

Volume 8 • Issue 2
April, 2008

GALT. Connections

A City Working For You!

Inside This Issue

Cosumnes CSD Lawsuit	2
Economic Development	2
Downtown Revitalization	3
Capital Project Updates	4 & 5
Citizen of the Year Award	6
Interactive Voice System	6
Commercial Projects	7
Hazardous Waste Drop-Off	8
Bulky Waste Collection	8

Special Dates

April 1st	City Council Meeting
April 15th	City Council Meeting
April 19th	Monterey Park Grand Opening
April 19th	Hazardous Waste Drop-Off
May 6th	City Council Meeting
May 16th	Citizen of the Year Nominations Due
May 20th	City Council Meeting
May 26th	Holiday Memorial Day

MONTEREY PARK GRAND OPENING!

Saturday, April 19th at 10:00am • Located at Monterey Bay Court and Lake Park Avenue

The festivities will take place from 10:00am to 4:00pm with fun things for all ages to enjoy. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be at 10:30am. Come watch our recreational t-ball and instructional teams play their games throughout the day. Information booths will be set up throughout the park. Enjoy such things as Face Painting, Tile Painting, Inflatable Games, K-9 Demonstrations, and Dog Contests. Hot dogs will be served to the first 500 attendees. If your non-profit organization would like to participate, please contact the Parks and Recreation office at 366-7180. By the way – bring your dogs!



Certified Farmers Market

The City of Galt is excited to announce that our first Certified Farmers Market will be coming to town every Sunday morning, starting Mother's Day, May 11th. In



honor of Mother's Day, the first 500 mothers to arrive will receive a single rose. Hours of operation will be 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Market will be located at 500 Fairway, next to Burger King. Stop by and see our local farmer's Lubisch Farms and Four Season Flowers. A large assortment of other vendors and produce will be available along with bakery items from Les Croissant Bakery from Manteca and M&W American Dutch Bakery from Stockton. For more information, please call 366-7180.

Gora Aquatic Center

The Gora Aquatic Center is accepting registrations for all aquatics programs. Programs include the Galt Gators Recreational Swim Team, Swim Lessons, Lifeguard Training, as well as various individual and family passes. For more information on these programs, please visit the City's website (www.ci.galt.ca.us) or pickup a brochure at the Parks and Recreation Department office. Currently, all registrations are taking place at the Parks and Recreation Department office located at 610 Chabolla Avenue. For more information regarding our programs, please call 366-7180.

The Aquatic Center will officially open for the 2008 Season on Saturday, May 25th.

City Tots Preschool Program

Registration for the 2008-2009 City Tots Preschool Program will begin for the public on Monday, June 2nd. The class year is August 4, 2008 through May 22, 2009. This program is available to 3 year olds (must be 3 by December 2, 2008) and 4 year olds (must be 4 by December 2, 2008). The 3-year-old class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30am to 10:30am. There are two (2) 4 year old classes to choose from: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:30am to 10:30am, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The Tuesdays and Thursdays class from 11:00am to 2:00pm will be a 3 year old and 4 year old split class.

For more information, please call 366-7180.

Kids in the Park

Our Kids in the Park program is available to all kids 5-12 years of age. This program is Mondays through Fridays, June 30 until August 1 (closed July 4th) at the Galt Community Park (corner of Walnut and Carillion) from 9:00am until 12:00pm. Waivers and emergency paperwork must be filled out prior to attending any of the program. Pre-Registration is also required for participation in the program.

<i>Fees:</i>	<i>Resident</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
	<i>Non-Resident in High School District</i>	<i>\$70.00</i>
	<i>Non-Resident outside H.S. District</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>

Park Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on a new Park Master Plan. If you would like to participate in this process, please contact the city clerk's office at (209) 366-7130. We are currently looking for community members to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.

Cosumnes Fire District Files Lawsuit Against the City of Galt Redevelopment Funds at Risk

In November 2006, the Galt Redevelopment Agency, which is governed by members of the Galt City Council, retained the services of a redevelopment consulting firm to assist the Agency in initiating the process of preparing the 2007 Amendment to the Redevelopment Plan in Galt. The amendment was intended to lengthen the time limit for the redevelopment project area and also add additional territory.

Redevelopment is one of the most effective ways to breathe new life into deteriorated areas plagued by social, physical, and environmental or economic conditions which act as a barrier to new investment by private enterprise. Through Redevelopment, a project area will receive focused attention and financial investment from the property tax revenue to reverse deteriorating trends, create jobs, revitalize the business climate, rehabilitate and add to the housing stock, and gain active participation and investment by citizens which would not otherwise occur.

In the past, Redevelopment funds have been used in Galt to complete projects such as roadway rehabilitation and expansion, sidewalk construction, infrastructure necessary to develop the industrial park, streetscape improvements in Old Town, low/moderate housing repair/rehabilitation loans and grants including a loan for the Galt Place senior mixed use project. The Agency's housing repair/rehabilitation program alone has funded over \$1.4 million addressing serious health and safety housing issues as well as other housing improvements for low income families including seniors and mobile home park residents.

State law makes available to redevelopment agencies a method of obtaining funds called "tax increment financing". On the date the City Council approves a redevelopment plan, the property within the boundaries of the plan has a certain total property tax value. If this total assessed valuation increases, most of the taxes that are derived from the increase go to the redevelopment agency and not to other taxing entities. These funds are called "tax increments".

Pursuant to California Redevelopment Law, all affected taxing entities including Sacramento County, Cosumnes Community Service District (CSD), school districts and others were notified by certified mail that the Galt Redevelopment Agency had initiated the process of preparing the 2007 Amendment. The City also adhered to the requirement for publishing notices in the newspaper and public postings. Public meetings were held for four consecutive weeks, concluding with the public hearing on June 19, 2007, at which time the Redevelopment Agency

Board unanimously adopted the redevelopment plan amendment. At no time prior to the noticed public hearing on June 19, did any of the affected taxing agencies, including the Cosumnes CSD raise any objections to the proposed amendment.

Shortly thereafter, the CSD submitted a letter to the City objecting to the proposed redevelopment amendment and the future tax increment that would be diverted to the Redevelopment Agency. In order to address the concerns raised by the CSD, the City Council appointed two Council Members to meet with the CSD to discuss ways the City and the District could work together to improve public safety in Galt and to ensure future needs were met.

Despite an offer extended by the Galt City Council to meet with the CSD to discuss the issues, on September 24, 2007, the CSD filed a lawsuit with the Superior Court of the State of California against the City of Galt and the Galt Redevelopment Agency.

The City has made numerous attempts to meet with the CSD to discuss ways in which the lawsuit can be settled. The City and the CSD met once during the initial phases of the lawsuit, however the CSD has canceled all future meetings regarding this issue and appears intent on pursuing the lawsuit to its conclusion. In addition, the Cosumnes CSD has threatened to sue the City over other issues such as the City's General Plan Update and allocation of Fire Impact Fees. To date the City has spent nearly \$100,000 in attorney's fees defending itself from the CSD. The CSD has likely spent a similar amount. The City believes that these lawsuits are a waste of tax payer dollars which would be better spent on urgent public safety needs in the community.

In addition to the concerns over ongoing and future litigation with the CSD, the City is concerned with the CSD's recent removal of the Galt Battalion Chief position, fearing that this move will jeopardize public and fire fighter safety. The City stands by the firefighters in their opposition to this administrative decision by the CSD.

To the Citizens of Galt, the City Council and staff will continue to seek resolution of these issues with the CSD. However, we urge all citizens to contact the CSD Board of Directors to express your displeasure with their waste of taxpayer dollars and their unwillingness to work cooperatively with the City. Prior to the Galt Fire District's merger with the Elk Grove CSD, the City enjoyed an outstanding relationship of cooperation and mutual respect with the Galt Fire District. The City is hopeful that this same relationship can be established with the Cosumnes CSD Fire Department.

Economic Development Website

The City of Galt has developed a new economic development website to help attract retail, office and manufacturing businesses to the City of Galt. The website was launched in February 2008 with a website address of www.galtbusiness.com.

The website includes information to assist developers and businesses in identifying available properties in the City and receiving detailed community profile information such as demographics, crime statistics, labor market, education, major employers, taxes, transportation, utilities, population trends, and quality of life. The website also lists incentives that are available for new and existing businesses.

The website provides City staff with tools to respond effectively to business inquiries and provide detailed proposals for those companies interested in moving to Galt. Along with the current economic development strategy process, the new economic development website is another important step in the City's renewed economic development efforts.

www.galtbusiness.com



Downtown Revitalization Efforts

The Galt City Council has placed a major emphasis on revitalizing the downtown core of the City. The following examples demonstrate the City's recent efforts and results.

Facade Improvement Program

The City of Galt has developed a new Façade Improvement Program for downtown and old town commercial property and business owners. Through this program, the City's Redevelopment Agency will share the cost of improving commercial building exteriors to complement and enhance downtown revitalization efforts. The Façade Improvement Program provides matching grants up to \$15,000 for eligible commercial property and business owners in the downtown area. Eligible improvements include:

- *Painting of entire building facade and sides of building visible from the street;*
- *Awnings, marquees, signs, or sun control devices;*
- *Doors, windows, facade and display window lighting; and*
- *Tile, pavement between door and sidewalk, signs, and other improvements approved by the City*

Boarded Vacant Building Ordinance

In August 2007, the City Council adopted an Ordinance which requires property owners to rehabilitate vacant and boarded buildings or face substantial administrative penalties.

Vacant buildings are a major cause and source of blight in both residential and nonresidential neighborhoods especially when the owner of the building fails to actively maintain and manage the building to ensure that it does not become a liability to the neighborhood.

The impact of this Ordinance is already being felt as several long time boarded and vacant commercial properties in old town are currently undergoing substantial renovations with more anticipated in the coming months.



Architectural rendering of Stop and Shop renovation project

Stop and Shop Shopping Center Renovation

The Stop and Shop Center, which includes businesses such as El Rodeo, Gary's Country Deli and Better Bodies Gym on C Street is scheduled to undergo a major renovation this summer. The property owners have submitted plans to the City to remodel the center to look similar to the Galt Plaza Shopping Center anchored by Save Mart. In addition to building improvements, the project will include parking lot improvements, landscaping and new signage.

Odd Fellows Building Rehabilitation

The City of Galt Redevelopment Agency recently approved a loan agreement with D&S Development to rehabilitate the Odd Fellows building, also known as the Brewster Building, located at 201 4th Street in Historic Old Towne Galt. The building was built in 1868 and once housed the City's first Post Office and was later home to the Brewster Co. Store and the local Odd Fellows Lodge. The building has been vacant and boarded for over 15 years and is in a serious state of disrepair due to years of neglect.

D&S plans to open a restaurant on the first floor with either apartments or a meeting hall on the second floor. Rehabilitation work on the building is expected to begin by October 2008.



Capital Improvement Project Updates

Traffic Safety Improvements

Public Works is continuing work on its School Zone Enhancement project, intended to improve pedestrian safety at 19 “No Stop” crosswalks that are located within school traffic zones.

So far, 13 of these crossings have been upgraded to high visibility crosswalks. The remaining six will be completed this summer. The “high visibility” crosswalks are enhanced with on-pavement reflectors and highly reflective signage at each road side. The crossing material is laid down in thermoplastics in a “block” pattern, which is more readily noticed by motorists than two parallel paint lines.

Staff also completed installation of 38 new “State Law – Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk” signs, two for each “No Stop” school area crosswalk.



New City Sidewalk Improvements Project Awarded

The City’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan was updated in 2005 to include a strategy for improving pedestrian access throughout the City. The City identified a funding target of \$80,000 per year to fund several projects to repair and improve curbs and gutters, sidewalks and handicap ramps throughout the City.

The first major ADA replacement project was completed in 2006.

The second contract in this series was recently awarded to StenCon Construction, Inc. Work on the new project will begin in April of 2008 and is expected to be completed by late summer. Combined, the two projects will cost approximately \$1,100,000, well ahead of the minimum target expenditure. In determining which areas of the community would most benefit from curb, gutter, sidewalk and ramp improvements, staff used methodology developed in the Transition Plan to select, prioritize, and implement improvements.

Specific map areas were chosen that met the criteria identified in the Plan.

This year, the City is focused on improving access along routes used by pedestrians to walk to area schools. Enhancing “Safe Routes to School” has largely governed the current project’s selections.

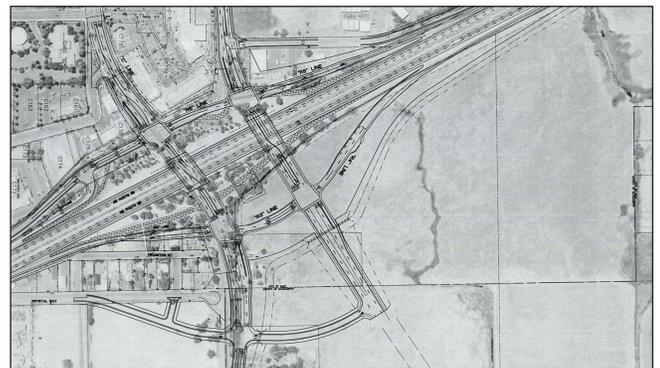
Central Galt Interchange

The project to replace the existing C Street overpass with a new split-diamond interchange with two new overcrossings at C Street and A Street is currently in the final design phase. Plans and specifications are approximately 65% complete.

Staff is currently coordinating required utility relocations and beginning work on the landscape master plan. Appraisals of the required right-of-way acquisitions are also beginning with initial offers anticipated in late summer.

The project received a big boost toward delivery when the Sacramento Area Council of Government recently awarded Galt an \$8,000,000 grant to help fund the project.

Construction is currently anticipated to begin in Spring 2010.



Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Over the past few months, significant progress has been made on several fronts toward upgrading the Wastewater Treatment Plant. (WWTP) TTS Construction is nearing completion of a \$1,550,000 project to improve the operational and maintenance capacity of the WWTP and to extend the life of the existing mechanical equipment.

The preliminary design of the tertiary filtration and ultra-violet light disinfection equipment is nearing completion and staff is currently preparing the Request for Proposals for the final design and construction document preparation.



Other Projects Currently Underway

In addition to the projects listed here, the City's Public Works staff is also currently working to deliver the following capital improvement projects (among others):

- Pedestrian Safety Rail Road Crossing Improvements
- Live Oak Sewer Lift Station Replacement
- Live Oak Sewer Force Main Replacement
- Carillion / Twin Cities Traffic Signal Improvements
- Water, Sewer and Storm Drain Master Plans
- Firearms Training Facility Master Plan
- Walker Park Design
- Arsenic Water Treatment Improvements
- 2008 Pavement Rehabilitation Improvements

Addressing the City's Crime, Gang & Public Safety Needs

Public safety services have not kept up with our community's growth. Urban problems of gangs and drugs are now threatening our small town way of life. With the State's fiscal emergency, additional cuts to the City's public safety funding is expected. Without additional revenue, our City cannot maintain and improve public safety services.

Gangs are the leading cause of violent crime in Galt. We need to crackdown on gangs and gang related crime by expanding the city's anti-gang police activities and by participating in the County anti-gang task force. The City must hire more police officers to patrol our streets, arrest criminals, and protect our neighborhoods.

Our City, Police Officers and Police Chief are working with the community to evaluate and prioritize Galt's public safety needs. A potential Public Safety Measure is being considered because existing local funds are insufficient to address the City's needs. A recent community survey found that 75% of voters would support a Galt Public Safety Measure specifically dedicated to hiring more police officers to fight the City's gang and drug problems.

As the City moves forward to address our urgent public safety needs, we want to hear from you about your public safety concerns and priorities. If you haven't yet filled out a community survey, please go to our website at www.ci.galt.ca.us and give us your input.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 70% of all violent crime in the City of Galt is gang-related
- There are 150 known active gang members and associates in Galt
- Gang members are coming into Galt from surrounding communities to commit crimes
- There are only two patrol officers on duty from 3am to 7am

The City of Galt is preparing a Public Safety Plan to address these issues and would value your perspectives.

Betty Bohn Memorial Award

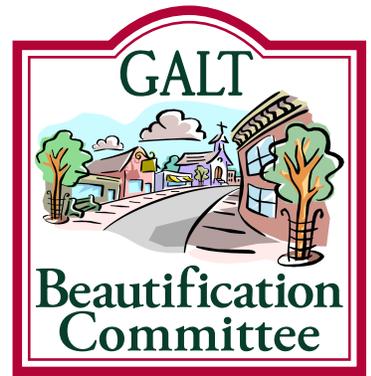
Do you know a citizen that is outstanding at volunteering their time and energy in the efforts to help others and their community? Nominations are currently being sought for Galt's 2008 Betty Bohn Memorial Award/Recognition Program-Citizen of the Year. The Galt City Council is looking for a person who has made significant contributions to his/her community and benefited the City of Galt in a positive way.

Please submit nominations in writing. Nominations should be mailed or dropped off at the City Clerk's Office, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, CA 95632. The deadline is May 16, 2008.

If you have questions regarding the first ever Galt Citizen of the Year award, please call (309) 366-7130.

Community Awareness Reminder

The Galt Beautification Committee is dedicated to improving the visual impression of Galt. With this in mind and as a courtesy to you and your neighbors, we would like to share with you the common questions and complaints that the city receives.



Graffiti Removal

- Private property tagged with graffiti: the property owner must remove graffiti within 48 hours. Please contact the Police Department to let them know that your property has been targeted.
- Public property tagged with graffiti: If you observe public property that has been tagged with graffiti contact the Police Department graffiti hotline. Call 366-7071. Code 8.44.050

Garbage Containers

- Yard/garden, trash or recycling containers must be removed from the curb within 30 hours from the time of pickup.
- Garbage containers must be stored in a location that is not visible from the public street or sidewalk. Code 8.16.150

Garage Sale Signs

- Posting garage sale or advertising signs within the public right of way is prohibited. This includes signs posted on utility poles, street signs, stop signs, or landscaped areas maintained by the City of Galt. Code 18.40.120
- Signs may be posted only on private property and with the permission of the property owner.

Sidewalks

- Sidewalks need to be kept clear as not to impede the pedestrian's right of way. The most common obstacles left on the sidewalk are basketball hoops and ramps. They need to be placed on private property only. Code 8.20.120M

We invite you to send e-mails regarding your ideas to enhance our community to galtbeautification@ci.galt.ca.us or join us for meetings the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the City Hall Community Room, 380 Civic Drive.

New Interactive Voice Response System

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

Access all your city utility information over the phone... anytime! It's fast. It's convenient. It's working for you!

Starting in April, you may call the Finance Department, (209) 366-7150, at your convenience... 24 hours a day, seven days per week!

Using the City's new Interactive Voice Response System the following will be 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**

You may also choose to pay your bill over the phone using your MasterCard or Visa*. Look for more information in your March/April Utility bill!

* Convenience fee applies

Upcoming Commercial Projects

Galt Place Senior Apartments and Mixed Use Development

An exciting new project has been approved on 4th Street in Historic Old Towne Galt between D and E Streets. This project will consist of 80 affordable senior apartments on two floors above ground floor retail shops and covered parking. This three story building will be designed so that it reflects and complements the surrounding historical architecture in the area. Construction is expected to begin in 2009.



Wal-Mart Project

In September of 2007 Wal-Mart submitted an application for a 132,000 square foot store (including grocery sales and an indoor/outdoor garden center) to be located on eleven acres at the southeast corner of Twin Cities Road and Fermoy Way. In accordance with the City's Big Box Ordinance, the project is subject to approval of a Conditional Use Permit by the Galt Planning Commission. The building is proposed to be oriented toward Twin Cities Road with vehicle access points on Twin Cities Road and Fermoy Way. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared for the project. Pending approval by the City, Wal-Mart estimates that they will start construction in late 2009 with a store opening in the summer of 2010.



Carillion Corners Shopping Center

Rite Aid, Tractor Supply Company, and a Fresh & Easy supermarket are coming to Galt. All three stores will be located at the Carillion Corners Shopping Center which will soon be constructed on 10 acres at the southwest corner of



Twin Cities Road and Carillion Boulevard. For those of you not familiar with Fresh & Easy stores, they are small markets that combine elements of a traditional grocery store and a convenience store. These minimally decorated stores, that are about the size of Trader Joe's, emphasize fresh items, prepared take-home



food and mostly private-label goods. Because overhead is kept to a minimum, including self-service checkout options, Fresh & Easy boasts that they can offer lower prices than other grocery stores.

In addition to Rite Aid, Tractor Supply Company, and Fresh & Easy, the shopping center will include another 40,000 + square feet of retail and/or office uses yet to be determined. The developer hopes to start construction in the spring/summer of 2008.

Kentucky Fried Chicken/Long John Silvers



We are proud to announce that a Kentucky Fried Chicken/Long John Silvers restaurant will soon be constructed in Galt Village Center (Raley's shopping center). This combination restaurant with a drive thru will be located between Jiffy Lube and Kragen Auto Parts at the west end of the existing shopping center. The developer plans to start construction Summer 2008.



Squeeze Inn Restaurant

Squeeze Inn has been featured on the Food Network ("Guy's Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives") and in Sacramento Magazine for some of the best burgers in the region. This extremely popular Sacramento restaurant will be opening a second location in the newly constructed Galt Industrial Center at 545 Industrial Drive, Suite 100. The owner is from Galt and has been looking forward to bringing Squeeze Inn to his hometown and including a wonderful breakfast menu. Come experience this great food. They are expected to open in Spring 2008!

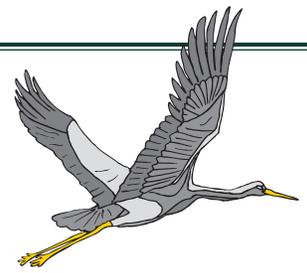
Kidz Come First Preschool

A preschool is coming to Galt Village Center (Raley's shopping center). The site, located between Kragen Auto Parts and Comfort Inn Hotel, is expected to be constructed in the spring/summer of 2008. This will provide a great opportunity for local professional childcare in the community.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

The next Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off event will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Galt Market.

Items to be collected include used oil, automotive fluids, batteries, pesticides, pool chemicals, solvents, used sharps, fluorescent tubes, medications, paint and old household cleaners. Tires will also be accepted at the event. Proof of Galt residency is required.



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

Bulky Waste Collection on your Schedule

Recently the Galt City Council agreed to a 1-year trial for Galt residents to have on-call bulky waste and electronic waste collection instead of a week-long event in the spring and again in the fall.

Each residence can receive Bulky Waste Collection Service up to two (2) times in 2008 by telephoning California Waste Recovery Systems office at 369-6887 to request service. Cal Waste will come to your house and pick up your bulky waste on your next regularly scheduled service day. The amount and type of materials accepted will remain the same as the fall 2007 bulky waste collection.

The City is making this change to provide residents greater flexibility in scheduling bulky waste collection dates based on individual needs.



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