford>, and for law enforcement at <https://www.facebook.com/StanSheriffWPS>.

Accepting Applications for Boards/Commissions: Waterford City Council is accepting applications from interested residents on a continuous basis to fill upcoming vacancies on the City's Boards and Commissions. If you are at least 18 years of age and live in Waterford and have an interest in serving on any of the City's Boards or Commissions please contact City Hall for an application. Or, applications are also available on our website: www.cityofwaterford.org.

Pay your City of Waterford Utility Bill Online

- Sign up for E-Bills, where you can perform a variety of self-services including: check your current balance, pay with Debit/Credit Cards, see usage and payment history. To sign up go to: <https://waterford.merchantransact.com>

Community Calendar: <http://cityofwaterford.org/events>, let us know if we're missing something, and check it out to ensure you're not missing out on anything.

[Police Chief Message](#)

As we move into the holiday season, we must stay vigilant for criminal activity and safety issues during this time of year. The following are Holiday Safety and Crime Prevention Tips:

At Home

- Make sure all doors and windows have secondary locks (window pins, deadbolts, dowels, etc.) and use them!
- Don't hide spare keys in mailboxes or planters, or under doormats.
- Ensure that dark areas and entrances have outdoor lights that are turned on after dark or are activated by sensors.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed so they do not conceal doors and windows. Remember, overgrown foliage can provide a hiding place for criminals.
- Place gifts where they can't be seen from the outside.
- Consider safe deposit boxes for coin and stamp collections, seldom-worn jewelry, stock bonds, etc.
- Be sure to mail cards, checks or gift certificates from the Post Office or at a blue U.S. Postal Service collection box.
- Lock your vehicle and remove all the valuables. Yes, even in your driveway.

Strangers at your Door

- Use caution anytime there is a stranger at your door.
- Be suspicious of unexpected sales calls or deliveries. Ask for identification.
- Be aware of scams that criminals commit to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays.
- Investigate charities before making donations. Ask how the funds will be used.

Leaving for the Holidays

- Ask a trusted friend, neighbor or Neighborhood Watch member to watch your home.
- Use timers for lights and radios while you're away.
- Remember to make arrangements for mail and newspapers.

After the Holidays

- Don't advertise expensive toys, electronics, or other gifts received by the boxes left for garbage collections. Compress large boxes and place them in black garbage bags for pick-up.
- Add new items to your home inventory. Take photos or video of all items of value in your home and list each item's make, model, serial number and other information.
- Engrave new items to help identify them in the event they are stolen.

Avoid Porch Theft: 5 Tips to Protect Your Packages

- Network with Neighbors
- Have Packages Delivered to Work
- Leave Specific Drop-off Instructions
- Use a Smart Lock
- Install Security Cameras

Tips to Avoid Package Theft

- Get a P.O. Box as Your Local Post Office
- Use Lockers
- Set Up Notifications to Track Your Packages
- Install a Security Camera
- Get Your Packages Delivered to Your Office
- Require a Signature on Delivery
- Reschedule Delivery or Ask for a Package Hold When on Vacation
- Try Smart Locks
- Get a Package Guard
- Insure Your Packages
- Ask Your Neighbors to Grab Your Packages

6 ways to Grinch-proof your holiday light displays

- Shut down at night
- Set up surveillance
- Crime-proof your yard
- Consider bringing in valuable items at night
- Stay connected
- Report, report, report

What to do if you've become a victim of a porch pirate

- Check with your delivery company to make sure your package was actually delivered.
- Know exactly what's in the missing box.
- If you see the thief, pay attention to what his or her vehicle looks like and its license plate number. Second to that, get the thief's physical description – gender, approximate height and weight and what they're wearing – so you can tell an officer.
- Call 911 and ask for an officer to come to your home.
- If you have a security camera on your home, get a copy of the video to police. Ask your neighbors if their cameras captured the thief in action.

Where to Report Stolen Packages

- USPS: File a Claim

- UPS: Start a Claim
- FedEx: Start a Claim
- Amazon: Find a Missing Package That Shows as Delivered

Other Holiday Safety Tips:

- Live Trees: Check for freshness when buying a live tree as dried-out trees can catch fire quickly. Avoid brittle needles that fall off when you bend them up and down, and keep your tree watered at all times.
- Artificial Trees: Look for the 'Fire Resistant' label on artificial trees.
- All Trees: Chose your tree placement carefully. Never set up a tree too close to heaters, fireplaces, or other heat sources.

Beware of Space Heaters

- If you are using space heaters to warm up your home, make sure to take proper safety precautions.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from electric lights, upholstery, curtains, or anything else likely to catch fire easily.
- Always turn them off before leaving the room or going to bed.

Avoid Holiday Plants

- Some common holiday plants such as Mistletoe, Amaryllis, Juniper, and Azaleas are actually poisonous to kids and pets alike. Even some so-called non-toxic plants can cause gastrointestinal trouble if ingested. If you are unsure if a plant is safe, skip it altogether and opt for more kid and pet-friendly decorations.

Waterford Police Services wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year!!