

Volume 9 • Issue 1
January, 2009

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Special Dates

January 6 th	City Council Meeting
January 8 th	Planning Commission Meeting
January 14 th	Parks & Rec Commission Meeting
January 17 th	Winter Bird Festival
January 20 th	City Council Meeting
January 27 th	Utility Rate Adjustment Hearing
February 3 rd	City Council Meeting
February 16 th	Holiday President's Day
February 17 th	City Council Meeting
March 3 rd	City Council Meeting

GALT. Connections

A City Working For You!



City of GALT
2nd Annual
Winter Bird Festival
Saturday, January 17th 2009

McCaffrey Middle School
997 Park Terrace Drive • Galt CA 95632
209.366.7220 • www.ci.galt.ca.us

A CELEBRATION OF BIRDS!

Free Admission • Local Food Vendors
Art and Craft Vendors • Free Children's Activities All Day
Tours to the Cosumnes River Preserve • Live Birds of Prey
Crane Culture Theatre Performance • Guest Speakers

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Winter Bird Festival Tour

- * Pre-registration for this event is required
- Adults: \$5.00 (all children under 18 years of age are free)
 - You must register for this event no later than January 5, 2009

To register please fill out the form below and mail it with your payment to:

City of Galt • C/O Winter Bird Festival • 380 Civic Drive • Galt, CA 95632



Registration Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Attending Adults: _____ Children: _____

Please indicate which tour you will be attending:

- 8:00am - 11:00am Cosumnes River Preserve Tour
- 10:00am - 12:00pm Childrens Tour to Cosumnes River Preserve
- 12:00pm - 3:00pm Wetlands and Rice Tour Cosumnes River Preserve
- 2:30pm - 5:30pm Cranes at Sunset Tour - Staten Island

* Tickets will be mailed to you along with more information on the tours and directions to the event

Capital Improvement Project Updates

Central Galt Interchange

Submittal of 95% complete construction plans to the California Department of Transportation is scheduled for January 2009. Acquisition of 34 parcels needed for right-of-way to build the interchange is currently underway. This also involves the relocation of existing residents for four of the properties. Advanced construction activities being considered for late spring/summer include removal of the old SCT Link bus barn and tree clearing from the State Route 99 right-of-way. Replacement trees and landscape are planned to replace those trees. Construction is still on track to begin Spring 2010. For detailed information about the project, please visit www.centralgaltic.com or call Public Works at 366-7260.

Lincoln Way Parking Lot

City Council recently approved design and construction of a new public parking lot along the east side Lincoln Way between A and C Streets. Using a combination of a purchased vacant mid-block lot and long-term property leases, the City will complete grading, drainage, paving, lighting and landscaping improvements that will provide much needed parking as well as improve traffic circulation for the nearby businesses.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

The City is moving forward with the environmental documentation and final design for the tertiary filtration and ultra-violet light disinfection improvements needed to meet the requirements of our permit issued by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board to change operations from seasonal to year-round discharge. We are also coordinating with the State for possible low-interest loan and/or bond financing as part of the overall project financing plan. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin in late Spring 2009 with completion by the required May 2010 deadline. For information call Public Works at 366-7260.

Water Meter Implementation

In accordance with AB 2572, the City is moving forward with Phase 1 of the Water Meter Implementation Plan which will install approximately 3,630 new water meters for residential customers with homes built after 1990. Existing water meters will be upgraded to new radio read technology. Work will begin in Summer 2009 and new metered rates will become effective January 1, 2010. Remaining residences will be converted to metered service no later than 2025. In the interim they will continue on a flat monthly rate.

Northeast Area Bike Lane Project

Design work has begun on the Northeast Area Bicycle Lane Connection Project that will install approximately 2,880 feet of missing bike lane segments on East Stockton Boulevard and Twins Cities Road. The project is principally funded by a Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality grant. Construction is expected to begin in late summer 2009.

Walker Community Park

Work on delivering Walker Community Park to the citizens of Galt has started. Walker Park is bounded by W. Elm Avenue/Orr Road on the north, Sargent Avenue on the west, Quail Hollow subdivision on the east, and Hen Creek to the south.

Work will begin with the demolition of the remaining Walker Farm, an active dairy and agricultural operation on the site from the late 1950's until the mid-2000's.

Development of the community park is expected to begin Summer 2009.



Proposed Utility Rates Adjustment

In accordance with the requirements of Proposition 218, the City is beginning the notification process regarding the annual increase in water, wastewater, storm drainage, and solid waste utility user fees. Initial notice of the proposed rates increase was through a note included on the December utility bills.

During the week of December 17-21, residents and property owners also received a "City of Galt Proposed Utility Rates Adjustment" flyer in the mail. The flyer provided the maximum proposed utility rate increases for the next year for the majority of our utility customers as follows:

4.1% Water	4.1% Wastewater	0% WWTP Upgrade Account
4.1% Storm Drainage (tier 2 only)	5.52% Solid Waste	

A public meeting will be held at the Police Building Community Room on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 6:00pm. The purpose of this public meeting is to share information about the proposed rates increase prior to the public hearing. The public hearing, where the final rates will be set, is set for the Council meeting of February 17, 2009. The new rates are scheduled to become effective March 1, 2009, and will be reflected on the April 2009 utility billing. Call Public Works at 366-7260 for information.



Pedestrian Safety

Public Works is working with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) on a project to improve pedestrian crossing conditions at railroad tracks. UPRR crews will be replacing all the track ties on the UPRR mainline beginning in March 2009.

Work will then begin to replace the concrete crossing panels at Elm Avenue, A, C, and F Streets and Kost Road. The crossing work will require complete temporary closure of the roads. Traffic detours will be provided. After the upgrades, the City will install separate pedestrian pathways over the tracks.

Reminder...

Only Rain Down The Drain!

Rain and leaves can lead to plugged drains and street flooding. Do your part in keeping the rain draining.

- Insure that you remove the leaves, dirt, and trash from the streets and gutters in front of your home or business and put them in the proper (gray) yard and garden waste containers. The City does not provide leaf pick-up service other than in these containers.
- The City street sweeper cannot pick up leaves so please clear the leaves from the gutter and street.
- Do not hose pet waste, dirt, mud, or any other contaminant into the gutter. Use a broom and/or a shovel and put it in the trash.

Section 8 of the Galt Municipal Code requires keeping streets and gutters clear of debris and Section 16 protects storm water quality. If you need assistance, call Public Works at 366-7260.

Park Master Plan Update - Future Meetings

Get involved in planning the City's future parks! Please attend the following meetings:

On Wednesday, January 14th, we will be having the Park Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 7:00pm.

On Wednesday, March 11th the Parks and Recreation Commission will have a meeting to discuss the plan and public comments are welcome. The recommended plan will then be presented to Galt City Council on March 17th.

All meetings will be conducted in the City Council Chambers located at 380 Civic Drive. Please note: Dates may change, please call the Parks and Recreation at 366-7180 to verify meetings and for more information.

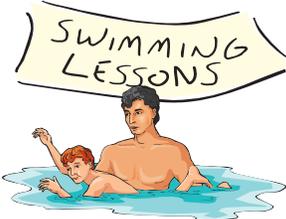


Gora Aquatic Center

The Parks and Recreation Department will be accepting registrations for all aquatics programs on Monday, March 2nd.

Programs will include the Galt Gators Recreational Swim Team, Swim Lessons, and a Lifeguard Training class, as well as various individual and family passes.

Please call 366-7180 if you have any questions.



T-Ball, Instructional, & Girls Softball

The Parks & Recreation Department will be taking registrations for T-ball, Instructional, and Girls Softball from January 2nd through February 20th (late fees will be charged for registrations taken after February 20th) at the Department office located at 610 Chabolla Avenue.

T-Ball is for boys and girls ages 5-6. Instructional is for boys and girls ages 7-8. Girls Softball is for young ladies ages 9-15. For information, call 366-7180.



Galt Junior Warriors Football and Cheer

The Galt Parks and Recreation Department will be accepting registrations for the 2009 season for Galt Jr. Warriors Football and Cheer in February at the Galt Parks and Recreation offices. Registrations for returning players will be on Saturday, February 7th from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Registration on this day will be done according to the "squad" your child is signing up for:

9:00am - 10:15am	Starters (6 to 8 years old and under 110 pounds)
10:15am - 11:30am	Rookies (9 - 10 years old and under 125 pounds and/or 11 years old and under 75 pounds)
11:30am - 12:45pm	Junior Varsity (11 - 12 years old and under 150 pounds)
12:45pm - 2:00pm	Varsity (11 - 14 years old and under 235 pounds)

New participants will be able to register on Saturday, February 21st from 9:00am until 2:00pm. For more information, call 366-7180.



(209) 745-3052 or (800) 338-8676
www.sctlink.com

2009 City Transit Changes

There has been a significant change to public transit operations in the City of Galt. As of December 1, 2008, the four fixed routes that went around the City have been stopped and were replaced by Dial-a-Ride service.

This service will provide both same day curb-to-curb rides and ongoing subscription rides, and will cost \$2.50 for the general public and \$1.75 for the elderly, disabled, and students.

All other transit services - the Highway 99 Express bus, the Delta route bus, and the medical appointments service - have not changed. For more information, call South County Transit at 745-3052 or Public Works at 366-7260.

City Making "Sweeping" Changes

In 2005 the City made changes to the street sweeping program to improve the services. Since then, the City has evaluated the current sweeping schedule and determined that additional changes to the schedule will further improve service and reduce costs.

Currently, streets sweeping is scheduled by road type. Major roads (arterials) and minor roads (secondary collector) are swept separately from residential roads. Due to the size of the residential routes, the sweeper sometimes is unable to finish on the scheduled day. Another issue identified is that the sweeper was working different parts of the City when only sweeping arterials and collector streets. This led to confusion for residents, because they would see the sweeper driving around the City without sweeping.

In order to improve service, new smaller, geographic based routes will be established that can be completed on their scheduled days. All streets in the area, regardless of type, would be swept on the assigned day, which in most cases will remain the same.

For instance, if you live in the Quail Hollow area your current scheduled sweeping day is Thursday. Quail Hollow will continue to be swept on Thursdays along with arterial and secondary collector roads in that geographical area. The old route will be divided into two new routes, with one route being swept the first and third Thursday of the month and the other being swept on the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Residential routes are currently only being swept once a month; the new schedule will increase residential sweeping to two times per month. The new schedule will be posted on the City's website in January 2009 and will be implemented the first Monday in February. Call Public Works at 366-7260 with any questions.



Current Business Licenses Expired December 31, 2008

The business license fee for the period from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 is as follows:

- **First owner or employee - \$40.00**
- **Each additional employee - \$10.00**

Individual renewal notices were mailed out in November. If you have not receive your renewal notice, please contact the City of Galt Finance Department at (209) 366-7158 or procha@ci.galt.ca.us. Be sure to include your name and license number when contacting the Finance Department.

Interactive Voice Response System

24/7 Access To Your Utility Account Information • Utility Bill Pay By Phone

Now you may call the Finance Department at (209) 366-7150 24 hours a day, seven days per week! Using the City's new Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system the following is available, at your fingertips...

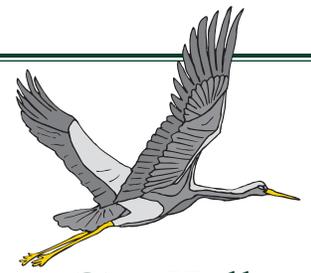
- **Account balance, including current charges and unpaid balances**
- **Date and amount of last payment**
- **Scheduled date for the next bill**
- **Date and amount of the last bill**
- **Ability to request a fax copy of account information.**
- **Easily transfer to customer service personnel during office hours** * Convenience fee applies

You may also choose to pay your bill over the phone using your MasterCard or Visa*. The IVR system includes a call out feature which facilitates delinquency notification by telephone; replacing the 48 hour door hanger.

Self Service Sand Bag Station

The City is in the process of setting up the annual self-service sand bag station. The location is 550 Elm Avenue, which is in front of the Parks and Recreation Corporation Yard. Sand has been delivered. Shovels and bags will be set up prior to the next forecasted storm.

This service is intended for those residing within the city limits of Galt to be able to protect property from localized flooding and is self-service. Please call Public Works at 366-7260 if you have any questions or concerns.



City Hall Information

City Hall
(209) 366-7130

City Website
www.ci.galt.ca.us

City Email Address
clerk@ci.galt.ca.us

City Office Hours
9:00am to 5:00pm

City Council Meetings
1st & 3rd Tuesday
Council Chambers
7:00pm



**A City Working
For You!**

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